Mallard Pass

Solar Farm

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Planning Statement

Appendix 3 - Policy Accordance Tables 1-10 (Tracked) [Version 2]

Deadline 8a - November 2023

EN010127/APP/9.12.2

The document references throughout the tables in this appendix may have been updated, an updated reference list can be found in the guide to the application [PINS Ref: EN010127], [Document Ref: EN010127/APP/1.2.10~~3~~.]

The tables in this appendix will be updated at the end of the examination to ensure that the correct document references are used.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Table 1 Overarching national policy statement for energy (EN-1) – Table of Compliance

National Policy Statement for Overarching Energy (EN-1) Generic Impacts - The generic impacts set out in Part 5 of EN-1 (2011) and Draft EN-1 (2023) are considered below.			
Part	EN-1 Policy Text	Draft Policy EN-1 Text	Assessment
Air Quality and Emissions	Paragraph 5.2.6: Where the project is likely to have adverse effects on air quality the applicant should undertake an assessment of the impacts of the proposed project as part of the Environmental Statement (ES).	Paragraph 5.2.7: Where the project is likely to have adverse effects on air quality the applicant should undertake an assessment of the impacts of the proposed project as part of the ES.	An air quality assessment has been undertaken and the impacts of the Proposed Development reported in section 15.2 of Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].**
	Paragraph 5.2.7: The ES should describe: • any significant air emissions, their mitigation and any residual effects distinguishing between the project stages and taking account of any significant emissions from any road traffic generated by the project; • the predicted absolute emission levels of the proposed project, after mitigation methods have been applied;	Paragraph 5.2.8 The ES should describe: • existing air quality levels and the relative change in air quality from existing levels; • any significant air emissions, their mitigation and any residual effects distinguishing between the project stages and taking account of any significant emissions from any road traffic generated by the project;	Chapter 15 section 15.2 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes an air quality assessment which identifies existing air quality levels, assesses absolute air emission levels during each phase (construction, operation and decommissioning including those generated from road traffic) of the Proposed Development identified after mitigation, and outlines any relative change in quality. The nature of the Proposed Development means that the operational phase is very unlikely to result in any significant emissions to the air. Traffic related to operation and maintenance is minimal, as described in Chapter 9 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1],** and below the EPUK and IAQM screening criterion levels. There will also be no combustion

	• existing air quality levels and the relative change in air quality from existing levels; and • any potential eutrophication impacts.	• the predicted absolute emission levels of the proposed project, after mitigation methods have been applied; and • any potential eutrophication impacts.	plant on site. As such, it is not anticipated that there are any potential likely significant environmental effects from the operational phase of the Proposed Development upon Air Quality. The construction and decommissioning phases have the potential to cause some emissions to the air and in relation to the transport of materials into and from the Order limits, and from dust generating activities. These potential effects are set out in section 15.2 of Chapter 15 of the ES. The outline Construction Transport Management Plan (oCTMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]**, outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** prepared in support of the DCO Application set out measures to manage potential air quality effects during construction and decommissioning phases. The oCEMP includes measures to minimise dust emissions and establish non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) controls during the construction phase. The oCTMP includes a one-way system for HDVs accessing the Order limits to minimise the number of HDVs travelling on any one road link. The oCEMP and oDEMP set out the requirement for a Dust Management Plan (DMP) to be prepared as part of the CEMP and DEMP, prior to these phases of the Proposed Development. The DMPs would contain dust emission control measures applied during construction and decommission as appropriate. These measures include: • Site Management Monitoring • Design of the layout of the Proposed Development to locate dust causing activities away from receptors

			• Management practices such as wheel washing, damping down access routes, and using water assisted dust sweepers. Taking into account the dust emission control measures in the oCEMP and oDEMP, there are not anticipated to be any significant adverse effects on air quality relating to dust during the construction and decommission phases. During Examination, within the response to the ExA's First Written Questions **[REP2-037]**, the Applicant noted that the preparation of the DMP will involve further detailed evaluation of the risk of dust generating activities using the detailed construction information that will be available to inform the preparation of the detailed CEMP in line with the Institute of Air Quality Management guidance. Section 15.2 of Chapter 15 of the ES concludes that with the application of appropriate mitigation there are anticipated to be no significant adverse effects on air quality as a result of the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Water Resources and Ground Conditions Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** considers eutrophication / reduction in phosphates and nitrates in section 11.4. It confirms that land under the PV Arrays would be allowed to naturally vegetate and be available for grazing by livestock. As vegetation becomes established under the PV Arrays there is likely to be a decrease in surface water runoff rates and a reduction in the potential for sediment and agricultural chemicals (e.g., phosphates and nitrates) to transfer into the wider hydrological catchment compared to the baseline scenario.

	Paragraph 5.2.9 states: The IPC should generally give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project would lead to a deterioration in air quality in an area, or leads to a new area where air quality breaches any national air quality limits. However, air quality considerations will also be important where substantial changes in air quality levels are expected, even if this does not lead to any breaches of national air quality limits.	Paragraph 5.2.14 (replaces adopted EN-1 paragraph 5.2.9) The Secretary of State should generally give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project would lead to a deterioration in air quality in an area or leads to a new area where air quality breaches any national air quality limits or statutory air quality objectives. However, air quality considerations will also be important where substantial changes in air quality levels are expected, even if this does not lead to any breaches of national air quality limits or statutory air quality objectives.	Section 15.2 of Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that the Proposed Development would not lead to a deterioration in air quality locally or lead to any air quality breaches elsewhere.
		New paragraph 5.2.10: Defra publishes future national projections of air quality limits. based on estimates of future levels of emissions, traffic, and vehicle fleet. Projections are updated as the evidence base changes and the applicant should ensure these are current at the point of an application. The applicant's assessment should be consistent with this but may include more detailed modelling to demonstrate local impacts.	In 2023, the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP) outlined updates to the PM2.5 Air Quality Objective for future years. These are a long term target of 10 µg/m3 by 2040 and an interim target of 12 µg/m3 by 31st January 2028. In 2028, the first anticipated year of operation, Defra predicted background concentrations of PM2.5 were between 7.9 – 9.3 µg/m3 across the order limits, which is comfortably below the 12 µg/m3 interim target. No future projections have been made by Defra past 2030, so it is not possible to consider concentrations up to 2040 when the long term target of 10 µg/m3 should be achieved, however, there are not expected to be significant sources of PM2.5 when the solar farm is operational. At the time of writing there had been no further updates to relevant Air Quality Objectives for other pollutants considered in the Air Quality ES Chapter.

	Paragraph 5.2.10 states: In all cases the IPC must take account of any relevant statutory air quality limits. Where a project is likely to lead to a breach of such limits the developers should work with the relevant authorities to secure appropriate mitigation measures to allow the proposal to proceed. In the event that a project will lead to non- compliance with a statutory limit the IPC should refuse consent.	Paragraph 5.2.10 states: Where a proposed development is likely to lead to a breach of the air quality thresholds or affect the ability of a non-compliant area to achieve compliance within the timescales set out in the most recent relevant air quality plan at the time of the decision, the applicant should work with the relevant authorities to secure appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that those thresholds are not breached.	The Order limits are not located within any air quality management areas. Section 15.2 of Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** states that there are not anticipated to be any exceedance of statutory air quality limits in any phase of the Proposed Development.
	Paragraph 5.2.11 states: The IPC should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction emissions over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at this stage.	Paragraph 5.2.11 states: The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction emissions over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at this stage. In doing so the Secretary of State should have regard to the Air Quality Strategy171 or any successor to it and should consider relevant advice within Local Air Quality Management guidance	The measures identified in the oCTMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11],** and Table 3-6 Air Quality of the oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** are considered to fully mitigate the impact of the potential effects of the Proposed the impact of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on air quality. No further measures are considered necessary. The Applicant's response to the ExA's First Written Questions **[REP2-037]** notes that the measures to prevent and minimise dust creation and air pollution will be adopted throughout construction and these are set out within table 3-6 of the oCEMP. Therefore, the mitigation noted in this table has not changed throughout the examination and is still relevant.
		New Paragraph 5.2.15 The Secretary of State should give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project is proposed near a sensitive receptor site, such as an education or healthcare facility,	The Order limits are not located within or adjacent to any education of healthcare facilities. Residential uses are located adjacent to part of the Order limits. However, various mitigation measures, including substantial offsets, are embedded into the design of the proposals as demonstrated in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the

		residential use or a sensitive or protected habitat. New Paragraph 5.2.16 Where a project is proposed near to a sensitive receptor site for air quality, if the applicant cannot provide justification for this location, and a suitable mitigation plan, the Secretary of State should refuse consent. New Paragraph 5.2.17 In all cases, the Secretary of State must take account of any relevant statutory air quality limits and statutory air quality objectives. If a project will lead to non-compliance with a statutory limit the Secretary of State should refuse consent.	outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan- (oLEMP) [Ref EN010127/APP/7.9.3~~7~~] The Applicant confirms within the response to the ExA's First Written Questions **[REP2-037]** that while undertaking the detailed design, the fence line would be realigned to suit the designed PV Tables which would represent an increase to the minimum offsets to landscape and ecological features and designations. Again, within the Applicants response to the ExA's Second Written Questions **[REP5-012]** it is confirmed that the separation distance between the PRoWs and Permissive Paths with the solar infrastructure has been increased. With regard to the impact of construction traffic on sensitive ecological receptors, Design Manual for Roads and Bridges and Institute of Air Quality Management guidance state the potential for significant effects is caused by a cumulative increase in annual average daily traffic flows of 1000 vehicles on any one road link per day. The predicted construction and operational vehicle trip generation is well below this threshold. With regard to potential impacts due to construction dust, the Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Braceborough Little Wood ancient woodland are located within 50 m of the boundary of the Solar PV Site. However, mitigation measures included within the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) are expected to reduce dust emission to residual levels and impacts are expected to 'not significant'. Section 15.2 of Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that with the application of appropriate mitigation there are anticipated to be no significant adverse effects on air quality as a result of the construction, operation or

			decommissioning of the Proposed Development upon sensitive receptors. The ES also concludes that there are not anticipated to be any exceedance of statutory air quality limits in any phase of the Proposed Development.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	NA	5.3.4 All proposals for energy infrastructure projects should include a GHG assessment as part of their ES (See Section 4.2). This should include: • whole life GHG assessment showing construction, operational and decommissioning GHG impacts • An explanation of the steps that have been taken to drive down the climate change impacts at each of those stages • Measurement of embodied GHG impact from the construction stage • How reduction in energy demand and consumption during operation has been prioritised in comparison with other measures How operational emissions have been reduced as much as possible through the application of best available technology for that type of technology • Calculation of operational energy consumption and associated carbon emissions • Whether and how any residual GHG emissions will be (voluntarily) offset or removed using a recognised framework	In accordance with the first bullet point of Paragraph 5.3.4 of the draft revised NPS EN-1, Chapter 13 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) assessment that considers the effects of GHG emissions generated at all stages of the Proposed Development, being construction, operation, and decommissioning. The Applicant considers that a 60-year time limit will not alter the conclusions regarding the potential effects on receptors as set out in Table 13.7 of the ES. As set out in the Applicants Statement on 60 Year Time Limit [REP7-038], the assessment, mitigation and enhancement measures as set out in the LVIA and Ecology assessments were based upon a permanent operational lifespan, therefore the commitment to a 60 year lifespan will not affect the proposed habitats in such a way (given that they assumed that the mitigation would be in place for even longer than 60 years) that would alter these assessments and therefore the conclusions remain unchanged. Further commentary is provided within ExA's Q5a in 9.49 Applicants Response to ExA's Rule 17 Request for further information **[REP8-021].** In accordance with the second bullet point of paragraph 5.3.4, a series of measures are included to minimise and offset the GHG footprint of the Proposed Development, which are detailed in Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, and Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** (Operational phase measures are considered in response to the fifth bullet point

		• Where there are residual emissions, the level of emissions and the impact of those on national and international efforts to limit climate change, both alone and where relevant in combination with other developments at a regional or national level, or sector level, if sectoral targets are developed.	The Construction and Decommissioning phase measures identified to drive down carbon emissions are summarised as follows: • Increasing recyclability by segregating construction waste to be re-used and recycled where reasonably practicable; • Disposing of wastes locally where reasonably practicable to reduce emissions associated with transportation; • Designing, constructing and implementing the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible; and • Reusing site-won materials to minimise the use of natural resources and unnecessary materials (e.g. reusing excavated soil for fill requirements); • Encouraging the use of lower carbon modes of transport by identifying and communicating local bus services and pedestrian and cycle routes to and from the Order limits to all construction staff and providing facilities for the safe storage of cycles; • Implementing a Travel Plan to reduce the use of private car journeys to the Order limits by construction staff and employees; • Liaising with construction personnel for the potential to implement staff minibuses and car sharing options; • The contractor will be required to report on fuel consumption and carbon footprint following the construction of the Proposed Development; • Preventing idling vehicles by switching vehicles and plant off when not in use and ensuring that all construction vehicles conform to current EU emissions standards;

			• Conducting regular and planned maintenance of the construction plant and machinery to optimise efficiency. • Adopting the CCS (or its equivalent) to assist in the reduction of pollution, including GHG, from the Proposed Development by employing industry best practice measures. These will be listed in the DEMP (s); The above measures have not been amended throughout the examination period, and are still deemed relevant. Addressing the third bullet point -of paragraph 5.4.3, the embedded GHG impacts of the construction phase have been assessed through consideration of the emissions of GHGs caused by the construction (and decommissioning), phases of the development, against the estimate GHG emissions reductions resultant from the operational phase of the Proposed Development. This assessment is based on an approach that calculates the difference between the embodied GHG emissions across all phases of the Proposed Development and the concentration of GHG which will be both reduced and offset through the decarbonisation of energy generation associated with the Proposed Development. This approach is in accordance with the assessment methodology is set out in Appendix 13.2 of the ES [Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]. In response to the fourth bullet point , there will not be substantial GHG emissions from the Proposed Development to the atmosphere during the operational phase. The only GHG emissions associated with the operational phase would be related to vehicle emissions resulting from site access for routine maintenance and occasional component replacement. Notwithstanding this, in response to calculation of operational energy consumption measures to reduce

			operational phase GHG emissions are included in Table 3-9 of the outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) [Ref EN010127/APP/7.7] and include: • Conducting regular planned maintenance of the Proposed Development to optimise efficiency of infrastructure. • Operating the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content. • Encouraging the use of lower carbon modes of transport by identifying and communicating local bus connections and pedestrian and cycle access routes to/from the Proposed Development to all staff, and providing appropriate facilities for the safe storage of cycles. • Liaising with operational personnel for potential to implement car sharing options. • Switching off vehicles and plant when not in use and ensuring vehicles conform to current EU emissions standards. • Ensuring air conditioning/heating is only used when needed and that windows and doors in the site office, storage and welfare buildings are kept closed while it is in use. • Monitoring of weather forecasts to anticipate extreme temperatures and ensure cooling or heating plant are operating effectively. In the event that cooling or heating plant are anticipated to fail then plant will be temporarily shutdown until maintenance has taken place. In response to calculation of associated carbon emissions section 4 of Chapter 13 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** calculates the carbon reduction performance of the Proposed development against the National Grid Future Energy

			Scenario (FES) 'best case' decarbonisation scenario grid CO2 intensities. The generation of electricity from the Proposed Development will displace the generation of electricity from other conventional power sources. Accounting for CO2 generated during each phase of the Proposed Development, the renewable energy output, accounting for the level panel degradation described in Chapter 13, shows a total reduction in CO2 of 423,580 teCO2 across the lifetime of the Proposed Development and an average of 10,589 teCO2/y. The CO2 emissions of the Proposed Development would therefore be displaced within approximately 10.5 years, and all savings beyond that would be a net benefit of the Proposed Development in terms of reducing GHG emissions. Over 40 years, for example, the saving is estimated at approximately 1.9 million tonnes of CO2. Responding to net residual carbon offsetting, given the significant positive contribution of the Proposed Development to reducing GHG emissions no net residual carbon offsetting is required. In response to residual GHG emissions, while no net residual GHG emissions will result from the Proposed Development, the cumulative effect of the Proposed Development with other UK renewables generation is considered to be a fundamental change in the climate effects of UK energy supply, which is a major beneficial effect that is significant under the EIA Regulations and will contribute to the UK's legally binding emission reduction targets. As there are no net residual GHG emissions associated with the Proposed Development, part h) is not engaged here.
	NA	5.3.6	The DCO Application is accompanied by an Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref**

		Applicants should look for opportunities within the proposed development to embed nature-based or technological solutions to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning.	**EN010127/APP7.9]** and which includes a proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. These measures set out in the oLEMP combined will reduce the GHG emissions from the operational phase of the Proposed Development and increase the potential for CO2 sequestration within the Order limits for the duration of the Proposed Development.
	NA	5.3.7 Steps taken to minimise and offset emissions should be set out in a GHG Reduction Strategy, secured under the development consent order. The GHG Reduction Strategy should consider the creation and preservation of carbon stores and sinks including through woodland creation, peatland restoration and through other natural habitats.	A series of measures are included to minimise and offset the GHG footprint of the Proposed Development and are detailed in Table 3-9 Climate Change of the oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, Table 3-9 Climate Change of the oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** and oDEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**. These documents also include a commitment to produce a detailed GHG Reduction Strategy, to be approved by the Local Authorities prior to commencement of the Proposed Development.
Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	Paragraph 5.3.3: Where the development is subject to EIA the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance, on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The applicant should provide environmental information	5.4.17 Where the development is subject to EIA the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance (including those outside England), on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity, including irreplaceable habitats.	The biodiversity and nature conservation impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. The chapter sets out all the relevant designated sites (international, national and local) of ecological or geological conservation importance; protected species; and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance including irreplaceable habitats for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits.

	proportionate to the infrastructure where EIA is not required to help the IPC consider thoroughly the potential effects of a proposed project.	5.4.18 The applicant should provide environmental information proportionate to the infrastructure where EIA is not required to help the Secretary of State consider thoroughly the potential effects of a proposed project.	
	Paragraph 5.3.4: The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests.	Paragraph 5.4.17 -5.4.20 (replaces adopted EN-1 para 5.3.4): 5.4.17 The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests. 5.4.18 Applicants should consider wider ecosystem services and benefits of natural capital when designing enhancement measures. 5.4.19 As set out in Section 4.6, the design process should embed opportunities for nature inclusive design. Energy infrastructure projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits and enhancements beyond Biodiversity Net Gain, which result in wider environmental gains (see Section 4.5 on Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain). The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of each project.	Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** outlines the desk and site studies and surveys that have informed the DCO Application. A full description of the ecological baseline conditions identified is set out in the Ecological Baseline Report, which is provided in Appendix 7.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The surveys were undertaken at the early stages of the project and the assessments enabled the Applicant's ecological team to provide input into the design of the Proposed Development at an early stage which included the retention of the most valuable habitats onsite and identification of enhancement measures in areas within the Order limits. These assessments which were conducted and informed the management plans -remain valid. - The Design and Access Statement **EN010127/APP/7.3]** details the design process which enabled the layout of the proposed development to maximise opportunities to enhance and conserve biodiversity and geological conservation interests including through enhancing existing, or creating new, linking habitats. The mitigation measures embedded into the layout as identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**, and in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan

		5.4.20 The design of Energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile / migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure. As energy infrastructure could occur anywhere within England and Wales, both inland and onshore and offshore, the potential to affect mobile and migratory species across the UK and more widely across Europe (transboundary effects) requires consideration, depending on the location of development.	(oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline decommissioning Environmental Management plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**, all of which are secured under the DCO**).** The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the - land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be ~~just over~~a minimum of ~~72~~65% Net Gain with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. This is considered to be in accordance with the ambition set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan. This is subsequently supported within the Applicant's First Written Questions responses **[REP2-037]** noting in response to question 1.2.1 that the Proposed Development would actively deliver on the priority to embed nature and habitat restoration throughout the transition to net zero. With a significant gain in terms of Biodiversity Net Gain. The design of the scheme includes gaps for terrestrial mammals such as brown hare (an SPI) and badger in security fencing around the Solar PV areas. Larger species will also be likely to continue to utilise the unfenced areas along hedgerows. The Applicant's response to the Second Written Questions **[REP5-012]** notes at question 1.0.10(g) that the security fencing will be agreed at detailed design stage with the LPAs. The Applicant reiterates that mammal passes will be integrated within the perimeter fencing, in line with the industry standard.
	Paragraph 5.3.6: In having regard to the aim of the Government's biodiversity strategy the IPC should take account of the context of	Paragraph 5.4.2 (replaces adopted EN-1 para 5.3.6):	As explained in the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** and summarised in Sections 3 the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]**, the Proposed Development has the potential to deliver significant amounts

	the challenge of climate change: failure to address this challenge will result in significant adverse impacts to biodiversity. The policy set out in the following sections recognises the need to protect the most important biodiversity and geological conservation interests. The benefits of nationally significant low carbon energy infrastructure development may include benefits for biodiversity and geological conservation interests and these benefits may outweigh harm to these interests. The IPC may take account of any such net benefit in cases where it can be demonstrated.	5.4.2 The government's policy for biodiversity in England is set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan, Biodiversity 2020, the National Pollinator Strategy and the UK Marine Strategy. The aim is to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people. This aim needs to be viewed in the context of the challenge presented by climate change. Healthy, naturally functioning ecosystems and coherent ecological networks will be more resilient and adaptable to climate change effects. Failure to address this challenge will result in significant adverse impact on biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides.	of low-carbon electricity and make a material contribution to help meet the UK's commitments to decrease carbon emissions and reach net zero by 2050. Failure to deliver infrastructure projects that deliver low carbon electricity materially damage the UKs prospects of meeting its target to address climate change and will result in significant adverse impacts to biodiversity. The Proposed Development presents a significant and vital opportunity to develop a large-scale low-carbon generation increasing materially the UKs ability to meet future Carbon Budgets and Net Zero 2050. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan seeks to improve connectivity of habitats across and adjacent to the Order limits, contributing to natural functioning ecological networks. ~~In addition, a Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) assessment, using Defra's Metric 3.1, has been provided with the DCO Application which demonstrates a 72% Biodiversity Net Gain. This is considered to be in accordance with the ambition set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan.~~ The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be a minimum of 65% Net Gain, with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. Delivery of BNG is secured via Requirement 7 of the DCO. By enhancing biodiversity within the Order limits, and by generating renewable electricity and thereby helping to address the causes of climate change, the Proposed Development delivers benefits in relation to both elements of this policy.

	Paragraph 5.3.7: As a general principle, and subject to the specific policies below, development should aim to avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through mitigation and consideration of reasonable alternatives where significant harm cannot be avoided, then appropriate compensation measures should be sought.	Paragraphs 5.4.42 and 5.4.43 (replaces adopted EN-1 para 5.3.7): As a general principle, and subject to the specific policies below, development should, in line with the mitigation hierarchy, aim to avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through consideration of reasonable alternatives (as set out in Section 4.2 above). Where significant harm cannot be avoided, impacts should be mitigated and as a last resort, appropriate compensation measures should be sought. 5.4.43 If significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (for example through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then the Secretary of State will give significant weight to any residual harm and consent may be refused.	Biodiversity and geodiversity conservation considerations have informed the design of the Proposed Development from the outset and integrated as part of the design process, as described in the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]**. This has facilitated an approach to mitigating impacts that first seeks to avoid impacts, then minimise them, and then take on-site measures to rehabilitate or restore biodiversity, before finally offsetting residual, unavoidable impacts. Avoidance of ecological impacts has been embedded into the layout of the scheme as identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** which is secured under the DCO. The DCO Application is also accompanied by an outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, outline Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**. These include mitigation measures which are intended to avoid negative impacts during the construction and decommissioning phases. The oCEMP and oDEMP include measures to manage earthworks associated with construction compounds, access roads and cable trenching, including their location and method of construction.
	Paragraph 5.3.8: In taking decisions, the IPC should ensure that appropriate weight is attached to designated sites of international, national and local importance; protected species; habitats and other species of principal importance for the	Paragraph 5.4.48 (no change to adopted EN-1 para 5.3.8).	Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** sets out all the designated sites of international, national and local ecological or geological conservation importance; protected species; and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits.

	conservation of biodiversity; and to biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.		
	Paragraph 5.3.9 The most important sites for biodiversity are those identified through international conventions and European Directives. The Habitats Regulation provide statutory protection for these sites but do not provide statutory protection for potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs) before they have been classified as a Special Protection Area. For the purposes of considering development proposals affecting them, as a matter of policy the Government wishes pSPAs to be considered in the same way as if they had already been classified. Listed Ramsar sites should, also as a matter of policy, receive the same protection	*Habitats Regulations* 5.4.4 The highest level of biodiversity protection is afforded to sites identified through international conventions. The Habitats Regulations set out sites for which an HRA will assess the implications of a plan or project, including Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas 5.4.5 As a matter of policy, the following should be given the same protection as sites covered by the Habitats Regulations and an HRA will also be required: a) potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation; b) listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and c) sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on any of the other sites covered by this paragraph.	Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** confirms that there are no internationally important designated sites for bats are present within 30km of the Site. Four international designated sites are present within 10km of the Site, the Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA), Baston Fen Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Grimthorpe SAC and Barnack Hills and Holes SAC. A shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment, ES appendix7.5 **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been undertaken to support the DCO Application. This concludes that no likely significant effects on the SPA, SACs will arise from the Proposed Development. The Applicant confirmed within the responses to the Second Written Questions **[REP5-012]** that the distance from the Baston Fen SAC boundary from the nearest point of the Order limits is 6.1km not the previously mentioned 4.4km. Therefore, the risk of impacts from the Proposed Development on the SAC is lower than previously assessed.

	Paragraph 5.3.11 Where a proposed development on land within or outside an SSSI is likely to have an adverse effect on an SSSI (either individually or in combination with other developments), development consent should not normally be granted. Where an adverse effect, after mitigation, on the site's notified special interest features is likely, an exception should only be made where the benefits (including need) of the development at this site, clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs. The IPC should use requirements and/or planning obligations to mitigate the harmful aspects of the development and, where possible, to ensure the conservation and enhancement of the site's biodiversity or geological interest	*Sites of Special Scientific Interest* 5.4.7 Many SSSIs are also designated as sites of international importance and will be protected accordingly. Those that are not, or those features of SSSIs not covered by an international designation, should be given a high degree of protection. Most National Nature Reserves are notified as SSSIs.	Annex 1 of Appendix 7.4 of the ES **[Re]f EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes a schedule of nationally important sites. Eight nationally important statutory designated sites are present within 2km of the Site. All of these sites are Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Chapter 7 of the ES confirms that subject to appropriate mitigation as set out in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [Ref EN010127/APP/7.6] and outline Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [Ref EN010127/APP/7.8] any impacts arising from the construction or decommissioning of the proposed Development will be avoided or reduced to insignificant impacts to those SSSIs. Additionally, the Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) was updated during Examination to ensure that traffic routes were limiting any potential impact upon the Ryhall pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI.
	5.3.13 Sites of regional and local biodiversity and geological interest, which include Regionally Important Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves and Local Sites, have a fundamental role to play in meeting overall national biodiversity targets; contributing to the quality of life and the well-being of the	Paragraphs 5.4.12 – 5.4.13 (replaces adopted EN-1 para 5.3.13): *Regional and Local Sites*	A total of 71 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) are located within 2 km of Order limits. Of these, 16 are located within the Order limits. Annex 1 of Appendix 7.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes a schedule of these sites. Chapter 7 of the ES identifies impacts upon three of the LWSs.

	community; and in supporting research and education. The IPC should give due consideration to such regional or local designations. However, given the need for new infrastructure, these designations should not be used in themselves to refuse development consent.	Sites of regional and local biodiversity and geological interest, which include Regionally Important Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites, are areas of substantive nature conservation value and make an important contribution to ecological networks and nature's recovery. They can also provide wider benefits including public access (where agreed), climate mitigation and helping to tackle air pollution. 5.4.13 National planning policy expects plans to identify and map Local Wildlife sites, and to include policies that not only secure their protection from harm or loss but also help to enhance them and their connection to wider ecological networks.	• Essendine hedgerow south side MacMillan Way LWS: Due to the need to increase visibility splays facilitate access to the site there will be a loss of approximately 75m of species-rich hedgerow located in the eastern part of the Order limits, and within the Essendine hedgerow south side MacMillan Way LWS. The impact of this loss has sought to be avoided though review of alternative access point and minimised through micro-siting of the access point. The impact is mitigated through habitat creation in the form of new hedge and tree planting along a parallel line to the existing LWS hedgerow and wider enhancements across the Order limits. • Essendine Verge SE of the Freewards (N Side) LWS & Essendine Verge (NE Side) Near North Lodge Farm LWS: There is a need to create a single passing point of approximately 20m long and 2m wide in each of these LWSs. These have been sited in as sensitive a way as possible by using existing bare ground where it exists within the LWS and avoiding the need to remove hedgerows or trees. However, some of these passing points are located in areas which currently support grassland verges, including the two LWSs, which will result in the loss of grassland habitat. To mitigate these impacts, where new passing points will be delivered, these will be temporary and very limited in size. Once the construction periods is complete, these passing points will be removed, appropriate nutrient poor soil replaced on their footprint and a species rich grassland will be seeded on these. Following the mitigation identified above, the residual impacts upon these LWS are assessed as a short term adverse effect of significance at a District level.

			The oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and oDEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** include specific measures to manage and avoid any further impacts upon the LWS (and SSSIs) arising from accidental damage and other indirect effects during construction or decommissioning. In response to NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.3.13 and draft revised NPS En-1 paragraph 5.4.12 the Applicants have sought to avoid, and where this has not been possible, minimise the impacts upon Sites of regional and local biodiversity and geological interest. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** sets out the significant contribution made by the Proposed Development in relation to urgent need to deliver low carbon renewable energy to meet the aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity supplies by 2050; providing security of supply as well as affordability for end consumers. This would deliver a considerable public benefit. In addition, the Biodiversity Net Gain calculation at Appendix 7.6 **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** confirms ~~a 72%~~a minimum of 65% Net Gain with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 across the Order limits. These wider public benefits are considered to outweigh the temporary District level adverse impacts identified above.

	5.3.14 Ancient woodland is a valuable biodiversity resource both for its diversity of species and for its longevity as woodland. Once lost it cannot be recreated. The IPC should not grant development consent for any development that would result in its loss or deterioration unless the benefits (including need) of the development, in that location outweigh the loss of the woodland habitat. Aged or 'veteran' trees found outside ancient woodland are also particularly valuable for biodiversity and their loss should be avoided. Where such trees would be affected by development proposals the applicant should set out proposals for their conservation or, where their loss is unavoidable, the reasons why.	*Ancient Woodland, veteran trees and other irreplaceable habitats* 5.4.14 Irreplaceable habitats are habitats which would be technically very difficult (or take a very significant time) to restore, recreate or replace once destroyed, taking into account their age, uniqueness, species diversity or rarity. 5.4.15 Ancient woodland is a valuable biodiversity resource both for its diversity of species and for its longevity as woodland. Ancient or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland are also particularly valuable. Other types of irreplaceable habitats include blanket bog, limestone pavement, sand dunes, salt marsh and lowland fen.	Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** confirms that no ancient woodland is contained within the Order limits. There are parcels of this habitat located to the north-east (replanted ancient woodland at Braceborough Little Wood) and north-west (ancient woodland and replanted ancient woodland at Newell Wood) adjacent to the Order limits. However, these woodlands are each located more than 275m from the Solar PV Site. The Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) included in Appendix 15.2 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** has identified veteran trees within the Order limits. Impacts on these trees are avoided via embedded mitigation measures including standard offsets from all woodland, trees and hedges within and immediately adjacent to the Order limits and micro siting of infrastructure where cable routes or access tracks are in proximity to veteran and other trees as detailed in the outline Landscape and Environmental Management plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].** Measures to protect trees from accidental damage during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development have been set out within the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** As a result of the measures identified, the Proposed Development will not result in the impact or loss of any ancient woodland or veteran trees. Given the avoidance of impacts and embedded mitigation described above, no compensation strategy for the loss or deterioration of ancient woodland or veteran trees is required.-

	Paragraph 5.3.15: Development proposals provide many opportunities for building-in beneficial biodiversity or geological features as part of good design. When considering proposals, the IPC should maximise such opportunities in and around developments, using requirements or planning obligations where appropriate.	5.4.46 Development proposals provide many opportunities for building-in beneficial biodiversity or geological features as part of good design. The Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to environmental and biodiversity enhancements, although any weight given to gains provided to meet a legal requirement (for example under the Environment Act 2021) is likely to be limited. 5.4.47 When considering proposals, the Secretary of State should maximise such reasonable opportunities in and around developments, using requirements or planning obligations where appropriate. This can help towards delivering biodiversity net gain as part of or in addition to the approach set out at Section 4.5	The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** details the design process which enabled the layout of the proposed development to maximise opportunities to enhance and conserve biodiversity and geological conservation interests. A key element of the strategy has been the identification and retention of beneficial biodiversity or geological landscape features into the layout of the proposed development. The embedded mitigation is described in section 7.3 of chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**. The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be ~~just over~~a minimum of 65~~72~~% Net Gain with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the BNG Assessment. This is considered to be in accordance with the ambition set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan.
	Paragraph 5.3.17: Other species and habitats have been identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and Wales and thereby requiring conservation action. The IPC should ensure that these species and habitats are protected from the adverse effects of development by using requirements or planning obligations. The IPC should refuse consent where harm to the habitats or species and their habitats	5.4.16 Many individual wildlife species receive statutory protection under a range of legislative provisions. Other species and habitats have been identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and Wales, as well as for their continued benefit for climate mitigation and adaptation and thereby requiring conservation action.	Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** sets out all habitats of principles importance (HIP) as well as other sites of ecological or geological conservation importance, and protected species within the study area for the Order limits. With regard to Species of Principal Importance (SPIs) paragraph 7.5.8 of Chapter 7 of the ES confirms that the Proposed Development will result in a loss of nesting areas used by nesting skylark. Therefore, measures will be put in place to enhance the value of retained arable habitats for nesting. This will include the provision of skylark plots as per RSPB guidance for arable land in use for growing cereal crops.

	would result, unless the benefits (including need) of the development outweigh that harm. In this context the IPC should give substantial weight to any such harm to the detriment of biodiversity features of national or regional importance which it considers may result from a proposed development.		Plots to accommodate the circa 30 displaced territories will be provided within the Order limits. This mitigation is secured in the outline Landscape and Environmental Management plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].** The Applicant confirmed within the Second Written Questions responses **[REP5-012]** that the skylark plots will be sufficient to compensate for the losses to the skylark in terms of nesting locations – the RPSB, for example, has not suggested any further measures are required beyond what the Applicant has proposed. With regard to Habitats of Principal Importance, impacts are identified upon three LWSs which, following the mitigation included in the oLEMP and oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, are assessed as a ~~short term~~short-term adverse effect of significance at a District level.
	NA	New Paragraphs 5.4.33 and 5.4.34 (in addition to adopted EN-1): *Protection and enhancement of habitats and other species* 5.4.33 Applicants should consider any reasonable opportunities to maximise the restoration, creation, and enhancement of wider biodiversity, and the protection and restoration of the ability of habitats to store or sequester carbon as set out under Section 4.5. 5.4.32 Consideration should be given to improvements to, and impacts on, habitats and species in, around and beyond developments, for wider ecosystem services and natural capital	The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** for the Proposed Development has been prepared with a view to securing opportunities to contribute to and enhance the wider natural environment. For example: • Areas to the north-west of the Solar PV Site are underlain by chalk geology. Many of the roadside verges in this area are protected either statutorily or locally due the botanic diversity. The creation of new chalk grassland with calcareous wildflower species has been a key principle in these areas, contributing to this important habitat. The proposed calcareous grassland would reconnect with the surrounding fragmented habitats. • Throughout the Solar PV Site there are a number of woodland blocks that, through modern agricultural practices and intensification, have become

		benefits, beyond those under protection and identified as being of principal importance. This may include considerations and opportunities identified through Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and national goals and targets set through the government's strategy for nature for example.	fragmented and isolated. The proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan seeks to retain the existing woodlands and hedgerows as far as possible and provide new infill and reinforcement planting to reconnect these habitats. • The West Glen River Corridor is a key landscape feature which has shaped the design of the Proposed Development from the outset. The river corridor, which has historically been heavily channelised and is currently not publicly accessible. The enhancements to the river corridor include new riparian planting such as alder carr/wet woodland and the creation of shallow wetland scrapes to provide new habitat for fauna, amphibians and birds. A new permissive path along the river corridor is proposed along the north and central section where it runs adjacent to the East Coast Main Line railway embankment. The measures outlined above are illustrated in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan are included within the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].** This will be secured by a Requirement in the draft DCO.
	Paragraph 5.3.18: The applicant should include appropriate mitigation measures as an integral part of the proposed development. In particular, the applicant should demonstrate that: • during construction, they will seek to ensure that activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works;	5.4.35 Applicants should include appropriate avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures as an integral part of the proposed development. In particular, the applicant should demonstrate that: • during construction, they will seek to ensure that activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works	Chapter 7 of the ES ecology and biodiversity **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** identifies the potential impacts of the Proposed Development and outlines appropriate mitigation measures. Avoidance of ecological impacts during the construction and decommissioning phases have been embedded into the layout of the Proposed Development, as explained in the DAS and shown on the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**). Temporary

	• during construction and operation best practice will be followed to ensure that risk of disturbance or damage to species or habitats is minimised, including as a consequence of transport access arrangements; • habitats will, where practicable, be restored after construction works have finished; and • opportunities will be taken to enhance existing habitats and, where practicable, to create new habitats of value within the site landscaping proposals.	• the timing of construction has been planned to avoid or limit disturbance • during construction and operation best practice will be followed to ensure that risk of disturbance or damage to species or habitats is minimised, including as a consequence of transport access arrangements • habitats will, where practicable, be restored after construction works have finished • opportunities will be taken to enhance existing habitats rather than replace them, and where practicable, create new habitats of value within the site landscaping proposals. Where habitat creation is required as mitigation, compensation, or enhancement the location and quality will be of key importance. In this regard habitat creation should be focused on areas where the most ecological and ecosystems benefits can be realised.	working areas have been located and consolidated to avoid sensitive areas of the Order Limits. The DCO Application is also accompanied by an outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, outline Operational Environmental Management plan (oOEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7], and** Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**. The oCEMP and oDEMP set out the locations of sensitive and retained features and the measures for their protection. These include best practice mitigation measures which are intended to avoid risks of disturbance or damage to habitats or species during the construction and decommissioning phases. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**) includes measures to enhance existing habitats across the Order limits, and creates new areas of landscape value within the order limits – as per the response of the draft revised NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.4.17. The Solar PV Site and Mitigation and Enhancement Areas consists of fields predominantly in agricultural use with associated hedgerows, ditches, ponds, woodland parcels and tracks and buildings. The focus of the ecological value improvement has been adding to margins along hedgerows, creating new grassland in strategic locations such as adjacent to off site features and connecting woodlands parcels.

	Paragraph 5.3.19: Where the applicant cannot demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures will be put in place the IPC should consider what appropriate requirements should be attached to any consent and/or planning obligations entered into.	5.4.36 Applicants should produce and implement a Biodiversity Management Strategy as part of their development proposals. This could include provision for biodiversity awareness training to employees and contractors so as to avoid unnecessary adverse impacts on biodiversity during the construction and operation stages.	The Applicant is able to demonstrates appropriate mitigation measures can be implemented, and detailed versions of the LEMP, CEMP and DEMP will be secured via Requirements of the DCO. The oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** includes a prescription that includes appropriate training requirements for relevant personal on environmental topics.
	NA	5.4.37 In the design of any direct cooling system the locations of the intake and outfall should be sited to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the receiving waters, including their ecology. There should also be specific measures to minimise impact to fish and aquatic biota by entrainment and impingement or by excessive heat or biocidal chemicals from discharges to receiving waters.	No such systems are proposed as part of the Proposed Development.
	NA	5.4.38 To further minimise any adverse impacts on geodiversity, where appropriate applicants are encouraged to produce and implement a Geodiversity Management Strategy to preserve and enhance access to geological interest features, as part of relevant development proposals.	There are no geological designations within the Order limits but an understanding of the underlying geology, geomorphology and soil characteristics has informed the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** and will inform detailed design specifications.

	NA	5.4.44 The Secretary of State should consider what appropriate requirements should be attached to any consent and/or in any planning obligations entered into, in order to ensure that any mitigation or biodiversity net gain measures, if offered, are delivered and maintained. Any habitat creation or enhancement delivered including linkages with existing habitats for compensation or biodiversity net gain should generally be maintained for a minimum period of 30 years, or for the lifetime of the project, if longer.	The oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** sets out the long term management of existing and newly created habitats for the duration of the Proposed Development. It is anticipated that the proposed habitat creation and enhancements delivered by the Proposed Development can be maintained for the period outlined in the draft policy, further to the management prescriptions set out in that plan. The outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** secures the management of the proposed landscape screening and habitat creation considering both landscape and ecological considerations.
Civil and military aviation and defence interests	Paragraph 5.4.10 states: Where the proposed development may have an effect on civil or military aviation and/or other defence assets an assessment of potential effects should be set out in the ES	5.5.38 Where the proposed development may affect the performance of civil or military aviation CNS, meteorological radars and/or other defence assets an assessment of potential effects should be set out in the ES	A glint and glare assessment (Appendix 15.3 of the ES) **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been prepared to assess the possible effects of glint and glare of the Proposed Development upon road users, residential amenity, aviation activity, and railway operations and infrastructure. The assessment has considered both fixed and single-axis tracker solar panel layouts. Potential glint and glare effects from the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are not considered within Chapter 15 of the ES as the construction and decommissioning phases are unlikely to result in glint and glare effects greater than those at operational phase. As such, construction and decommissioning effects are scoped out of the EIA as agreed with the PINS in their Scoping Direction **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The assessment concludes there is no significant impact upon surrounding aviation activity.

			The Applicant noted within the response to the Second Written Questions **[REP5-012]** that minimising visual impacts, including understanding the journeys that recreational users might take between villages, has been a core part of the scheme design development, with mitigation planting, setbacks, and parcel removals introduced to account for surrounding receptors and to avoid glint and glare effects. The RVAA concludes that the Residential Value Amenity Threshold is not broken for any residential receptor, and the Glint and Glare assessment concludes that no likely significant effects will arise.
	Paragraph 5.4.11: The applicant should consult the MoD, CAA, NATS and any aerodrome – licensed or otherwise – likely to be affected by the proposed development in preparing an assessment of the proposal on aviation or other defence interests.	Para 5.5.40 replaces paragraph 5.4.11: The applicant should consult the MOD, Met Office, Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), NATS and any aerodrome – licensed or otherwise – likely to be affected by the proposed development in preparing an assessment of the proposal on aviation, meteorological or other defence interests.	The Mod, CAA, NATS and RAF Wittering aerodromes have been consulted through the preparation of the DCO application. The Ministry of Defence were consulted during Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the application. RAF Wittering responded at Stage 1 on the 05 January 2022 and did not mention glint and glare as a concern. No response was received at Stage 2. No objections to the Proposed Development have been raised and appendix 15.1 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2**] concludes there will be no significant effect upon aviation activities. The modelling undertaken as part of the Glint and Glare Study, Appendix 15.3 showed that no solar reflections were geometrically possible towards the ATC Tower and the 2-mile approach paths towards RAF Wittering. Details of the assessment and conclusions are contained within Section 3, Figure 4, Section 7 and Section 10, of this report. As no impacts were predicted, no further consultation with the Ministry Of Defence / RAF Wittering has been undertaken regarding glint and glare.

Dust, odour, artificial light, smoke, steam and insect infestation	Paragraph 5.6.4: The applicant should assess the potential for insect infestation and emissions of odour, dust, steam, smoke and artificial light to have a detrimental impact on amenity, as part of the ES. Paragraph 5.6.5: In particular, the assessment provided by the applicant should describe: • the type, quantity and timing of emissions; • aspects of the development which may give rise to emissions; • premises or locations that may be affected by the emissions; • effects of the emission on identified premises or locations; and • measures to be employed in preventing or mitigating the emissions.	Paragraph 5.7.5 – Paragraph 5.7.7 (no change to adopted EN-1 para 5.6.4-5.6.5)	Section 15.2 of Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development on Air Quality, including consideration of dust emissions. A Dust Management Plan is included in the suite of environmental management plans contained in the outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline Decommissioning and Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8].** Impacts of artificial light during each phase of the development are considered in Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. No areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit during the construction, operation and decommissioning stages. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR) lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exits where there would be lighting, similar to street lighting that operates from dusk. Otherwise, lighting sensors for security purposes will be implemented around the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. The lighting design would seek to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors through directional cowls, as secured through the oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7].** Further information can be found on the lighting within the updated Design and Access Statement **[REP5-058]** submitted at Deadline 5. The Proposed Development is not anticipated to give rise to any impacts from insect infestation and emissions of odour,

			steam, smoke are and therefore no detrimental impact on amenity is expected.
Flood Risk	Paragraph 5.7.4 Applications for energy projects of 1 hectare or greater in Flood Zone 1 in England or Zone A in Wales and all proposals for energy projects located in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in England or Zones B and C in Wales should be accompanied by a flood risk assessment (FRA). An FRA will also be required where an energy project less than 1 hectare may be subject to sources of flooding other than rivers and the sea (for example surface water), or where the EA, Internal Drainage Board or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems. This should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account.	Paragraph 5.8.13 (replaces adopted EN-1 para 5.7.4) A site-specific flood risk assessment should be provided for all energy projects in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in England or Zones B and C in Wales. In Flood Zone 1 in England or Zone A in Wales, an assessment should accompany all proposals involving: • sites of 1 hectare or more • land which has been identified by the EA or NRW as having critical drainage problems • land identified (for example in a local authority strategic flood risk assessment) as being at increased flood risk in future • land that may be subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water) • where the EA or NRW, Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems. 5.8.14 This should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how	A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) included in Appendix 11.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs section 5.7 of NPS EN1 (and the NPPF), and the likely effects of the Proposed Development associated with flood risk have been assessed in Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. The FRA concludes that the risk of the Proposed Development flooding from all sources is negligible and can be effectively managed via drainage measures identified in the outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**, and the Proposed Development is not considered to give rise to any adverse flood effects either within, or outside of the Order limits.

		these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account.	
	Paragraph 5.7.5 states: The minimum requirements for FRAs are that they should: be proportionate to the risk and appropriate to the scale, nature and location of the project; consider the risk of flooding arising from the project in addition to the risk of flooding to the project; take the impacts of climate change into account, clearly stating the development lifetime over which the assessment has been made; be undertaken by competent people, as early as possible in the process of preparing the proposal; consider both the potential adverse and beneficial effects of flood risk management infrastructure, including raised defences, flow channels, flood storage areas and other artificial features, together with the consequences of their failure; consider the vulnerability of those using the site, including arrangements for safe access;	Paragraph 5.8.15 (replaces adopted EN-1 para 5.7.5): The minimum requirements for Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) are that they should: • *no change* • ~~*no change*~~ • ~~*no change*~~ • ~~*no change*~~ • ~~*no change*~~ • ~~*no change*~~ • consider and quantify the different types of flooding (whether from natural and human sources and including joint and cumulative effects) and include information on flood likelihood, speed-of- onset, depth, velocity, hazard and duration • identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall, making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management • consider the effects of a range of flooding events including extreme events on people, property, the natural and historic environment and river and coastal processes	The FRA included in Appendix 11.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been prepared by competent practitioners in accordance with EN-1 requirements, utilising appropriate data, incusing historic information. Specifically, it has been prepared to meet the requirements of: • Environment Agency (EA); • Rutland County Council (RCC) Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)1; • RCC Local Plan 2018 – 2036, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update2; • RCC Local Flood Risk Management Strategy; • Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment; • South Kesteven District Council (SKDC), SFRA; • Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) The Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) Manual (C753); • National Policy Statements (NPS) EN-1 and EN-3 and draft revised NPS EN-1 and EN-3; • Revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF); and • Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). The FRA is considered proportionate for the scale and nature and location of the Proposed Development and assesses risk of flooding from all sources arising from the Proposed Development upon the development itself and identified receptors, accounting for the impact of climate change. The FRA informs an outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) in Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** which outlines how surface water runoff associated the

	consider and quantify the different types of flooding (whether from natural and human sources and including joint and cumulative effects) and identify flood risk reduction measures, so that assessments are fit for the purpose of the decisions being made; consider the effects of a range of flooding events including extreme events on people, property, the natural and historic environment and river and coastal processes; include the assessment of the remaining (known as 'residual') risk after risk reduction measures have been taken into account and demonstrate that this is acceptable for the particular project; consider how the ability of water to soak into the ground may change with development, along with how the proposed layout of the project may affect drainage systems; consider if there is a need to be safe and remain operational during a worst case flood event over the development's lifetime; and be supported by appropriate data and information, including historical information on previous events Paragraph 5.7.7 states:	• include the assessment of the remaining (known as 'residual') risk after risk reduction measures have been taken into account and demonstrate that these risks can be safely managed, ensuring people will not be exposed to hazardous flooding • consider how the ability of water to soak into the ground may change with development, along with how the proposed layout of the project may affect drainage systems. Information should include: a) Describe the existing surface water drainage arrangements for the site b) Set out (approximately) the existing rates and volumes of surface water run-off generated by the site. Detail the proposals for restricting discharge rates c) Set out proposals for managing and discharging surface water from the site using sustainable drainage systems and accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change. d) If sustainable drainage systems have been rejected, present clear evidence of why their inclusion would be inappropriate e) Demonstrate how the hierarchy of drainage options (has been followed.	Proposed Development will be intercepted, attenuated and discharged based on an assessment of existing ground conditions and drainage arrangements. The oSWDS has been prepared in line with all the criteria listed in paragraph 5.8.15 of the draft NPS The FRA confirms in section 3 that the implementation of the measures detailed in the oSWDS will prevent a significant increase in surface water runoff and therefore prevent an increase in flood risk elsewhere. This is further demonstrated within the Applicant's response to the First Written Question 12.0.3 [REP2-037] by noting that this is evidenced by the 2D surface water model which shows increasing the roughness of the surface cover within the Order limits, specifically under the PV Array drip lines, retains water onsite for longer i.e., reducing the surface water run-off rate compared to the baseline agricultural scenario and therefore having a beneficial impact on surface water flooding. The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6],** outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** and outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** include a prescription for an Emergency Response plan, which addresses how the risk would be managed on the site in the event of a flood. The FRA confirms that the proposed Development remains safe during all phases (construction, operation and decommissioning) and does not increase flood risk elsewhere. The FRA concludes that applying the management identified in the oSWDS the risk of flooding from all sources in the 1 in 100 year plus climate change flood event upon all receptors

	Applicants for projects which may be affected by, or may add to, flood risk should arrange pre-application discussions with the EA, and, where relevant, other bodies such as Internal Drainage Boards, sewerage undertakers, navigation authorities, highways authorities and reservoir owners and operators. Such discussions should identify the likelihood and possible extent and nature of the flood risk, help scope the FRA, and identify the information that will be required by the IPC to reach a decision on the application when it is submitted. The IPC should advise applicants to undertake these steps where they appear necessary, but have not yet been addressed.	f) Explain and justify why the types of SuDS and method of discharge have been selected and why they are considered appropriate. Where cost is a reason for not including SuDS, provide information to enable comparison with the lifetime costs of a conventional public sewer connection g) Explain how sustainable drainage systems have been integrated with other aspects of the development such as open space or green infrastructure, so as to ensure an efficient use of the site h) Describe the multifunctional benefits the sustainable drainage system will provide i) Set out which opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding have been identified and included as part of the proposed sustainable drainage system j) Explain how run-off from the completed development will be prevented from causing an impact elsewhere k) Explain how the sustainable drainage system been designed to facilitate maintenance and, where relevant, adoption. Set out plans for ensuring an acceptable standard of operation and maintenance throughout the lifetime of the development	arising from the Proposed Development is negligible and non-significant. Consultations have been held with the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), plus the relevant Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs). The consultations are described in Appendix 11.3 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** LCC have confirmed that they have a memorandum of understanding with IDBs within the area to extend their operational ownership across the whole of Lincolnshire. The Order limits are shown to fall within the extended management boundaries of the Black Sluice and Upper Whitham Internal Drainage Boards (IDB). Consultations with LCC has confirmed that IDB consents and byelaws are not applicable for the extended operational areas which the Order limits falls within. Therefore, discussions with LCC have informed the scope and potential flood risks to inform the FRA.

		• detail those measures that will be included to ensure the development will be safe and remain operational during a flooding event throughout the development's lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere; • identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall during the period of construction; and • be supported by appropriate data and information, including historical information on previous events.	
	Paragraph 5.7.9 states: In determining an application for development consent, the IPC should be satisfied that where relevant: • the application is supported by an appropriate FRA; • the Sequential Test has been applied as part of site selection; • a sequential approach has been applied at the site level to minimise risk by directing the most vulnerable uses to areas of lowest flood risk; • the proposal is in line with any relevant national and local flood risk management strategy; • priority has been given to the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) (as required in the next paragraph on National Standards); and	5.8.36 In determining an application for development consent, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that where relevant • the application is supported by an appropriate FRA • the Sequential Test has been applied and satisfied as part of site selection • a sequential approach has been applied at the site level to minimise risk by directing the most vulnerable uses to areas of lowest flood risk • the proposal is in line with any relevant national and local flood risk management strategy • SuDS (as required in the next paragraph on National Standards) have been used unless there is clear evidence that their use would be inappropriate	The FRA included in Appendix 11.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been prepared in accordance with EN-1, the draft revised EN-1 and NPPF requirements. The Proposed Development has been designed to be located primarily in Flood Zone 1 with only a small footprint of the Solar PV Site located within the 1 in 100-year modelled flood extent. A small part of the Solar PV Site is located within the Flood Zone 2. No solar infrastructure or equipment associated with the Proposed Development is located~~ion~~ within Flood Zone 3. The ~~uses located within these flood extents~~Development located within Flood Zone 2 has~~ve~~ been restricted to PV Arrays mounting structures only (solar stations will be located outside of the Flood Zone 2 flood extents) which will be raised above flood levels and not displace flood waters, and are designed to remain operational in the 1 in~~:~~ 100 year flood event plus climate change allowance. The Proposed Development will incorporate planting and land management measures which will prevent any significant increase in surface water runoff. Hardstanding areas are to be located

	• in flood risk areas the project is appropriately flood resilient and resistant, including safe access and escape routes where required, and that any residual risk can be safely managed over the lifetime of the development.	• in flood risk areas the project is designed and constructed to remain safe and operational during its lifetime, without increasing flood risk elsewhere (subject to the exceptions set out in paragraph 5.8.18) • the project includes safe access and escape routes where required, as part of an agreed emergency plan, and that any residual risk can be safely managed over the lifetime of the development • land that is likely to be needed for present or future flood risk management infrastructure has been appropriately safeguarded from development to the extent that development would not prevent or hinder its construction, operation or maintenance	outside of Flood Zone 2 and served by appropriate SuDS and surface water drainage infrastructure to prevent increases in surface water runoff as detailed in the outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oS~~W~~–DS) - Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** Section 4 of the FRA includes a Sequential Test and Exception Test which have been carried out in line with EN-1 Paragraph 5.7.9 and the draft revised NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.8.11, the NPPF and PPG. This concludes that a sequential approach to design has been applied, seeking to minimise the placements of infrastructure outside of Flood Zone 1, and that with the measures identified in the oSWDS in place, the benefits of the Proposed Develop~~ment ou~~35ould35odtweigh the managed flood risk. The location of the Proposed Development has been identified through a site search exercise undertaken by the Applicant and explained in Chapter 4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and the Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** The catchment area for ~~-~~all waterbodies within the Order Limits lies within the Welland Management Catchment and within the extended management boundaries of the Black Sluice and Upper Whitham Internal Drainage Boards (IDB). The FRA has taken full account of the relevant prescriptions of any relevant local and national flood risk management strategies. Detailed versions of the LEMP, CEMP and DEMP will be secured via a Requirement of the DCO and with approved by the local planning authority prior to construction and decommissioning commencing, respectively. The outline versions of these documents include a prescription for an

			Emergency Response plan, which addresses how the risk would be managed on the site in the event of a flood. No land that is likely to be needed for present or future flood risk management is impacted by the Proposed Development
	Paragraph 5.7.10 states: For construction work which has drainage implications, approval for the project's drainage system will form part of the development consent issued by the IPC. The IPC will therefore need to be satisfied that the proposed drainage system complies with any National Standards published by Ministers under Paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. In addition, the development consent order, or any associated planning obligations, will need to make provision for the adoption and maintenance of any SuDS, including any necessary access rights to property. The IPC should be satisfied that the most appropriate body is being given the responsibility for maintaining any SuDS, taking into account the nature and security of the infrastructure on the proposed site.	5.8.37 For energy projects which have drainage implications, approval for the project's drainage system, including during the construction period, will form part of the development consent issued by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State will therefore need to be satisfied that the proposed drainage system complies with any National Standards published by Ministers under paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 3 to the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 5.8.38 In addition, the development consent order, or any associated planning obligations, will need to make provision for appropriate operation and maintenance of any SuDS throughout the project's lifetime. Where this is secured through the adoption of any SuDS features, any necessary access rights to property will need to be granted. 5.8.39 Where relevant, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the most appropriate body is being given the responsibility for maintaining any SuDS, taking into account the nature and security of the infrastructure on the proposed site.	An outline Water Management Plan (oWMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.13]** identifies the compliance standards to which the Proposed Development's drainage system and SuDS measures have been designed for all stages of the Proposed Development The outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** sets the management prescriptions for responsibility for maintaining the SuDS structures within the Order limits. Section 2.9 of the The oSWDS states "It will be the responsibility of the site operator to maintain effective drainage measures and rectify drainage measures that are not functioning adequately". The oSWDS will be secured by Requirement as part of the DCO Application.

		Responsible bodies could include, for example the landowner, the relevant lead local flood authority or water and sewerage company (through the Ofwat- approved Sewerage Sector Guidance), or another body, such as an Internal Drainage Board.	
	Paragraph 5.7.13 states: Preference should be given to locating projects in Flood Zone 1 in England or Zone A in Wales. If there is no reasonably available site in Flood Zone 1 or Zone A, then projects can be located in Flood Zone 2 or Zone B. If there is no reasonably available site in Flood Zones 1 or 2 or Zones A & B, then nationally significant energy infrastructure projects can be located in Flood Zone 3 or Zone C subject to the Exception Test. Consideration of alternative sites should take account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.4 above.	New paragraph 5.8.21 The Sequential Test ensures that a sequential, risk-based approach is followed to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking all sources of flood risk and climate change into account. Where it is not possible to locate development in low-risk areas, the Sequential Test should go on to compare reasonably available sites with medium risk areas and then, only where there are no reasonably available sites in low and medium risk areas, within high-risk areas. Paragraph 5.8.22 (replaces adopted NPS EN-1 Paragraph 5.7.13) The technology specific NPSs set out some exceptions to the application of the Sequential Test. However, when seeking development consent on a site allocated in a development plan through the application of the Sequential Test, informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, applicants need not apply the Sequential Test, provided the	Section 4 of the FRA in Appendix 11.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes a Sequential Test which has been carried out in line with EN-1 Paragraphs 5.7.9 and 5.7.13 and the draft revised NPS EN-1 paragraphs 5.8.11 and 5.8.15, the NPPF and PPG to identify that there is no reasonable alternative site with a lower probability of flooding and that the benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh flood risk. The location of the Proposed Development has been identified through a site search exercise undertaken by the Applicant and explained in Chapter 4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and the Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** The Order limits has been identified through site search exercise undertaken by the Applicant and are situated in the most logical location in terms of required connection works and utilising existing capacity. The Solar PV Site is located predominantly outside of the 1 in 100-year (plus climate change) event extent within Flood Zone 1. Development infrastructure within the modelled 1 in 100-year (plus climate change) is limited to PV Arrays which will be raised above modelled flood depths without any significant footprint through the in-built design of the

		proposed development is consistent with the use for which the site was allocated and there is no new flood risk information that would have affected the outcome of the test. 5.8.23 Consideration of alternative sites should take account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.2 above. All projects should apply the Sequential Test to locating development within the site. 5.8.24 To satisfactorily manage flood risk, arrangements are required to manage surface water and the impact of the natural water cycle on people and property.	structures and cable routes. No development is proposed in Flood Zone 3. Hardstanding areas are to be located outside of Flood Zone 2 and served by appropriate SuDS and surface water drainage infrastructure to prevent increases in surface water runoff as detailed in the outline Surface Water Drainage Strat egy - Appendix 11.6 of the ES [Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]. For these reasons the Proposed Development meets the requirements of the Sequential Test.
	Paragraph 5.7.16 states: All three elements of the test will have to be passed for development to be consented. For the Exception Test to be passed: • it must be demonstrated that the project provides wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk; • the project should be on developable, previously developed	5.8.11 Both elements of the Exception Test will have to be satisfied for development to be consented. To pass the Exception Test it should be demonstrated that: the project would provide wider sustainability benefits to the community214 that outweigh flood risk; and the project will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk	Section 4 of the FRA Appendix 11.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes application of the Exception Test as per the requirements of the NPS EN-1, draft revised NPS EN-1 and the NPPF. The Proposed Development is considered to pass the Exception Test by virtue of the following: • As demonstrated by the Site Selection Report in Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2].** The Proposed Development is located in the most logical location in terms of connection works utilising existing capacity and that no suitable alternative previously developed land is available

	land or, if it is not on previously developed land, that there are no reasonable alternative sites on developable previously developed land subject to any exceptions set out in the technology-specific NPSs; and • a FRA must demonstrate that the project will be safe, without increasing flood risk elsewhere subject to the exception below and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall.	elsewhere, and, where possible will reduce flood risk overall.	• The Proposed Development also delivers wider sustainability benefits, including biodiversity net gain, and improved connectivity across the Order limits via new permissive paths • The Proposed Development is essential infrastructure with a primary function to import energy from renewable sources to the Ryhall substation providing wider sustainability benefits to the community through the delivery of a considerable amount of renewable energy generation capacity that is urgently needed to help meet national energy and climate change objectives and commitments, as detailed by the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010118/APP/7.1].** • The Proposed Development is located primarily within Flood Zone 1, with only a small footprint of the Solar PV Site located within thehe 1 in 100-year + climate change extents which will comprise PV Arrays which will be raised above flood levels and not displace flood waters; • The Proposed Development will incorporate planting and land management measures which will prevent any significant increase in surface water runoff; • Hardstanding areas are to be served by surface water drainage infrastructure to prevent increases in surface water runoff as detailed in the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy; and • The Proposed Development is classed as Essential Infrastructure, as per Annex 3: Flood risk vulnerability classification: of the National Planning Policy Framework, which is appropriate in the Flood Zone 2, in terms of flood risk vulnerability.
		5.8.12. Development should be designed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change	The Development has been designed with avoidance of Flood Zone 3 as a first principle, by locating electrical infrastructure, such as the substation, outside the 1:100 year event plus 20 % uplift for climate change. As outlined in Section 2.2.2 of the

		throughout the lifetime of the development. There should be no net loss of floodplain storage and any deflection or constriction of flood flow routes should be safely managed within the site. Mitigation measures should make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques.	~~FRA [APP-041]. The only element of the Proposed Development located within the 1 in 100-year plus 20 % modelled extent is the Mitigation and Enhancement Area.~~ All ~~PV Array areas~~, ancillary infrastructure and the compound are located outside the 1 in 100-year event plus 20 % climate change allowance. The PV arrays are located above the 1:100 plus 20 % climate change levels. As such, there is no loss of floodplain or alteration in flows during the 1~~:~~ in 100-year event for the lifetime of the Development. As outlined in Section 3 of the Outline Surface Water Management Plan, SuDS i.e. natural flood management techniques will be implemented across the Order limits to manage surface water run-off rates to baseline level.
	5.7.17 Exceptionally, where an increase in flood risk elsewhere cannot be avoided or wholly mitigated, the IPC may grant consent if it is satisfied that the increase in present and future flood risk can be mitigated to an acceptable level and taking account of the benefits of, including the need for, nationally significant energy infrastructure as set out in Part 3 above. In any such case the IPC should make clear how, in reaching its decision, it has weighed up the increased flood risk against the benefits of the project, taking account of the nature and degree of the risk, the future impacts on climate change, and advice provided by the EA and other relevant bodies.	5.8.42 Exceptionally, where an increase in flood risk elsewhere cannot be avoided or wholly mitigated, the Secretary of State may grant consent if they are satisfied that the increase in present and future flood risk can be mitigated to an acceptable and safe level and taking account of the benefits of, including the need for, nationally significant energy infrastructure as set out in Part 3 above. In any such case the Secretary of State should make clear how, in reaching their decision, they have weighed up the increased flood risk against the benefits of the project, taking account of the nature and degree of the risk, the future impacts on climate change, and advice provided by the EA or NRW and other relevant bodies.	The FRA confirms in section 3 that the implementation of the measures detailed in the oSWDS **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** will prevent a significant increase in surface water runoff and therefore prevent an increase in flood risk elsewhere.

	Paragraph 5.7.18 states: To satisfactorily manage flood risk, arrangements are required to manage surface water and the impact of the natural water cycle on people and property.	5.8.24 To satisfactorily manage flood risk, arrangements are required to manage surface water and the impact of the natural water cycle on people and property.	The outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) in Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** and the outline Water Environmental Management Plan (oWMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.13]** sets the arrangements for managing surface water and flood risk or the Proposed Development.
	Paragraph 5.7.20 states: Site layout and surface water drainage systems should cope with events that exceed the design capacity of the system, so that excess water can be safely stored on or conveyed from the site without adverse impacts.	5.8.26 Site layout and surface water drainage systems should cope with events that exceed the design capacity of the system, so that excess water can be safely stored on or conveyed from the site without adverse impacts.	Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) in Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** confirms at section 2.6 that the strategy has been designed to cope with events that exceed the design capacity of the system.
	Paragraph 5.7.21 states: The surface water drainage arrangements for any project should be such that the volumes and peak flow rates of surface water leaving the site are no greater than the rates prior to the proposed project, unless specific off-site arrangements are made and result in the same net effect.	5.8.27 The surface water drainage arrangements for any project should, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the development's lifetime, be such that the volumes and peak flow rates of surface water leaving the site are no greater than the rates prior to the proposed project, unless specific off-site arrangements are made and result in the same net effect.	Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) in Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** confirms the 1 in 100-year (+climate change) discharges rates which will be achieved through implementation of the SuDS measures, and that these will be no greater that rates prior to the Proposed Development.
	Paragraph 5.7.22 states: It may be necessary to provide surface water storage and infiltration to limit and reduce both the peak rate of discharge from the site and the total	5.8.28 It may be necessary to provide surface water storage and infiltration to limit and reduce both the peak rate of discharge from the site and the total volume discharged from the site. There may be circumstances where it is	Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) in Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** confirms at section 2.5 the surface water attenuation measures associated with areas of hardstanding within the Primary Substation and the

	volume discharged from the site. There may be circumstances where it is appropriate for infiltration facilities or attenuation storage to be provided outside the project site, if necessary through the use of a planning obligation.	appropriate for infiltration facilities or attenuation storage to be provided outside the project site, if necessary through the use of a planning obligation	discharges rates which will be achieved through implementation of the SuDS measures.
	Paragraph 5.7.23 states: The sequential approach should be applied to the layout and design of the project. More vulnerable uses should be located on parts of the site at lower probability and residual risk of flooding. Applicants should seek opportunities to use open space for multiple purposes such as amenity, wildlife habitat and flood storage uses. Opportunities should be taken to lower flood risk by reducing the built footprint of previously developed sites and using SuDS.	5.8.29 The sequential approach should be applied to the layout and design of the project. Vulnerable aspects of the development should be located on parts of the site at lower risk and residual risk of flooding. Applicants should seek opportunities to use open space for multiple purposes such as amenity, wildlife habitat and flood storage uses. Opportunities should be taken to lower flood risk by reducing the built footprint of previously developed sites and using SuDS.	Section 4 of the FRA included in Appendix 11.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** describes how the proposed Development has been sequentially designed. The equipment located within the flood extents Flood Zone 2 are not of a vulnerable nature and have been restricted PV Arrays mounting structures which will be raised above flood levels and not displace flood waters, and are designed to remain operational in flood events. The Proposed Development will incorporate planting and land management measures which will prevent any significant increase in surface water runoff. Hardstanding areas, buildings and Solar Stations are to be located outside of Flood Zone 2 and served by appropriate SuDS and surface water drainage infrastructure to prevent increases in surface water runoff as detailed in the outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy in Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].**
	Paragraph 5.7.24 states: Essential energy infrastructure which has to be located in flood risk areas should be designed to remain operational when floods occur. In addition, any energy projects proposed in Flood Zone 3b the Functional Floodplain (where water has to flow or be stored in times of flood), should only be permitted if the development will	Draft revised EN-1 remove adopted EN-1 paragraph 5.7.24	The FRA included in Appendix 11.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** confirms that the only components of the Proposed Development located within Flood Zone 2 are PV Arrays mounting structures. The PV arrays located within the 1 in 100 year event plus climate change ~~which~~ will be raised above ground ~~flood~~ levels and not displace flood waters, and are designed to remain operational in flood events. The remainder of the site, including the majority of the Solar PV Arrays and Onsite Substation are located in Flood Zone 1.

	not result in a net loss of floodplain storage, and will not impede water flows.		
	Paragraph 5.7.25 states: The receipt of and response to warnings of floods is an essential element in the management of the residual risk of flooding. Flood Warning and evacuation plans should be in place for those areas at an identified risk of flooding. The applicant should take advice from the emergency services when producing an evacuation plan for a manned energy project as part of the FRA. Any emergency planning documents, flood warning and evacuation procedures that are required should be identified in the FRA.	5.8.34 The applicant should take advice from the local authority emergency planning team, emergency services and, where appropriate, from the local resilience forum when producing an evacuation plan for a manned energy project as part of the FRA. Any emergency planning documents, flood warning and evacuation procedures that are required should be identified in the FRA.	The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** and outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** include measures for flood risk management to be outlined in the Emergency Response Plan.
Historic Environment	Paragraph 5.8.8: As part of the ES (see Section 4.2) the applicant should provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposed development and the contribution of their setting to that significance. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage assets and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of the heritage asset.	5.9.10 As part of the ES the applicant should provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposed development, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage assets and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the applicant should have consulted the relevant Historic Environment Record (or, where the development is in English or Welsh waters, Historic England or Cadw)	Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets. The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in appendix 8.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The chapter confirms that there are no non-designated or designated heritage assets comprising Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments or Registered Parks are located within the Order limits.

		and assessed the heritage assets themselves using expertise where necessary according to the proposed development's impact.	A limited number of historic assets have been identified which could potentially be affected by the Proposed Development. These are: • the Scheduled Monument of Essendine Castle and the Grade II* Listed Church of St.Mary located 50m to the west of the Order limits; • the Grade II Listed Banthorpe Lodge located 190m to the east of the Order limits; • the non-designated heritage asset Braceborough Grange is located 10m to the north of the Order limits; and • the potential for buried impacts upon non-designated buried archaeological remains within the Solar PV Site area of the Order limits. The chapter identifies that no significant effects upon these assets, or upon buried archaeological remains, the historic landscape or historic buildings will result from the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
	Paragraph 5.8.9: Where a development site includes, or the available evidence suggests it has the potential to include, heritage assets with an archaeological interest, the applicant should carry out appropriate desk-based assessment and, where such desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation. Where proposed development will affect the setting of a heritage asset, representative visualisations may be necessary to explain the impact.	5.9.11 Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or the available evidence suggests it has the potential to include, heritage assets with an archaeological interest, the applicant should carry out appropriate desk-based assessment and, where such desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation. Where proposed development will affect the setting of a heritage asset, accurate representative visualisations may be necessary to explain the impact.	With regard to archaeological interests Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4. Further to this, the Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was shared with the Local Authorities on 17 August 2023. LCC advised that their position remains unchanged on the matter. The document was later submitted at Deadline 5 **[REP5-075]**, - In summary, the updated Outline WSI sets out:

			• the need to undertake further archaeological trial trenching as part of the detailed design process, to ensure the conservation (minimise the impacts) on buried archaeological remains; • The potential scope for detailed archaeological excavations in advance of construction to record any important remains, and the means to disseminate these findings; • The opportunity to preserve in situ buried archaeological remains within (beneath the solar PV development). • The opportunity, via micro-sitting, to offer no-dig solutions for especially sensitive buried remains (such as the protection of discrete areas from all ground disturbing activities and / or the use of ballast footings / concrete shoes).
	Paragraph 5.8.10: The applicant should ensure that the extent of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of any heritage assets affected can be adequately understood from the application and supporting documents.	5.9.12 The applicant should ensure that the extent of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of any heritage assets affected can be adequately understood from the application and supporting documents. Studies will be required on those heritage assets affected by noise, vibration, light and indirect impacts, the extent and detail of these studies will be proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected.	Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The scope and specification of each field investigation will be set out in Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI), which has been consulted upon with the Host Authorities. The outline Written Scheme of Investigation was later submitted at Deadline 5 **[REP5-075]** following consultation with the Host Authorities. This document has been updated throughout he examination, with the latest version being submitted at Deadline 8 **[REP8-016]**. The suite of desk-based and field investigations has allowed for confident and robust statements (acknowledging any specific and inherent limitations) to be made on the likelihood of the presence of buried archaeological remains, their potential importance, the likely effects of the Proposed Development and to direct a suitable mitigation strategy.

			The results of the findings are summarised in Chapter 8 of the ES. Environmental Statement Volume 1 Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage [Ref: EN010127/APP/6.1] assessed potential impacts arising from the Proposed Development on Cultural Heritage during construction, operation and decommissioning stages and concluded that there will be a No Impact on heritage assets, resulting a Neutral Effect during these stages.
	NA	Paragraph 5.9.13 The applicant is encouraged, where opportunities exist, to prepare proposals which can make a positive contribution to the historic environment, and to consider how their scheme takes account of the significance of heritage assets affected. This can include, where possible: • enhancing, through a range of measures such a sensitive design, the significance of heritage assets or setting affected • considering how visual or noise impacts can affect heritage assets, and whether there may be opportunities to enhance access to, or interpretation, understanding and appreciation of, the heritage assets affected by the scheme	A heritage settings assessment was undertaken early in the design process in order to allow avoidance and mitigation measures to be designed into the Proposed development. The incorporation of significant offsets to maintain a degree of separation between the Solar PV Site and surrounding designated heritage assets, including the Scheduled Essendine Castle and Grade II* Listed Church of St. Mary, and Grade II Listed Banthorpe Lodge have been incorporated into the design to ensure that the characteristics of their existing settings are maintained. The farmland immediately surrounding the non-designated Braceborough Grange is maintained. The existing landscape structure within the Order limits, including hedgerows and tree-lines defining historic field systems will be preserved, and in many instances enhanced through additional planting. Where possible, new planting has been aligned to historic field boundaries which will serve to repair historic landscape structures, and serve to reduce any visibility of the Proposed Development from the identified heritage assets. This includes circa 670-metre native treebelt planting south of Carlby Road which broadly follows the alignment of a historic field boundary previously lost through arable intensification.

			Retention and management of these landscape features as detailed in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** would serve to minimise the effect of the Proposed Development upon historic landscape features within the Order limits. Environmental Statement Volume 1 Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage **[Ref: EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that the Proposed Development would alter the setting of surrounding heritage assets, including the Scheduled Essendine Castle and Grade II* Listed Church of St. Mary, Grade II Listed Banthorpe Lodge, and the nondesignated Braceborough Grange. However, the key elements of the asset's values, derived from their surviving historic fabric and form, and from where they are experienced, would be preserved. Mitigation measures have been built into the design to reduce any potential effects and include the retention of existing vegetation screening and the inclusion of Mitigation and Enhancement Areas to preserve the asset's immediate settings. Owing to these measures, there would be no significant effects upon these assets as a result of alteration to their settings. The Proposed Development includes the retention of the existing hedgerow field boundaries and areas of woodland. As such, there would no significant effects in relation to these assets, or on the historic landscape character of the Order limits, which in the most part reflects post-war field amalgamation of negligible importance. The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** includes measures for the control of noise during construction. It is not considered that the operational phase of the development will give rise to any impacts upon heritage assets in terms of noise.

	Paragraph 5.8.12 states: In considering the impact of a proposed development on any heritage assets, the IPC should take into account the particular nature of the significance of the heritage assets and the value that they hold for this and future generations. This understanding should be used to avoid or minimise conflict between conservation of that significance and proposals for development.	5.9.22 In considering the impact of a proposed development on any heritage assets, the Secretary of State should consider the particular nature of the significance of the heritage assets and the value that they hold for this and future generations. This understanding should be used to avoid or minimise conflict between their conservation and any aspect of the proposal.	Section 8.2 of Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** describes the heritage assets within the study area for the Proposed Development, their significance and the contribution of their setting to that significance. Section 8.4 describes the potential effects of construction, operation and decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development upon the identified assets and their setting. The assessment concludes there will be 'no impact' upon any of the identified assets or their setting resulting from any phase of the Proposed Development.
	Paragraph 5.8.13 states: The IPC should take into account the desirability of sustaining and, where appropriate, enhancing the significance of heritage assets, the contribution of their settings and the positive contribution they can make to sustainable communities and economic vitality. The IPC should take into account the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment. The consideration of design should include scale, height, massing, alignment, materials and use.	5.9.23 The Secretary of State should consider the desirability of sustaining and, where appropriate, enhancing the significance of heritage assets, the contribution of their settings and the positive contribution that their conservation can make to sustainable communities, including to their quality of life, their economic vitality, and to the public's enjoyment of these assets.	Section 8.3 of Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** describes the embedded mitigation measures included in the layout and design of the Proposed Development. This includes the provision of significant offsets from the Solar PV Site and the identified heritage assets in order to avoid potential impacts upon and help to preserve their setting during the construction, operational and decommissioning periods. The landscape structure within the Order limits is retained as part of the design, and opportunities to restore historic hedgerows have been included in the mitigation strategy, alongside appropriate and sensitive screening to minimise the visual intrusion of the Proposed Development. Environmental Statement Volume 1 Chapter 14: Socio-Economics [**Ref: EN010127/APP/6.1**] concludes that given there are no material views or experiences of heritage assets that would be changed and certainly not affected, there is no evidence to suggest that effects on- recreational and visual amenity would significantly reduce tourist visits to the study area identified. Therefore it is considered that the Proposed

			Development will not have adverse impacts on economic vitality and public's enjoyment of these assets. Design Guidance PL5 - Recognise and respect heritage value, understanding the direct and indirect impacts on cultural heritage asset contained within the Design and Access Statement [EN010127/APP/7.3] seeks to safeguard- that public enjoyment of heritage assets around the Order limits,
	Paragraph 5.8.14 states: There should be a presumption in favour of the conservation of designated heritage assets and the more significant the designated heritage asset, the greater the presumption in favour of its conservation should be. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Loss affecting any designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of a grade II listed building park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of designated assets of the highest significance, including Scheduled Monuments; registered battlefields; grade I and II* listed buildings; grade I and II* registered parks and gardens; and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional.	5.9.25 When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, the Secretary of State should give great weight to the asset's conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be. This is irrespective of whether any potential harm amounts to substantial harm, total loss, or less than substantial harm to its significance. 5.9.26 The Secretary of State should give considerable importance and weight to the desirability of preserving all heritage assets. Any harm or loss of significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting) should require clear and convincing justification. 5.9.27 Substantial harm to or loss of significance of a grade II Listed Building or a grade II Registered Park or Garden should be exceptional.	Section 8.2 of Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** describes the heritage assets within the study area for the Proposed Development, their significance and the contribution of their setting to that significance. Section 8.4 describes the potential effects of construction, operation and decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development upon the identified assets and their setting. The assessment concludes there will be 'no impact' upon any of the identified assets or their setting resulting from any phase of the Proposed Development. No historic assets within study area of the Proposed Development will experience substantial harm or total loss of significance.

		5.9.28 Substantial harm to or loss of significance of assets of the highest significance, including Scheduled Monuments; Protected Wreck Sites; Registered Battlefields; grade I and II* Listed Buildings; grade I and II* Registered Parks and Gardens; and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional	
	Paragraph 5.8.15 states: Any harmful impact on the significance of a designated heritage asset should be weighed against the public benefit of development, recognising that greater the harm to the significance of the heritage asset the greater the justification will be needed for any loss. Where the application will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset the IPC should refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm to or loss of significance is necessary in order to deliver substantial public benefits that outweigh that loss or harm.	5.9.29 Where the proposed development will lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of significance of) a designated heritage asset the Secretary of State should refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm to, or loss of, significance is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss, or all the following apply: the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site no viable use of the heritage asset itself can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation conservation by grant-funding or some form of not for profit, charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible	Section 8.2 of Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** describes the heritage assets within the study area for the Proposed Development, their significance and the contribution of their setting to that significance. Section 8.4 describes the potential effects of construction, operation and decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development upon the identified assets and their setting. The assessment concludes there will be 'no impact' upon any of the identified assets or their setting resulting from any phase of the Proposed Development. Given the 'no impact' conclusions of the heritage assessment upon designated assets, the Proposed Development will not result in less than substantial harm to any heritage asset or their setting within the study area. As such, no public benefits weighing exercise is required under paragraph 5.8.15 of NPS EN-1 or the draft revised NPS EN-1. Notwithstanding this, the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** sets out the significant contribution made by the Proposed Development in relation to urgent need to deliver low carbon renewable energy to meet the aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity supplies by 2050; providing security of supply as well as affordability for end consumers. This would deliver a considerable public benefit,

		the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use 5.9.30 Where the proposed development will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including, where appropriate securing its optimum viable use. 5.9.31 In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.	alongside the Biodiversity Net Gain and permissive path network delivered by the Proposed Development. Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that no historic assets, designated or non-designated, within study area of the Proposed Development will experience substantial harm or total loss of significance. Regarding the potential impacts upon buried archaeological remains, paragraph 5.9.31 of the draft revised NPS EN-1 is engaged. Section 8.4 of the ES confirms that both the scale of the impact, and significance of the potentially affected non-designated assets is 'limited'. In balancing the limited degree of potential harm, the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** sets out the significant contribution made by the Proposed Development in relation to urgent need to deliver low carbon renewable energy to meet the aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity supplies by 2050; providing security of supply as well as affordability for end consumers. This would deliver a considerable public benefit, alongside the Biodiversity Net Gain and permissive path network delivered by the Proposed Development. Further to this, as recognised within paragraph 3.10.101 of EN-3, surviving buried archaeological remains will be protected from on-going plough damage (for the duration of the project – up to 60 years). This will deliver a positive outcome (public benefit). It is considered that, on balance, the limited impact is justified.
	Paragraph 5.8.16 states: Not all elements of a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area will necessarily contribute to its significance. The policies	5.9.32 Not all elements of a Conservation Area or World Heritage Site will necessarily contribute to its significance. Loss of a building (or other element) which makes a positive	There are no World Heritage Sites affected by the Proposed Development.

	set out in paragraphs 5.8.11 to 5.8.15 above apply to those elements that do contribute to the significance. When considering proposals the IPC should take into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the World Heritage Site or Conservation Area as a whole.	contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site should be treated either as substantial harm or less than substantial harm under paragraph 5.9.29 or less than substantial harm under paragraph 5.9.30, as appropriate, considering the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area or World Heritage Site as a whole.	The land to the east of the Solar PV Site was removed to avoid any potential impacts on the landscape character and setting of the Braceborough Conservation Area. Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that there will be a negligible effect on the Braceborough Conservation Area, which is not significant in EIA terms. The Proposed Development therefore does not lead to significant adverse effects to a World Heritage Site or Conservation Area.
	Paragraph 5.8.17 states: Where loss of significance of any heritage asset is justified on the merits of the new development, the IPC should consider imposing a condition on the consent or requiring the applicant to enter into an obligation that will prevent the loss occurring until it is reasonably certain that the relevant part of the development is to proceed.	Adopted EN-1 paragraph 5.8.17 not replaced in draft revised EN-1	Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that no historic assets, designated or non-designated, within study area of the Proposed Development will experience any loss of significance. Conditions or obligations to regulate the delivery of development are not considered necessary with regard to heritage impacts.
	Paragraph 5.8.18 states: When considering applications for development affecting the setting of a designated heritage asset, the IPC should treat favourably applications that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of, the asset. When considering applications that do not do this, the IPC should weigh any negative effects against the wider	5.9.34 When considering applications for development affecting the setting of a designated heritage asset, the Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to the desirability of preserving the setting such assets and treat favourably applications that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of, the asset. When considering applications that do not do this, the Secretary of State should give	A heritage settings assessment was undertaken early in the design process in order to allow avoidance and mitigation measures to be designed into the Proposed Development. The incorporation of significant offsets to maintain a degree of separation between the Solar PV Site and surrounding designated heritage assets, including the Scheduled Essendine Castle and Grade II* Listed Church of St. Mary, and Grade II Listed Banthorpe Lodge have been incorporated into the design to ensure that the characteristics of their existing settings are maintained. The farmland immediately

	benefits of the application. The greater the negative impact on the significance of the designated heritage asset, the greater the benefits that will be needed to justify approval.	great weight to any negative effects, when weighing them against the wider benefits of the application. The greater the negative impact on the significance of the designated heritage asset, the greater the benefits that will be needed to justify approval.	surrounding the non-designated Braceborough Grange is maintained. The existing landscape structure within the Order limits, including hedgerows and tree-lines defining historic field systems will be preserved, and in many instances enhanced through additional planting. Where possible, new planting has been aligned to historic field boundaries which will serve to repair historic landscape structures, and serve to reduce any visibility of the Proposed Development from the identified heritage assets. This includes circa 670 metre native treebelt planting south of Carlby Road which broadly follows the alignment of a historic field boundary previously lost through arable intensification. Retention and management of these landscape features as detailed in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** would serve to minimise the effect of the Proposed Development upon historic landscape features within the Order limits.
	Paragraph 5.8.20 states: Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, the IPC should require the developer to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost. The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the nature and level of the asset's significance. Developers should be required to publish this evidence and deposit copies of the reports with the relevant Historic Environment Record. They should also be	5.9.17 Where the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset's significance is justified, the Secretary of State will require the applicant to record and advance understanding of the significance of the heritage asset before it is lost (wholly or in part). The extent of the requirement should be proportionate to the asset's importance and significance and the impact. The applicant should be required to publish this evidence and to deposit copies of the reports with the relevant Historic Environmental Record. They should also be required to deposit the archive	~~Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that no historic assets, designated or non-designated, within study area of the Proposed Development will experience substantial harm or total loss of significance~~. The Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) [REP8 - 018] includes full details of the scope of work to "record and advance the understanding" of the significance of any discovered buried archaeological remains. The Outline WSI reference all of the required means to order and deposit any archive generated from the completed work.

	required to deposit the archive generated in a local museum or other public depository willing to receive it.	generated in a local museum or other public repository willing to receive it.	
	Paragraph 5.8.21 states: Where appropriate, the IPC should impose requirements on a consent that such work is carried out in a timely manner in accordance with a written scheme of investigation.	5.9.18 Where appropriate, the Secretary of State will impose requirements on the Development Consent Order to ensure that the work is undertaken in a timely manner, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that complies with the policy in this NPS and which has been agreed in writing with the relevant local authority, and to ensure that the completion of the exercise is properly secured.	Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4, Appendix 8.5 and Appendix 8.6 of the ES, respectively **[Ref EN01017/APP/6.2].** Table 03 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** also includes measures to avoid potential impacts to archaeological deposits and confirms that a WSI will be secured by the DCO.
	Paragraph 5.8.22 states: Where the IPC considers there to be a high probability that a development site may include as yet undiscovered heritage assets with archaeological interest, the IPC should consider requirements to ensure that appropriate procedures are in place for the identification and treatment of such assets discovered during construction.	5.9.19 Where there is a high probability (based on an adequate assessment) that a development site may include, as yet undiscovered heritage assets with archaeological interest, the Secretary of State will consider requirements to ensure appropriate procedures are in place for the identification and treatment of such assets discovered during construction.	The Outline WSI ~~will~~ to b~~b~~e secured by the DCO ~~will~~ includes appropriate measures for the identification and treatment of potential archaeological deposits which may be discovered during construction – as confirmed in Table 03 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology of the outline oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6].** However, it should be noted that the work completed to date has confirmed that there is not a "high probability" of as yet undiscovered heritage assets.
Landscape and Visual	Paragraph 5.9.5 states: The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and	5.10.15 The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.2).	Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The LVIA assesses the landscape

	report it in the ES. The LVIA should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents.	Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues. 5.10.16 The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England and local development plans in Wales.	character and visual amenity of the Order limits and its surrounding context (including landscape character assessments and related policies and strategies), its sensitivity to change, and the likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. It considers cumulative effects, visual and light pollution effects. ~~and effects on nature conservation. It includes reference to landscape character assessments relevant to the Proposed Development and takes account of development local development plan policies.~~
	Paragraph 5.9.6 states: The applicant's assessment should include the effects during construction of the project and the effects of the completed development and its operation on landscape components and landscape character.	5.10.19 The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or an Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas 5.10.21 The assessment should also demonstrate how noise and light pollution, and other emissions (see Section 5.2 and Section 5.7), from construction and operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, will be minimised	Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. Impacts of artificial light during each phase of the development are considered in Chapter 6 of the ES, and noise impacts are considered in Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. In addition, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to consider the significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of living conditions in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** sets out measure for the control of light and noise during construction of the Proposed Development.

			During operation, no areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR) lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exits where there would be lighting, similar to street lighting that operates from dusk. Otherwise, lighting sensors for security purposes will be implemented around the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. The lighting design would seek to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors through directional cowls, as secured through the oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** and outlined in the Design and Access Statement **[EN010127/APP/7.3.2].** During the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance [REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised, including providing for a post opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met.
	Paragraph 5.9.7 states: The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on local amenity, and nature conservation.	5.10.20 The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on local amenity, and nature conservation.	The LVIA, Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1),** sets out how it has identified and apprised the impacts upon various visual receptor groups, including light pollution impacts upon local amenity ~~and nature conservation~~, utilising Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and various visual aids, including photo viewpoints and photomontages., ~~for all phase of the Proposed Development.~~ In addition, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) [Ref EN010127/APP/6.2] and Amenity and Recreation Assessment (ARA) [Ref EN010127/APP/6.3] has been undertaken to consider the significance of effects on the

			private views of the surrounding properties and recreational amenity from public rights of way which concludes there are no significant adverse effects.
	Paragraph 5.9.8 states: Landscape effects depend on the existing character of the local landscape, its current quality, how highly it is valued and its capacity to accommodate change. All of these factors need to be considered in judging the impact of a project on landscape. Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape. Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.	5.10.4 Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation. 5.10.6 Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.	The LVIA, Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1],** at section 6.3 set out the national, regional, and local character areas that the Order limits relate to, assess their condition, value and capacity to accommodate change. The assessment considers impacts at both year 1 and year 15 of the Proposed Development. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** ~~a~~ and the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) outline the design process and decisions made from the outset of the design process in order to minimise landscape impacts. A fundamental structuring element of the design has been to retain as far as possible the existing landscape features within the Order limits. As confirmed in chapter 6 of the ES, this approach helps the wider landscape character to prevail.
	Paragraph 5.9.9 National Parks, the Broads and AONBs have been confirmed by the Government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes which help ensure their continued protection and which the IPC should have regard to in its decision. The conservation of the natural beauty	5.10.7 National Parks, the Broads and AONBs have been confirmed by the government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and natural beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes which help ensure their continued protection and which the Secretary of State should have regard to in their decisions	The LVIA, Chapter 6 of the ES [Ref EN010127/APP/6.1] confirms that the Order Limits are not located within a statutory or non-statutory landscape designations such as a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or a local plan Special Landscape Area (SLA).

	of the landscape and countryside should be given substantial weight by the IPC indeciding on applications for development consent in these areas.		
	Paragraph 5.9.12 states: The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid compromising the purposes of designation and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. This should include projects in England which may have impacts on National Scenic Areas in Scotland.	5.10.8 The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid harming the purposes of designation or to minimise adverse impacts on designated areas, and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. This should include projects in England which may have impacts on National Scenic Areas in Scotland or National Parks and AONBs in Wales, as well as projects in Wales which may have impacts on National Parks and AONBs in England.	The LVIA, Chapter 6 of the ES [Ref EN010127/APP/6.1] confirms that the Order Limits are not located within a statutory or non-statutory landscape designations such as a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or a local plan Special Landscape Area (SLA).
	Paragraph 5.9.13 states: The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for refusing consent.	5.10.10 Development within a Heritage Coast (that is not also a National Park, The Broads or an AONB) is unlikely to be appropriate, unless it is compatible with the natural beauty and special character of the area.	The LVIA, Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** confirms that the Order Limits are not located within a statutory or non-statutory landscape designations such as a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or a local plan Special Landscape Area (SLA), and the Order limits would not be visible from one of these designated landscapes.
	Paragraph 5.9.14 states:	5.10.11 Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally. Where a	The LVIA, Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** confirms that the Order limits are located within the

	Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally and protected by local designation.	local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, locally valued landscapes should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development.	surroundings of two former non-statutory Local Plan designations including: • Area of Particularly Attractive Countryside (APAC) approximately 0.5km to the north-west near Newell Wood and Pickworth; and • Area of Local Landscape Value (ALLV) approximately 0.85km to the west near Ryhall. These non-statutory landscape designations have not been saved within the adopted current Development Plan for Rutland County Council, although are cited within the Rutland Landscape Character Assessment (2003) which pre-dates the adoption of the Core Strategy. The LVIA concludes that the Proposed Development causes a Low Magnitude impact leading to a Slight (Not Significant) Adverse effect with regard to the APAC, and Negligible Magnitude with a Minimal (Not Significant) Neutral effect with regard to the ALLV.
	Paragraph 5.9.15 states: The scale of such projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure. The IPC should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project.	5.10.34 The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure. The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project.	Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) to inform the LVIA. The ZTV analysis concludes that visual impacts are generally contained to within 2km of the Order limits, and beyond 2km are considered to be negligible. The visual aids utilised to help determine the impact of the proposal include annotated photo panels of both representative and illustrative viewpoints and photomontages to illustrate visual effects. Section 6.3. of Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** sets out the national, regional, and local character areas that the Order limits relate to. Locally the Order Limits are located within the Rutland Plateau D(ii) Clay Woodlands Landscape Character Area (LCA) broadly covering the north, eastern and southern parts of the Solar PV Site, and Kesteven Uplands

			LCA broadly covering Essendine village and the eastern and western parts of the Solar PV Site. Section 6.5 of the LVIA set out landscape effects of the Proposed Development upon these LCAs. In summary, the LVIA concludes that whilst the development would affect the character and appearance of the Order limits and its immediate environs within the ZVI, the key characteristics of the wider LCAs would prevail. It is considered that these impacts are clearly outweighed by the benefits of the proposed development, including delivery of significant level of low carbon energy generation and the including biodiversity net gain and permissive path network.
	Paragraph 5.9.16 states: In reaching a judgment, the IPC should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the IPC considers reasonable.	5.10.35 In reaching a judgment, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable.	Compared to other renewable technologies, the construction timeframe for solar PV installations is relatively short, with the more visually intrusive impacts of the construction phase being relatively focused. The overall construction period is assessed at 24 months, although construction will take place in phases across the Solar PV area. Solar PV installations can also be easily and economically decommissioned so no significant impacts are anticipated to arise during the decommissioning phase.
	Paragraph 5.9.17 states: The IPC should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by reasonable mitigation.	5.10.36 The Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation. 5.10.18 The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early	The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** outlines the design process and decisions made from the outset of the design process in order to minimise visual impacts upon identified receptors. A fundamental structuring element of the design has been to retain as far as possible the existing landscape features within the Order limits. These landscape features have been accurately mapped, with appropriate minimum setbacks applied, as set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan contained within the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP)

		stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how both negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised. 5.10.19 The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or an Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas'.	**[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** and reflected in the Works Plans **[EN010127/APP/2.2.3]** and the Parameters in ES Appendix 5.1 **[EN010127/APP/6.2.3]**, which has allowed for the vast majority of the existing landscape structure to be retained. The Design and Access Statement (DAS) sets out the narrative of the design evolution and how it has responded sensitively to the existing environmental context. Section 3.0 of the DAS summarises from the technical studies within the Environmental Statement the existing environmental context of the locality and Order limits. In relation to landscape and visual, the existing landscape character studies produced by Rutland County Council (RCC) and South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) have been central in ensuring the Proposed Development responds sensitively to its context and mitigating any potential landscape impacts and also contributes positively to aspirations set out within them. This is further set out in the Applicant's responses to the ExA's Second Written Questions [REP5-012] on Topic 8.0 landscape and Visual. Design Guidance within the DAS [REP5-058], providing further guidance and controls in relation to a number of aspects including the substation, agricultural access, cable routing and lighting. The analysis contained in the LVIA at chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and RVAA appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** have identified additional mitigation measures, including offsets and extensive new planting across the Order limits to strengthen landscape structure, create, and connect habitats and provide visual screening. In summary, the following landscape and visual mitigation and enhancement measures have been embedded into the Order limits through various design iterations and consultations:

			• Siting the Solar PV Site within the existing landscape framework allowing for the retention of the existing woodland, hedgerows, ditches, field margins and watercourses, subject to minor hedgerow removals related to access; • Substantial new native planting across the Solar PV Site providing visual screening and other benefits to landscape character throughout the operational lifespan of the Proposed Development and an enduring positive legacy following decommissioning; • Infilling and gapping up of existing hedgerows where required, reconnecting landscape features and providing visual screening; • Ongoing future management for biodiversity benefits including hay meadow style management of new species diverse grassland areas, low intensity grazing, less intensive hedgerow management allowing vegetation to grow out more fully providing biodiversity benefits; • Retention of all existing PRoW passing through the Solar PV Site; • Offset of the proposed solar arrays at least 15 metres either side from centre of existing PRoW and proposed permissive paths to remove any channelling visual effects; and • New native planting to provide additional visual screening from the surrounding settlements and residential properties overlooking the Solar PV Site, where appropriate. These measures, along with other benefits includes delivery of ecological enhancements and permissive paths, are set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP7.9]** which is secured as part of the DCO. ~~Including~~including matters such

			as the strengthening of connections between habitats and creation of new habitats including limestone grassland with calcareous species, woodland, hedgerows and riparian habitat. It is the intention woodland, hedgerows and riparian habitats would remain post decommissioning providing a permanent positive landscape legacy of the Proposed Development.
	Paragraph 5.9.18 states: All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites. The IPC will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project.	5.10.12 All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites. 5.10.13 The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project	The LVIA identifies visual receptor groups in section 6.3 of chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and the assessment of visual effects is described in section 6.5. In summary, Significant adverse visual effects resulting from the Proposed Development are contained to the receptors within the Order limits themselves, including the PRoW crossing the Solar PV Site, where there would be a partial loss of open views across the arable farmland. Mitigation would be provided from year 1 through appropriate stand-off distances of a minimum 15m either side of the PRoW. New hedge-row planting on either side of the PRoW would diminish the visual effects between year 1 and 15 of operation. By year 15 of operation, the effects would reduce to Major-Moderate (Significant) and Adverse. It is considered that these impacts are clearly outweighed by the benefits of the proposed development, including biodiversity net gain and permissive path network, and the delivery of significant level of low carbon energy generation.
	Paragraph 5.9.21 states: Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result	5.10.25 Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function - for	Section 3 of the Planning Statement outlines that maximising the generating capacity of schemes improves their economic efficiency, bringing power to market at the lowest cost possible. Figure 10-5 in section 10 of the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** confirms that larger solar schemes deliver more quickly and at a lower unit cost than multiple independent schemes which make up the same total capacity, bringing forward carbon reduction and economic

	in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, the electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the IPC may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.	example, the electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.	benefits in line with government policy. The scale of the Proposed Development responds to this opportunity, and has been designed to respond sensitively to local context as described in the Design and Access Statement. The Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** summarises the process of identifying the location of the Order limits. The Order limits was chosen as general location as the existing landscape structure provided opportunities to significantly reduce its impact through a combination of setbacks, natural screening through topography and existing landscape and proposed landscape improvements. There are also relatively limited individual dwellings in close proximity to the Proposed Development and this has been reduced further throughout the design evolution of the Proposed Development. With regard to landscape and visual impacts the layout of the Proposed Development has been informed and influenced by the analysis contained in the LVIA **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and RVAA **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** which have identified mitigation measures, including offsets and extensive new planting across the Order limits to strengthen landscape structure, create, and connect habitats and provide visual screening. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** outlines the evolution of the design through the DCO process and ~~decisi~~adopted ~~ons made~~ from the outset of the design process in order to minimise visual impacts upon identified receptors. The scale of the Proposed Development is considered to be sensitively accommodated within the landscape with

			appropriate measures incorporated to minimise visual effects
	Paragraphs 5.9.22 states: Within a defined site, adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site, design including colours and materials, and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and designs of buildings should always be given careful consideration.	5.10.26 Within a defined site, adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site, design including colours and materials, and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and designs of buildings should always be given careful consideration.	Paragraphs 6.4.1 - 6.4.8 of the LVIA refer to the measures that have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development and illustrated on the proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan (included within the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**. The design evolution, iterations and changes to the site layout and development parameters in response to consultee feedback has been explained within sections 4.16 – 4.21 of the Design and Access Statement (DAS) including any additional visual screening or offsets from key viewpoints. The materials, colour and finish of the key components of the solar infrastructure are predominantly driven by functional requirements to maximise solar gain although steps have been taken to minimise the landscape and visual effects, where possible. For example, the perimeter security fencing has been proposed as 2-metre- high timber deer fencing with a wide-gauge stockproof mesh, and the invertor and transformer units would potentially be painted green to appear muted in colour and visually recessive in more distant views. The Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings have been clustered to the south of Essendine near the existing industrial complex, the East Coast Mainline Railway and the existing Ryhall substation infrastructure in order to co-locate these effects. Whilst the solar farm is of utility NSIP scale, the development would appear subdivided and compartmentalised by the prevailing landform, woodland and hedgerows such that it would not be entirely visible from any given location. Details of materials will also be able to be

			considered by LPAs pursuant to Requirement 6 of the draft DCO.
	Paragraph 5.9.23 states: Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines would mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.	5.10.27 Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines may mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.	It is not considered that any landscaping outside of the Order limits is required to mitigate landscape or visual impacts.
	Paragraph 5.10.5 states: The ES should identify existing and proposed land uses near the project, any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the site with the proposed project or preventing a development or use on a neighbouring site from continuing. Applicants should also assess any effects of precluding a new development or use proposed in the development plan.	5.11.8 The ES (see Section 4.2) should identify existing and proposed land uses near the project, any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the site with the proposed project or preventing a development or use on a neighbouring site from continuing. Applicants should also assess any effects of precluding a new development or use proposed in the development plan. The assessment should be proportionate to the scale of the preferred scheme and its likely impacts on such receptors. For developments on previously developed land, the applicant should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by	Chapter 14 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**, Socio-Economics, identifies the existing land uses within the Order limits, confirming that majority of the land is under agricultural use. The Planning Statement identifies the Local Development Plan allocations and designations within and adjacent to the end Order limits. This identifies that there are no allocated sites for development within the Order limits. Some of the land within the Order Limits is designated as Minerals Safeguarding Area. A Mineral Impact Assessment is included in appendix 4 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** and concludes no material impacts upon minerals resources. The surrounding land is also predominantly agricultural (some of which is under the same ownership as the agricultural land within the Order limits). The Proposed

		land contamination and how it is proposed to address this	Development is not considered to impact the continued use of this land for agricultural purposes.
	Paragraph 5.10.6 states: Applicants will need to consult the local community on their proposals to build on open space, sports or recreational buildings and land. Taking account of the consultations, applicants should consider providing new or additional open space including green infrastructure, sport or recreation facilities, to substitute for any losses as a result of their proposal. Applicants should use any up-to-date local authority assessment or, if there is none, provide an independent assessment to show whether the existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land is surplus to requirements.	5.11.9 Applicants will need to consult the local community on their proposals to build on existing open space, sports or recreational buildings and land. Taking account of the consultations, applicants should consider providing new or additional open space including green and blue infrastructure, sport or recreation facilities, to substitute for any losses as a result of their proposal.	The Proposed Development does not impact any open space, sports or recreational buildings or land.
	Paragraph 5.10.8 states: Applicants should seek to minimise impacts on the best and most versatile land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5) except where this would be inconsistent	5.11.12 Applicants should seek to minimise impacts on the best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5)	The Order limits contain land which is classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land. Chapter 12 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**, Land Use, identifies the environmental effects of the Proposed Development upon BMV agricultural land, and section 7.4 of the Planning Statement considers the implication of this in land use policy terms.

	with other sustainability considerations. Applicants should also identify any effects and seek to minimise impacts on soil quality taking into account any mitigation measures proposed. For developments on previously developed land, applicants should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination. For developments on previously developed land, applicants should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination.		No potential contaminated land issues are identified within the Order limits. The Proposed Development has clearly outlined its site selection assessment and process in Appendix 1 to the Planning Statement [APP-203] and in its design development process of that site in the DAS [APP-204], including how it has sought to minimise BMV requirements in the context of the other factors that have driven site selection and design; and how there are no real alternatives which would have less effect to BMV land than what is proposed. The updated wording reiterates that lower quality land should be preferred but accepts that the use of BMV land may be necessary. As explained in both the site selection report and Section 7.4 of the Planning Statement, in order to deliver the capacity available within the grid connection, BMV land is required to be temporarily used. Noting that a significant portion (40%) of the BMV land within Order limits has been excluded from the installation of Solar PV Arrays and other infrastructure. It is important to recognise that the Order limits represent, at worst, a characteristic snapshot of the land quality in the locality of the Ryhall substation. In order to maximise the available capacity at the substation the use of BMV land is unavoidable and the case for the temporary loss of land in view of the overwhelming national need, as set out in the Statement of Need **(EN/010127/APP/7.1]**, is robustly justified. As Chapter 12 of the ES [APP-042] sets out, the proportion of BMV land within Lincolnshire is just over 70%. Rutland is closer to the national average of 42% at 45.2%, with an estimated 400,000 hectares of BMV land across the two counties (combined). The use of 216 hectares of this land for the Proposed Development represents just 0.054% of this total resource being temporarily diverted to deliver low

			carbon renewable energy in accordance with the UK's Net Zero aims.
	Paragraph 5.10.9 states: Applicants should safeguard any mineral resources on the proposed site as far as possible, taking into account the long-term potential of the land use after any future decommissioning has taken place.	Paragraph 5.11.19 (no change to adopted EN- 1 paragraph 5.10.9).	The Order limits contain land designated as a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA). A Mineral Impact Assessment in Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** and concludes no material impacts upon to the safeguarded minerals.
	Paragraph 5.10.13 states: Where the project conflicts with a proposal in a development plan, the IPC should take account of the stage which the development plan document in England or local development plan in Wales has reached in deciding what weight to give to the plan for the purposes of determining the planning significance of what is replaced, prevented or precluded. The closer the development plan document in England or local development plan in Wales is to being adopted by the LPA, the greater weight which can be attached to it.	Adopted EN-1 paragraph 5.10.13 is not replaced in draft revised EN-1	As illustrated in Section 7.1 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2],** the proposed development does not conflict with any proposals in a Development Plan. A Mineral Impact Assessment is included in Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** and concludes no material impacts to the safeguarded minerals.

	Paragraph 5.10.14 states: The IPC should not grant consent for development on existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land unless an assessment has been undertaken either by the local authority or independently, which has shown the open space or the buildings and land to be surplus to requirements or the IPC determines that the benefits of the project (including need), outweigh the potential loss of such facilities, taking into account any positive proposals made by the applicant to provide new, improved or compensatory land or facilities. The loss of playing fields should only be allowed where applicants can demonstrate that they will be replaced with facilities of equivalent or better quantity or quality in a suitable location.		The Proposed Development does not impact any open space, sports or recreational buildings or land.
	Paragraph 5.10.15 states: The IPC should ensure that applicants do not site their scheme on the best and most versatile agricultural land without justification. It should give little weight to the loss of poorer quality agricultural land (in grades 3b, 4 and 5), except in areas (such as uplands) where particular agricultural practices may themselves contribute to the quality and character of the environment or the local economy.	5.11.34 The Secretary of State should ensure that applicants do not site their scheme on the best and most versatile agricultural land without justification. Where schemes are to be sited on best and most versatile agricultural land the Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of that land. Where development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land	The Order limits contain land which is classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land. Chapter 12 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**, Land Use, identifies the environmental effects of the Proposed Development upon BMV agricultural land, and section 7.4 of the Planning Statement considers the implication of this in land use policy terms. The applicants have sought to minimise the impacts of the Proposed development upon BMV land, seeking to utilise areas of poorer quality grades (3b -5) in line with addressing other sustainability considerations. Throughout the Examination the Applicant has acknowledged that there is a

		should be preferred to those of a higher quality.	policy preference to consider poorer quality agricultural land before better quality land, but this is one of many factors which help inform the choice of site, as recognised by draft NPS EN3, together with the recognition that this should not be a determinative factor in the site selection process (please see response to SWQ 1.2.3). The Applicant has sought to minimise impact on BMV land through the design process as noted in its responses to FWQ1.0.7 and the Applicant's written summary of oral submissions at ISH1, particularly item 6b) [REP4-022]. The Proposed Development has clearly outlined its site selection assessment and process in Appendix 1 to the Planning Statement [APP-203] and in its design development process of that site in the DAS [APP-204], including how it has sought to minimise BMV requirements in the context of the other factors that have driven site selection and design; and how there are no real alternatives which would have less effect to BMV land than what is proposed. The updated wording reiterates that lower quality land should be preferred but accepts that the use of BMV land may be necessary. As explained in both the site selection report and Section 7.4 of the Planning Statement, in order to deliver the capacity available within the grid connection, BMV land is required to be temporarily used. Noting that a significant portion (40%) of the BMV land within Order limits has been excluded from the installation of Solar PV Arrays and other infrastructure. It is important to recognise that the Order limits represent, at worst, a characteristic snapshot of the land quality in the locality of the Ryhall substation. In order to maximise the available capacity at the substation the use of BMV land is unavoidable and the case for the temporary loss of land in view of the overwhelming national need, as set out in the Statement of Need **(EN/010127/APP/7.1]**, is robustly justified.

			As Chapter 12 of the ES [APP-042] sets out, the proportion of BMV land within Lincolnshire is just over 70%. Rutland is closer to the national average of 42% at 45.2%, with an estimated 400,000 hectares of BMV land across the two counties (combined). The use of 216 hectares of this land for the Proposed Development represents just 0.054% of this total resource being temporarily diverted to deliver low carbon renewable energy in accordance with the UK's Net Zero aims.
	Paragraphs 5.10.19 States: Although in the case of much energy infrastructure there may be little that can be done to mitigate the direct effects of an energy project on the existing use of the proposed site (assuming that some at least of that use can still be retained post project construction). Applicants should seek to minimise these effects and the effects on existing or planned uses near the site by the application of good design principles, including the layout of the project.	5.11.14 Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Management Plan which could help minimise potential land contamination. The sustainable reuse of soils needs to be carefully considered in line with good practice guidance where large quantities of soils are surplus to requirements or are affected by contamination 5.11.23 Although in the case of most energy infrastructure there may be little that can be done to mitigate the direct effects of an energy project on the existing use of the proposed site (assuming that some of that use can still be retained post project construction) applicants should nevertheless seek to minimise these effects and the effects on existing or planned uses near the site by the application of good design principles, including the layout of the project and the protection of soils during construction.	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise the impacts on the existing land uses within and surrounding the Order limits. Chapter 14 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**, Socio-Economics, confirms the existing land uses within the Order limits is under agricultural use. Chapter 12 of the ES, Land Use, confirms that the existing agricultural use of the land will not be permanently lost as a result of the Proposed Development, and that agricultural production can continue within with Solar PV Site during the operational phase of the development. The Landscape Environmental Management Plan oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** includes prescriptions for the management of grassland within the Solar PV area, which include agricultural grazing. An outline Soil Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** is contained within the DCO Application to ensure any soil handlining in the construction and decommissioning stages ensures the agricultural grade of the land is retained, minmise any potential sources of land contamination and arable cropping can continue post the decommissioning phase.

			Design Guidance PE3 - Behave as a considerate neighbour though both construction and operation - is included within the Design and Access Statement **[EN010127/APP/7.3** and includes measures to minimize potential effects upon existing or planned uses near the site through the application of good design. As a whole, the Proposed Development has minimised Solar PV Panels on the BMV agricultural land. Furthermore, it has aimed to retain BMV fields for agricultural use with enhanced sustainable management and technical agricultural practices that will ensure mitigation, productivity, and yield can be maintained. This approach ensures that the land is maintaining its agricultural character, economic potential and ecological value. Agricultural use in the countryside can therefore continue.
	Paragraph 5.10.20 state: Where green infrastructure is affected, the IPC should consider imposing requirements to ensure the connectivity of the green infrastructure network is maintained in the vicinity of the development and that any necessary works are undertaken, where possible, to mitigate any adverse impact and, where appropriate, to improve that network and other areas of open space including appropriate access to new coastal access routes.	5.11.24 Where green infrastructure is affected, the Secretary of State should consider imposing requirements to ensure the functionality and connectivity of the green infrastructure network is maintained in the vicinity of the development and that any necessary works are undertaken, where possible, to mitigate any adverse impact and, where appropriate, to improve that network and other areas of open space including appropriate access to National Trails and other public rights of way and new coastal access routes.	Maintaining and enhancing Green Infrastructure connections across the Order limits has been embedded into the design approach of the Proposed Development. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** deliveries multifunctional green spaces across the Order limits, connecting habitats, delivering Biodiversity Net Gain and new permissive pathways.

	NA	5.11.27 Existing trees and woodlands should be retained wherever possible. The applicant should assess the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and develop mitigation measures to minimise adverse impacts and any risk of net deforestation as a result of the scheme. Mitigation may include the use of buffers to enhance resilience, improvements to connectivity, and improved woodland management. Where woodland loss is unavoidable, compensation schemes will be required, and the long-term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured.	The landscape structure within the Order limits is retained as part of the design, and opportunities to restore hedgerows have been included in the mitigation strategy, alongside appropriate and sensitive screening to minimise the visual intrusion of the Proposed Development. Chapter 7 of the ES **[EN010127/APP/6.1]** describes the mitigation measures embedded into the layout as identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) [Ref EN010127/APP/7.9], and within the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [Ref EN010127/APP/7.6] to retain trees and -within the Order limits. There are multiple parcels of woodland adjacent to the Order limits area, some of which are semi-natural broadleaved woodland, but none are within the Order limits Throughout the Order limits there are a number of woodland blocks that, through modern agricultural practices, have become fragmented and isolated. The retention of existing hedgerows and their management and enhancement where required with infill and new planting seeks to re-link these habitats, connecting them back into the GI network within the Order limits and beyond. The Proposed Development also seeks to create new connections to existing woodlands, either through enhancement of existing hedgerows or the creation of new planting.

	Paragraphs 5.10.22 states: Where a proposed development has an impact upon a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA), the IPC should ensure that appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place to safeguard mineral resources.	5.11.28 Where a proposed development has an impact upon a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA), the Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place to safeguard mineral resources.	The Order limits contain land designated as a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA). A Mineral Impact Assessment is included in in Appendix 4 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** and concludes no material impacts to the safeguarded minerals.
	Paragraph 5.10.23 Where a project has a sterilising effect on land use (for example in some cases under transmission lines) there may be scope for this to be mitigated through, for example, using or incorporating the land for nature conservation or wildlife corridors or for parking and storage in employment areas.	5.11.29 Where a project has a sterilising effect on land use (for example in some cases under transmission lines) there may be scope for this to be mitigated through, for example, using or incorporating the land for nature conservation or wildlife corridors or for parking and storage in employment areas.	The design of the Proposed Development has been efficiently laid out to minimise any 'sterilisation' of land within the Order limits and agricultural uses will be able to maintained across the vast majority of the site. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** demonstrates how areas of the site not used for renewable energy generation are positively incorporated into the Proposed Development.
	Paragraph 5.10.24 Rights of way, National Trails and other rights of access to land are important recreational facilities for example for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The IPC should expect applicants to take appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails and other rights of way. Where this is not the case the IPC should consider what appropriate mitigation requirements might be attached to any grant of development consent.	5.11.30 Public Rights of way, National Trails, and other rights of access to land are important recreational facilities for example for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The Secretary of State should expect applicants to take appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails, other rights of way and open access land and, where appropriate, to consider what opportunities there may be to improve or create new access. In considering revisions to an existing right of way, consideration should be given to the use, character, attractiveness, and convenience of the right of way.	There are six Public Rights of Way (PRoW) which cross the Order limits which are described in Table 3.1 of Chapter 3 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. in addition, the Macmillan Way recreational route follows the south-western boundary before crossing the Solar PV Site and continues along the northern boundary of the south-western extent of the Solar PV Site. All PRoW within the Order limits are retained and the proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts on these recreational resources, with set-backs incorporated and minimal temporary diversions required. Appendix 6.5, of the ES includes an Access and Recreation Assessment (ARA) **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1)**. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** identifies the mitigation measures

			provided for PRoW which includes stand-off distances of a minimum 15m either side of the PRoWs and screening planting as appropriate. The oLEMP [~~E~~REP7-22-] has been updated to include consultation with local communities on the proposed planting adjacent to PRoW.
Noise and Vibration	Paragraph 5.11.1 states: Excessive noise can have wide-ranging impacts on the quality of human life, health (for example owing to annoyance or sleep disturbance) and use and enjoyment of areas of value such as quiet places and areas with high landscape quality. The Government's policy on noise is set out in the Noise Policy Statement for England. It promotes good health and good quality of life through effective noise management. Similar considerations apply to vibration, which can also cause damage to buildings. In this section, in line with current legislation, references to "noise" below apply equally to assessment of impacts of vibration.	5.12.1 Excessive noise can have wide-ranging impacts on the quality of human life, health (for example owing to annoyance or sleep disturbance), the environment, and the use and enjoyment of areas of value such as quiet places and areas with high landscape quality. 5.12.2 The Government's policy on noise is set out in the Noise Policy Statement for England. 257 It promotes good health and good quality of life through effective noise management. Similar considerations apply to vibration, which can also cause damage to buildings. In this section, in line with current legislation, references to "noise" below apply equally to the assessment of impacts of vibration.	Chapter 10 of the ES, Noise and Vibration, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a noise assessment of the Proposed Development, including construction / decommissioning effects and the impacts of operational noise on human receptors in residential settings and from recreational routes (PRoW). During the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance [REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised, including providing for a post opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met.
	Paragraph 5.11.2 states: Noise resulting from a proposed development can also have adverse impacts on wildlife and biodiversity. Noise effects of the	5.12.4 Noise resulting from a proposed development can also have adverse impacts on wildlife and biodiversity. Noise effects of the proposed development on ecological receptors should be assessed by the Secretary of State in accordance with the Biodiversity	Table 7.1 of Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** considers the impacts of the proposed development on ecological receptors.

	proposed development on ecological receptors should be assessed by the IPC in accordance with the Biodiversity and Geological Conservation section of this NPS	and Geological Conservation section of this NPS at Section 5.4. This should consider underwater noise and vibration especially for marine developments. Underwater noise can be a significant issue in the marine environment, particularly in regard to energy production.	
	Paragraph 5.11.3 states Factors that will determine the likely noise impact include: • the inherent operational noise from the proposed development, and its characteristics; • the proximity of the proposed development to noise sensitive premises (including residential properties, schools and hospitals) and noise sensitive areas (including certain parks and open spaces); • the proximity of the proposed development to quiet places and other areas that are particularly valued for their acoustic environment or landscape quality; and • the proximity of the proposed development to designated sites where noise may have an	5.12.5 Factors that will determine the likely noise impact include: • the inherent operational noise from the proposed development, and its characteristics • the proximity of the proposed development to noise sensitive premises (including residential properties, schools and hospitals) and noise sensitive areas (including certain parks and open spaces) • the proximity of the proposed development to quiet places and other areas that are particularly valued for their soundscape or landscape quality • the proximity of the proposed development to sites where noise may have an adverse impact on protected species or other wildlife.	The noise characteristics of operational noise from plant within the Solar PV Site and Onsite Substation are identified in Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and are assessed based on the guidance in BS 4142. This assessment is based on rated noise levels (LAr), which account for the character of the noise, which is compared to typical baseline background noise levels at the receptors, subject to a lower cut-off of 35dB LAr. Appendix 10.2 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** details the methodology for the assessment of Noise and Vibration, and Appendix 10.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes the baseline noise surveys, including the background noise measurement locations (figure 10.4.1). The noise monitoring locations were selected to identify the baseline noise environment of sensitive premises (as detailed in the policy), as well as locations that may be valued for their acoustic qualities or landscape value. These included PRoW throughout the Order limits. Locations where operational or construction phase noise may impact local species or habitats, such as in proximity to SSSIs, are considered in chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** During the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance [REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised,

	adverse impact on protected species or other wildlife.		including providing for a post opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met.

	Paragraph 5.11.4 states:
	
	Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the applicant should include the following in the noise assessment:
	
	a. a description of the noise generating aspects of the development proposal leading to noise impacts, including the identification of any distinctive tonal, impulsive or low frequency characteristics of the noise;
	
	b. identification of noise sensitive premises and noise sensitive areas that may be affected;
	
	c. the characteristics of the existing noise environment;
	
	d. a prediction of how the noise environment will change with the proposed development;
		5.12.6 Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the applicant should include the following in the noise assessment:
		
		• a description of the noise generating aspects of the development proposal leading to noise impacts, including the identification of any distinctive tonal, impulsive, low frequency or temporal characteristics of the noise
		• identification of noise sensitive receptors and noise sensitive areas that may be affected
		• the characteristics of the existing noise environment
		• a prediction of how the noise environment will change with the proposed development
		  • in the shorter term, such as during the construction period
		  • in the longer term, during the operating life of the infrastructure
		  • at particular times of the day, evening and night (and
			In response to the policy a description of the noise and vibration generating aspects of the Proposed Development, and the nature of that noise, are described in section 10.4 of Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].**
			
			Part a) Noise and vibration from construction, operation and decommissioning activities within the Solar PV Site have been assessed with the guidance of BS 5228 Parts 1 and 2. Appendix 10.2 **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** details magnitude of impact thresholds based on for construction noise and vibration based on BS 5228 guidance.
			
			The noise and vibration assessment of construction phase has assumed activities that are likely to be the worst-case in terms of noise generation, including percussive piling of PV Module mounts and earth works within the Solar PV Site.
			
			Reasonable worst-case working locations were considered, based on each activity occurring at the closest point within the Solar PV Site to each of the closest noise-sensitive locations. Use of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) was assumed for the cable crossing of the East Coast Mainline Railway, as well as to cross utility connections within the Solar PV Site (assumed no closer than 500m from any dwellings).
			
			The noise impacts of construction related traffic passing to and from the Solar PV Site along local surrounding roads has been determined based on the relative change of noise levels

	○ in the shorter term such as during the construction period; ○ in the longer term during the operating life of the infrastructure; ○ at particular times of the day, evening and night as appropriate; e. an assessment of the effect of predicted changes in the noise environment on any noise sensitive premises and noise sensitive areas; and f. measures to be employed in mitigating noise The nature and extent of the noise assessment should be proportionate to the likely noise impact.	weekends) as appropriate, and at different times of year • an assessment of the effect of predicted changes in the noise environment on any noise-sensitive receptors, including an assessment of any likely impact on health and well-being where appropriate, and noise-sensitive areas • if likely to cause disturbance, an assessment of the effect of underwater or subterranean noise - • measures to be employed in mitigating the effects of noise using best available techniques to reduce noise impacts	for receptors along this route. This is set out in Chapter 9 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** Part b) Sensitive receptors are identified in section 10.2 of Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** In respect of the proposed Development, the sensitive receptors are considered to be residential properties and users of PRoW. Part c) The characteristics of the baseline noise environment are set out in section 10.2 of Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and in Appendix 10.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The baseline noise environment was observed to be varied but typical of the rural location of the Order limits, with a range of natural noise sources and a varying influence of road traffic. The identification of noise sensitive premises is in line with relevant guidance (set out in Appendix 10.1), the ES assessment has focused on residential receptors which were considered to have a high sensitivity to noise. Dwellings within 500m of the Solar PV Site or 800m from the Onsite Substation were considered. Appendix 10.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes the baseline noise surveys. Part d) The predicted impacts of noise and vibration generated from the Proposed Development are considered in section 10.4 of chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** Part e) It considers the noise and vibration generating activities during each phase of the Proposed Development and assesses the worst case scenario in terms of duration of impact, time of day/night it could potentially occur and proximity of the activity to sensitive receptors.

			In summary, subject to mitigation outlined below, noise and vibration impacts identified for each phase of the Proposed Development can be effectively managed to within acceptable levels in line with the appropriate BS guidance. Part f (of revised draft revised NPS) – not applicable Part f/g) As mitigation, the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** includes standard good practice measures such as use of Best Practical Means to reduce disturbance associated with noise and vibration during– construction as far as reasonably practicable, with reference to relevant guidance in BS 5228. Section 2.4 of the oCEMP sets working hour restrictions for the Proposed Development, with specific restrictions on activities likely to generate substantial levels of noise (including earthworks, trench construction and any piling), and HGV deliveries.- During Examination the Applicant committed to additional restriction for piling noise within 400 m of noise-sensitive locations, in particular on Saturday mornings. HDD activities may be required to operate outside of restricted hours. However, HDD locations for utility crossings within the Solar PV Site would be located at least 500m from the nearest residential property. To mitigate impact during the operational phase the overall design of the work areas included in the Proposed Development has been developed to generally maximise where possible the distance between areas where noise-generating plant may be located from noise-sensitive receptors. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** sets out in Design Guidance the parameters for locating central inverters (if used) which will

			be located at a minimum distance of 250m and 50m from residential properties and PRoWs respectively, with the separation distances increased beyond these minimum requirements where reasonably practicable. An overall noise limit for noise from the plant (including the Onsite Substation) at neighbouring residential properties is secured through requirement 16 of the draft DCO. The outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** includes provision for regular inspections and maintenance of the equipment, to limit the risk of malfunctions creating disturbance associated with increased noise emissions. The oOEMP was updated during Examination and includes requirements on operational noise levels at neighbouring PRoWs. Furthermore, the oOEMP ~~outlines~~ was updated to includes ~~a~~ procedures for an acoustic validation measurement, following construction and commissioning of the equipment, to demonstrate that the required noise levels are achieved in practice. It also includes procedures for monitoring noise levels following ~~any~~ complaints from members of the public ~~to~~ reporting noise disturbance from the plant within the ~~Solar PV~~ Site. Similar measures as outlined in the oCEMP are reflected in the outline Decommissioning management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** although it is noted that HDD and piling are unlikely to be undertaken during the decommissioning phase. It is considered that the noise assessment as summarised above is proportionate in response to the likely noise impacts ~~-~~of the Proposed Development. During the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance

			[REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised, including providing for a post opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met.
	Paragraph 5.11.5 states: The noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation, should also be considered.	5.12.8 Applicants should consider the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation	The predicted impacts of noise and vibration generated from the Proposed Development are considered in section 10.4 of chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** Chapter and Appendix 10.5 **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** provides construction traffic modelling and noise levels. It is not predicted that there will be significant impacts generated from ancillary activities. Increased traffic movements, during the operational phase, are predicted to be low as set out in of Chapter 9 of the ES. The construction management measures included in the oCEMP [REP8-010] have been further updated during Examination to also include further restrictions on heavy vehicle traffic movements on Saturday afternoons and on ~~on~~ Sundays during the construction period.
	Paragraph 5.11.6 states: Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance... In particular, for renewables (EN-3) and electricity networks (EN-5) there is assessment guidance for specific features of those technologies. For the prediction, assessment and management of construction noise, reference should be made to any relevant British	5.12.9 Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance. Further information on assessment of particular noise sources may be contained in the technology specific NPSs. In particular, for renewables (EN-3) and electricity networks (EN-5) there is assessment guidance for specific features of those technologies. For the prediction, assessment and management	Noise and vibration from construction and decommissioning activities within the Solar PV Site have been assessed with the guidance of BS 5228 Parts 1 and 2 in order to assist with the prediction and management of noise activities. Operational noise from plant within the Solar PV Site and Onsite Substation is assessed based on the guidance in BS 4142. BS standards and relent guidance have been used to identify worst case scenario noise outputs to ensure that management prescriptions are adequate for the potential impacts.

	Standards and other guidance which also give examples of mitigation strategies.	of construction noise, reference should be made to any relevant British Standards and other guidance which also give examples of mitigation strategies.	
	Paragraphs 5.11.8 states: The project should demonstrate good design through selection of the quietest cost-effective plant available; containment of noise within buildings wherever possible; optimisation of plant layout to minimise noise emissions; and, where possible, the use of landscaping, bunds or noise barriers to reduce noise transmission.	5.12.12 Applicants should submit a detailed impact assessment and mitigation plan as part of any development plan, including the use of noise mitigation and noise abatement technologies during construction and operation. 5.12.15 The project should demonstrate good design through selection of the quietest or most acceptable cost-effective plant available; containment of noise within buildings wherever possible, taking into account any other adverse impacts that such containment might cause (e.g. on landscape and visual impacts; optimisation of plant layout to minimise noise emissions; and, where possible, the use of landscaping, bunds or noise barriers to reduce noise transmission).	Solar energy represents a source of renewable energy with relatively low noise emissions; therefore, this choice of technology essentially complies with the overall aim stated in EN-1 of minimising noise emissions. ~~The Applicant submitted a noise impact assessment along with mitigation measures within the Environmental Statement Volume 1 Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration **[Ref: EN010127/APP/6.1].** It has assessed the potential impacts of noise and vibration from the Proposed Development on sensitive receptors. Additional Mitigation measures are presented to minimise the impacts of the Proposed Development during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases.~~ Given the low levels of noise predicted even under worst-case assumptions in the assessment presented in the Environmental Statement, and described in previous evidence, is the Applicant does not consider it necessary to add further requirements in addition to those already proposed as part of the current oOEMP [REP8-012] or DCO in relation to selection of plant. The policy requirements are considered satisfied through the use of solar technology which emits low noise levels and the design measures already detailed in previous evidence. The Applicant's final plant selection will be undertaken on the basis of a wide range of factors, including noise, and in this context, it would not be necessary or appropriate to require selection of the "quietest" equipment available as other factors may be more relevant. For example, the use of

			string inverter technology was assessed as being likely result in lower noise levels than the use of central inverters, but the choice of taking either technological approach is based on a wide range of factors, of which noise (while important) is only one. Even in the case of central inverters, the worst-case scenario assessed in ES Chapter 10: Noise and Vibration [APP-040], it was shown to be perfectly feasible to achieve suitably low noise levels at neighbouring receptors (see Appendix 10.5). The final selection of equipment will be set out in the operational noise assessment secured as part of Requirement 16 of the draft DCO. In addition, the Applicant submitted a Statutory Nuisance Statement [Ref: **EN010127/APP/7.5**] The Statement sets out appropriate mitigation measures to ensure that the Proposed Development has no significant effects that would give rise to a statutory nuisance. It is demonstrated that no statutory nuisance effects are considered likely to occur. It is not expected that the construction, operation (and maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development would cause a statutory nuisance. The technical specifications of the plant associated with the Proposed Development is not yet determined. However, good design with regard to minimising noise and vibration impacts is demonstrated though embedded mitigation. The outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** includes parameters for ensuring that noise impacts of installed plant are minimised. To mitigate impact during the operational phase the overall design of the work areas included in the Proposed Development has been developed to generally maximise where possible the distance between areas where noise-generating plant may be located from noise-sensitive receptors.

			~~The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** sets out in Design Guidance the parameters for locating central inverters (if used) which will be located at a minimum distance of 250m and 50m from residential properties and PRoWs respectively.~~ In addition, the Applicant has updated the relevant Design Guidance (PE 4.2 and PE4.3) within the DAS [REP5-058] to clarify that the distance between any Solar Stations and residential properties or PRoWs would increase beyond the minimum distance of 250m and 50m, respectively, if reasonably practicable. This would further minimise operational noise levels at residential properties. The Onsite Substation will be located more than 500m away from the nearest residential property. These setback parameters are secured in the Design Guidance set out in the Design and Access Statement. The acoustic design of the plant at the Onsite Substation will mainly comprise consideration of the noise emission specification for the equipment (based on manufacturer information) including electrical and ancillary cooling plant. If considered necessary, standard engineering measures such as noise attenuators could be employed for some of the cooling equipment, as required. It is noted that the Onsite Substation would be subject to Requirement 16 of the DCO. The detailed OEMP [REP8-012], secured through relevant DCO requirements, explains how the final electrical plant layout and specification has considered the sound output levels of all sources of noise and their characteristics. It also outlines procedures for an acoustic validation measurement, following construction and commissioning of the equipment,

			to demonstrate that the required noise levels are achieved in practice
	Paragraph 5.11.9 states: The IPC should not grant development consent unless it is satisfied that the proposals will meet the following aims: • avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise; • mitigate and minimise other adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise; and • where possible, contribute to improvements to health and quality of • life through the effective management and control of noise.	5.12.17 The Secretary of State should not grant development consent unless they are satisfied that the proposals will meet the following aims, through the effective management and control of noise: • avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise • mitigate and minimise other adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise • where possible, contribute to improvements to health and quality of life through the effective management and control of noise	Table 10.3 in Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** confirms that with mitigation no significant adverse noise or vibration impacts are predicted upon any receptors, or upon quality of life or human health. Mitigation is demonstrated in the design of the Proposed Development and through measures identified in the oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** and oDEMP **EN010127/APP/7.8]**, which include effective management of noise control in line with British Standards. It is considered that the Proposed Development has taken appropriate measures, as far as practically possible at this stage, -to minimise potential noise and vibration impacts and is in accordance with policy as set out above.
	Paragraph 5.11.11 states: The IPC should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction noise over and above any which may form part of the project application. In doing so the IPC may wish to impose requirements. . Any such requirements should take account of the guidance set out in Circular 11/95 or any successor to it.	5.12.13 The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operational and construction noise over and above any which may form part of the project application. In doing so the Secretary of State may wish to impose mitigation measures. Any such mitigation measures should take account of the NPPF or any successor to it and planning practice guidance on noise.	Given the outcome of the noise and vibration ES assessment for the Proposed Development and the proposed mitigation as set out in ES Chapter 10, it is not anticipated that the Secretary of State will need to consider additional mitigation measures above those already embedded in the design of the Proposed Development and those set out within the oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** and oDEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8].** However, it is worth noting that throughout the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance [REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised, including providing for a post opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met.

Socio-economic	Paragraph 5.12.2 states: Where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the ES (see Section 4.2).	Paragraph 5.13.2 (no change to adopted EN- 1 paragraph 5.12.2). No change	The Applicant consulted with local authorities in accordance with Section 43(1) of the PA 2008. The Applicant undertook regular and ongoing meetings with the local authorities, Rutland County Council, South Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council from September 2021 through to submission of the Application. The outcomes of these consultations are reflected in the design process and recorded in the Consultation Report **[Ref: EN010127/APP/5.1].** Chapter 14 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes an assessment of socio-economic impacts of the Proposed development at local and regional levels.
	Paragraph 5.12.3 states: This assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include: a) the creation of jobs and training opportunities; b) the provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including the provision of educational and visitor facilities; c) effects on tourism; d) the impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the energy infrastructure. This could change the local population dynamics and could alter the demand for services and	5.13.3 The applicant is strongly encouraged to engage with relevant local authorities during early stages of project development so that the applicant can gain a better understanding of local or regional issues and opportunities. Paragraph 5.13.4 (amends EN-1 paragraph as follows). This assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include: a) the creation of jobs and training opportunities. Applicants may wish to provide information on the sustainability of the jobs created, including where they will help to develop the skills needed for the UK's transition to Net Zero	Appendix 14.2 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** sets out the Assessment methodology for the Socio-economic chapter of the ES. Section 14.4 of chapter 14 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development. In response to part a) (and part b) and d) of the draft revised NPS) With regards to jobs and training, the majority of socio-economic impacts experienced during the construction and decommissioning phases relate to the creation of employment opportunities and increased spend on local services. Once operational, impacts on local labour market arising from operational and maintenance jobs would be more limited. The Applicant estimates that an average of 150 FTE gross temporary jobs will be created over the 24 month construction period. It is estimated that 50% of these could be sourced from the local area.

	facilities in the settlements nearest to the construction work (including community facilities and physical infrastructure such as energy, water, transport and waste). There could also be effects on social cohesion depending on how populations and service provision change as a result of the development; and e) cumulative effects – if development consent were to be granted to for a number of projects within a region and f) these were developed in a similar timeframe, there could be some short- term negative effects, for example a potential shortage of construction workers to meet the needs of other industries and major projects within the region.	b) the contribution to the development of low-carbon industries at the local and regional level as well as nationally c) the provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including the provision of educational and visitor facilities d) any indirect beneficial impacts for the region hosting the infrastructure, in particular in relation to use of local support services and supply chains e) effects on tourism f) the impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the energy infrastructure. This could change the local population dynamics and could alter the demand for services and facilities in the settlements nearest to the construction work (including community facilities and physical infrastructure such as energy, water, transport and waste). There could also be effects on social cohesion depending on how populations and service provision change as a result of the development	After accounting for displacement (of existing jobs) and multiplier impacts (indirect jobs within the supply chain) within the study area, it is estimated that a total of 74.5 additional jobs would be supported for residents in the Rutland and South Kesteven study area. Each of these construction and decommissioning phases jobs would be directly involved in on-site activities for construction/decommissioning of the renewable energy generation, or within its supply chain, which would contribute to developing the skills needed for the UK's transition to Net Zero. ~~Once operational, impacts on local labour market arising from operational and maintenance jobs would be more limited.~~ ~~The Applicant estimates that an average of 150 FTE gross temporary jobs will be created over the 24 month construction period. It is estimated that 50% of these could be sourced from the local area.~~ ~~It is estimated the 74.5 additional direct and indirect jobs would be supported through the construction phase based on research undertaken by the Centre of Economics and Business Research on the economic impact of large-scale solar developments.~~ It is estimated that a net gain of 4.5 FTE jobs would be created by the Proposed Development would be created during the operational phase. The estimated duration of the decommissioning phase is expected to be between 6 to 12 months and it is anticipated that the employment effects over this period will be similar to the construction phase, although over a shorter term. In terms of contributing to developing skills needed for the UKs transition to net zero, and the contribution to the

		g) cumulative effects - if development consent were to be granted to for a number of projects within a region and these were developed in a similar timeframe, there could be some short-term negative effects, for example a potential shortage of construction workers to meet the needs of other industries and major projects within the region	development low carbon industries, an outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.10]** has been developed, and will be agreed with local stakeholders prior to the commencement of construction. This document ~~which will~~ sets out measures the Applicant will implement in order to promote and enable access to the employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the construction phase locally in order to help capture as many of the benefits for study area residents as possible. The objectives of the plan are to focus on the opportunities for the involvement of local companies in the construction and operation supply chain; the ability of local residents to access employment opportunities associated with the construction and operation of the Development; and the ability of research organisations to use the site to enable research and innovation in the renewable energy sector. The plan includes a proposed Requirement to help secure these objectives. With regards to part b) of the NPS EN1/c) of the draft revised NPS EN-1, the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan contained within and outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** includes opportunities to provide information and interpterion boards with regard to reviewable energy, cultural heritage and nature conservation, linked to the public Right of Way and new permissive path network within the Order limits. With regards to part c)/e) Tourism and recreation impacts are considered in section 14.4 of Chapter 14 of the ES and draw on conclusions from in the Amenity and Recreation Assessment, Appendix 6.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**, the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref**

			EN010127/APP/6.2], and Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment – chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** The above assessments conclude that recreation and tourism impacts of the Proposed Development are not significant at any phase, and can be effectively mitigated through implementation of management plans secured in the DCO application, including the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**, the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8**] the outline Decommissioning Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** and the (Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan **EN010127/APP/7.10]** With regard to part d)/f) The impacts of the changing influx of workers associated with each phase of the development upon the local population, services and facilities is considered in section 14.4 of Chapter 14 of the ES. With regard to part e)/g) Cumulative effects are considered in section 14.8 of Chapter 14 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** this section concludes that the cumulative impacts of the proposed Development on employment and linked supply chain benefits are positive when considering other proposed Development in the vicinity of the Order limit during construction and decommissioning phases. No additional cumulative effects are considered during the operational phase, and minor beneficial impacts are predicted during decommissioning. It is considered that the assessment of socio-economic effects in chapter 14 of the ES, as summarised above, is compliant with the NPS EN-1 and draft revised NPS EN-1.

	Paragraph 5.12.4 states: Applicants should describe the existing socio-economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how the development's socio-economic impacts correlate with local planning policies.	Paragraph 5.13.5 (no change to adopted EN- 1 paragraph 5.12.4).	Section 14.2 of chapter 14 of the ES describes the existing baseline conditions **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** Local policy is considered in Tables 6-10 of Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2].**
	Paragraph 5.12.8 states: The IPC should consider any relevant positive provisions the developer has made or is proposing to make to mitigate impacts (for example through planning obligations) and any legacy benefits that may arise as well as any options for phasing development in relation to the socio-economic impacts.	5.13.11 The Secretary of State should consider any relevant positive provisions the applicant has made or is proposing to make to mitigate impacts (for example through planning obligations) and any legacy benefits that may arise as well as any options for phasing development in relation to the socio-economic impacts. 5.3.12 The Secretary of State may wish to include a requirement that specifies the approval by the local authority of an employment and skills plan detailing arrangements to promote local employment and skills development opportunities, including apprenticeships, education, engagement with local schools and colleges and training programmes to be enacted.	Mitigation measures as set out in the respective chapters of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**, to reduce impacts arising from each phase of the Proposed Development (such as noise, air quality, transport and landscape) will also mitigate the effects on the local community and existing facilities from a socio-economic perspective. Chapter 10 of the ES conclude~~s~~ that there will be beneficial employment and linked supply chain impacts associated with the Proposed development. The outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.10]** ~~is aimed at~~has been produced to maximis~~e~~~~ing~~ these benefits. The Proposed Development has the potential to deliver significant amounts of low-carbon electricity and make a material contribution to help meet the UK's commitments to decrease carbon emissions and reach net zero by 2050. Additional benefits of the to the local community are set out in the Planning Statement and include a Biodiversity Net Gain of ~~72~~a minimum of 65% and new permissive paths that will be retained during the operational phase of the Proposed Development, improving connectivity across the Order limits.

	Paragraph 5.12.9 states: The IPC should consider whether mitigation measures are necessary to mitigate any adverse socio-economic impacts of the development. For example, high quality design can improve the visual and environmental experience for visitors and the local community alike.	5.13.8 The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are necessary to mitigate any adverse socio-economic impacts of the development. For example, high quality design can improve the visual and environmental experience for visitors and the local community alike	Mitigation measures to manage and minimise potential socio-~~-~~economic effects are set out in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** the outline Decommissioning Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** and the (outline Employment, ~~Skills~~Skills, and Supply Chain Plan **EN010127/APP/7.10].** Good design is embedded into the Proposed Development as set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** which includes a combination of setbacks and screening, and introduces a new networks of permissive paths, to help mitigate the impacts of the proposed Development. The outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.10]** has been produced to~~is aimed at~~ maximis~~e~~~~ing~~ local economic benefits. The Management plans submitted as part of the application have continued to be updated throughout the course of the examination to ensure that they reflect the best ability to mitigate any adverse economic impacts that may arise as a result of the Proposed Development.
Traffic and Transport	Paragraph 5.13.3 states: If a project is likely to have significant transport implications, the applicant's ES (see Section 4.2) should include a transport assessment, using the NATA/WebTAG139 methodology stipulated in Department for Transport guidance, or any successor to	5.14.5 If a project is likely to have significant transport implications, the applicant's ES (see Section 4.2) should include a transport appraisal. The DfT's Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG)263 and Welsh Governments WelTAG264 provides guidance on modelling and	Chapter 9 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on traffic and transport. A Transport Assessment is included in appendix 9.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** Appendix 9.3 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** sets out the consultation undertaken which includes National Highways Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and Rutland County Council (RCC). The

	such methodology. Applicants should consult the Highways Agency and Highways Authorities as appropriate on the assessment and mitigation.	assessing the impacts of transport schemes.	assessment methodology is set out in appendix 9.2 of the ES. **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].**
	Paragraph 5.13.4: Where appropriate, the applicant should prepare a travel plan including demand management measures to mitigate transport impacts. The applicant should also provide details of proposed measures to improve access by public transport, walking and cycling, to reduce the need for parking associated with the proposal and to mitigate transport impacts.	5.14.7 The applicant should prepare a travel plan including demand management and monitoring measures to mitigate transport impacts. The applicant should also provide details of proposed measures to improve access by active, public and shared transport to: • reduce the need for parking associated with the proposal; • contribute to decarbonisation of the transport network; • reduce the need to travel; and • secure behavioural change and modal shift through an offer of genuine modal choice and to mitigate transport impacts. 5.14.8 The assessment should also consider any possible disruption to services and infrastructure (such as road, rail and airports).	Given the rural location, it is acknowledged that there are limitations on staff travelling to the Order limits by walking, cycling and public transport. Appendix G of the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]** includes an outline Transport Plan (oTP) which provides measures proposed to mitigate the transport impacts as well as improve existing infrastructure and promote sustainable transport which is secured through a DCO Requirement. Given the rural location of the Order limits, it is acknowledged that there are limitations on staff travelling to the Order limits by public transport. However, proposed measures include the provision of a shuttle bus service transporting staff from the primary compound to the relevant areas of work within the Order limits during the construction phase, and cycle parking within construction compounds and investigating a shuttle bus to areas of residence/public transport hubs. The above has been further discussed within the submitted Travel Plan **[REP5-073].**
	Paragraph 5.13.6: A new energy NSIP may give rise to substantial impacts on the surrounding transport infrastructure and the IPC should therefore ensure that the applicant has sought to mitigate these impacts, including during the	5.14.18 A new energy NSIP may give rise to substantial impacts on the surrounding transport infrastructure and the Secretary of State should therefore ensure that the applicant has sought to mitigate these impacts, including during the construction phase of the development and by enhancing active,	The nature of the Proposed Development is such that the greatest impact is likely to occur during the construction and decommissioning phases (with respect to the decommissioning phase, the effects are considered to be similar to, or of a lesser magnitude than the effects generated during the construction phase).

	construction phase of the development. Where the proposed mitigation measures are insufficient to reduce the impact on the transport infrastructure to acceptable levels, the IPC should consider requirements to mitigate adverse impacts on transport networks arising from the development, as set out below. Applicants may also be willing to enter into planning obligations for funding infrastructure and otherwise mitigating adverse impacts.	public and shared transport provision and accessibility. 5.14.19 Where the proposed mitigation measures are insufficient to reduce the impact on the transport infrastructure to acceptable levels, the Secretary of State should consider requirements to mitigate adverse impacts on transport networks arising from the development, as set out below. 5.14.20 Development consent should not be withheld provided that the applicant is willing to enter into planning obligations for funding new infrastructure or requirements can be imposed to mitigate transport impacts. In this situation the Secretary of State should apply appropriately limited weight to residual effects on the surrounding transport infrastructure. 5.14.21 The Secretary of State should only consider refusing development on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe, or it does not show how consideration has been given to the provision of adequate active public or shared transport access and provision.	The mitigation measures that have been integrated into the design of the Proposed Development are as follows: • Access locations: the location of the proposed vehicle access points to the Solar PV Site has been identified through a review of the Local Road Network (LRN) to identify suitable locations in highway safety terms, including being sufficient to accommodate HGVs and the provision of appropriate visibility splays. The use of existing access points onto the LRN has been prioritised to minimise the environmental impacts associated with the creation of new points of vehicular access, such as the removal of hedgerows. Where there is not a reasonable access location within vicinity of the relevant area of the Solar PV Site, a new vehicle access has been provided that complies with all relevant highway safety requirements. • Consolidation: use of a centralised primary construction compound for deliveries to allow direct access to the Solar PV Site and reduce the need for larger deliveries to impact the LRN, as secured through the oCTMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]**. From this centralised primary compound, the deliveries will be distributed out via smaller, local vehicles to the secondary construction compounds. This allows for extra control over the timings of any construction deliveries, whereby arriving/departing vehicles can arrive in platoons to avoid the likelihood of two construction vehicles passing each other. • Layout and Internal Routing: internal access routes will be provided within the Solar PV Site to minimize vehicles needing to use the LRN • Vehicle routing: construction vehicles will only utilise the permitted access routes, which will be secured by a

			requirement on the DCO application via the oCTMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]**. • Highways improvements: permanent improvements will be made to the junction of the A1621 and Uffington Lane, as well as the introduction of passing places well as along Uffington Lane (within the Order limits) (such passing places to be removed post construction to minimise impacts to the Local Wildlife Site (LWS) status of the affected verges), as secured through the Outline CTMP), prior to the commencement of construction, to help facilitate two- way HGV flows. Further details on the mitigation measures are included within the supporting Transport Assessment (Appendix 9.4) of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** • Staff Shuttle: a staff shuttle service will be deployed from the primary construction compound to transport staff to the relevant area where works are required, which will be subject to phasing and investigations will be made into a shuttle bus to areas of residence/public transport hubs. • Management Plans: a number of outline management plans including an outline Construction Environmental Management Plan oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and an outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) (including outline Travel Plan) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]** have been prepared in support of the DCO and will inform the development of final management plans prior to construction as secured by a DCO Requirement. Table 9.4 in Chapter 9 of the ES summarises the traffic and transport related impacts of the Proposed Development. It concludes that that the potential for adverse effects would be local, temporary, and not significant.

	Paragraph 5.13.7: Provided that the applicant is willing to enter into planning obligations or requirements can be imposed to mitigate transport impacts identified in the NATA/WebTAG transport assessment, with attribution of costs calculated in accordance with the Department for Transport's guidance, then development consent should not be withheld, and appropriately limited weight should be applied to residual effects on the surrounding transport infrastructure.	5.14.20 Development consent should not be withheld provided that the applicant is willing to enter into planning obligations for funding new infrastructure or requirements can be imposed to mitigate transport impacts. In this situation the Secretary of State should apply appropriately limited weight to residual effects on the surrounding transport infrastructure.	Given the conclusions of chapter 9 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1],** the mitigation measures embedded into the design of the Proposed Development and measures to minimise impacts out in the oCTMP and oTP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]**, it is considered that impacts related to traffic and transport are acceptable and development consent should not be withheld. These are secured by DCO Requirement so no separate planning obligation is required.
	Paragraph 5.13.8 states: Where mitigation is needed, possible demand management measures must be considered and if feasible and operationally reasonable, required, before considering requirements for the provision of new inland transport infrastructure to deal with remaining transport impacts.	5.14.11 Where mitigation is needed, possible demand management measures must be considered. This could include identifying opportunities to: • reduce the need to travel by consolidating trips, • locate development in areas already accessible by active travel and public transport, • provide opportunities for shared mobility,	As concluded in Chapter 9 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1],** the impacts of the Proposed Development are such that provision of new transport infrastructure is not required. Required mitigation is embedded into the design of the Proposed Development, and set out in the oCTMP and oTP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11],** which includes demand management measures to minimise traffic and transport related impacts, including consolidation of required HGV movements and internal traffic routing to reduce impacts on the LRN.

		• re-mode by shifting travel to a sustainable mode that is more beneficial to the network, • retime travel outside of the known peak times, • reroute to use parts of the network that are less busy	The Applicant notes that the location of any temporary car parking will be confirmed within the CTMP, secured by way of Requirement 13 of the dDCO once the phasing of the construction works is confirmed and agreed with the relevant Local Authorities as part of the detailed design for the Proposed Development. The provision of mitigation measures such as the staff shuttle service (both from the primary compound to the relevant phase of work and to the primary compound from the location of accommodation) will limit the need for car parking and the associated environmental effects that may be generated. In addition, the shift rota for staff discussed within Section 2.3 of the oCTMP [REP5-068] will see staff arriving/departing outside of typical network peak hours, which are identified as being 08:00-09:00 for the AM peak and 17:00-18:00 for the PM peak, which will in turn limit the likelihood of any significant effects from any car parking that may be provided. Parking at the primary compound and within the Order limits will be managed by the principal contractor and pre-booked by staff to ensure that there is sufficient space for the required number of vehicles expected each day, which will be coordinated alongside the use of the shuttle bus to ensure there is always sufficient parking capacity internally within the Order limits.
	Paragraph 5.13.9 states: The IPC should have regard to the cost-effectiveness of demand management measures compared to new transport infrastructure, as well as the aim to secure more sustainable patterns of	Paragraphs 5.14.15 The Secretary of State should have regard to the cost-effectiveness of demand management measures compared to new transport infrastructure, as well as the aim to secure more sustainable patterns of	As concluded in Chapter 9 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1],** the impacts of the Proposed Development are such that provision of new transport infrastructure is not required.

	transport development when considering mitigation measures.	transport development when considering mitigation measures.	
	Paragraph 5.13.10 states: Water-borne or rail transport is preferred over road transport at all stages of the project, where cost-effective.	5.14.12 If feasible and operationally reasonable, such mitigation should be required, before considering requirements for the provision of new inland transport infrastructure to deal with remaining transport impacts. All stages of the project should support and encourage a modal shift of freight from road to more environmentally sustainable alternatives, such as rail, cargo bike, maritime and inland waterways, as well as making appropriate provision for and infrastructure needed to support the use of alternative fuels including charging for electric vehicles. 5.14.16 Applicants should consider the DfT policy guidance "Water Preferred Policy Guidelines for the movement- of-abnormal- indivisible loads-by-water" when preparing their application	Given the rural location of the Order limits, duration of the construction and decommissioning phases and the limited impact upon the LRN as concluded in Chapter 9 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1],** it is considered that rail and or water transportation methods would not provide feasible or operationally reasonable alternatives for any phase of the Proposed Development.

	Paragraph 5.13.11: The IPC may attach requirements to a consent where there is likely to be substantial HGV traffic that: • control numbers of HGV movements to and from the site in a specified period during its construction and possibly on the routing of such movements; • make sufficient provision for HGV parking, either on the site or at dedicated facilities elsewhere, to avoid 'overspill' parking on public • roads, prolonged queuing on approach roads and uncontrolled on- street HGV parking in normal operating conditions; and • ensure satisfactory arrangements for reasonably foreseeable abnormal disruption, in consultation with network providers and the responsible police force.	5.14.14 The Secretary of State may attach requirements to a consent where there is likely to be substantial HGV traffic that: • control numbers of HGV movements to and from the site in a specified period during its construction and possibly on the routing of such movements • make sufficient provision for HGV parking, and associated high quality drive facilities either on the site or at dedicated facilities elsewhere, to support driver welfare, avoid 'overspill' parking on public roads, prolonged queuing on approach roads and uncontrolled on-street HGV parking in normal operating conditions • • ensure satisfactory arrangements for reasonably foreseeable abnormal disruption, in consultation with network providers and the responsible police force	The oCTMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]**, includes prescriptions to control HGV movements, only allowing deliveries to the construction compound between the hours 9am-3pm on weekdays. Sufficient HGV parking is provided within the Order limits, off of the LRN. Sufficient notice will be provided to the police and traffic authority either via the DCO or other legislative requirement where Traffic Regulation Measures require any road closures, speed limit restrictions, temporary traffic signalling or escort of Abnormal Indivisible Loads are required. It is noted within the Applicant's response to the First written questions **[REP2-037]** that HGV deliveries and movements will be excluded on Saturday afternoons (13.00 to 19.00). Additionally, the oCTMP [REP5-068] includes a number of highways improvements to facilitate safe access to site, and ensures that HGVs will not travel past local primary schools at their opening and closing times.
Waste Management	Paragraph 5.14.2 states: Sustainable waste management is implemented through the "waste hierarchy", which sets out the priorities that must be applied when managing waste: a) prevention; b) preparing for reuse; c) recycling;	5.15.2 Sustainable waste management is implemented through the waste hierarchy, which sets out the priorities that must be applied when managing waste. These are (in order): • prevention • preparing for reuse • recycling	Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** considers waste streams during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The Waste Hierarchy will be adopted throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. Minimisation of waste generation is achieved through careful design and creating a 'waste aware' culture on-site.

	d) other recovery, including energy recovery; and e) disposal.	• other recovery, including energy recovery • disposal	The Waste Hierarchy principles are embedded into environmental management plans such as the outline Excavated Material Management Plan (oEMMP) included within the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.12].** These include requirements for preparation of a Construction Resource Management Plan (CRMP) as required in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, and the preparation of a Decommissioning Resource Management Plan (DRMP) as required in the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**. These documents will include measures to control and manage waste onsite in line with the Wates Hierarchy.
	Paragraph 5.14.3 states: Disposal of waste should only be considered where other waste management options are not available or where it is the best overall environmental outcome.	Paragraph 5.15.3 (no change to adopted EN- 1 paragraph 5.14.3). No change	The oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** includes measures to ensure disposal of wastes is minimised. In order to control the waste generated onsite during the construction phase, the appointed contractor will separate the main waste streams onsite, prior to transport to an approved, licensed third party waste facility for recycling and disposal. All practicable actions will be taken by the contractor to minimise the volume of waste produced as a result of the construction of the Proposed Development. This can be through reducing consumption, reuse, using resources efficiently, and designing for longevity. Waste segregation will be undertaken where possible to maximise the opportunities for reuse and recycling.

	Paragraph 5.14.4 states: All large infrastructure projects are likely to generate hazardous and non-hazardous waste. The EA's Environmental Permitting (EP) regime incorporates operational waste management requirements for certain activities. When an applicant applies to the EA for an Environmental Permit, the EA will require the application to demonstrate that processes are in place to meet all relevant EP requirements.	5.15.4 All large infrastructure projects are likely to generate some hazardous and nonhazardous waste. The EA's EP regime incorporates operational waste management requirements for certain activities. When an applicant applies to the EA for an EP, the EA will require the application to demonstrate that processes are in place to meet all relevant EP requirements.	Given the need for flexibility in the design of the Proposed Development and type of technology used, it is not possible to set out specific quantities of waste. However, large quantities of waste are not anticipated given that excavated soil will be stored in mounds within the Order limits and reinstated during decommissioning. It is not anticipated that there will be any contaminated soils that will require disposal offsite. As such, construction waste will be limited to small volumes of construction material waste/offcuts, packaging, welfare facilities waste etc. which will be minimised through the measures outlined in Section 15.7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and the oCEMP [REP5-068]. ~~Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** describes all waste streams for each phase of the Proposed Development.~~ The commercial nature of the waste to be produced during both construction, operation and decommissioning will mean it will be managed by appropriately permitted carriers and facilities in line with the appropriate environmental permits and requirements. The waste carriers and landfill sites used will be determined by the contractor pre-construction. The oDEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** contain measures for handling, transportation and disposal of hazardous waste.
	Paragraph 5.14.6 states: The applicant should set out the arrangements that are proposed for managing any waste produced and prepare a Site Waste Management Plan. The arrangements described and Management Plan should include information on the proposed waste	5.15.8 The applicant should set out the arrangements that are proposed for managing any waste produced and prepare a report that sets out the sustainable management of waste and use of resources throughout any relevant demolition, excavation and construction activities.	Preparation of a CRMP as required in the oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, and DRMP as required in the DEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** will set out the arrangements that are proposed for managing any waste produced. The oCEMP and oDEMP also confirm at 3-12 how waste arisings are minimised and includes provisions for a CRP. In order to control the waste generated during site preparation and construction, the contractor(s) will separate the main waste streams on-site, prior to transport to an

	recovery and disposal system for all waste generated by the development, and an assessment of the impact of the waste arising from development on the capacity of waste management facilities to deal with other waste arising in the area for at least five years of operation. The applicant should seek to minimise the volume of waste produced and the volume of waste sent for disposal unless it can be demonstrated that this is the best overall environmental outcome.	5.15.9 The arrangements described and a report setting out the sustainable management of waste and use of resources should include information on how re-use and recycling will be maximised in addition to the proposed waste recovery and disposal system for all waste generated by the development. They should also include an assessment of the impact of the waste arising from development on the capacity of waste management facilities to deal with other waste arising in the area for at least five years of operation. 5.15.10 The applicant is encouraged to refer to the 'Waste Prevention Programme for England' 272 and 'Towards Zero Waste: Our Waste Strategy for Wales' 273 and should seek to minimise the volume of waste produced and the volume of waste sent for disposal unless it can be demonstrated that this is the best overall environmental outcome. 5.15.11 If the applicant's assessment includes dredged material, the assessment should also include other uses of such material before disposal to sea, for example through reuse in the construction process	approved, licensed third party waste facility for recycling or disposal. Prior to construction, a Construction Resource Management Plan (CRMP) will be prepared by the contractor(s) as part of the detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), which will specify the waste streams which would be monitored and targets set with regards to the waste produced, including any reuse and recycling of materials. The CRMP will be finalized with specific measures to be implemented prior to the start of construction. All waste to be removed from the Order limits will be undertaken by fully licensed waste carriers and taken to licensed waste facilities. This has been added to the updated version of the oCEMP [REP8-013]. Very little waste is predicted to be produced during the operational phase of the development, with no demands anticipated upon waste management facilities.

		5.15.12 The UK is committed to moving towards a more 'circular economy'. Where possible, applicants are encouraged to source materials from recycled or reused sources and use low carbon materials, sustainable sources and local suppliers. Construction best practices should be used to ensure that material is reused or recycled onsite where possible.	The oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** at table 3-12 sets out measures for implementing the Proposed Development in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible.
	Paragraph 5.14.7 states: The IPC should consider the extent to which the applicant has proposed an effective system for managing hazardous and non-hazardous waste arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development. It should be satisfied that: • any such waste will be properly managed, both on-site and off-site; • the waste from the proposed facility can be dealt with appropriately by the waste infrastructure which is, or is likely to be, available. Such waste arisings should not have an adverse effect on the capacity of existing waste management facilities to deal with other waste arisings in the area; and • adequate steps have been taken to minimise the volume of waste arisings, and of the volume of waste arisings sent to disposal,	5.15.14 The Secretary of State should consider the extent to which the applicant has proposed an effective system for managing hazardous and non-hazardous waste arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development.	The oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6],** oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7].** and oDEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** contain measures for handling, transportation and disposal of hazardous waste. These documents also identify the steps taken to minimise waste arisings for each phase of the Proposed Development, see table 03-12 in each document. As no hazardous loads are likely to be required and in the event that they are, appropriate mitigation is provided by way of the oCTMP [REP5-068], it is concluded that the effects of the Proposed Development in terms of hazardous loads is negligible (not significant). The commercial nature of the waste to be produced during both construction, operation and decommissioning will mean it will be managed by appropriately permitted carriers and facilities in line with the appropriate environmental permits and requirements. The waste carriers and landfill sites used will be determined by the contractor pre-construction. During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, waste arisings are expected to be minimal and as they would be considered to be commercial waste this will be managed

	except where that is the best overall environmental outcome		by appropriately permitted carriers and facilities in line with the appropriate environmental permits and requirements. Details of how waste during operation will be dealt with are provided in the outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7].**
Water Quality and Resources	Paragraph 5.15.2 states: Where the project is likely to have effects on the water environment, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of the proposed project on, water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment as part of the ES or equivalent.	5.16.3 Where the project is likely to have effects on the water environment, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of the proposed project on, water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment, and how this might change due to the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment, as part of the ES or equivalent (see Section 4.2 and 4.9).	The assessment of potential impacts on water resources and ground conditions is included in Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** The chapter presents the existing status of the water environment and the likely effects of the Proposed Development and also takes the impact of climate change into consideration. The chapter concludes that with appropriate mitigation, as set out in the outline Water Management Plan (oWMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.13]**, there are likely to be no significant adverse effects on water quality, water resources or physical characteristics of the water environment as a result of the Proposed Development.
	NA	New Paragraph 5.16.5 states: Where possible, applicants are encouraged to manage surface water during construction by treating surface water runoff from exposed topsoil prior to discharging and to limit the discharge of suspended solids e.g. from car parks or other areas of hard standing, during operation.	The oWMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.13]** describes water management measures to control surface water runoff and drain hardstanding and other structures during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This includes measures to limit discharge of suspended solids through use of check dams and management of topsoil storage away from drainage ditches. In the unlikely event that the proposed grass mix has not established in certain areas (and measures in this regard are set out in the oSMP [REP5-69]) before the construction phase then measures outlined in oWMP will be implemented. Paragraph 2.5.4 outlines that the Construction

			Contractor would be responsible for the management of all surface water runoff, including the detailed design and management of a drainage scheme compliant with SuDS principles and this would be set out in the WMP that is approved pursuant to Requirement 9. This may include settlement lagoons and retention ponds, incorporating natural or assisted attenuation in area identified to be at higher risk of elevated surface water run-off rates. Regarding grazing damage, the Applicant has control over how livestock are managed as the vegetation sward establishes meaning the potential for damage to occur is unlikely. Should damage to the grass occur then the resulting ground is still likely to slow surface water run-off rates compared to the current land use, which is annually tilled arable fields. The addition of grass buffer strips on the perimeter of the Order limits, as outlined in the Design Guidance with the DAS [REP5-058]and Green Infrastructure Strategy contained within the oLEMP [REP7-022]will further act to slow flows, even if some of the grassland within the PV array area has not fully established or is damaged by glazing. The Applicant has also updated the outline Water Management Plan to require that the detailed WMPs will need to explain the position at the time of discharge in respect of the grass cover on site and the measures that are being put in place (if required) to deal with that position.
	Paragraph 5.15.3 states: The ES should in particular describe: a) the existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water quality, noting any relevant	5.16.7 The ES should in particular describe: • the existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water quality, noting any relevant existing discharges,	In respect to part a) of the current policy (corresponding with the first bullet point in the draft NPS paragraph), section 11.2 of Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** describes the existing quality of waters. Section 2.4 of appendix 11.6 of the ES outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) outlines proposed changes to discharges. The 2D surface water model presented in Section 3.1 of Appendix 11.6: Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) [APP-087]

	existing discharges, proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges; b) existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies); c) existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics; and d) any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas under the Water Framework Directive and source protection zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions.	proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges • existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies) and also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance • existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics • any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas (including shellfish protected areas) under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and source protection zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions • how climate change could impact any of the above in the future	is intended to demonstrate the effectiveness of proposed vegetation management and uses a grid resolution of 4 m. As such, localised channelling at substantially less than this resolution would not be picked up by the model. In respect to part b) of the policy (corresponding with the second bullet point in the draft NPS paragraph), water resources including public and private water supplies are considered in Section 11.2 and in tables 11.2 and 11.3 of Chapter 11 of the ES**.** Details of existing abstraction are set out in section 11.2 of Chapter 11 of the ES and section 11.4 which confirms there are no anticipated changes to abstraction rates as a result of the Proposed Development. In respect to part c) of the policy (corresponding with the third bullet point in the draft NPS paragraph), the physical characteristics of the water environment are described in section 11.2 of chapter 11 of the ES. **I**t confirms that the hydrological regime within the Order Limits is typical of lowland agricultural plains and is drained by man-made ditches of slow running water. These ditches drain to several natural watercourses and in turn the wider hydrological system.

		• any cumulative effects	
	Paragraph 5.15.5 states: The IPC will generally need to give impacts on the water environment more weight where a project would have an adverse effect on the achievement of the environmental objectives established under the Water Framework Directive.	5.16.12 The Secretary of State will need to give impacts on the water environment more weight where a project would have an adverse effect on the achievement of the environmental objectives established under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. 5.16.13 The SoS must also consider duties under other legislation including duties under the Environment Act 2021 in relation to environmental targets and have regard to the policies set out in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan.	Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that with the implementation of mitigation measures identified in the oWMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** no adverse effects upon the water environment are anticipated. The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/~~6.1~~7.6]** also refers to a Pollution Prevention Plan to be prepared prior to construction of the Proposed Development.
	Paragraph 5.15.6 states: The IPC should satisfy itself that a proposal has regard to the River Basin Management Plans and meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (including Article 4.7) and its daughter directives, including those on priority substances and groundwater. The specific objectives for particular river basins are set out in River Basin	5.16.14 The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a proposal has regard to current River Basin Management Plans and meets the requirements of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (including regulation 19). The specific objectives for particular river basins are set out in River Basin Management Plans. The Secretary of	Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** assesses all potential effects of the Proposed Development upon the status of water bodies within the Order limit study area. The analysis is set out in Section 11.4 of Chapter 11 of the ES and table 11.6 presents the summary of effects up on potentially effected waterbodies. Chapter 11 concludes that due to embedded mitigation and measures identified within the oWMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.13]**, and table 3-7 of the oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** the Proposed Development

	Management Plans. The IPC should also consider the interactions of the proposed project with other plans such as Water Resources Management Plans and Shoreline/Estuary Management Plans.	State must refuse development consent where a project is likely to cause deterioration of a water body or its failure to achieve good status or good potential, unless the requirements set out in Regulation 19 are met. A project may be approved in the absence of a qualifying Overriding Public Interest test only if there is sufficient certainty that it will not	will not result in the deterioration of any water bodies, or prevent them from achieving good status.
	Paragraph 5.15.8 states: The IPC should consider whether mitigation measures are needed over and above any which may form part of the project application. (See Sections 4.2 and 5.1.) A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at that stage.	5.16.8 The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at that stage.	Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that no additional mitigation beyond that embedded in the design and referred to in the oWMP and oCEMP is required **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6].**
	Paragraph 5.15.9 states: The risk of impacts on the water environment can be reduced through careful design to facilitate adherence to good pollution control practice. For example, designated areas for storage and unloading, with appropriate drainage facilities, should be clearly marked.	5.16.9 The risk of impacts on the water environment can be reduced through careful design to facilitate adherence to good pollution control practice. For example, designated areas for storage and unloading, with appropriate drainage facilities, should be clearly marked.	The Proposed Development has employed good design including avoidance measures in order to minimise the risk of impacts on the water environment. Section 11.3 of Chapter 11 **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** of the ES identifies the following mitigation measures relating to the hydrological environment which are embedded into the design and construction of the Proposed Development: • 50m watercourse buffers for major construction works (i.e. compound) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks; and • 10m watercourse buffers for minor construction works (i.e. solar panel installation) with the exception of watercourse crossings along access tracks;

			• The Proposed Development will utilise existing access road and tracks already in place at this location, this will help to minimise ground disturbance and requirement for further watercourse crossings. Section 11.3 of Chapter 11 of the ES also notes to good practice will be followed in all aspects of construction, operation and decommissioning, specifically through a Pollution Prevention Plan (PPP), which will be incorporated into a final CEMP. These measures are outlined in the oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and would form part of the Requirements of the DCO. The Construction Contractor will be responsible for the management and implementation of all surface water runoff, including the detailed design and management of a drainage scheme compliant with SuDS principles. Monitoring of the effectiveness of these measures will be undertaken by the Environmental Manager for the site, who will have responsibility for the overall management of environmental aspects onsite, ensuring environmental legislation and best practices are complied with, and environmental mitigation and monitoring measures identified are implemented. This is secured through the Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [REP8-012] The retention of swales for the lifetime of the Development will be considered in areas where specific risks are identified, such as those downslope of areas in excess of 6 % slope. The SWDS will be developed at the detailed design stage and reflect the final layout and configuration of the Proposed Development, including the location of any swales and scrapes. This reflected in the dDCO Requirements. Pursuant to Requirement 9 of the dDCO, details of the SWDS must be

			submitted and approved by the relevant planning authority, prior to the commencement of any phase of construction. It should also be noted that the detailed design submitted, pursuant to Requirement 6 of the dDCO, must accord with the details approved under Requirement 9.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Table 2 National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) – Table of Compliance

National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) Assessment and Technical Specific Information – Assessment of the specific impacts as set out in Part 2 of EN-3 (2011) and Draft EN-3 (2023) is considered below.			
Policy	EN-3 Policy Text	Draft Policy EN-3 Text	Assessment
Part 3.4 Climate change adaptation		Added Paragraph 3.4.10 of draft revised EN-3 states: Solar photovoltaic (PV) sites may also be proposed in low lying exposed sites. For these proposals, applicants should consider, in particular, how plant will be resilient to: • increased risk of flooding; and • impact of higher temperatures	A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) included in Appendix 11.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 5.7 of NPS EN1, part 3.4 of NPS EN3 (2023) (and the NPPF), and the likely effects of the Proposed Development associated with flood risk have been assessed in Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. The FRA is considered proportionate for the scale and nature and location of the Proposed Development and assesses the risk of flooding from all sources arising from the Proposed Development upon the development itself and identified receptors, accounting for the impact of climate change. The FRA concludes that the risk of the Proposed Development flooding from all sources is negligible and surface water can be effectively managed via drainage measures identified in the outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) in Appendix 11.6 of the ES [Ref EN010127/APP/6.2], and the Proposed Development is not considered to give rise to any

			adverse flood effects either within, or outside of the Order limits. Section 4 of the FRA includes a sequential test and exception test which have been carried out in line with EN-1 Paragraph 5.7.9 and the draft revised NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.8.11, the NPPF and PPG. This concludes that with the measures identified in the oSWDS in place the benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh the managed flood risk. As outlined in **Chapter 13: Climate Change and Resilience** of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** account of the effects of climate change have been taken in the design of the Proposed Development and its construction and decommissioning. The Applicant has demonstrated within their Statement on the 60 Year Time Limit **[REP7-038]**, that the Proposed Development is not vulnerable to increases in rainfall intensities and the associated increases in flood extent and depths from the West Glen River for the 60-year operational lifespan.
Part 2.4 – Good Design for Energy Infrastructure	Paragraph 2.4.1 states: Section 10(3)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State to have regard, in designating an NPS, to the desirability of good design. Section 4.5 of EN-1 sets out the principles of good design that should be applied to all energy infrastructure. Paragraph 2.4.2 states: Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure	Part 3.5 Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure 3.5.1 Section 4.6 of EN-1 sets out the criteria for good design that should be applied to all energy infrastructure. 3.5.2 Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design, particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity, opportunities for co-existence/co-	The Proposed Development has been designed to minimise the impacts on the existing land uses within and surrounding the Order limits. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** outlines the design process and decisions made from the outset of the design process in order to minimise visual impacts upon identified receptors. A fundamental structuring element of the design has been to retain as far as possible the existing landscape features within the Order limits. These

	should demonstrate good design in respect of landscape and visual amenity, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology.	location with other marine uses, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology and heritage.	landscape features have been accurately mapped, with appropriate minimum setbacks applied, as set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan contained within the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP7.9]** and reflected in the Works Plans and the Parameters in ES Appendix 5.1, which has allowed for the vast majority of the existing landscape structure to be retained. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** details the design process which enabled the layout of the proposed development to maximise opportunities to enhance and conserve biodiversity and geological conservation interests. A key element of the strategy has been the identification and retention of beneficial biodiversity or landscape features in the layout of the proposed development. The design has continued to evolve as part of the DCO process including from the feedback from stakeholders and consultation as noted within the Design and Access Statement. The Design and Access Statement details how good design is implemented. With regard to minimising noise and vibration impacts, this is demonstrated through the embedded mitigation of the scheme design, through the offsetting of noise-generating plant from residential properties and ProW, as shown within the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].** The Design and Access statement reflects the use of good design to mitigate impacts on heritage value, as such, new planting will be provided as illustrated on the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. Foundation design

			will also be further considered at detailed design stage to minimise potential impacts to buried archaeology.
3.6 Flexibility in the project details	NA	3.6.1 Where details are still to be finalised applicants should explain in the application which elements of the proposal have yet to be finalised, and the reason why this is the case. 3.6.2 Where flexibility is sought in the consent as a result, applicants should, to the best of their knowledge, assess the likely worst-case environmental, social and economic effects of the proposed development to ensure that the impacts of the project as it may be constructed have been properly assessed. 3.6.3 Full guidance on how applicants and the Secretary of State should manage flexibility is set out in Section 4.2 of EN-1.	The extent of flexibility sought by the Applicant is described in Chapter 5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** This includes options for the solar PV mounting structures, the choice of Inverters, Transformers, the design and layout of PV modules, Solar Stations and enclosures and cable routes. Building sizes may also vary depending on the contractor selected and their specific configuration and selection of plant. For the components and options described above, the degree of flexibility and Limits of Deviation are controlled by a combination of documents that would be secured by the DCO Application. The following core documents outline the design of the Proposed Development: The spatial extents of the layout (including Access Tracks, Cable routing, Solar PV Modules and Solar Stations etc.) are set by the Work Plans **[Ref EN010127/APP/2.2].** Parameters including maximum heights and extents of individual components are fixed by Appendix 5.1 of the Environmental Statement ('the Parameters**') [Ref EN010127/APP/6.2],** Design guidance is provided through the Design Guidance set out in section 4.15 of the Design and Access Statemen**t [Ref EN010127/APP/7.3], T**he Mitigation and Enhancement measures set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy are included in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP), [Ref **EN010127/APP/7.9].**

			To maintain flexibility in the design and layout at this stage in the process, and ensure the maximum effects are assessed in the ES and considered by the SoS, the Proposed Development has adopted the Rochdale Envelope approach, as described in the PINS Advice Note 9. This involves specifying parameter ranges, including details of the maximum, and where relevant the minimum, size (footprint, width, and height relative to above ordnance datum (AOD), technology, and locations of the different elements of the Proposed Development, where flexibility needs to be retained. The use of the Rochdale Envelope approach has therefore been adopted to present a likely worst-case assessment of the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
Part 3.10 Solar Photovoltaic Generation - General	Solar technology not specifically covered in adopted EN-3	Paragraph 3.10.11 states: In order to maximise irradiance, applicants may choose a site and design its layout with variable and diverse panel types and aspects, and panel arrays may also follow the movement of the sun in order to further maximise the solar resource. Paragraph 3.10.52 states: For a solar farm to generate electricity efficiently the panel array spacing should seek to maximise the potential power output of the site. The type, spacing and aspect of panel arrays will	The Proposed Development is suitable for solar development and located within an area of high irradiance and suitable topography. Lincolnshire is generally flat, with a gently undulating topography which is suitable and beneficial for solar, increasing the likelihood of being able to identify a suitable site that is capable of producing a large amount of electricity. The National Grid Ryhall Substation already has capacity without requiring significant upgrades means that best use should be made of this existing infrastructure, before developing new connections. Therefore, this influenced the location of the Order limits within proximity to the Ryhall substation. The general topography of the area immediately surrounding the substation is gently

		depend on the physical characteristics of the site such as site elevation.	undulating and therefore this makes it particularly suitable for solar. During Examination, the Applicant has responded to a number of points from both the ExA and IPs on matters relating to flexibility and the ability for the Proposed Development to maximise its efficiency. In response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (Q1.0.16) [REP2-037] the Applicant explained its approach to overplanting and that the ratio in the case of the Application (1.3 – 1.5) falls within the implied parameters set out in paragraph 3.10.8 of the draft NPS EN-3. The response also provides a more technical explanation of the benefits of overplanting over the life of the project. The response explains that a scheme which is not overplanted has a MW(p) / MW(AC) ratio of 1.0. In a scheme which is overplanted that ratio is greater than 1.0. As the overplanting ratio increases, "unusable" solar generation at times of high irradiation and early in the scheme's operational life increases, but those losses may be compensated for by more output in times of lower irradiation and more generally later in operational life. The Applicant further sets out its position in response to Q1.0.13 of the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions [REP5-012].
		Paragraphs 3.10.35 – 3.10.39 -state: 3.10.35 Many solar farms are connected into the local distribution network. The capacity of the local grid network to accept the likely output from a proposed solar farm is critical to the technical and commercial feasibility of a development proposal.	The Proposed Development has been designed to optimise the physical characteristics of the site, taking into account the site elevation when lay-out of the panels to maximise potential power output as well as provide enhancement and mitigation within the area. ALC surveys were undertaken to confirm the land grades across the site. Measures have been taken to minimise and reduce the areas of grade 2 and grade 3a land utilised for solar development. Following further

		3.10.36 Larger developments may seek connection to the transmission network if there is available network capacity and/or supportive infrastructure. 3.10.37 In either case the connection voltage, availability of network capacity, and the distance from the solar farm to the existing network can have a significant effect on the commercial feasibility of a development proposal. 3.10.38 To maximise existing grid infrastructure, minimise disruption to existing local community infrastructure or biodiversity and reduce overall costs applicants may choose a site based on nearby available grid export capacity. 3.10.39 Where this is the case, applicants should consider the cumulative impacts of situating a solar farm in proximity to other energy generating stations and infrastructure. Paragraphs 3.10.13-3.10.19state: 3.10.13 Solar is a highly flexible technology and as such can be deployed on a wide variety of land types. 3.10.14 While land type should not be a predominating factor in determining	analysis, some additional Grade 2 land was identified and as noted below, where this was in single fields, this was removed from the areas proposed for PV Arrays. Further information on ALC is provided in Chapter 13 of this ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** The grounddwn cover will also allow continued agricultural use of land within the Solar PV area for grazing, which is included in the landscape management prescriptions set out in the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plans (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].** There is relatively little previously developed land located within a sufficient distance of the National Grid Ryhall Substation that an appropriate grid connection could be provided to. The Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 to the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** considers some of the large previously developed sites within the wider area, which are discussed in section 3.1. To respond to 3.10.14-3.10.19, the Proposed Development has outlined its site selection assessment and process in Appendix 1 to the Planning Statement [APP-203] and in its design development process of that site in the Design and Access Statement [APP-204], including a review of available previously development land, and how it has sought to minimise BMV requirements in the context of the other factors that have driven site selection and design; and how there are no real alternatives which would have less effect to BMV land than what is proposed. As explained in both the site selection report and Section 7.4 of the Planning Statement, in order to

		the suitability of the site location applicants should, where possible, utilise previously developed land, brownfield land, contaminated land and industrial land. Where the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary, poorer quality land should be preferred to higher quality land (avoiding the use of "Best and Most Versatile" agricultural land where possible). 3.10.15 Whilst the development of ground mounted solar arrays is not prohibited on agricultural land classified 1, 2 and 3a, or sites designated for their natural beauty, or recognised for ecological or archaeological importance, the impacts of such are expected to be considered and are discussed under paragraphs 2.10.66 – 2.10.83 and 2.10.98 – 2.10.110. 3.10.16 It is recognised that at this scale, it is likely that applicants' developments may use some agricultural land. Applicants should explain their choice of site, noting the preference for development to be on brownfield and non-agricultural land. 3.10.17 Where sited on agricultural land, consideration may be given as to whether the proposal allows for	deliver the capacity available within the grid connection, BMV land is required to be temporarily used. This is a consequence of the general land resource within and around the site and Ryhall substation. Drawing on the provisional ALC mapping as well as the detailed site investigation work, the Site represents a characteristic snapshot of the land quality locally and the land required to be used to host the solar arrays temporarily represents a higher use of non-BMV land (just under 60%) than is representative of the area. As Chapter 12 of the ES [APP-042] sets out, the proportion of BMV land within Lincolnshire is just over 70%. Rutland is closer to the national average of 42% at 45.2%, with an estimated 400,000 hectares of BMV land across the two counties (combined). The use of 216 hectares of this land for the Proposed Development represents just 0.054% of this total resource being temporarily diverted to deliver low carbon renewable energy in accordance with the UK's Net Zero aims. A outline Soil Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** is contained within the DCO Application to ensure any soil handlining in the construction and decommissioning stages ensures the agricultural grade of the land is retained, and arable cropping can continue post the decommissioning phase. The oSMP has been developed with reference to the Defra Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. During the Examination the Applicant responded to question 1.2.3 (of the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions) in relation paragraph 3.10.14 of the

		continued agricultural use and/or can be co-located with other functions (for example, onshore wind generation, or storage) to maximise the efficiency of land use. 3.10.18 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) is the only approved system for grading agricultural quality in England and Wales and, if necessary, field surveys should be used to establish the ALC grades in accordance with the current, or any successor to it, grading criteria71 and identify the soil types to inform soil management at the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases in line with the Defra Construction Code. 3.10.19 Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Resources and Management Plan which could help to use and manage soils sustainably and minimise adverse impacts on soil health and potential land contamination. This should be in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan to bring 60% of England's agricultural soils into sustainable management by 2030.	draft NPS EN-3 on matters relating to the predominance of ALC as a factor during site selection. The Applicant considers that 3.10.14 emphasises that land type should not be the primary determining factor when evaluating the suitability of a site location for Solar Photovoltaic Generation, recognising that there are factors that may be determinative, such as the availability of a suitable grid connection. The Applicant's position is that 'land type' refers to both agricultural land and brownfield land, as the rest of the paragraph goes on to clarify the approach to ach. This interpretation is consistent with the approach applied by the ExA and Secretary of State at Longfield (see paragraph 5.7.5 of ExA report and 4.58 of SoS's decision letter). Therefore the Applicant considers that while ALC is clearly an important consideration during site selection it is not the predominating factor and that the site selection approach taken by the Applicant correctly attributes weight to the varying factors in accordance with the draft NPS EN-3. The Applicant has provided additional detail in regard to its approach to site selection in response to ExA questions and matters raised from IPs. REP-3-054 provides further justification to the Applicant's position and importance of maximizing existing grid capacity: The weight that should be afforded to the availability of the connection at Ryhall substation is significant and, as the Statement of Need [APP-202] clearly demonstrates, the use of existing capacity within the network is a policy priority. Indeed, paragraph 3.10.38 of Revised Draft EN-3 states that "to maximise existing grid infrastructure, minimise disruption to existing local

			community infrastructure or biodiversity and reduce overall costs applicants may choose a site based on nearby available grid export capacity". These key facets of Government policy are critical to the understanding of why the Application Site has been pursued to deliver a NSIP scale solar proposal, particularly in relation to the availability of the Grid Connection and capacity at the Ryhall substation in a location which would also minimise disruption to existing local community infrastructure and biodiversity (as concluded in the ES). In addition, the Applicant responded to the assertion that solar should be focused on areas of higher irradiance elsewhere in the country, however, this misses the fundamental point that irradiance is only effective where it can generate power that can be transported and used, as recognised in paragraph 3.10.10 of Revised Draft EN-3 which advises "irradiance of a site will in turn be affected by surrounding topography".
		Paragraphs 3.10.20-3.10.24 state: 3.10.20 Applicants will need to consider the suitability of the access routes to the proposed site for both the construction and operation of the solar farm with the former likely to raise more issues. 3.10.21 Given that potential solar farm sites are largely in rural areas, access for the delivery of solar arrays and associated infrastructure during	In response to 3.10.20-3.10.24 The Site Selection Report (Appendix to the Planning Statement (**[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]**) explains how the location of the Proposed Development was selected. Section 3.1 confirms that the Order limits is accessible by the rural road network, and in relatively close proximity to the Strategic Road Network (SRN) by virtue of the A1, a major dual carriageway, which is approximately 5.5km to the west of the Order limits. This is an important factor when considering possible effects during construction and the ability of the road network to accommodate HGVs and potential Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs). The National Grid Ryhall Substation was

		construction can be a significant consideration for solar farm siting. 3.10.22 Developers will usually need to construct on-site access routes for operation and maintenance activities, such as footpaths, earthworks, or landscaping. 3.10.23 In addition, sometimes access routes will need to be constructed to connect solar farms to the public road network. 3.10.24 Applications should include the full extent of the access routes necessary for operation and maintenance and an assessment of their effects.	granted planning permission in September 2013 (reference 2013/0291/FUL) and a Construction Traffic Management Plan was submitted and approved which included a preferred route for construction traffic (via Ryhall Road and the A6121) and the provision of passing places in the highway verge on Uffington Lane due to its relatively narrow width (3m – 4.5m). The close proximity of the Order limits to the SRN and the ability to use the improvements made at the time of the National Grid Ryhall substation construction, further support the use of the Order limits for a solar project. Alongside the Site Selection Report (Appendix 1 to the Planning Statement (**[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]**), section 7.4 of the Planning Statement sets out how the quality of land in the locality of the Ryhalll Substation is of a similar or potentially higher quality than that of the Order limits. Therefore, in order to maximise the available capacity some BMV land (216ha) is required to be temporarily used for the lifetime of the Proposed Development. The alignment of the on site access tracks are shown on Figures 5.1a to 5.1d of the Environmental Statement [**Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and have sought to maximise the use of existing access tracks within the Solar PV Area to reduce the impact on BMV agricultural land. At the detailed design stage, the location of the Solar Stations and Access Tracks should be considered so to avoid placement within areas of BMV where possible (PL3.14) and without unnecessarily impacting the achievement of other elements of the Design Guidance set out in the Design and Access Statement [**Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** such as not locating Solar Stations within Flood Zone 2 or 3 (PL3.3). It won't be possible to

			locate all Solar Stations and the Associated Access tracks outside areas of BMV in all cases as they will need to be located in areas of BMV where a Solar Station is required as a result of the number of PV Strings in a particular area.
Part 3.10 - **Solar Photovoltaic Generation -** Solar photovoltaic generation: technical considerations for the secretary of state	Solar technology not specifically covered in adopted EN-3	3.10.26 Public rights of way may need to be temporarily stopped to enable construction, however, applicants should keep, as far as is practicable and safe, all public rights of way that cross the proposed development site open during construction and protect users where a public right of way borders or crosses the site. 3.10.27 Applicants are encouraged to design the layout and appearance of the site to ensure continued recreational use of public rights of way, where possible during construction, and in particular during operation of the site. 3.10.28 Applicants are encouraged where possible to minimise the visual outlook from existing public rights of way, considering the impacts this may have on any other visual amenities in the surrounding landscape. 3.10.29 Applicants should consider and maximise opportunities to facilitate enhancements to the public rights of way and the adoption of new	The location of the proposed vehicle access points to the Solar PV Site has been identified through a review of the Local Road Network (LRN) to identify suitable locations in highway safety terms, including ensuring the nature of the major arm being sufficient to accommodate HGVs and the provision of appropriate visibility splays. The use of existing access points onto the LRN has been prioritised to minimise the environmental impacts associated with the creation of new points of vehicular access, such as the removal of hedgerows. Where there is not a reasonable access location within vicinity of the relevant area of the Solar PV Site, a new vehicle access has been provided that complies with all relevant highway safety requirements. Mitigation has been considered and embedded into the design of the development of the Proposed Development, including the provision of a consolidation strategy for deliveries, strict routing for vehicles, a shuttle service and off-site highway improvements. The oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, and oCTMP (including outline Travel Plan) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]** is secured through the DCO and will inform the development of final management plans prior to construction as secured by a DCO Requirement.

		public rights of way through site layout and design of access. 3.10.30 Applicants should set out detail on how public rights of way would be managed to ensure they are safe to use is set out in an outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan. Paragraph 3.10.54 states: It is likely that underground and overhead cabling will be required to connect the electrical assets of the site, such as from the substation to the panel arrays or storage facilities. 3.10.55 In the case of underground cabling, applicants are expected to provide a method statement describing cable trench design, installation methodology, as well as details of the operation and maintenance regime. Paragraphs 3.10.31-3.10.32 state: 3.10.31 Security of the site is a key consideration for developers. Applicants may wish to consider not only the availability of natural defences such as steep gradients, hedging and rivers but also perimeter security measures such as fencing, electronic security, CCTV and lighting,	The Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [APP-207] states that access to all existing PRoW will be retained during the construction phase with a limited number of temporary PRoW diversions for a small amount of time to allow the construction of access tracks where they cross the PRoW. As outlined in the Green Infrastructure Strategy (as part of the oLEMP [APP-210]) and Design and Access Statement [APP-204], there will be a minimum 15m offset from the PV site on either side of any PRoW which passes through the Solar PV Site to limit any perceived channeling of visual effects along routes. The Amenity and Recreation Assessment [APP-058] also sets out how the Proposed Development generally has sought to take account of impacts to PRoW users in design development and in developing mitigation proposals. The Proposed Development would also include four ~~three~~ new permissive paths, approximately ~~8.1~~7.9km, connecting the wider network of PRoW and rural lanes. These permissive routes are set out in the GI Strategy [APP-210] which is incorporated into the oLEMP and therefore secured by DCO Requirement. The adjustment to the route which has resulted in a lessening of the overall length is in direct response to engagement with an Interested Party and addresses a concern relating to the proximity of one of the permissive paths to their business and land. The requirement for an outline Public Right of Way Management is a new requirement, however, as outlined above, the Applicant's approach to the management is contained within the oCEMP [APP-207] and will be set out in the detailed CEMPs pursuant to it,

		with the measures proposed on a site-specific basis. 3.10.32 Applicants should assess the visual impact of these security measures, as well as the impacts on local residents, including for example issues relating to intrusion from CCTV and light pollution in the vicinity of the site. Paragraph 3.10.60 states: Applicants should set out what would be decommissioned and removed from the site at the end of the operational life of the generating station considering instances where it may be less harmful for the ecology of the site to keep or retain certain types of infrastructure for example underground cabling, and where there may be socio-economic benefits in retaining site infrastructure after the operational life, such as retaining pathways through the site or a site substation. Paragraph 3.10.138 states: Where the consent for a solar farm is to be time- limited, the DCO should impose a requirement setting that time-limit from the date the solar farm starts to generate electricity	and it is considered that no separate additional document is required. There are ~~six~~five Public Rights of Way (PRoW) which cross the Order limits which are described in Table 3.1 of Chapter 3 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. in addition, the Macmillan Way recreational route follows the south-western boundary before crossing the Solar PV Site and continues along the northern boundary of the south-western extent of the Solar PV Site. All PRoW within the Order limits are retained and the proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts on these recreational resources. Appendix 6.5, of the ES includes an Access and Recreation Assessment (ARA) **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** identifies the mitigation measures provided for PRoW which includes stand-off distances of a minimum 15m on either side of the PRoWs and screening planting as appropriate. During operation, no areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR) lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exits where there would be lighting, similar to street lighting that operates from dusk. Otherwise, lighting sensors for security purposes will be

			implemented around the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. The lighting design would seek to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors through directional cowls, as secured through the oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** The Application is subject to an appropriately worded Requirement (no. 16) which sets out that decommissioning works will commence no later than 60 years from the date of the final commissioning of Work No.1
Part 3.10 - Solar Photovoltaic Generation – Biodiversity and Ecological- Conservation	Solar technology not specifically covered in adopted EN-3	Paragraphs 3.10.67-3.10.73are summarised below as relevant: 3.10.67 The applicant's ecological assessments should identify any ecological risk from developing on the proposed site. 3.10.71 Applicants should consider earthworks associated with construction compounds, access roads and cable trenching. 3.10.73 Applicants should consider how security and lighting installations may impact on the local ecology. Applicants should consider how site boundaries are managed. If any hedges/scrub are to be removed, further surveys may be necessary to account for impacts. Buffer strips between perimeter fencing and hedges may be proposed, and the construction and design of any fencing	The biodiversity and nature conservation impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. The Chapter 7 also outlines the desk and site studies and surveys that have informed the DCO Application. A full description of the ecological baseline conditions identified is set out in the Ecological Baseline Report, which is provided in Appendix 7.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**. The Proposed Development has incorporated suitable gaps (indicatively 30 x 30cm) into all lengths of security fencing to allow mammals to pass beneath, as secured in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** The oLEMP [Ref EN010127/APP/7.7] describes how existing and new habitats will be maintained during the first five years following implementation and managed in the long-term until decommissioning, including hedgerows and planting which provide screening to nearby heritage assets. CCTV cameras would use night-vision technology, which would be monitored remotely and avoid the need for

		should account 46 Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (2009) National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) 87 for enabling mammal, reptile and other fauna access into the site if required to do so in the ecological report.	night-time lighting. For security requirements, Passive Infra-red Detector (PID) systems (or similar) will be installed around the perimeter of the PV Arrays to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. Measures to minimise impacts from noise and traffic during operation are provided in the relevant sections of oLEMP. No areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit during the construction, operation, and decommissioning stages. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR) lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements. The lighting design would seek to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors through directional cowls, as secured through the oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]**. The FRA concludes that the risk of the Proposed Development flooding from all sources is negligible and can be effectively managed via drainage measures identified in the outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**, and the Proposed Development is not considered to give rise to any adverse flood effects either within, or outside of the Order limits. Mitigation of potential impacts is embedded into the design of the Proposed Development through avoidance of impacts, including retention of the majority of all HPIs across the Order limits. An unavoidable loss of habitats associated with two LWS has been identified to accommodate visibility splays

			and facilitate access, and this has been minimised and mitigation provided through the creation of compensatory habitats. ~~Additional habitats are created across the site, improving links between habitats within and adjacent to the Order limits, resulting in a net gain in habitats of over 72% and 40% for hedgerows.~~ The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be a minimum of 65% Net Gain, with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. Delivery of BNG is secured via Requirement 7 of the DCO.
Part 3.10 - **Solar Photovoltaic Generation – Landscape, Visual and Residential Amenity**	Solar technology not specifically covered in adopted EN-3	Paragraphs 3.10.122 – 3.10.124 are summarized below as relevant: 3.10.122 Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges, trees and woodlands. 3.10.123 Applicants should aim to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible applicants should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to assist in site security or screen security fencing. 3.10.124 Applicants should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to consider the significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of living conditions in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**. Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The LVIA assesses the landscape character and visual amenity of the Order limits and its surrounding context, its sensitivity to change, and the likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. It considers cumulative effects, visual and light pollution effects. ~~and effects on nature conservation~~. It includes reference to landscape character assessments relevant to the Proposed Development.

		designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact.	With regard to landscape and visual impacts, the layout of the Proposed Development has been informed and influenced by the analysis contained in the LVIA **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and RVAA **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** which have identified mitigation measures, including offsets and extensive new planting across the Order limits to strengthen landscape structure, create, and connect habitats and provide visual screening as set out in the oLEMP. The landscape structure within the Order limits is retained as part of the design, and opportunities to restore hedgerows have been included in the mitigation strategy, alongside appropriate and sensitive screening to minimise the visual intrusion of the Proposed Development. - With regard to security fencing, the Design Guidance contained within the Design and Access Statement **Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** sets out how this should be designed to minimize it's impact. Fencing around solar arrays will comprise of wooden posts and wire mesh fencing. The Onsite Substation compound is to be secured by a metal fence. The Green Infrastructure Strategy plan indicates how fencing is screened by vegetation where deemed necessary to mitigate impacts. Appendix 5.1 of the Environmental Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** sets out the parameters for security fencing across the site and Requirement 8 of the draft DCO - Fencing and other means of enclosure – sets out the process for approval of on site fencing. With regard to security lighting the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref**

			EN010127/APP/7.6] sets out measure for the control of light and noise during construction of the Proposed Development. During operation, no areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR) lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exits where there would be lighting, similar to street lighting that operates from dusk. Otherwise, lighting sensors for security purposes will be implemented around the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. The lighting design would seek to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors through directional cowls, as secured through the oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** Impacts of artificial light during each phase of the development are considered in Chapter 6 of the ES, and noise impacts are considered in Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6)** sets out measure for the control of light and noise during construction of the Proposed Development. During operation, no areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR)

			lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** for the Proposed Development has been prepared with a view to securing opportunities to contribute to and enhance the wider natural environment. The scale of the Proposed Development is considered to be sensitively accommodated within the landscape with appropriate measures incorporated to minimise visual effects.
Part 3.10 - Solar Photovoltaic Generation – Glint and Glare	Solar technology not specifically covered in adopted EN-3	Paragraphs 3.10.93 - 3.10.97 are summarised below as relevant: 3.10.95 Applicants should consider the geometric possibility of glint and glare affecting nearby receptors and provide an assessment of potential impact and impairment based on the angle and duration of incidence and the intensity of the reflection. 3.10.96 The extent of reflectivity analysis required to assess potential impacts will depend on the specific project site and design. This may need to account for 'tracking' panels if they are proposed as these may cause differential diurnal and/or seasonal impacts. 3.10.97 The potential for solar PV panels, frames and supports to have a combined reflective quality may need to be assessed, although the glint and glare of the frames and supports is	A glint and glare assessment (Appendix 15.3 of the ES) **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** of the operational and construction phase has been prepared to assess the possible effects upon road users, residential amenity, aviation activity, and railway operations and infrastructure in line policies. The assessment has considered both fixed and single-axis tracker solar panel layouts. The solar panel frames and supports have not been considered within the Glint and Glare Assessment in Appendix 15.3 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** because the reflections from the solar panels themselves constitute most effects, especially because the frames and supports are not large reflective surfaces from which significant glint and glare effects are most likely to occur. The Glint and Glare Assessment in Appendix 15.3 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** does not identify the need for any further measures above and beyond one small area of mitigation planting to address impacts arising from the Proposed Development. Therefore, the requirement for the application of any non-glare or reflective materials is not considered necessary.

		likely to be significantly less than the panels. Paragraphs 3.10.125 – 3.10.127 are summarised below as relevant: 3.10.125 Applicants should consider using, and in some cases the Secretary of State may require, solar panels to comprise of (or be covered with) anti-glare/anti-reflective coating with a specified angle of maximum reflection attenuation for the lifetime of the permission. 3.10.126 Applicants may consider using screening between potentially affected receptors and the reflecting panels to mitigate the effects. 3.10.127 Applicants may consider adjusting the azimuth alignment of or changing the elevation tilt angle of a solar panel, within the economically viable range, to alter the angle of incidence. In practice this is unlikely to remove the potential impact altogether but in marginal cases may contribute to a mitigation strategy.	The assessment concludes that with a combination of existing and proposed existing screening, the Proposed Development is not predicted to have significant glint and glare impacts on surrounding aviation activity, road users, or railway operations and infrastructure. The potential additional screening location area is shown in the Glint and Glare Assessment **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** and secured in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**.
Part 3.10 - Solar Photovoltaic Generation – Cultural Heritage	Solar technology not specifically covered in adopted EN-3	Paragraphs 3.10.98 - 3.10.110 are summarised below as relevant: 3.10.98 The impacts of solar PV developments on the historic environment will require expert	Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the

		assessment in most cases and may have effect both above and below ground. 3.10.99 Above ground impacts may include the effects on the setting of Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets as well as on Historic Landscape Character. 3.10.100 Below ground impacts, although generally limited, may include direct impacts on archaeological deposits through ground disturbance associated with trenching, cabling, foundations, fencing, temporary haul routes etc. 3.10.101 Equally solar PV developments may have a positive effect, for example archaeological assets may be protected by a solar PV farm as the site is removed from regular ploughing and shoes or low-level piling is stipulated. 3.10.102 Generic historic environment impacts are covered in Section 5.9 of EN-1. 3.10.103 Applicant assessments should be informed by information from Historic Environment Records (HERs) or the local authority. 3.10.104 Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or	historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets. A heritage settings assessment was undertaken early in the design process in order to allow avoidance and mitigation measures to be designed into the Proposed development. Table 03 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6] includes** measures to avoid potential impacts to archaeological deposits and confirms that the Outline~~a~~ WSI will be secured by the DCO (see below). The incorporation of significant offsets to maintain a degree of separation between the Solar PV Site and surrounding designated heritage assets. The existing landscape structure within the Order limits, including hedgerows and tree-lines defining historic field systems will be preserved, and in many instances enhanced through additional planting. Where possible, new planting has been aligned to historic field boundaries which will serve to repair historic landscape structures, and serve to reduce any visibility of the Proposed Development from the identified heritage assets. Retention and management of these landscape features as detailed in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** would serve to minimise the effect of the Proposed Development upon historic landscape features within the Order limits.

		has the potential to, include heritage assets with archaeological interest, the applicant should submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. These should be carried out, using expertise where necessary and in consultation with the local planning authority, and should identify archaeological study areas and propose appropriate schemes of investigation, and design measures, to ensure the protection of relevant heritage assets. 3.10.105 In some instances, field studies may include investigative work (and may include trial trenching beyond the boundary of the proposed site) to assess the impacts of any ground disturbance, such as proposed cabling, substation foundations or mounting supports for solar panels on archaeological assets. 3.10.106 The extent of investigative work should be proportionate to the sensitivity of, and extent of proposed ground disturbance in, the associated study area. 3.10.107 Applicants should take account of the results of historic environment assessments in their design proposal.	The assessment concludes there will be 'no impact' upon any of the identified assets or their setting resulting from any phase of the Proposed Development. Given the 'no impact' conclusions of the heritage assessment upon designated assets, the Proposed Development will not result in less than substantial harm to any heritage asset or their setting within the study area.~~-~~ With regard to archaeological interests Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** has been informed by a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (HDBA Cotswold Archaeology 2022), a Geophysical Survey (Magnitude Surveys 2022) and a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching (Cotswold Archaeology, 2022). The reports on these form Appendix 8.4. Chapter 8 of the ES **[APP-038]** has, amongst other important inputs, been informed by a Programme of Archaeological Trial Trenching, a supplementary report to which (Supplementary Trial Trenching Report) was submitted at Procedural Deadline A [PDA-014]. ~~This sets out the Applicant's approach to trial trenching in light of those limited impacts and the results of the geophysical surveys.~~ In summary, the Outline WSI ~~will~~sets out: • ~~Identify those locations where measures will be put in place to safeguard buried archaeological remains from temporary or permanent works that could adversely affect them. Areas will be demarcated on the ground (with suitable fencing and signposting), identified on mapping within welfare and site~~

		3.10.108 Applicants should consider what steps can be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting. 3.10.109 As the significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence but also from its setting, careful consideration should be given to the impact of large-scale solar farms which depending on their scale, design and prominence, may cause substantial harm to the significance of the asset. 3.10.110 Applicants may need to include visualisations to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets. Paragraphs 3.10.128 – 3.10.129 are summarised below as relevant: 3.10.128 The ability of the applicants to microsite specific elements of the proposed development during the construction phase should be an important consideration by the Secretary of State when assessing the risk of damage to archaeology. 3.10.129 Where requested by the applicant, the Secretary of State should consider granting consents	~~offices, and the means to ensure their protection will be highlighted in briefings to the construction workforce.~~ the need to undertake further archaeological trial trenching as part of the detailed design process, to ensure the conservation (minimise the impacts) on buried archaeological remains; • The potential scope for detailed archaeological excavations in advance of construction to record any important remains, and the means to disseminate these findings; • The opportunity to preserve in situ buried archaeological remains within (beneath the solar PV development). • The opportunity, via micro-sitting, to offer no-dig solutions for especially sensitive buried remains (such as the protection of discrete areas from all ground disturbing activities and / or the use of ballast footings / concrete shoes). • ~~S~~et out the means by which decisions will be made in the event of important archaeological remains being discovered during construction work. This will take the form of close liaison between the attending Archaeologist, the Environmental Clerks of Works, and the nominated construction site manager; all being fully briefed on the mitigation options available to ensure adverse effects are avoided or minimised. ~~Define the archaeological works planned in advance of or during construction and that they will be undertaken under the direction of suitable qualified and experienced professional archaeologists. The planning~~

		which allow for the micrositing within a specified tolerance of elements of the permitted infrastructure so that precise locations can be amended during the construction phase if unforeseen circumstances, such as the discovery of previously unknown archaeology, arise.	~~and phasing of these works will be designed alongside the general construction programme, to minimise or avoid the potential impact of discovering unexpected remains.~~ .
Part 3.10 - **Solar Photovoltaic Generation – Construction including traffic and transport noise and vibration**		Paragraphs 3.10.130 – 3.10.135 are summarised below as relevant: 3.10.130 In some cases, the local highway authority may request that the Secretary of State impose controls on the number of vehicle movements to and from the solar farm site in a specified period during its construction and, possibly, on the routing of such movements particularly by heavy vehicles. 3.10.131 Where the Secretary of State agrees that this is necessary, requirements could be imposed on development consent. 3.10.132 Where cumulative effects on the local road network or residential amenity are predicted from multiple solar farm developments, it may be appropriate for applicants for various projects to work together to ensure that the number of abnormal loads and deliveries are minimised, and the	A restriction on the number anticipated construction vehicles, as well as restrictions on the timings of movements and the routes will be set out in the CTMP secured by way of Requirement 13 in the dDCO. Initial details on the anticipated vehicle movements, restrictions on routings and timings is provided within the oCTMP **[APP-212]** that has been discussed and agreed with the respective Local Highway Authorities, with details of the consultation provided in ES Chapter 9 **[APP-039].** Liaison will be undertaken with the Local Highway Authorities prior to and during construction through the CTMP, to ensure that the impacts during construction are suitably mitigated. This could involve the use of ongoing monitoring and will also involve coordination to accommodate the delivery of any abnormal loads. The construction management measures included in the oCEMP [REP8-102] also include further restrictions on heavy vehicle traffic movements on Saturday afternoons and on Sundays during the construction period.

		timings of deliveries are managed and coordinated to ensure that disruption to residents and other highway users is reasonably minimised. 3.10.133 It may also be appropriate for the highway authority to set limits for and coordinate these deliveries through active management of the delivery schedules through the abnormal load approval process. 3.10.134 Once consent for a scheme has been granted, applicants should liaise with the relevant local highway authority (or other coordinating body) regarding the start of construction and the broad timing of deliveries. Applicants may need to agree a planning obligation to secure appropriate measures, including restoration of roads and verges. 3.10.135 Further it may be appropriate for any non- permanent highway improvements carried out for the development (such as temporary road widening) to be made available for use by other subsequent solar farm developments. 3.10.111 Modern solar farms are large sites that are mainly comprised of small structures that can be transported separately and constructed on-site, with developers	In response to the assessment of potential vehicle routes to the Order limits, details of the consultation within the Local Highway Authorities is included within ES Chapter 9 **[APP-039]**. Prior to the DCO submission, a feasibility review was undertaken for the routes to the Order limits to account for the likely origins for construction traffic and proximity to the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The feasibility review of the routes considered the presence of any restrictions or constraints, such as bridges or narrow areas. The routing strategy was subsequently agreed with the Local Highway Authorities, with the assessment and construction traffic impacts, as well as mitigation in the form of widening and temporary passing places, detailed within ES Chapter 9 **[APP-039]**. With respect to the cumulative impact during construction, these are discussed within ES Chapter 9 **[APP-039]**. Overall, it is not considered that there are any relevant individual cumulative sites that require consideration within the cumulative assessment from a Highways and Access perspective. An assessment of abnormal loads is also discussed within the supporting Transport Assessment **[APP-074**]. Nonetheless, background strategic growth across the wider network has been accounted for within the future baseline assessment through the use of TEMPRO growth factors. The construction management measures included in the oCEMP **[APP-207]** also include further restrictions on heavy vehicle traffic movements on Saturday

		designating a compound on-site for the delivery and assemblage of the necessary components. 3.10.112 Many solar farms will be sited in areas served by a minor road network. Public perception of the construction phase of solar farm will derive mainly from the effects of traffic movements, which is likely to involve smaller vehicles than typical onshore energy infrastructure but may be more voluminous. 3.10.113 Generic traffic and transport impacts are covered Section 5.14 of EN1. 3.10.114 Applicants should assess the various potential routes to the site for delivery of materials and components where the source of the materials is known at the time of the application and select the route that is the most appropriate. 3.10.115 Where the exact location of the source of construction materials, such as crushed stone or concrete is not be known at the time of the application applicants should assess the worst-case impact of additional vehicles on the likely potential routes. 3.10.116 Applicants should ensure all sections of roads and bridges on the proposed delivery route can	afternoons and on Sundays during the construction period.

		accommodate the weight and volume of the loads and width of vehicles. Although unlikely, where modifications to roads and/or bridges are required, these should be identified, and potential effects addressed in the ES. 3.10.117 Where a cumulative impact is likely because multiple energy infrastructure developments are proposing to use a common port and/or access route and pass through the same towns and villages, applicants should include a cumulative transport assessment as part of the ES. This should consider the impacts of abnormal traffic movements relating to the project in question in combination with those from any other relevant development. Consultation with the relevant local highways authorities is likely to be necessary	

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Table 3 National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN5) – Table of Compliance

Policy	EN-5 Policy Text	Draft EN-5 Policy Text	Assessment
Part 2.3 – General assessment principles for electricity networks	Paragraph 2.3.4 states: If the IPC believes it needs to probe further then factors it may wish to consider include whether the project would make a significant contribution to the promotion of renewable energy, the achievement of climate change objectives, the maintenance of an appropriate level of security of electricity supply or whether it helps achieve other energy policy objectives.	Part 2.8 Strategic Network Planning	As explained in the Statement of Need **[Ref EN01012/APP/7.1],** solar generation is a critical element of the plan to decarbonise the UK electricity sector with urgency and is already a leading low-cost generation technology in the UK. The national need for solar generation is urgent and the capacity required is significantly greater than the capacity of projects currently understood to be in development. This is further set out in the Applicant's responses to the ExA's First [REP2-037] and Second Written Questions [REP5-012]on Need and Carbon. The Outline CEMP [REP8-102] provides that post-consent it must be demonstrated that this net benefit will be achieved.
	Paragraph 2.3.5 states: The IPC should also take into account that National Grid, as the owner of the electricity transmission system in England and Wales, as well as Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), are required under section 9 of the Electricity Act 198910 to bring forward efficient and economical proposals in terms of network design, taking into account current and reasonably anticipated future generation demand. National Grid is also required to facilitate	2.8.3 The Secretary of State should also take into account that Transmission Owners (TOs) and Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) are required under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989 to bring forward efficient and economical proposals in terms of network design. 2.8.4 TOs and DNOs are also required to facilitate competition in the generation and supply of electricity, and electricity distributors have a statutory duty to provide a connection where requested.	The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3],** describes how the Mallard Pass Project Principles (which include Project Principle C2 - Design for resilience to future climate change) were developed and have been applied in the design evolution of the Proposed Development from the outset. The Applicant has secured a connection to the National Grid via a new below- ground grid connection cable located within the Grid Connection Route. This will connect the new Mallard Pass Substation with the existing

	competition in the supply and generation of electricity and so has a statutory duty to provide a connection whenever or wherever one is required.		Ryhall Substation. Further details of this are included in the Grid Connection statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.4]**
Part 2.4 – Climate change adaptation	Paragraph 2.4.1 states: Part 2 of EN-1 provides information regarding the Government's energy and climate change strategy including policies for mitigating climate change. Section 4.8 of EN-1 sets out the generic considerations that applicants and the IPC should take into account to help ensure that electricity networks infrastructure is resilient to climate change. As climate change is likely to increase risks to the resilience of some of this infrastructure, from flooding for example, or in situations where it is located near the coast or an estuary or is underground, applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable and, as appropriate, how it would be resilient to: flooding, particularly for substations that are vital for the electricity transmission and distribution network; • effects of wind and storms on overhead lines; • higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses; and	Part 2.3 – Climate change adoption and resilience 2.3.1 Section 4.9 of EN-1 sets out the generic considerations that applicants and the Secretary of State should take into account in order to ensure that electricity networks infrastructure is resilient to the effects of climate change. 2.3.2 As climate change is likely to increase risks to the resilience of some of this infrastructure, from flooding for example, or in situations where it is located near the coast or an estuary or is underground, applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it has been designed to be resilient to: • flooding, particularly for substations that are vital to the network; and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change; • the effects of wind and storms on overhead lines; • higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses;	As outlined in **Chapter 13: Climate Change and Resilience** of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** account of the effects of climate change have been taken in the design of the Proposed Development and its construction and decommissioning. A 60-year time limit will not alter the conclusions regarding the potential effects on receptors as set out in Table 13.7 of the ES. As set out in the Applicants Statement on 60 Year Time Limit [REP7-038], the assessment, mitigation and enhancement measures as set out in the LVIA and Ecology assessments were based upon a permanent operational lifespan, therefore the commitment to a 60 year lifespan will not affect the proposed habitats in such a way (given that they assumed that the mitigation would be in place for even longer than 60 years) that would alter these assessments and therefore the conclusions remain unchanged. Further commentary is provided within ExA's Q5a in 9.49 Applicants Response to ExA's Rule 17 Request for further information **[REP8-021].** A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) included in Appendix 11.5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs sections 5.7 of NPS EN-1 and 5.8 of revised draft NP EN-1 (and the NPPF), and the

	• earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables). Paragraph 2.4.2 states: Section 4.8 of EN-1 advises that the resilience of the project to climate change should be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying an application. For example, future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment (see Section 5.7 in EN-1).	• earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables); and • coastal erosion – for the landfall of offshore transmission cables and their associated substations in the inshore and coastal locations respectively. 2.3.3 Section 4.9 of EN-1 advises that the resilience of the project to the effects of climate change must be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying an application. For example, future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment (see Sections 5.8 in EN-1).	likely effects of the Proposed Development associated with flood risk have been assessed in Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. The FRA concludes that the risk of the Proposed Development flooding from all sources is negligible and can be effectively managed via drainage measures identified in the outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**, and the Proposed Development is not considered to give rise to any adverse flood effects either within, or outside of the Order limits. The Applicant has demonstrated within their Statement on 60 Year Time Limit **[REP7-038],** that the Proposed Development is not vulnerable to increases in rainfall intensities and the associated increases in flood extent and depths from the West Glen River for the 60 year operational lifespan.
Part 2.5 – Consideration of good design	Paragraph 2.5.2 states: Proposals for electricity networks infrastructure should demonstrate good design in their approach to mitigating the potential adverse impacts which can be associated with overhead lines, particularly those set out in Sections 2.7 to 2.10 below.	Part 2.4 Consideration of good design for energy infrastructure 2.4.1 The Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State to have regard, in designating an NPS, and in determining applications for development consent to the desirability of good design. 2.4.2 Applicants should consider the criteria for good design set out in EN-1	The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** outlines the design process and principles adopted ~~decisions made~~ from the outset of the design process in order to minimise visual impacts upon identified receptors. The design evolution through the DCO process as a result of consultation feedback is also set out within the DAS.

		Section 4.6 at an early stage when developing projects. 2.4.3 However, the Secretary of State should bear in mind that electricity networks infrastructure must in the first instance be safe and secure, and that the functional design constraints of safety and security may limit an applicant's ability to influence the aesthetic appearance of that infrastructure. 2.4.4 While the above principles should govern the design of an electricity networks infrastructure application to the fullest possible extent – including in its avoidance and/or mitigation of potential adverse impacts (particularly those detailed in Sections 2.9 below) – the functional performance of the infrastructure in respect of security of supply and public and occupational safety must not thereby be threatened.	No visual impacts arise from the grid connection or other cabling arising from the Proposed Scheme, as it is underground.
Part 2.10 15	Paragraph 2.10.2 stages: Undergrounding of a line would reduce the level of EMFs experienced, but high magnetic field levels may still occur immediately above the cable. It is not the Government's policy that power lines should be undergrounded solely for the purpose of reducing exposure to EMFs. Although there may be circumstances where the costs of undergrounding are justified for a particular development, this	Part 2.9 Application Assessment 2.9.46 All overhead power lines produce EMFs. These tend to be highest directly under a line, and decrease to the sides at increasing distance. Although putting cables underground eliminates the electric field, they still produce magnetic fields, which are highest directly above the cable. EMFs can have both direct and indirect effects on human health.	Low voltage distribution and grid connection cables will typically be buried as set in Chapter 5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and appendix 5.1 **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The depth and separation of the cables will be designed in accordance with the British Standard and National Grid Recommendation (E.g.- CDS-GFS-00- 001-R1 underground cable installation, XDS GFS 00 001 R4 Substation General Requirements etc.) boundaries to

	is unlikely to be on the basis of EMF exposure alone, for which there are likely to be more cost-efficient mitigation measures. Undergrounding is covered in more detail in paragraphs 2.8.8 – 2.8.9 (landscape and visual).	2.9.47The direct effects occur in terms of impacts on the central nervous system resulting in its normal functioning being affected. Indirect effects occur through electric charges building up on the surface of the body producing a micro shock on contact with a grounded object, or vice versa, which, depending on the field strength and other exposure factors, can range from barely perceptible to being an annoyance or even painful.	minimise the potential for magnetic field effects on relevant receptors.

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Table 4 National Planning Policy Framework Compliance Table

Policy	Policy Text	Assessment
Section 2: Achieving sustainable development Paragraph 8	Paragraph 8 states: Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives): a) an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure; b) a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.	The Proposed Development achieves the three objectives of sustainable development. The Proposed Development presents a significant and vital opportunity to develop a large-scale low-carbon generation increasing materially the UKs ability to meet future Carbon Budgets and Net Zero by 2050. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development is of a scale which makes a meaningful contribution to decarbonisation. This is further set out in the Applicant's responses to the ExA's First [REP2-037] and Second Written Questions [REP5-012]on Need and Carbon. The Outline CEMP [REP8-012] provides that post-consent it must be demonstrated that this net benefit will be achieved. Chapter 13 of the Environmental Statement (ES) **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** demonstrates the important contribution the Proposed Development will make to reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions. A 60-year time limit will not alter the conclusions regarding the potential effects on receptors as set out in Table 13.7 of the ES. As set out in the Applicants Statement on 60 Year Time Limit [REP7-038], the assessment, mitigation and enhancement measures as set out in the LVIA and Ecology assessments were based upon a permanent operational lifespan, therefore the commitment to a 60 year lifespan will not affect the proposed habitats in such a way (given that they assumed that the mitigation would be in place for even longer than 60 years) that would alter these assessments and therefore the conclusions remain unchanged. Further commentary is provided within ExA's Q5a in 9.49 Applicants Response to ExA's Rule 17 Request for further information **[REP8-021].**

		Chapter 14 of the ES confirms that the Proposed Development will support the rural economy by supporting an estimated 150 FTE gross temporary jobs during the 24- month construction period. An outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** ~~is to be~~has been prepared to support and enable local residents and businesses to access the employment and supply chain opportunities that will be presented. A series of measures are included to minimise and offset the GHG footprint of the Proposed Development, which are detailed in Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, and Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8].** **T**hese documents also include an obligation to prepare a Pollution Prevention Plan, secured by a Requirement of the DCO. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** sets out how good design has been embedded in the Proposed Development vision and objectives, how these have influenced the overall siting and aesthetics of the Proposed Development, how this has been considered and how good design will be taken forward at detailed design stage. The Design and Access Statement details the design process which has enabled the layout of the proposed development to maximise opportunities to enhance and conserve biodiversity and geological conservation interests. A key element of the strategy has been the identification and retention of beneficial biodiversity features into the layout of the proposed development. Chapter 7 describes the mitigation measures embedded into the layout as identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9],** and in the oCEMP oDEMP, all of which are secured in under the DCO. ~~The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be just over~~

		~~72% Net Gain with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1.~~ The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be a minimum of 65% Net Gain, with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. Delivery of BNG is secured via Requirement 7 of the DCO. The Waste Hierarchy principles are embedded into the outline environmental management plans that form part of the DCO. These include a requirements for preparation of a Construction Resource Management Plan (CRMP) as required in the oCEMP, and the preparation of a Decommissioning Resource Management Plan (DRMP) as required in the oDEMP.
Section 6: Building a strong, competitive economy Paragraphs 81 and 84	Paragraph 81 states that planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The approach taken should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future. This is particularly important where Britain can be a global leader in driving innovation, and in areas with high levels of productivity, which should be able to capitalise on their performance and potential. Paragraph 84 states that in supporting a prosperous rural economy planning decisions should enable the development and diversification of agricultural and other land-based rural businesses.	Chapter 14 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes an assessment of socio-economic impacts of the Proposed development at local and regional levels. With respect to paragraph 81, the socio-economic assessment indicates that the majority of socio-economic impacts experienced during the construction and decommissioning phases relate to the creation of employment opportunities and increased spend on local services. The socio-economic assessment estimates that an average of 150 FTE gross temporary jobs will be created over the 24 month construction period. An outline Skills, Supply Chain and Employment Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** ~~is to be~~has been prepared to support and enable local residents and businesses to access the employment and supply chain opportunities that will be presented. With respect to paragraph 84, the application allows the diversification of existing agricultural businesses. Chapter 12 of the ES confirms that the land occupied by the Solar PV site only involves part of their respective wider agricultural land holding, allowing farming activities to continue on land outside of the Solar PV Site. The potential for grazing amongst the solar arrays within the Solar PV Site is included within in the outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref**

		EN010127/APP/7.9]. The Applicant has responded substantively on this during Examination, notably at Q7.0.3 in the Applicant's Response to SWQs [REP5-012]. The key here is that this is about the economic use of agricultural land as a use of the soil in the context of its place in the countryside. By definition, agricultural land and its economic use of it, takes place in the countryside. As such, paragraphs 84 and 174 direct decision makers to consider the economic benefits that arise from using that agricultural land when considering impacts on the countryside. This policy commitment needs to be balanced against the NPS acknowledgement that utility scale solar may need to be located on agricultural land, i.e. a competing economic use within the countryside, alongside draft NPS EN3's acknowledgement that land type should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of a site for solar. The Proposed Development has minimised Solar PV Panels on the BMV agricultural land. Furthermore, it has aimed to retain BMV fields for agricultural use with enhanced sustainable management and technical agricultural practices that will ensure mitigation, productivity, and yield can be maintained. This approach ensures that the land is maintaining its agricultural character, economic potential and ecological value. Agricultural use in the countryside can, therefore, continue. In this context, it is for the decision maker to decide if the impacts arising from the change in type of economic use of BMV in the countryside, from agricultural use of the remaining BMV soil areas that are within the Solar PV Site, to solar, is acceptable in the planning balance, given the national policy support for large scale solar. It should also be noted that this policy commitment is high level and relates to all planning policies and decisions covered by the NPPF (e.g. those under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)).

Section 8: Promoting healthy and safe communities Paragraphs 92, 93, 97, 98 and 100	Paragraph 92 states that planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which: a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages; b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and c) enable and support healthy lifestyles, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs – for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling. Paragraph 97 states that planning policies and decisions should promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence requirements by: a) anticipating and addressing possible malicious threats and natural hazards, especially in locations where large numbers of people are expected to congregate. Policies for relevant areas (such as town centre and regeneration frameworks), and the layout and design of developments, should be informed by the most up-to-date information available from the police and other	With respect to part (a) the Proposed Development has been designed in a way not support the objectives of this part of the policy. The Proposed Development retains all PRoW and introduces new permissive paths as described in the outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** which will help to enhance recreational opportunities and potentially connect communities. With respect to paragraph 92, part (b) and paragraph 97 the Proposed development has been designed to ensure that solar infrastructure is secured via proportionate measures to reduce the opportunity for crime whilst respecting the character of the location of the Order limits. The Solar PV areas have been set back from PRoWs in proximity to the order limits have been designed to ensure these routes remain reasonable open so as not to cause opportunities for intimidation. With respect to paragraph 92 part (c) the impacts upon health are assessed in the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** Any interactions with human health arising from the Proposed Development are considered in relevant environmental topic Chapters such as air quality, noise, socio-economics and climate change. Accounting for mitigation measures identified in the ES, the Proposed Development has been designed and would be maintained to operate safely and there are considered to be no unacceptable impacts of risk to human health. The Applicant's Response to Interested Parties Deadline 2 submissions on Public Rights of Way/Permissive Paths [REP3-022] sets the Proposed Development's impacts to the experience of paths in the area in context (noting that none are directly affected by the scheme layout), noting that any visual impacts are a small part of a wider journey. With respect to paragraphs 92(c), 98 and 100, the Proposed Development maintains and enhances Green Infrastructure connections across the Order Limits as illustrated in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included within the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].** This will be secured by Requirement in the DCO. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** outlines that as well as retaining all existing

	agencies about the nature of potential threats and their implications. This includes appropriate and proportionate steps that can be taken to reduce vulnerability, increase resilience and ensure public safety and security; and b) recognising and supporting development required for operational defence and security purposes, and ensuring that operational sites are not affected adversely by the impact of other development proposed in the area. Paragraph 98 states that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well- being of communities, and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate. Paragraph 100 states that planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.	Public Rights of Way (PRoW) across the Site, ~~8.1km~~7.9km of new permissive routes have been incorporated into the Proposed Development as illustrated on the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan.
Section 9: Promoting sustainable transport Paragraphs 104, 110, 111 and 113	Paragraph 104 states that transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, so that: a) the potential impacts of development on transport networks can be addressed; b) opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology	In relation to paragraph 104, Chapter 9 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on traffic and transport. A Transport Assessment is included in Appendix 9.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** Chapter 9 of the ES outlines the transport related mitigation measures that have been integrated into the design of the Proposed Development. Section 7.12 of the Planning Statement confirms that the potential for adverse effects would be local,

	and usage, are realised – for example in relation to the scale, location or density of development that can be accommodated; c) opportunities to promote walking, cycling and public transport use are identified and pursued; d) the environmental impacts of traffic and transport infrastructure can be identified, assessed and taken into account – including appropriate opportunities for avoiding and mitigating any adverse effects, and for net environmental gains; and e) patterns of movement, streets, parking and other transport considerations are integral to the design of schemes, and contribute to making high quality places. Paragraph 110 requires that safe and suitable access to a site can be achieved for all users and states that it should be ensured that any significant impacts from the development on the transport network (in terms of capacity and congestion), or on highway safety, can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree. Paragraph 111 directs that development should only be prevented or refused on highway grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe. Paragraph 113 states that all developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a transport statement or transport assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed.	temporary and medium term and not significant. Therefore, it is not considered that there would be any adverse impacts upon the transport network. The options for promoting walking, cycling and public transport are limited due to the rural location of the Order limits. However, the outline Construction traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]**, which includes an outline Travel Plan includes measures to promote sustainable travel. The environmental effects related to traffic and transport arising from the proposed development reconsidered in Chapter 13 of the ES. A series of measures are included to minimise and offset the GHG footprint of the Proposed Development, which are detailed in Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6],** and Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8].** With respect to paragraph 110, the location of the proposed vehicle access points to the Solar PV Site has been identified through a review of the Local Road Network (LRN) to identify suitable locations in highway safety terms, including ensuring the nature of the major arm being sufficient to accommodate HGVs and the provision of appropriate visibility splays. The use of existing access points onto the LRN has been prioritised to minimise the environmental impacts associated with the creation of new points of vehicular access, such as the removal of hedgerows. Where there is not a reasonable access location within vicinity of the relevant area of the Solar PV Site, a new vehicle access has been provided that complies with all relevant highway safety requirements. With respect to paragraph 111, Chapter 9 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** concludes that no unacceptable impacts are caused to highway safety and no residual cumulative impacts arise.

		With respect to paragraph 113, Appendix G of the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]** includes an outline Transport Plan (oTP) which outlines measures proposed to mitigate the transport impacts as well as improve existing infrastructure and promote sustainable transport which is secured through DCO Requirement. The oCTMP [REP5-067] includes a number of highways improvements to facilitate safe access to site, and ensures that HGVs will not travel past local primary schools at their opening and closing times.
Section 11: Making effective use of land Paragraph 120(a)	Paragraph 120(a) states that planning policies and decisions should 'encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through […] taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation […].'	The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** demonstrates the importance of utilising existing grid capacity to deliver renewable energy generating development. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** details the design process which enabled the layout of the proposed development to maximise opportunities to enhance and conserve biodiversity and geological conservation interests. The resultant embedded mitigation is described in section 7.3 of Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].** ~~The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be just over 72% Net Gain with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1.~~The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be a minimum of 65% Net Gain, with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. Delivery of BNG is secured via Requirement 7 of the DCO.
Section 12: Achieving well- designed places	Paragraph 126 acknowledges that good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to	With respect to paragraph 126 and 130, the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** sets out how good design has been embedded in the Proposed Development vision and objectives, how

Paragraphs 126, 130, 132 and 134	live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities. Paragraph 130 outlines that planning decisions should ensure that developments function well and add to the overall quality of the area over the lifetime of the development. They should be visually attractive as a result of good layout and appropriate and effective landscaping. Furthermore, they should be sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change. Paragraph 132 states that design quality should be considered throughout the evolution and assessment of individual proposals. Early discussion between applicants, the local planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interests. Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot. Paragraph 134 states that development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes. Conversely, significant weight should be given to: a) development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes; and/or	these have influenced the overall siting and aesthetics of the Proposed Development, how this has been considered and how good design will be taken forward at detailed design stage. Good design is embedded into the Proposed Development as set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP which includes a combination of setbacks and screening, and introduces a new network of permissive paths, to help mitigate the impacts of the Proposed Development. With respect to paragraph 132, the design evolution, iterations and changes to the site layout and development parameters in response to consultee feedback has been explained within the Design and Access Statement. In respect of paragraph 134, the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** outlines how the Proposed Development has taken into account the guidance in the National Policy Statement for Energy (EN- 1), the draft revisions EN-1, the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) and the emerging new EN-3 in relation to good design. The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) 'Design Principles for National Infrastructure' of climate, people, place and value have been adopted to guide the design development of the Proposed Development. These NIC Design Principles have been 'localised' throughout the design development process and have now been developed into project specific Design Guidance to ensure the Proposed Development fits sensitively into the local context, mitigating environmental effects, respects local communities and provides enhancements where possible whilst delivering low carbon energy. In response to paragraph 134 a), local design policy has been considered in the design development of the Proposed Development and is set out in tables 6- 10 at Appendix 3 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2)** In response to paragraph 134 b), the landscape-led design approach for the Proposed Development ensures that the layout responds to and fits with the existing landscape structure within the Order limits. This is

	b) outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability, or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings	demonstrated through the design ~~approcha~~approach described in~~:~~ the Design and Access Statement and shown within the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan contained within the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** which details how the Proposed Development will fit in with the overall form and layout of the surroundings.
Section 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change Paragraphs 152, 154 158, 159, 167 and 169	Paragraph 152 identifies that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It states that it should shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience, and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure. Paragraph 154 states that new development should be planned for in ways that: a) avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and b) can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government's policy for national technical standards. Paragraph 158 outlines that, 'When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should: a) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and	With respect to paragraph 152, as explained in the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** and summarised in Section 3 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2),** the Proposed Development has the potential to deliver significant amounts of low-carbon electricity and make a material contribution to help meet the UK's commitments to decrease carbon emissions and reach net zero by 2050. With respect to paragraph 154, the Proposed Development has been planned in a way to avoid increased vulnerability to impacts arising from climate change, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Chapter 13 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a carbon assessment that considers the effects of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions generated at all stages of the Proposed Development, being construction, operation, and decommissioning. The effect on the potential change in precipitation has been addressed within the Applicants Statement on 60 Year Time Limit which concluded that the Flood Risk Assessment [APP-086] and Chapter 11: Water Resources and Ground Conditions of the Environmental Statement [APP041] remain unchanged. Section 2.3 of the Outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy [APP-87] outlines that where infrastructure has a lifetime between 2061 and 2100 the Central Allowance for 2070's should be applied and therefore the 25 % 2070's Central Allowance was applied to drainage calculations in accordance with the EA Flood Risk and Coastal Change Guidance for peak rainfall. As such, they do not require altering following the confirmation of a 60-year time limit. Further commentary is provided within ExA's Q5a in 9.49 Applicants Response to ExA's Rule 17 Request for further information **[REP8-021].** A series of measures are included to minimise and offset the GHG footprint of the Proposed Development, which are detailed in Table 3-9

	b) approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.' Paragraph 159 states that inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere. Paragraph 167 states that when determining any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific flood-risk assessment. Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where, in the light of this assessment (and the sequential and exception tests, as applicable) it can be demonstrated that: a) within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk, unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location; b) the development is appropriately flood resistant and resilient such that, in the event of a flood, it could be quickly brought back into use without significant refurbishment; c) it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate;	Climate Change of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6],** and Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8].** In respect of paragraph 159, 167 and 169, The Proposed Development is mainly located in the Flood Zone 1 area to avoid risk of flooding. The Flood Risk Assessment included in Appendix 11.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes a sequential test which has assisted in identifying and avoiding land which is susceptible to flooding. Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** sets out how measures to avoid and minimise impacts have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development. Part of the Solar PV Site is located in Flood Zone 2 areas, infrastructure in these areas has been limited to solar PV arrays which will be raised above the 1 in100 year (plus climate change) flood event and will not increase the risk of flooding to the rest of the Order limits or downstream. Appendix In response to paragraph 169, an oSWDS is included in Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** and has been prepared in accordance with NPS EN-1, NPPF, and the advice raised from the consultation with LLFA. An outline Water Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6],** and outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy included Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** are submitted as part of the DCO Application. These documents have been prepared in accordance with NPS EN-1, NPPF, and the advice raised from the consultation with the LLFA. They describe water management measures to control surface water runoff and drain areas of hardstanding and other structures during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

	d) any residual risk can be safely managed; and e) safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate, as part of an agreed emergency plan. Paragraph 169 states that major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate. The systems used should: a) take account of advice from the lead local flood authority; b) have appropriate proposed minimum operational standards; c) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development; and d) where possible, provide multifunctional benefits.	
Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment Paragraphs 174, 175, 176, 180, 183 ,185 and 186	Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland; c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;	With respect to paragraph 174, the ExA asked a question on this in its Second Written Questions at 7.0.3 (see REP5-012]. As that answer concludes: "Any consideration of the Proposed Development's impact therefore needs to be seen in the context that the area in which it is located is not a valued landscape and therefore should not be considered a countryside area of intrinsic character and beauty". The Applicant also notes: Part a) ~~and b)~~ the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** at Chapter 6 includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), Chapter 7 considers sites of biodiversity or ecological value, and Chapter 12 considers land use and soils. Each assess the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The LVIA assesses the landscape character and visual amenity of the Order limits

	d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate. Paragraph 175 of the NPPF advises that plans should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, consistent with other policies in the Framework. The footnote (58) advises that where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality. Paragraph 176 states that great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.	and its surrounding context, its sensitivity to change, and the likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. The LVIA confirms that the Order Limits are not located within a statutory or non-statutory landscape designations such as a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or a local plan Special Landscape Area (SLA). Chapter 7 describes the mitigation measures embedded into the layout as identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9],** and within the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** of which are secured in under the DCO. Chapter 12 refers to the outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.12]** which contains measures to ensure soil qualities across the Order limits are preserved. Part b) As the Applicant has stated in REP-012, the key here is that this is about the economic use of agricultural land as a use of the soil in the context of its place in the countryside. By definition, agricultural land and the economic use of it, takes place in the countryside. As such paragraph 174 is directing decision makers to consider the economic benefits that arise from using that agricultural land when considering impacts to the countryside. It is further noted, as discussed in response to SWQ 7.0.2 [REP5-012], that the economic use of the farms within which the Proposed Development sits will be able to continue, using the best and most versatile (BMV) soil around the Proposed Development both in and around the Site. It should also be noted that this policy commitment is high level and relates to all planning policies and decisions covered by the NPPF (e.g. those under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)).Paragraph 174 calls decisionmakers to recognise the benefits that natural capital/ecosystem services provide, not just in terms of

	Paragraph 180 sets out the principles that local planning authorities should apply with regard to habitats and biodiversity when determining planning applications including refusing applications where significant harm to biodiversity cannot be mitigated/compensated for; protecting SSSIs; refusing developments that result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats unless there are wholly exceptional; and encouraging opportunities to incorporate biodiversity improvements especially where this can secure measurable gains for biodiversity. Paragraph 183 states that planning policies and decisions should ensure that: a) a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination. This includes risks arising from natural hazards or former activities such as mining, and any proposals for mitigation including land remediation (as well as potential impacts on the natural environment arising from that remediation); b) after remediation, as a minimum, land should not be capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and c) adequate site investigation information, prepared by a competent person, is available to inform these assessments. Paragraph 185 states that planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions	intrinsic character and beauty, but also wider benefits, including economic benefits of BMV land. The Applicant's view is that the temporary use of BMV land for solar is consistent with the policy direction in the NPPF, in that is protects the soil resource in the long term and provides significant environmental benefit which paragraph 174 is ultimately seeking to achieve (both economic and otherwise in terms of overall improvement to the earth's climate, which ultimately will boost natural capital and ecosystems). Part d) A Biodiversity Net Gain calculation **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.5]** is included in the DCO Application. The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be a minimum of 65% Net Gain, with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. Delivery of BNG is secured via Requirement 7 of the DCO. ~~The habitat creation and enhancement works being proposed for within the Order limits will provide a high net gain in biodiversity value for the area within it. This has been shown to be just over 72% with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1. Delivery of BNG is secured through the DCO~~. Part e) The assessment of potential impacts on water resources and ground conditions is included in Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. The Chapter presents the existing status of the water environment and the likely effects of the Proposed Development. The Chapter concludes that with appropriate embedded mitigation, as set out in the outline Water Construction Management Plan (oWCMP)and ~~which is included in~~ the outline Construction Environmental management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.13],** there are likely to be no significant adverse effects on water quality, water resources or physical characteristics of the water environment as a result of the Proposed Development. With respect to paragraph 175 and footnote 58, the Order limits contain land which is classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural

	and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should: a) mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life; b) identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason; and c) limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation Paragraph 186 states that Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement.	land. Chapter 12 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1],** Land Use, identifies the environmental effects of the Proposed Development upon BMV agricultural land, and section 7.4 of the Planning Statement considers the implication of this in land use policy terms. The Applicant further responded to ExA question 1.2.3 from the Second Written Questions [REP5-012] on this matter and clarified that ALC grade is one of a number of important factors but not the determinative factor in site selection. Regarding 176, Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The LVIA assesses the landscape character and visual amenity of the Order limits and its surrounding context, its sensitivity to change, and the likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. The LVIA confirms that the Order Limits are not located within a statutory or non-statutory landscape designations such as a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or a local plan Special Landscape Area (SLA). With respect to paragraph 180, the biodiversity and geological conservation impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** The Chapter sets out all relevant the designated sites (international, national and local) of ecological or geological conservation importance; protected species; and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits. Chapter 7 describes the mitigation measures embedded into the layout as identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9],** and within the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** of which are secured in under the DCO.

		With respect to paragraph 183, no potential contaminated land issues are identified within the Order limits. With respect to paragraph 185, part (a) and (b) Chapter 10 of the ES, Noise and Vibration, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a noise assessment of the Proposed Development, including of the impacts of construction, decommissioning and operational noise on human receptors in residential settings and from recreational routes (PRoW). As mitigation, the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** includes standard good practice measures such as use of Best Practicable Means to reduce disturbance associated with noise and vibration during construction as far as reasonably practicable, with reference to relevant guidance in BS 5228. During the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance [REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised, including providing for a post opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met.- Section 2.4 of the oCEMP sets working hour restrictions for the Proposed Development, with specific restrictions on activities likely to generate substantial levels of noise (including earthworks, trench construction and any piling), and HGV deliveries. To mitigate impact during the operational phase the overall design of the work areas included in the Proposed Development has been developed to generally maximise where possible the distance between areas where noise- generating plant may be located from noise-sensitive receptors. In addition, general design principles have been set out for the Proposed Development meaning that central inverters (if used) will be located at a minimum distance of 250m and 50m from residential properties and PRoWs respectively, with the separation distances increased beyond these minimum distances where reasonably practicable. Operational noise has been assessed and the layout of noise-generating equipment has been set back from sensitive receptors (including heritage assets) as embedded mitigation. The detailed design of the Proposed Development will be controlled through a requirement of the DCO in line with the

		Design Guidance contained within the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3].** With respect to paragraph 185, part (c), impacts of artificial light during each phase of the development are considered in Chapter 6 of the ES. During operation, no areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR) lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exits where there would be lighting, similar to street lighting that operates from dusk. Otherwise, lighting sensors for security purposes will be implemented around the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. The lighting design would seek to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors through directional cowls, as secured through the oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7].** In addition, the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** sets out measure for the control of light and noise during construction of the Proposed Development. 86, an Air Quality Assessment has been undertaken, the results of which are set out in section 15.2 of Chapter, 15 of the ES, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** It is concluded that the Proposed Development would not lead to a deterioration in air quality locally or lead to any air quality breaches elsewhere. An outline Construction Transport Management Plan (oCTMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11)** and an oCEMP prepared in support of the DCO Application set out measures to manage potential air quality effects during construction. The oCEMP includes measures to minimise dust emissions and establish non-road mobile machinery (NRMM) controls during the construction phase. The oCTMP includes a one-way system for HDVs accessing the Order limits to minimise the number of HDVs

		travelling on any one road link, as well as other measures to reduce construction traffic movements on the public highway network.
Section 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment. Paragraph 194, 200 and 205	Paragraph 194 states that in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation. Paragraph 200 states that any harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage asset (from its alteration or destruction, or from development within its setting), should require clear and convincing justification. Substantial harm to or loss of: a) grade II listed buildings, or grade II registered parks or gardens, should be exceptional; b) assets of the highest significance, notably scheduled monuments, protected wreck sites, registered battlefields, grade I and II* listed buildings, grade I and II* registered parks and gardens, and World Heritage Sites, should be wholly exceptional. The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non- designated heritage assets, a	With respect to paragraph 194, Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets. The heritage assessments are set out in Appendix 8.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The Chapter confirms that there are no designated or non- designated heritage assets comprising Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments or Registered Parks located within the Order limits. Only a limited number of historic assets have been identified which could potentially be affected by the Proposed Development. These are: • the Scheduled Monument of Essendine Castle and the Grade II* Listed Church of St.Mary located 50m to the west of the Order limits; • the Grade II Listed Banthorpe Lodge located 190m to the east of the Order limits; and • the non-designated heritage asset Braceborough Grange is located 10m to the north of the Order limits. The Chapter identifies that no significant effects upon these assets, or upon buried archaeological remains, the historic landscape or historic buildings will result from the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Given the 'no impact' conclusions of the heritage assessment upon designated assets, the Proposed Development will not result in less than substantial harm to any heritage asset or their setting within the study area. As such, no public benefits weighing exercise is required under

	balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset	paragraph 5.8.15 of NPS EN-1 or the draft revised NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.9 23, or paragraph 202 of the NPPF. Regarding the potential impacts upon buried archaeological remains, paragraph 5.9.26 of the draft revised NPS EN-1 and Paragraph 203 of the NPPF are engaged. The policies state that balanced judgements are required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss of significance to non- designated heritage assets. Section 8.4 of the ES confirms that both the scale of the impact, and significance of the potentially affected non-designated assets is 'limited'.

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Table 5 National Planning Practice Guidance accordance

National Planning Practice Guidance		
Policy	Policy Text	Assessment
Paragraph: 013 Reference ID: 5-013- 20150327 What are the particular planning considerations that relate to large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms?	The deployment of large-scale solar farms can have a negative impact on the rural environment, particularly in undulating landscapes. However, the visual impact of a well-planned and well-screened solar farm can be properly addressed within the landscape if planned sensitively. Particular factors a local planning authority will need to consider include: • encouraging the effective use of land by focusing large scale solar farms on previously developed and non agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value;	The Site Selection Report (Appendix 1 to the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]**) explains the process for identifying the location of the Order limits. Section 3.1 of the Site Selection Report state the outcomes of a consideration of alternative sites comprising previously developed land (PDL) and concludes that there are no available and suitable PDL sites within reasonable proximity of the National Grid's 400kv Ryhall Substation. The countryside location for the Proposed Development is considered justified as essential infrastructure with a primary function to import energy from renewable sources providing wider sustainability benefits to the community through the delivery of a considerable amount of renewable energy generation capacity that is urgently needed to help meet national energy and climate change objectives and commitments, as detailed by the Statement of Need [**Ref EN010127/APP/7.1**].
	• where a proposal involves greenfield land, whether (i) the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and poorer quality land has been used in preference to higher quality land; and (ii) the proposal allows for continued agricultural use where applicable and/or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays. See also a speech by the Minister for Energy	Section 3.1 of the Site Selection Report (Appendix 1 to the Planning Statement [**Ref EN010127/APP/7.2])** clarifies how agricultural land quality has been considered and explains the process in locating the Order limits in proximity to the available capacity at the Ryhall 400KV Substation. Predictive and provisional Agricultural Land Classification / Best and Most Versatile (BMV) mapping show that there are no locations that were obviously more favourable for the Proposed Development in terms of agricultural land quality in proximity to the Ryhall Substation. Measures have been taken to minimise and reduce the areas of higher grade (grades 3a and above) land utilised for solar development. There is no grade

		and Climate Change, the Rt Hon Gregory Barker MP, to the solar PV industry on 25 April 2013 and written ministerial statement on solar energy: protecting the local and global environment made on 25 March 2015.	1 agricultural land within the Order limits. Fields that were identified as consisting entirely of grade 2 land, i.e. single agricultural units, have been removed from solar development. These are retained within the Order limits as Mitigation and Enhancement Areas and where these areas form all or part of an existing agricultural land use, they will be retained as that use. With regards to grade 3a land, Solar PV arrays and other infrastructure have been removed from agricultural fields where this also aligns with other environmental or sustainability objectives or mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Statement (ES) **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. For instance, grade 3a land has been removed where the land also forms an important settling setting to settlements, and /or heritage assets, corresponds, with areas of grade 2 or 3 flood zones, and/or are is in proximity to individual residential units where offsets are considered appropriate mitigation. The agricultural land amongst the Solar PV arrays will not be lost to agricultural production. The outline Landscape Environmental management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** identifies land management procedures which include livestock grazing amongst the solar arrays during the operational phase of the proposed Development. An outline Soils Management Plan (including outline Excavated Materials Management Plan) (oSMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.13]** has been prepared and will be secured via a Requirement of the DCO. This document sets out soil handling procedures to ensure that the BMV soil resource is protected and preserved during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development (as secured via the DCO, OOEMP and ODEMP). Following the operational phase of the Proposed Development, the Solar PV Site would be removed in accordance with the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) and the land returned to agricultural use. The DEMP will be subject to the approval of the local planning authorities and will be required to be in accordance with the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** which has been prepared to support the DCO Application. As such, the agricultural land asset will be protected through all

		phases of the Proposed Development to ensure the agricultural land asset of the district is not adversely impacted. During the Examination the Applicant responded to question 1.2.3 (of the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions) in relation paragraph 3.10.14 of the draft NPS EN-3 on matters relating to the predominance of ALC as a factor during site selection. The Applicant's position is that 'land type' refers to both agricultural land and brownfield land. This interpretation is consistent with the approach applied by the ExA and Secretary of State at Longfield (see paragraph 5.7.5 of ExA report and 4.58 of SoS's decision letter). Therefore, the Applicant considers that while ALC is clearly an important consideration during site selection it is not the predominating factor and that the site selection approach taken by the Applicant correctly attributes weight to the varying factors.
	• that solar farms are normally temporary structures and planning conditions can be used to ensure that the installations are removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to its previous use;	~~No operational time limit~~60 years is proposed for the operational time limit of the Proposed Development. ~~However, if~~ O~~o~~nce the operational life of the Proposed Development has completed, the Solar PV Site would be removed in accordance with the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP), which will include a programme for that decommissioning to take place. The DEMP will be required to be in accordance with the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** which has been prepared to support the DCO Application. The DEMP will be subject to the approval of the local planning authorities. It is likely that decommissioning would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the PV Arrays. Any landscape structural planting, such as tree planting, hedgerows, scrub etc created to deliver biodiversity mitigation and enhancement associated with the Proposed Development that have potential to contain protected species would be left in-situ when the Site is handed back to landowners (or where the landowners do not want it or compulsory acquisition powers were required to be used, retained by the undertaker and on any sale of the land

		to a third party), who would then have the ability to do as they wish (within the restrictions of the planning system) with their land.~~.~~
	• the proposal's visual impact, the effect on landscape of glint and glare (see guidance on landscape assessment) and on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety;	A glint and glare study has been undertaken and a summary of key findings is provided in Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. Chapter 15 concludes that there is no significant impact upon surrounding aviation activity, road users or railway operations. With the implementation of proposed mitigation in the form of screening planting, impacts on residential dwellings would be not significant. A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken (contained in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** to consider the significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of visual amenity ~~living conditions~~, and outlines how residential visual amenity mitigation has been embedded within the Proposed Development. This mitigation also accounts for potential impacts arising from glint and glare, as set out in the glint and glare assessment included Appendix 15.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**. This is supplemented by the consideration of impacts to specific properties raised by the ExA at Wood Farm Cottages and North Lodge Farm Bungalow in the Applicant's Summary of Case at ISH4 [REF REP7]-
	• the extent to which there may be additional impacts if solar arrays follow the daily movement of the sun;	As explained in chapter 5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**, there are two options for the Mounting Structures: • Fixed South Facing (FSF) Arrays; and • Single Axis Tracker (SAT) Arrays The Glint and Glare Study (Appendix 15.2 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes an assessment of potential glint effects for both FSF and SAT Arrays. The Glint and Glare Study concludes that no significant impacts upon surrounding aviation activity, road users or railway operations are predicted for either fixed or tracker panel layouts.
	• the need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing;	Chapter 5 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** outlines the components of the operational development and confirms that the DCO allows for works

		including, 'fencing, gates and boundary treatment', as well as 'security and monitoring measures such as CCTV columns, lighting columns and lighting, cameras, and lighting protection masts' to take place within each and all of the Work Areas. It is confirmed that this has been taken into account in the assessments undertaken in the ES. Section 5.11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** provides more detail on the fencing, security and ancillary infrastructure. Controls on the fencing are set out in the Parameters [REP7-013], the Design Guidance [REP5-058] and through LPA approval pursuant to DCO requirement of the fencing details. Impacts of artificial light during each phase of the development are considered in Chapter 6 of the ES. During operation, no areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR) lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exits where there would be lighting, similar to street lighting that operates from dusk. Otherwise, lighting sensors for security purposes will be implemented around the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. The lighting design would seek to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors through directional cowls, as secured through the outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]**.
	• great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting. As the significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence, but also from its setting, careful consideration should be given to the impact of large scale solar farms on such assets. Depending on their scale, design and prominence, a	Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscape including designated and non- designated heritage assets. The sources of information, including relevant historic records, used to inform the heritage assessment are set out in Appendix 8.2 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**. The chapter confirms that there are no designated or non- designated heritage assets comprising Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments or Registered Parks located within the Order limits. Only a

		large scale solar farm within the setting of a heritage asset may cause substantial harm to the significance of the asset;	limited number of historic assets have been identified which could potentially be affected by the Proposed Development. These are: • the Scheduled Monument of Essendine Castle and the Grade II* Listed Church of St. Mary located 50m to the west of the Order limits; • the Grade II Listed Banthorpe Lodge located 190m to the east of the Order limits; and • the non-designated heritage asset Braceborough Grange is located 10m to the north of the Order limits. The chapter identifies that no significant effects upon these assets, or upon buried archaeological remains, the historic landscape or historic buildings will result from the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Given the 'no impact' conclusions of the heritage assessment upon designated assets, the Proposed Development will not result in less than substantial harm to any heritage asset or their setting within the study area. As such, no public benefits weighing exercise is required under paragraph 5.8.15 of NPS EN-1 or the draft revised NPS EN-1 paragraph 5.9 23, or paragraph 202 of the NPPF. Regarding the potential impacts upon buried archaeological remains, paragraph 5.9.26 of the draft revised NPS EN-1 and Paragraph 203 of the NPPF are engaged. The policies state that balanced judgements are required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss of significance to non-designated heritage assets. Section 8.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** confirms that both the scale of the impact, and significance of the potentially affected non-designated assets is 'limited'. In balancing the limited degree of potential harm, the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** sets out the significant contribution made by the Proposed Development in relation to urgent need to deliver low carbon renewable energy to meet the aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity

		supplies by 2050; providing security of supply as well as affordability for end consumers. This would deliver a considerable public benefit, alongside the Biodiversity Net Gain and permissive path network delivered by the Proposed Development.
	• the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges;	A fundamental structuring element of the design has been to retain as far as possible the existing landscape features within the Order limits. The DCO Application is accompanied by an Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** which includes a proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. These documents set out the proposed landscape mitigation and enhancement measures that would be delivered through the Proposed Development, which includes hedgerows where appropriate
	• the energy generating potential, which can vary for a number of reasons including, latitude and aspect.	The Proposed Development presents a significant and vital opportunity to develop large-scale low-carbon generation increasing materially the UKs ability to meet future Carbon Budgets and Net Zero by 2050. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development is of a scale which makes a meaningful contribution to decarbonisation. This is further set out in the Applicant's responses to the ExA's First [REP2-037] and Second Written Questions [REP5-012] on Need and Carbon. The Outline CEMP [REP8-010]provides that post-consent it must be demonstrated that this net benefit will be achieved. The Proposed Development makes use of existing available capacity on the National Electricity Transmission, which means that the power it generates will be easily transmitted to wherever it is needed, without bearing additional costs to develop connection infrastructure thereby ensuring that the Proposed Development delivers as much low-carbon power as possible in the most affordable way. The Site Selection Report (Appendix 1 to the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** outlines how solar irradiation levels have influenced the site selection to ensure the proposed Development produces an energy yield that is both useful and economic.
	The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large scale solar	Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and

	farms is likely to be the same as assessing the impact of wind turbines. However, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography the area of a zone of visual influence could be zero.	decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. Chapter 6 of the ES includes an assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects where the approach to the assessment is explained. Chapter 6 of the ES includes Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) to inform the LVIA. In addition, Chapter 16 of the ES considers cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development across all topic assessments in the ES and concludes that no cumulative significant effects will arise

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Table 6 South Kesteven Local Plan Policy – Table of Compliance

South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011- 2036		
Policy	Policy Text	Assessment
SD1: The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven	Development proposals in South Kesteven will be expected to minimise the impact on climate change and contribute towards creating a strong, stable andmore diverse economy. Development proposals shall consider how theycan proactively minimise: a) the effects of climate change and include measures to take account of future changes in the climate; b) the need to travel, and wherever possiblebe located where services and facilities can be accessed more easily through walking, cycling or public transport; c) the use of resources, and meet high environmental standards in terms of designand construction with particular regard to energy and water efficiency; and d) the production of waste both during construction and occupation Development proposals shall consider how they can proactively avoid: e) developing land at risk of flooding or where	In response to part a), the Proposed Development presents a significant and vital opportunity to develop large-scale low-carbongeneration increasing materially the UKs ability to meet future Carbon Budgets and Net Zero by 2050. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development is of a scale which makes a meaningful contribution to decarbonisation. This is further set out in the Applicant's responses to the ExA's First [REP2-037] and Second Written Questions {REP5-102]on Need and Carbon. The Outline CEMP [REP8-101] provides that post-consent it must be demonstrated that this net benefit will be achieved. The Proposed Development makes use of existing available capacity on the National Electricity Transmission, which means thatthe power it generates will be easily transmitted to wherever it is needed, without bearing additional costs to develop connection infrastructure thereby ensuring that the Proposed Development delivers as much low-carbon power as possible in the most affordable way. Chapter 13 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** addresses the impacts of the Proposed Development on Greenhouse Gas (GHG)emissions and climate change and identifies the measures to reduce embedded carbon at every phase (construction, operation and decommissioning) of the Proposed Development. A 60-year time limit will not alter the conclusions regarding the potential effects on receptors as set out in Table 13.7 of the ES. As set out in the Applicants Statement on 60 Year Time Limit [REP7-038], the assessment, mitigation and enhancement measures as set out in the LVIA and Ecology assessments were based upon a permanent operational lifespan, therefore the commitment to a 60 year lifespan will not affect the proposed habitats in such a way (given that they assumed that

	development would exacerbate the risk of flooding elsewhere. f) the pollution of air, land, water, noise and light Development proposals shall consider how they can proactively encourage, as appropriate: g) the use of previously developed land, conversions or the redevelopment of vacant or unutilised land or buildings within settlements; and h) the use of sustainable construction materials Development proposals shall consider how they can proactively support: i) strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing a supply of housing which meets the needs of present and future generations Development proposals shall consider how they can proactively enhance the district's: j) character; k) natural environment, l) cultural and heritage assets; services and infrastructure, as needed to support development and growth proposals.	the mitigation would be in place for even longer than 60 years) that would alter these assessments and therefore the conclusions remain unchanged. Further commentary is provided within ExA's Q5a in 9.49 Applicants Response to ExA's Rule 17 Request for further information **[REP8-021].** These measures are detailed in Table 3-9 Climate Change of the oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6],** Table 3-9 Climate Change of the oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** and oDEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8).** These documents also include a commitmentto produce a detailed GHG Reduction Strategy, to be approved by the Local Authorities prior to commencement of the Proposed Development. In response to part b), the Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** explains the process for identifying the location of the Order limits and the importance of locating the Proposed Development in proximity to the Ryhall 400kv substation. The transport impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in Chapter 9 of the Environmental Statement (ES) **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** Given the rural location, it is acknowledged that there are limitations on staff travelling to theOrder limits by walking, and public transport. However, Appendix Gof the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]** includes an outline Transport Plan (oTP) which outlines measures proposed to mitigate the transport impacts as well as improve existing infrastructure and promote sustainable transport which is secured through DCO Requirements. This includes provision of a shuttle service from the main construction compound to works areas across the Order limits, and provision of cycle parking at the main and secondary construction compounds across the Order limits. The oCTMP [REP5-067] includes a number of highways improvements to facilitate safe access to site, and ensures that HGVs will not travel past local primary schools at their opening and closing times. The measures set out in the oCTMP and oTP demonstrate compliance with policy SD1 of the South Kesteven District Council Local Plan. In response to parts c) and d), the Applicant has considered the production of waste both during construction and occupation and has set out waste strategy that seeks to

		proactively reduce waste streams in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** which includes an obligation to prepare a Construction Resource Management Plan(CRMP), and outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** which include a similar obligation. In response to part e), the Proposed Development is mainly locatedin the Flood Zone 1 area to avoid risk of flooding. The Flood Risk Assessment included in Appendix 11.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes a sequential test which has assisted in identifying and avoiding land which is susceptible to flooding. ESChapter 11 sets out how measures to avoid and minimise impacts have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development. Part of the Solar PV Site is located in Flood Zone 2 areas, infrastructure in these areas has been limited to solar PV arrays which will be raised above the 1 in100 year (plus climate change) flood event and will not increase the risk of flooding to the rest of the Order limits or downstream. An outline Water Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, and outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy included Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** are submitted as part of the DCO Application and describes water management measures to control surface water runoff and drain areas of hardstanding and other structures during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. In response to part f), the potential pollution of air, noise, water andlight generated by the Proposed Development has been assessed and in Chapters 10, 11 and 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].**These Chapters conclude that mitigation embedded into the designof the Proposed Development, and implementation of measures identified in oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, oDEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** and outline Operational Environmental Management Plan (oOEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** will ensure that potential effects are minimised to acceptable levels. In response to part g), the Applicant has been through a thorough site selection process which is set out in Chapter 4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** and prepared a Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement. It details how the site was

		selected and why the location is deemed acceptable for solar farm development. With respect to part h), the oCEMP at Table 30-9 sets out measures for the designing, constructing and implementing the Proposed Development to be implemented in ~~in~~ such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materials with lower embodied carbon such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible. The oCEMP includes an obligation for the preparation of a Construction Resource Management Plan (CRMP) which is also aimed at reducing waste and maximising opportunities for use of sustainable construction materials. Part i) is not applicable to the Proposed Development. In response to parts j – m), the Proposed Development is also accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) which addressed impacts upon landscape character at Chapter 6, ecological and biodiversity impacts at Chapter 7, cultural heritage in Chapter 8 and highways and access and impacts upon existing unfractured require to deliver the proposed development at Chapter 9.
SP1: Spatial Strategy	The Local Plan will deliver sustainable growth across the District and throughout the Plan Period(2011 – 2036). To achieve new growth the Local Plan includes allocations for both housing and employment land. All allocations proposed in the plan are the most suitable and sustainable development options and provide for a variety of site types and sizes to ensure choice is offered to the market and deliveryis achievable. The Objectively Assessed Need for South Kesteven is	The Order limits do not conflict with any allocations within the LocalPlan and would not restrict the achievement of the objectives of policy SP1. An Agricultural Land Classification assessment has been undertaken as part of the ES (see details in Chapter 12 of the ES, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. It shows that the Order limits contain land which is classified as Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land. Chapter 12 of the ES identifies the environmentaleffects of the Proposed Development upon BMV agricultural land, and section 7.4 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** considers the implication of this in land use policy terms. The Site Selection Report (Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement) also outlines the process of locating the Order limits in proximity to the agreed capacity at the Ryhall 400KV

	16,125 new dwellings. To ensure the Objectively Assessed Need is met in full, the minimum Local Plan requirement for South Kesteven is 16,125 dwellings across the period 2011 to 2036, this applies an uplift from 625 to 650dwellings per annum from 2016 to take into account market signals. The overall strategy of the Plan is to deliver sustainable growth, including new housing and job creation, in order to facilitate growth in the local economy and support local residents. The focus forthe majority of growth is in and around the four market towns, with Grantham being a particular focal point. Larger Villages will provide a supporting role in meeting the development needs of the District. Development should create strong, sustainable, cohesive and inclusive communities, making the most effective use of appropriate previously developed land (where possible) and enabling a larger number of people to access jobs,services and facilities locally. Development should provide the scale and mix of housing types that willmeet the identified need for South Kesteven (as informed by the Peterborough Sub Regional Housing Market Assessments) and a range of newjob opportunities in order to secure balanced communities (as informed by the Employment LandStudy). Decisions on investment in services and facilities, and on the location and scale of new development,will be taken on the basis of the Settlement Hierarchy as set out in Policy SP2.	Substation. Predictive andprovisional ALC / BMV mapping shows that there are no locations that were obviously more favourable for the Proposed Development in terms of agricultural land quality where the agreed capacity could be utilised. During the Examination the Applicant responded to question 1.2.3 (of the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions) in relation paragraph 3.10.14 of the draft NPS EN-3 on matters relating to the predominance of ALC as a factor during site selection. The key point which is relevant to policy SP1 is that the Applicant made it clear that while ALC grade is an important factor in site selection, it is one of many important factors and should not be the determining one. The measures taken to minimise and reduce the areas of grade 2and grade 3a land utilised for solar development are described in section 7.4 of the Planning Statement. The land retained within theSolar PV Site would not be lost to agricultural use. The outline Landscape Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** describes the management of grasslands beneath and amongst the solar PV site, which includes for agricultural grazing during the Operational phase of the Proposed Development. Following the Operational phase of the Proposed Development, theSolar PV Site would be removed in accordance with a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP), allowing the land within the Order limits to return to unrestricted agricultural use. The DEMP will be required to be in accordance with the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]** which has been prepared to support the DCO Application. The DEMP will be subject to the approval of the local planning authorities. It is likely that decommissioning would include the removal of any permissive paths and potential reversion of grassland underneath the PV Arrays. Any landscape structural planting, such as tree planting, hedgerows, scrub etc created to deliver biodiversity mitigation and enhancement associated with the Proposed Development that have potential to contain protected species would be left in-situ.

	Proposals should protect the best and mostversatile agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy. Development affecting the best and most versatile agricultural land will only be permitted if: • There is insufficient lower grade land available at that settlement (unless development of such lower grade land would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations); and Where feasible, once any development which is permitted has ceased its useful life the land will be restored to its former use, and will be of at least equal quality to that which existed prior to the development taken place (this requirement will be secured by planning condition where appropriate).	
SP4: Development on the Edge of Settlements	Proposals for development on the edge of a settlement, as defined in Policy SP2, which are in accordance all other relevant Local Plan policies, will be supported provided that the essential criteriaa – f below are met. The proposal must: a) demonstrate clear evidence of substantial support from the local community* through an appropriate, thorough and proportionate pre-application community consultation exercise. Where this cannot be determined, support (or otherwise) should be sought from the Town or Parish Council or Neighbourhood Plan Group or Forum, based	The Applicant has adopted a two-stage approach to pre-applicationconsultation and carried out non-statutory consultation and statutory consultation. The Consultation Report has been prepared**[Ref EN010127/APP/5.1].** The issues that have been raised through consultation and how these have been considered and addressed within the design evolution of the Proposed Development are set out in the ES **[RefEN010127/APP/6.1]** and the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3].** The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** demonstrates the important benefits of developing renewable energy generatinginfrastructure in locations where grid capacity exists. Section 3 ofthe Planning Statement outlines that maximising the generating capacity of schemes improves their economic efficiency, bringing power to market at the lowest cost possible. Figure 10-5 in section 10 of the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** confirms that larger solar schemes deliver more quickly and at a lower unit cost than multiple independent schemes which make up the same total capacity, bringing forward

	upon material planning considerations: b) be well designed and appropriate in size / scale, layout and character to the setting and area; c) be adjacent to the existing pattern of development for the area, or adjacent to developed site allocations as identified inthe development plan; d) not extend obtrusively into the open countryside and be appropriate to the landscape, environmental and heritage characteristics of the area; e) in the case of housing development, meet a proven local need for housing and seeksto address a specific targeted need for local market housing; and f) enable the delivery of essential infrastructure to support growth proposals. As an exception to criterion a) above, a housing scheme which meets a demonstrable local need foraffordable housing will be considered acceptable as a Rural Exception scheme (regardless of whether criterion a) above has been satisfied), provided that it is supported by clear up-to-dateevidence that the proposal: g) is justified by evidence of local need and affordability, from an appropriate local housing needs survey; and h) meets the affordable housing needs of	carbon reduction and economic benefits in line with government policy. The scale of the Proposed Development responds to this opportunity, and has been designed to respond sensitively to local context as described in the Design and Access Statement. The Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** explains the process for identifying the location of the Order limits and the importance of locating the Proposed Development in proximity to the Ryhall 400kv substation. To ensure good design has been embedded into the design evolution of Proposed Development, a set of Project Principles were identified early in the project using the structure of headings from the NIC design guide advice (Climate, People, Places and Value). These Project Principles have been 'localised' and developed into project specific Design Guidance for the post-consent stage to ensure the Proposed Development fits sensitively into the local context, mitigating environmental effects, respects local communities and provides enhancements where possible whilst delivering low carbon energy. As set out within the Design and Access Statement the offset of the Proposed Development from settlements is a key design consideration. ~~The design of the Proposed Development, and how the project specific Design Guidance will be applied to the DCO Application are set out in the Design and Access Statement.~~ Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes an LVIA which identifies measures to minimise the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development, and to minimise the impacts of intrusion into the countryside. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** sets out the embedded mitigation which will be delivered as part of the Proposed Development. During the Examination the Applicant provided further justification and explanation around the scale and siting of the Proposed Development. The Applicant recognises that this is a large scheme but one which is required in order to deliver UK government targets on renewable energy generation. It is also recognised that there will be a change in the landscape but one which has been minimised to a significant degree through the inclusion

	households who are currently resident, or have a local connection to the parish as defined in the Council's published housing allocations policy; and i) the occupation of the dwellings will be secured in perpetuity to meet local need; and j) that no other more suitable site(s) is available within the settlement. On Rural Exception sites the Council may consider market housing provision alongside affordable housing as a means of cross-subsidising the essential affordable housing provision. In such cases the total number of market dwellings must not exceed the number of affordable homes needed and should be supported by the submission of a robust viability assessment which demonstrates that the scheme only promotes the minimum number of market houses required to make the scheme viable (viability assessment will be independently verified and the applicant will be expected to meet the cost of this assessment) ** The term 'demonstration of clear local community support' means that at the point of submitting a planning application to the local planning authority, there should be clear evidence of local community support for the scheme, with such support generated via a thorough, but proportionate, pre- application consultation exercise, where demonstratable evidence of local community support or objection cannot be determined, then there will be a requirement for support*	of appropriate mitigation measures. The Applicant has continued to engage with LPAs and IPs to improve the Proposed Development during the Examination with notable updates to permissive path route, style of planting and committed widths of PRoWs (2m) and Byways (3m). The Applicant responded comprehensively on matters of scale, siting and design within its response to Interested Parties Submission [REP3-023].

	from the applicable Parish or Town Council or Neighbourhood Plan Group. If an application is in doubt as to what would constitute a 'thorough but proportionate', preapplication consultation exercise, then the applicant should contact the applicable local planning authority.	
SP5: Development in the Open Countryside	Development in the open countryside will be limited to that which has an essential need to be located outside of the existing built form of a settlement. In such instances, the following types of development will be supported: a) agriculture, forestry or equine development; b) rural diversification projects; c) replacement dwellings (on a one for one basis) or; d) conversion of buildings provided that the existing building(s) contributes to the character or appearance of the local area by virtue of their historic, traditional or vernacular form; and e) are in sound structural condition; and f) are suitable for conversion without substantial alteration, extension or rebuilding, and that the works to be undertaken do not detract from the character of the building(s) or their setting.	The application allows the diversification of existing agricultural businesses. Chapter 12 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** confirms that the land occupied by the Solar PV site only involves part of their respective wider agricultural land holding, allowing farming activities to continue on land outside of the Solar PV Site. Grazing is also proposed to be undertaken amongst the solar arrays within the Solar PV Site, as described in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].**
E7: Rural Economy	Proposals for the following types of small business schemes will be supported, provided that it is demonstrated that the business will help to support, or regenerate the rural economy: • Farming;	The Proposed Development is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure project that would not fall into one of the developmenttypes supported by this policy. The considerable benefits associated with the generation of a considerable amount of renewable electricity are considered a benefit in the wider public interest. Notwithstanding this, in response to part a), Proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts upon its location, as demonstrated in the Design and Access Statement

	• Forestry; • Equine; • Rural enterprise; • Sport and Recreation; and • Tourism Proposals must demonstrate that they meet all ofthe following criteria: a) be of a scale appropriate to the rurallocation; b) be for a use(s) which is(are) appropriate or necessary in a rural location, providing local employment opportunities which make a positive contribution to supporting the rural economy; c) the use / development respects the character and appearance of the local landscape, having particular regard to the Landscape Character Assessment, and will not negatively impact on existing neighbouring uses through noise, traffic, light and pollution impacts; and d) avoid harm to areas, features or species which are important for wildlife, biodiversity, natural, cultural or historic assets, including their wider settings. Schemes will also be required to ensure that the development meets the requirements of national and local planning policies which control the form, scale, design and impact of new development. Any new building or extension to an existing building	**[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** specifically, the size of the Solar PV Sitehas been reduced to allow substantial set backs from sensitive receptors in several locations including from settlements, individualresidential properties and landscape features. In response to part b), the Site Selection Report included in Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement sets out the justification for the location of the Order limits, and why the rural location is necessary. The Proposed Development will also bring benefits to the rural economy. Chapter 14 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** provides an overview of socio-economic study of the ProposedDevelopment. T~~he Applicant estimates that an average of 150 Full Time Equivalents (FTE) gross temporary jobs will be created over the 24-month construction period. It is estimated that 50% of these could be sourced from the local area.~~ ~~It is estimated the 74.5 additional direct and indirect jobs would be supported through the construction phase based on research undertaken by the Centre of Economics and Business Research on the economic impact of large-scale solar developments~~he Applicant estimates that an average of 150 FTE gross temporary jobs will be created over the 24 month construction period. It is estimated that 50% of these could be sourced from the local area. After accounting for displacement (of existing jobs) and multiplier impacts (indirect jobs within the supply chain) within the study area, it is estimated that a total of 74.5 additional jobs would be supported for residents in the Rutland and South Kesteven study area. Each of these construction and decommissioning phases jobs would be directly involved in on-site activities for construction/decommissioning of the renewable energy generation, or within its supply chain, which would contribute to developing the skills needed for the UK's transition to Net Zero.~~.~~ It is estimated that a net gain of 4.5 FTE jobs would be created bythe Proposed Development would be created during the operational phase. In response to part c), Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a LVIA which assesses the impact ofthe Proposed Development on the local Landscape Character Areas,

	will only be permitted where it is clearly demonstrated that it is an essential element of the viability of the business proposal. The scale, design and construction of any new building or extension must be appropriate to its rural setting and fully justified by the business proposal. Proposals which generate high levels of visitor traffic or increased public use, such as large scale sport and leisure facilities should only be permitted within or on the edge of the towns and Larger Villages, or where they can be easily accessed by public transport, foot and cycle.	and identifies mitigation measures to minimise adverse effects to landscape. The LVIA also considers the impacts of lighting on neighbouring ruses and residential amenity. A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to consider the significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of visual amenity ~~living conditions~~ in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The Amenity and Recreational Assessment **[EN010127/APP/6.2]** considers the potential effects to public rights of way and other recreational resources within and near to the Order limits. Other impacts upon amenity are considered to be acceptable as concluded in Chapter 9 highways and access, Chapter 10 noise and vibration and Chapter 15 other topics (including glint and glare and air quality) of the ES. In response to part d), the biodiversity and nature conservation impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in Chapter 7 of the ES. The Chapter sets out all the designated sites (international, national and local) of ecological or geological conservation importance; protected species; and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits, and the measure undertaken to avoid impacts.
EN1: LandscapeCharacter	South Kesteven's Landscape Character Areas are identified on the map above (Figure 6). Development must be appropriate to the characterand significant natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the landscape within which it is situated, and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration. In assessing the impact of proposed developmenton the Landscape, relevant Landscape Character Appraisals should be considered, including those produced to inform the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans. Consideration should also be given to the Capacity and	Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The LVIA assesses the landscape character and visual amenity of the Order limits and its surroundingcontext, its sensitivity to change, and the likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. It considers cumulative effects, visual and light pollution effects and effects on nature conservation. It includes reference to landscape character assessments relevant to the Proposed Development and takes account of development local development plan policies. Chapter 6 of the ES includes Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) toinform the LVIA. The ZTV analysis concludes that visual impacts are generally contained to within 2km of the Order limits, and beyond 2km are considered to be negligible. The visual aids utilised to help determine the impact of the proposal include annotated photo panels of both

	Limits to Growth Studies produced for Grantham and Stamford and the Points of the Compass Assessments preparedfor the Larger Villages.	representative and illustrative viewpoints and photomontages to illustrate visual effects. Section 6.3. of Chapter 6 of the ES sets out the national, regional, and local character areas that the Order limits relate to. Locally the Order Limits are located within the Rutland Plateau D(ii) Clay Woodlands Landscape Character Area (LCA) broadly covering the north, eastern and southern parts of the Solar PV Site, and Kesteven Uplands LCA broadly covering Essendine village and the eastern and western parts of the Solar PV Site. Section 6.5 of the LVIA set out landscape effects of the Proposed Development upon these LCAs. In summary, the LVIA concludes that whilst the development would affect the character and appearance of the Order limits and its immediate environs within the ZVI, the key characteristics of the wider LCAs would prevail. It is considered that these impacts are clearly outweighed by the benefits of the proposed development, including biodiversity net gain and permissive path network, and the delivery of significant level of low carbon energy generation.
EN2: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity	The Council, working in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, will facilitate the conservation, enhancement and promotion of the District's biodiversity and geological interest of the natural environment. This includes seeking to enhance ecological networks and seeking to deliver a net gain on all proposals, where possible. Proposals that are likely to have a significant impact on sites designated internationally, nationally or locally for their biodiversity and geodiversity importance, species populations and habitats identified in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan, Geodiversity Strategy and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances: • In the case of internationally designated sites (alone or in combination), where there is no alternative solution and there are overriding reasons of public	Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** considered ecology and biodiversity and outlines the desk and site studies and surveysthat have informed the DCO Application. A full description of the ecological baseline conditions identified is set out in the Ecological Baseline Report, which is provided in Appendix 7.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The surveys were undertaken at the early stages of the project and the assessments enabled the Applicant's ecological team to provide input into the design of the Proposed Development to respond positively to sites of biodiversity and geological conservation interest. The Chapter sets out all the relevant designated sites (international, national and local) of ecological or geological conservation importance; protected species; and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits. It confirms that there are no internationally important designated sites within the Order limits. A shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment, ES Appendix 7.5 **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been undertaken to support the DCO Application. This concludes that no likely significant effects on any Special Protection Areas (SPA), or Special Areas of

	interest for the development. • In the case of National Sites (alone or in combination) where the benefits of development in that location clearly outweigh both the impact on the site and any broader impacts on the wider network of National Sites. • In the case of Local Sites (e.g. Local Wildlife Sites) or sites which meet the designation criteria for Local Sites, the reasons for development must clearly outweigh the long term need to protect the site. In exceptional circumstances where detrimental impacts of development cannot be avoided (through locating an alternative site) the Council will require appropriate mitigation to be undertakenby the developers or as a final resort compensation. Where none of these can be achieved then planning permission will be refused. Where any mitigation and compensation measuresare required, they should be in place before development activities start that may disturb protected or important species.	Conservation (SAC) within the study area of the Proposed Development, and no specific residual mitigation measures are required with regard to impacts on these sites. Chapter 7 of the ES confirms there will be some temporary impacts upon three Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within the Order limits related to the construction phase for the creation of passing places, and for visibility splays to facilitate access. This results in the loss of some hedgerow and areas of grassland. The installation of the Solar PV Site will also result in the loss of some nesting areas for ground nesting birds. The impact of this loss has sought to be avoided though review of alternative access points, passing points and minimised through micro-siting. The impact is mitigated through habitat creation in the form of new hedge and tree planting along a parallel line to the existing LWS hedgerow and wider grassland enhancements across the Order limits. Additional ground nesting plots are provided in the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas within the Order limits. Chapter 7 describes the mitigation measures embedded into the layout as identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9],** and in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline decommissioning Environmental Management plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8],** all of which are secured under the DCO. A Biodiversity Net Gain calculation **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.5]** is included in the DCO Application. The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be a minimum of 65% Net Gain, with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. Delivery of BNG is secured via Requirement 7 of the DCO. ~~The habitat creation and enhancement works being proposed for within the Order limits will provide a high net gain in biodiversity value for the area within it. This has been shown to be just over 72% with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1.~~

EN3: Green Infrastructure	The Council will maintain and improve the green infrastructure network in the District by enhancing, creating and managing green space within and around settlements that are well connected to eachother and the wider countryside. Development proposals should ensure that existingand new green infrastructure is considered and integrated into the scheme design, taking opportunities to enrich biodiversity habitats, enablegreater connectivity and provide sustainable access for all. Proposals which may result in recreational and visitor pressure on designated biodiversity sites willbe particularly expected to provide such green infrastructure. Proposals that cause loss or harm to this networkwill not be permitted unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh any adverse impacts. Where adverse impacts on green infrastructure are unavoidable, development will only be permitted if suitable mitigation measures for the network are provided.	The Proposed Development will maintain and enhance the existingand new green infrastructure by the following measures: - Siting the Solar PV Site within the existing landscape framework allowing for the retention of the existing woodland, hedgerows, ditches, field margins and watercourses, subject to minor hedgerow removals relatedto access; - Substantial new native planting across the Solar PV Site providing visual screening and other benefits to landscape character throughout the operational lifespan of the Proposed Development and an enduring positive legacy following decommissioning; - Infilling and gapping up of existing hedgerows where required, reconnecting landscape features and providing visual screening; - Ongoing future management for biodiversity benefits including hay meadow style management of new species diverse grassland areas, low intensity grazing, less intensive hedgerow management allowing vegetation to grow out more fully providing biodiversity benefits; - Retention of all existing PRoW passing through the Solar PV Site; - Offset of the proposed solar arrays at least 15 metres either side from centre of existing PRoW and proposed permissive paths to remove any channelling visual effects; and - New native planting to provide additional visual screening from the surrounding settlements and residential properties overlooking the Solar PV Site, where appropriate. These measures, along with other benefits includes delivery of ecological enhancements and permissive paths of approximately ~~8.1~~7.9km in total length connecting into the wider network of PRoW and rural lanes as a recreation benefit. A~~a~~re set out in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP7.7]** which is secured as part of the DCO.

EN4: Pollution Control	Development should seek to minimise pollution and where possible contribute to the protection and improvement of the quality of air, land and water. In achieving this: Development should be designed from the outset to improve air, land and water quality and promote environmental benefits. Development that, on its own or cumulatively, would result in significant air, light, noise, land, water or other environmental pollution or harm to amenity, health well-being or safety will not be permitted. New development proposals should nothave an adverse impact on existing operations. Development will only be permitted if the potential adverse effects can be mitigated to an acceptablelevel by other environmental controls, or by measures included in the proposals. Development that would lead to deterioration or may compromise the ability of a water body or underlying groundwater to meet good status standards in the Anglian River Basin Management Plan (required by the Water Framework Directive)will not be permitted. Where development is situated on a site withknown or high likelihood of contamination, remediation strategies to manage this contamination will be required. Subject to the Policies in this Plan, planning permission will be granted for development on landaffected by contamination where it can be established by the	An Air Quality Assessment has been undertaken, the results of which are set out in section 15.2 of Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. It is concluded that the Proposed Development would not lead to a deterioration in air quality locallyor lead to any air quality breaches elsewhere. An assessment of the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development is set out in Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** includes measures for the control of noise during construction. Operational noise has been assessed and the layout of noise-generating equipment has been set back from sensitive receptors (including heritage assets) as embedded mitigation. The detailed design of the Proposed Development will be controlled through a requirement of the DCO in line with Design Guidance of the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** to ensure the detailed layout ofthe Proposed Development addresses noise impacts. During the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance [REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised, including providing for a post opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met. Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** confirms that nosignificant adverse noise or vibration impacts are predicted uponany receptors, or upon quality of life or human health or impacts upon heritage assets. The assessment of potential impacts on water resources and ground conditions is included in Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** The Chapter presents the existing status of the water environment and the likely effects of the Proposed Development. Chapter 11 concludes that due to embedded mitigation and measures identified within the outline Water Management Plan (oWMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6.13]**, and table 3-7 of the oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** the Proposed Development will not result in the deterioration of any water bodies, or prevent them from achieving good status, and there are likely to be no significant adverse effects on water quality, water resources or physical characteristics of the water environment as a result of the Proposed Development. Therefore, the Proposed Development is in

	proposed developer that the sitecan be safely and viably developed with no significant impact on either future users or on ground and surface waters.	compliance with this element of the policy. No potential contaminated land issues are identified within the Order limits.
EN5: Water Environment and Flood Risk Management	Development should be located in the lowest areasof flood risk, in accordance with the South Kesteven Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). Where this is not possible the sequential approach to development will be applied. Where the requirements of the sequential test are met, theexception test will be applied, where necessary. A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will be required forall development in Flood Zones 2 and 3 and for sites greater than 1 hectare in Flood Zone 1, and where a development site is located in an area known to have experienced flood problems fromany flood source, including critical drainage. All development must avoid increasing flood risk elsewhere. Runoff from the site post developmentmust not exceed pre-development rates for all storm events up to and including the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)* storm event with an allowance for climate change. The appropriate climate change allowances should be defined using relevant Environment Agency guidance. Surface water should be managed effectively on site through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs) unless it is demonstrated to be technically unfeasible. All planning applications should be accompanied by a statement of how surface water is	A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is included in Appendix 11.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** and the results presented in Chapter 11 of the ES, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. In line with the SFRA, the majority of the Order limits is located in the Flood Zone 1 area. However, part of the Order limits are located within Flood Zones 2 and 3. In response, the layout of thesite has been designed to minimise the development within areasat greater risk of flooding, and where this is unavoidable, ensuringthat the infrastructure located in these areas will not increase the risk of flooding within the Order limits or elsewhere. The FRA includes a sequential test and exception test which havebeen carried out to identify that there is no alternative site with a lower probability of flooding, and that the benefits of the ProposedDevelopment outweigh flood risk. In order to mitigate flood risk, the majority of the Solar PV Site hasbeen located within Flood Zone 1. Part of the Solar PV Site is located in Flood Zone 2 (no infrastructure is located within Flood zone 3). The infrastructure within Flood Zone 2 has been limited to solar PV Arrays which will be raised above the 1 in 100 year (plus climate change) flood event and will not impact risk of flooding to the site or downstream. No areas of hardstanding are located within Flood Zones 2 or 3. To account for the 60 year life of the Development, the 1 in 200 year flood levels were assessed to demonstrate that the PV arrays are above the future climate change allowances, should the Development operate into the 2080s. Areas of hardstanding within Flood Zone 1 associated with the onsite substation will be underlain by a free draining sub-base andlocal interception with a flow restriction device before discharge tothe West Glen River. Areas of hardstanding associated with the Solar Stations will be underlain by a free draining sub-base and include local interception measures. Section 2.6 of the outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) (Appendix 11.6 of the

	to be managed and in particular where it is to be discharged. Surface water connections to the public sewage network shouldonly be made in exceptional circumstances. On-site attenuation and infiltration will be required as partof any new development wherever possible. Opportunities must be sought to achieve multiplebenefits, for example through green infrastructure provision and biodiversity enhancements in addition to their drainage function. The long-termmaintenance of structures such as swales and balancing ponds must be agreed in principle priorto permission being granted. Development proposals should demonstrate that water is available to serve the development and adequate foul water treatment and disposal alreadyexists or can be provided in time to serve the development. Foul and surface water flows shouldbe separated where possible. Suitable access should be maintained for waterresource and drainage infrastructure. Where development takes place in Flood Zones 2and 3, opportunities should be sought to: a) Reduce flooding by considering the layoutand form of the development and the appropriate application of sustainable drainage techniques; b) Relocate existing development to land in zones with a lower probability of flooding; and	ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** confirm that exceedance rates for all storm events, inclusive of theclimate change allowances, will dispense as per the baseline scenario. Section 2.3 of the oSWDS confirms that the climate change allowance has been calculated using appropriate Environment Agency guidance. The oSWDS confirms that the PV Arrays will not result in an increase in hardstanding areas and therefore will not significantly increase surface water runoff rate. Grassland will slow runoff from these areas as outlined in the oSWDS and oSMP ~~and no specific SuDSs measure are required to mitigate impacts from these areas~~. Following implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, thelimited introduction of hard-standing associated with the Proposed Development will not lead to an increase in surface water runoff from the Onsite Substation above greenfield levels The oSWDS at Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**sets the management prescriptions for responsibility for maintaining the SuDS structures within the Order limits. The oSWDS confirms it will be the responsibility of the Applicant to appoint a nominated persons to maintain effective drainage measures and rectify drainage measures that are not functioning adequately.

	Create space for flooding to occur by restoring functional floodplains and flood flow pathways andby identifying, allocating and safeguarding open space for storage.	
EN6: The Historic Environment	The Council will seek to protect and enhance heritage assets and their settings in keeping withthe policies in the National Planning Policy Framework. Development that is likely to cause harm to the significance of a heritage asset or itssetting will only be granted permission where thepublic benefits of the proposal outweigh the potential harm. Proposals which would conserve or enhance the significance of the asset shall be considered favourably. Substantial harm or total loss will be resisted. Proposals will be expected to take Conservation Area Appraisals into account, wherethese have been adopted by the Council. Where development affecting archaeological sites is acceptable in principle, the Council will seek to ensure mitigationof impact through preservation of the remains in situ as a preferred solution. When in situ preservation is not practical, the developer will be required to make adequate provision for excavation and recording before orduring development.	A Cultural Heritage Assessment has been undertaken and prepared as part of the ES (see details in Chapter 8, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. It encompasses the assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscapeincluding designated and non-designated heritage assets. It concludes that no significant effects upon heritage assets, orupon buried archaeological remains, the historic landscape or historic buildings will result from the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Proposed Development.
DE1: Promoting Good Quality Design	To ensure high quality design is achieved throughout the District, all development proposalswill be expected to:	To ensure good design has been embedded into the design evolution of the Proposed Development, a set of Project Principleswere identified early in the project using the structure of headings from the NIC design guide advice (Climate, People, Places and Value).

	a) Make a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness, vernacular and characterof the area. Proposals should reinforce local identity and not have an adverse impact on the streetscene, settlement pattern or the landscape / townscape character of the surrounding area. Proposals should be of an appropriate scale, density, massing, height and material, given the context of the area; b) Ensure there is no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring users in terms of noise, light pollution, loss of privacy and loss of light and have regard to features that minimise crime and the fear of crime;and c) Provide sufficient private amenity space, suitable to the type and amount of development proposed. Development proposals should seek to: d) Retain and incorporate important on site features, such as trees and hedgerows and incorporate, where possible, nature conservation and biodiversity enhancement into the development; e) Provide well designed hard and soft landscaping; and f) Effectively incorporate onsite infrastructure, such as flood mitigation systems or green infrastructure, as appropriate. All major development (as defined in the Glossary) must demonstrate compliance with:	These Project Principles have been 'localised' and developed intoproject specific Design Guidance for the post-consent process to ensure the Proposed Development fits sensitively into the local context, mitigating environmental effects, respects local communities and provides enhancements where possible whilst delivering low carbon energy. The design of the Proposed Development, and how the project specific Design Guidance will be applied to the DCO Applicationare set out in the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]**. In response to part a), Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a LVIA which assesses the impact ofthe Proposed Development on the local Landscape Character Areas, and identifies mitigation measures to minimise adverse effects to landscape. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** outlines the design process and decisions made from the outset ofthe design process in order to minimise landscape impacts. A fundamental structuring element of the design has been to retain as far as possible the existing landscape features within the Order limits. As confirmed in Chapter 6 of the ES, this approach helps thewider landscape character to prevail. The LVIA also considers impacts of lighting on neighbouring ruses and residential amenity. A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to consider the significance of effectson the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of residential visual ~~living~~ conditions in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** Other impacts upon amenity are considered to be acceptable as concluded in Chapter 9 highways and access and Chapter 10 noise and vibration of the ES. Specific measures had been taken to ensure the layout of the proposed development responds to and respects local landscape character. The Applicant has made further tweaks during Examination in response to IP representations. For example, the permissive path which was initially intended to begin at the corner of Bourne Road where it turns west towards Essendine (on the eastern edge of the village) has been moved further north with its subsequent routing taking it further from the edge of an adjacent business. Part of the planting adjacent the proposed permissive path in this area has also been altered to

	g) Neighbourhood Plan policies; h) Manual for Streets guidance and relevant Lincolnshire County Council guidance i) Village design statements, where approved by the Council.	provide more mature planting to limit potential impacts from adjacent properties. In response to part b), the potential pollution of air, noise, water and light generated by the Proposed Development has been assessed and concluded in Chapters 10,11 and 15 of the ES **[RefEN010127/APP/6.1].** A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has also been undertaken to consider the significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of residential visual amenity ~~living conditions~~ in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** In response to part c), the Proposed Development will not haveimpacts on amenity space. In response to parts d and e), and as noted I the response to part a) the Proposed Development will maintain and enhance the existing landscape features as indicated in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the outline Landscape and EcologicalManagement Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP7.7]**) In response to part f), the Proposed Development is mainly locatedin the Flood Zone 1 area to avoid risk of flooding. The Chapter setsout how measure to avoid and minimise impacts have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development. Part of the Solar PV Site is located in Flood Zone 2, infrastructure in theseareas have been limited to solar PV arrays which will be raised above the 1 in100 year (plus climate change) flood event and will not impact risk of flooding to the site or downstream. An outline Water Construction Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** issubmitted as part of the DCO Application and describes water management measures to control surface water runoff and drain hardstanding and other structures during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. In response to part g), sections below have set out how the Proposed Development complies with Carlby Neighbourhood Plan. In response to part h) Appendix 9.1 **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** of the ES sets out the guidance and policy referred to in the Accessand Highways Chapter of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** In response to part i) the Design and Access Statement refers to the adopted Design

		Guidelines for Rutland and South Kesteven, November 2021 and to the Design Guidelines for Rutland, March2022.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Table 7 South Kesteven Local Plan Policy – Table of Compliance

South Kesteven Local Plan 2011 – 2036 Renewable Energy Appendix 3 (Criterions)		
Policy	Policy Text	Assessment
Large scale Ground mounted proposals (aka solar farms)		
Solar Energy Criterion 1	The Council requires a LVIA is required as part of an EIA for large solar farm energy developments. The required study area for the LVIA may vary depending on the size of development proposed (see Scottish Heritage Visual Representations of Windfarms and the Landscape Institute's Advice Note 01/11 (Photography and Photomontage in Landscape Visual Impact Assessment as a guide)). The LVIA shall cover all the points above. Information on landscape and visual impacts shall also be provided for non-EIA development. Visualisations should be based on photography with a 70/75 mm lens. The Council welcomes pre-application discussions with developers to agree the scope of LVIA required.	An LVIA has been undertaken and prepared as part of ES (see details in Chapter 6 of the ES, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** to assessthe landscape character and visual amenity of the Order limits andits surrounding context, its sensitivity to change, and the likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. The LVIA and the photomontages that accompany it were produced in accordance with all relevant Landscape Institute guidance.
Solar Energy Criterion 2	The Council requires that a residential visual amenity assessment, covering a study area of at least 2km from any proposed solar farm shall be undertaken. The study area should be agreed with the Planning Authority.	A Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to consider the significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of residential visual amenity ~~living conditions~~ in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** The Proposed Development has identified all residential properties within 100m of the Order limits. Each identified property was then reviewed to understand the potential impact of the proposals and appropriate mitigation measures. Following application

		of suitable mitigation measures, which includes setting back the Solar PV Site and introduction of screening, as detailed in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9],** the RVAA concludes that there will be no overbearing- or overwhelming visual impacts arising from the Proposed Development upon any individual residential properties. On the basis that ~~no visual amenity impacts arise on any property within 100m of the Proposed Development~~, the study area has not been extended beyond this.
Solar Energy Criterion 3	The Council requires that a cumulative impact assessment, taking account of the points in paragraph 3.20 above, shall be undertaken. This shall consider solar farm developments that are under construction, consented or the subject of a valid planning application, or formally notified at the scoping stage. The study area for the cumulative assessment shall be proportionate to the size of the development and enable the assessment to focus on significant cumulative effects as required by the EIA Regulations. The study area will need to be agreed with the Planning Authority.	A Cumulative Impact Assessment is included in Chapter 16 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** It has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations and it reports the results of the interactionof effects assessment associated with the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development and other committed developments. A 2km study area from the Solar PV Site and Onsite Substation was considered appropriate and was agreed through stakeholder consultation. The Applicant has maintained a longlist (most recent version at [REP8-022])of developments which form part of the cumulative assessment which has been updated and agreed with the LPAs.
Solar Energy Criterion 4	Further to Policy EN5 of the Local Plan, development on a heritage asset (designated or undesignated) or within its setting which would adversely impact upon the significance of the heritage asset (for example, by detracting from its established character or appeal, or by causing irreversible physical damage) should be avoided. In accordance with the NPPF, development must not lead to harm to or total loss of significance of a heritage asset, unless the tests set out in section 12 of the NPPF are met.	A Cultural Heritage Assessment has been undertaken and preparedas part of the ES (see details in Chapter 8, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** It encompasses assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets. Section 8.2 of Chapter 8 of the ES describes the heritage assets (designated and non designated) within the study area for the Proposed Development, their significance and the contribution of their setting to that significance. Section 8.4 of Chapter 8 describes the potential effects of construction, operation and decommissioning phase of the Proposed Development upon the identified assets and their setting. The assessment concludes there will be 'no impact' upon any of the identified designated assets or their setting resulting from any phase of the Proposed Development. Given the 'no impact' conclusions of the heritage assessment upon designated assets, the Proposed Development will not result in less than substantial harm to any heritage asset or

		their setting within the study area. As such, no public benefits weighing exercise is required under paragraph 202 of the NPPF. Regarding the potential impacts upon buried archaeological remains, section 8.4 of Chapter 8 of the ES confirms that both the scale of the impact, and significance of the potentially affected non- designated assets is 'limited'. Responding to the 'limited' impact, paragraph 203 of the NPPF is engaged. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** sets out the significant contribution made by the Proposed Development in relation to urgent need to deliver low carbon renewable energy to meet the aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity supplies by 2050; providing security of supply as well as affordability for end consumers. This would deliver a considerable public benefit, alongside the Biodiversity Net Gain and permissive path network delivered by the Proposed Development. These benefits are considered to significantly outweigh~~s~~ the potential limited impact identified to non-designated buried archaeological remains.
Solar Energy Criterion 5	The Council will require solar farm proposals to: a) Be strategically sited so as to minimise the noise experienced by nearby residents and occupiers of business premises and important buildings (including, but not limited to hospitals and schools) b) In any instance, operate with minimal noise output to avoid undue disturbance to nearby residents, wildlife and livestock. Where necessary,mitigation measures, such as the establishment ofvegetation buffers for example, should be used to prevent adverse noise impact.	In response to part a), the Proposed Development has been carefully designed to mitigate noise impacts. The Onsite Substationwill be located more than 500m away from the nearest residential property. In terms of the PV Array layout, using a central inverter design approach, minimum buffer distances of 250m from residential properties, and 50m from PRoWs. This is secured in theDCO Application via the Design Guidance within the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3].** A noise impact assessment has been undertaken as part of the ES (see details in Chapter 10 of the ES, **EN010127/APP/6.1]**. It concludes that the effects of noise and vibration from construction, operational and decommissioning activities would not be significant. In response to part b) mitigation measures, the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** includes standard good practice measures such as use of Best Practical Means to reduce disturbance associated with noise and vibration during construction as far as reasonably practicable, with reference to relevant guidance in BS 5228. During the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance [REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised, including providing for a post opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met.

Solar Energy Criterion 6	The Council will require that proposals for solarfarms shall consider, and incorporate as appropriate, the following considerations: a) The design and positioning of active solar technology should be carefully considered to avoid the potential nuisance of glint and glare onto high speed roads. Where vegetation is proposed as a form of mitigation against glint and glare, species which will provide effective screening all year roundare preferable. b) In relation to large scale ground mounted installations (commonly referred to as 'solar farms'),a construction statement should be prepared by the developer which forecasts the vehicle trips that are likely to be generated during construction and the routes whichare likely to be used, so that the anticipated impact of the development upon traffic and highways safety can be considered. South Kesteven District Council may require further detailed information,such as a traffic management plan, if necessary.	In response to part a), a glint and glare study has been undertakenand a summary of key findings is provided in Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. It concludes that there are no impacts upon road users along the A6121 and B1176. The Applicant provided further responses on Glint and Glare in its response to Interested Parties Submissions – Other Matters [REP3 -036]. During Examination the Applicant clarified that the Glint and Glare study had modelled "smooth glass with an anti-reflective coating". It should be reiterated that the Glint and Glare study concluded that there would no significant adverse effects would arise as a result of the development. In response to part b), a Transport Assessment has been preparedand undertaken as part of the ES (see details in Chapter 9 of the ES**, [Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. It assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on traffic and transport. In addition, Appendix G of the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]** includes an outline Transport Plan (oTP) which provides measures proposed to mitigate the transport impacts as well as improve existing infrastructure and promote sustainable transport which is secured through DCO Requirement. The oCTMP [REP5-067] includes a number of highways improvements to facilitate safe access to site, and ensures that HGVs will not travel past local primary schools at their opening and closing times. The final CTMP will be approved by requirements of the DCO Application by the local authorities.
Solar Energy Criterion 7	The Council will require that proposals should demonstrate that due consideration has been given to the potential impacts of the proposal on local, national and international designated sites, including those outside the District. Where a proposal is likely to have adverse impacts, applicants should demonstrate how these potential impacts have been addressed in the proposal, with proposed mitigation measures being commensurate to the significance of the designation, in relation to the local national, international hierarchy. This applies to all proposals, regardless of scale. In	The Applicant has considered the impacts of the Proposed Development on local, national and international designated sites. Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** considered ecology and biodiversity and outlines the desk and site studies and surveys that have informed the DCO Application. A full description of the ecological baseline conditions identified is set out in the Ecological Baseline Report, which is provided in Appendix 7.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**. The surveys were undertaken at the early stages of the project and the assessments enabled the Applicant's ecological team to provide input into the design of the Proposed Development to respond positively to sites of biodiversity and geological conservation interest. The Chapter sets out all the relevant designated sites (international, national and local) of

	instances where a proposal would have an adverse effect on a protected habitat or species, the applicant should demonstrate that the need for and public benefits of the development clearly outweigh the harm caused, and that mitigation and/ or compensation measures can be secured to offset the harm and achieve, where possible, a net gain for biodiversity (see also paragraph118 of the NPPF). *Developers are encouraged to consider opportunities to achieve net biodiversity gains (i.e. gains in addition to any measures deployed to mitigate any adverse impacts that may result from the development), regardless of whether the proposal will result in adverse impacts in order to conserve, enhance and promote the biodiversity and geological interest of the natural environment throughout South Kesteven.* In relation to the above applicants will be required to undertake surveys and provide evidence as necessary in relation to the anticipated impacts of their proposal, including the impact of the loss of agricultural land on biodiversity. In instances where the evidence supplied includes uncertainty in relation to the anticipated impacts of a proposal, or in instances where there is a lack of evidence, a precautionary approach will be taken by South Kesteven District Council.	ecological or geological conservation importance; protected species; and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits. It confirms that there are no internationally important designated sites within the Order limits. A shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment, ES Appendix 7.**5 [Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been undertaken to support the DCO Application. This concludes that no likely significant effects on any Special Protection Areas (SPA), or Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within the study area of the Proposed Development, and no specific residual mitigation measures are required with regard to impacts on these sites. Chapter 7 of the ES confirms there will be some temporary impacts upon three Local Wildlife Site (LWS) within the Order limits related to the construction phase for the creation of passing places, and for visibility splays to facilitate access. This results in the loss of some hedgerow and areas of grassland. The installation of the Solar PV Site will also result in the loss of some nesting areas for groundnesting birds. The temporary impact of this loss has sought to be avoided thoughreview of alternative access points, passing points and minimised through micro-siting. The impact is mitigated through habitat creation in the form of new hedge and tree planting along a parallelline to the existing LWS hedgerow and wider grassland enhancements across the Order limits. Additional ground nesting plots are provided in the Mitigation and Enhancement Areas within the Order limits. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** sets out the significant contribution made by the Proposed Development in relation to urgent need to deliver low carbon renewable energy tomeet the aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity supplies by 2050; providing security of supply as well as affordability for end consumers. This would deliver a considerable public benefit, alongside the Biodiversity Net Gain and permissive path networkdelivered by the Proposed Development. These benefits are considered to significantly outweigh the potentiallimited impact identified. Chapter 7 describes the mitigation measures embedded into the layout as identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**, and in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline decommissioning Environmental Management plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**, all of which are secured under the DCO. A Biodiversity Net Gain calculation **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.5]** is included in the DCO Application. The habitat creation

		and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be a minimum of 65% Net Gain, with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. Delivery of BNG is secured via Requirement 7 of the DCO. ~~The habitat creation and enhancement works being proposed for within the Order limits will provide a high net gain in biodiversity value for the area within it. This has been shown to be just over 72% with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1.~~
Solar Energy Criterion 8	The Council will require that solar farm proposals shall demonstrate that the design and positioning of proposed solar installations have been carefully considered to avoid the potential nuisance of glint and glare to aircraft movements.	A glint and glare study has been undertaken and a summary of keyfindings is provided in Chapter 15 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. It concludes that there is no significant impact upon surrounding aviation activity.
Solar Energy Criterion 9	The Council requires that any proposals in this District on agricultural land for solar farms will: - first be required to carry out an extensive search for derelict or brownfield sites – these could for example be former industrial sites, old quarries or former airfields. This test should not necessarily be confined to the District, in line the Wherstead appeal decision; - second be required to carry out a search for poorer agricultural sites ie of Grades 4 and 5 . This test should also not necessarily be confined to the District; - third be required to prove the MAFF agricultural grade classification for the proposed site and if it is Grade 3 whether or not it is Grade 3A or 3B. As there is no national mapping of these sub divisions, this will require a site survey using trail holes/augers produced by a qualified expert; and - fourth, be required to prove why the site has to be located close to a particular power grid line and that there is spare capacity in that gridline. - The fact that land may have been left idle or fallow is no reason in its favour for removal from an assumed	A Site Selection Report has been prepared. It provides an overview of the site selection process undertaken by the Applicant to identify the location of the Proposed Development. Paragraphs 3.1.21 – 3.1.22 and the 'Consideration of Alternative Site' table on pages 27 and 28 of the Site Selection Report state the outcomes of brownfield site tests and concludes that there are no available and suitable brownfield sites. Paragraph 3.1.6 – 3.1.13 of the Site Selection Report consider agricultural land classification as a constraint to site selection and looks at the wider information available to inform the site selection process. It concludes that the available data (through the regional level ALC maps, indicates that agricultural land in close proximity to Ryhall Substation is either Grade 2 or 3 with Grade 1 further east towards Peterborough. It concludes that the impact son agricultural land have been minimised as much as possible in the context of impacts that could have arisen with potential alternative sites. The Proposed Development is accompanied by an agricultural land classification survey. It shows that the Site comprises 100 hectares of Grade 2 land and 260 of Grade 3a land. The land proposed to be used to temporarily accommodate the solar arrays represents a smaller proportion of these total amounts (35 hectares of Grade 2 land and 181 hectares of Grade 3a). Paragraphs 3.1.22-3.1.33 discuss the availability of substation capacity and conclude that Ryhall substation has capacity without requiring significant upgrade and that best use should be made

	agricultural use. The Council will often ask an independent expert to verify the conclusion of a soil test report. Verification that land is Grade 3B will not in itself necessarily lead to consent. The argument that solar power is necessary for farm diversification will carry little weight as good farmland is a pure resource not just related to the present management of it. The Council will closely scrutinise any proposal that argues continued agricultural use of a solar farm site as a deciding factor in its consent as it has seen little convincing evidence of this as a mitigating factor. If a proposal includes the development of the best and most versatile agricultural land, where possible, solar development should be sited so as to minimise the impact on agricultural operations during its operation and also during associated installation, maintenance and decommissioning works (including the establishment of access tracks for example). As such, where opportunity exists: i) Solar technology should be sited at the periphery of fields rather than in central positions; or ii) Where it is not possible to locate on the periphery, due to physical constraints or another material consideration rendering such positioning unviable, the development should be sited in a strategic position which avoids unnecessary disruption to agricultural operations. c) At the end of the operational life of the installation, all equipment should be removed in its entirety and the land restored to its former use.	of existing infrastructure. The Applicant is aware of the Proposed Development located on the BMV land and therefore includes it as one of the design principles. An appreciation of the agricultural land context and distribution of BMV across the Order limits has informed the design of the Proposed Development as detailed in Section 4.23 of the Design and Access Statement **[EN010127/APP/7.3]**. During the Examination the Applicant responded to question 1.2.3 (of the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions) in relation paragraph 3.10.14 of the draft NPS EN-3 on matters relating to the predominance of ALC as a factor during site selection. This is relevant to Solar Criterion 9 because the NPS also states a preference for the use of non-agricultural or poorer agricultural land. However, land type should not be the primary determining factor when evaluating the suitability of a site location for Solar Photovoltaic Generation, recognising that there are factors that may be determinative, such as the availability of a suitable grid connection. The Applicant has been clear about the amount of BMV which is required as part of the Proposed Development. Proposals should be judged on their individual merits, and the context of the site is key in understanding how Applications are developed. It is accepted methodology and an intrinsic part of the draft NPS EN-3 position on site selection that utilizing existing grid capacity potentially lessens the amount of development required and is a reasonable starting point for site selection. The Applicant has been very clear about how characteristic the Proposed Development is regarding the wider locality in terms of its use of land. The Applicant considers it has provided robust justification both as part of its Application and within responses to a number of Interested Parties on this matter.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Table 8 Rutland County Council Local Planning Policy – Table of Compliance

Rutland County Council Core Strategy Development Plan Document (July, 2011)		
Policy	Policy Text	Assessment
Policy CS1 – Sustainable development principles	New development in Rutland will be expected to: a) minimise the impact on climate change and include measures to take account of future changes in the climate; (see Policy CS19 and 20) b) maintain and wherever possible enhance the county's environmental, cultural and heritage assets;(see Policies CS21 and 22) c) be located where it minimises the need to travel and wherever possible where services and facilities can be accessed safely on foot, by bicycle or public transport; (see Policy CS4 and CS18) d) make use of previously developed land or conversion or redevelopment of vacant and under-used land and buildings within settlements before development of new green field land;(see Policy CS4) e) respect and wherever possible enhance the character of the towns, villages and landscape; (see Policies CS19, 20, 21, 22)	In response to part (a), the Proposed Development presents a significant and vital opportunity to develop a large-scale low-carbon generation increasing materially the UKs ability to meet future Carbon Budgets and Net Zero by 2050. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development is of a scale which makes a meaningful contribution to decarbonisation and deliverable in the 2020s, a critically important time period on the journey to achieving the UKs Net Zero commitments. The Proposed Development makes use of existing available capacity on the National Electricity Transmission which means that the power it generates will be easily transmitted to wherever it is needed, without bearing additional costs to develop connection infrastructure thereby ensuring that the development delivers as much low-carbon power as possible in the most affordable way. This is further set out in the Applicant's responses to the ExA's First [REP2-037] and Second Written Questions [REP5-012] on Need and Carbon. The Outline CEMP [REP8-010] provides that post-consent it must be demonstrated that this net benefit will be achieved. Further to the above, Chapter 13 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a carbon assessment that considers the effects of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions generated at all stages of the Proposed Development, being construction, operation, and decommissioning. A 60-

	f) minimise the use of resources and meet high environmental standards in terms of design and construction with particular regard to energy and water efficiency, use of sustainable materials and minimisation of waste; (see Policies CS19 and 20) g) avoid development of land at risk of flooding or where it would exacerbate the risk of flooding elsewhere (see Policy CS19); h) contribute towards creating a strong, stable and more diverse economy (see Policies CS13, 14, 15, 16, and 17) i) include provision, or contribute towards any services and infrastructure needed to support the development (see Policy CS8)	year time limit will not alter the conclusions regarding the potential effects on receptors as set out in Table 13.7 of the ES. As set out in the Applicants Statement on 60 Year Time Limit [REP7-038], the assessment, mitigation and enhancement measures as set out in the LVIA and Ecology assessments were based upon a permanent operational lifespan, therefore the commitment to a 60 year lifespan will not affect the proposed habitats in such a way (given that they assumed that the mitigation would be in place for even longer than 60 years) that would alter these assessments and therefore the conclusions remain unchanged. Further commentary is provided within ExA's Q5a in 9.49 Applicants Response to ExA's Rule 17 Request for further information **[REP8-021].** A series of measures are included to minimise and offset the GHG footprint of the Proposed Development through the adoption of measures detailed in Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, and Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8].** With respect to part (b), maintaining and enhancing Green Infrastructure connections across the Order limits has been embedded into the design approach of the Proposed Development.The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[RefEN010127/APP/7.9]** deliveries multifunctional green spaces acrossthe Order limits, connecting habitats, delivering Biodiversity Net Gain and new permissive pathways. Furthermore, Chapter 8 of theES includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets. With respect to part c, Appendix G of the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]** includes an

		outline Transport Plan (oTP) which outlines measuresproposed to mitigate the transport impacts as well as improve existing infrastructure and promote sustainable transport which is secured through DCO Requirement. The oCTMP [REP5-067] includes a number of highways improvements to facilitate safe access to site, and ensures that HGVs will not travel past local primary schools at their opening and closing times. With respect to part (d), the Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 ofthe Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** explains the process for identifying the location of the Order limits and the importance of locating the Proposed Development in proximity to the Ryhall 400kv substation. Chapter 4 of the ES also sets out thealternatives considered by the Applicant. With respect to part (e), Chapter 6 of the ES includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operationand decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The DCO Application is accompanied by an oLEMP which includes a proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. These documents setout the proposed landscape mitigation and enhancement measuresthat would be delivered through the Proposed Development. With respect to part (f), the DCO Application is accompanied by an oCEMP and oDEMP. The oCEMP sets out measures for the designing, constructing and implementing the Proposed Development to be implemented in in such a way as to minimise the creation of waste and maximise the use of alternative materialswith lower embodied carbon such as locally sourced products and materials with a higher recycled content where feasible. The oDEMP include similar measures. With respect to part (g), the majority of the Order limits is located inthe Flood Zone 1 area. However, part of the Order limits is located within Flood Zones 2 and 3. In response, the layout of the site has been designed to minimise the development within areas at greaterrisk of flooding, and

		where this is unavoidable, ensuring that the infrastructure located in these areas will not increase the risk of flooding within the Order limits or elsewhere. The FRA includes a sequential test and exception test which have been carried out to identify that there is no alternative site with a lower probability of flooding, and that the benefits of the Proposed Development outweigh flood risk. In order to mitigate flood risk, the majority of the Solar PV Site hasbeen located within Flood Zone 1. Part of the Solar PV Site is located in Flood Zone 2 (no infrastructure is located within Flood zone 3). The infrastructure within Flood Zone 2 has been limited tosolar PV Arrays which will be raised above the 1 in 100 year (plus climate change) flood event and will not impact risk of flooding to the site or downstream. No areas of hardstanding are located within Flood Zones 2 or 3. The FRA concludes that the risk of the Proposed Development flooding from all sources is negligible. Surface water rates ~~and~~ can be effectively managed via drainage measures identified in the outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**, and the Proposed Development is not considered to give rise to any adverse flood effects either within, oroutside of the Order limits. With respect to part (h), Chapter 14 of the ES includes an assessment of socio-economic impacts of the Proposed development at local and regional levels. Chapter 14 of the ES conclude that there will be beneficial employment and linked supplychain impacts associated with the Proposed development. ~~the~~An outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.10]** ~~is~~ has been developed to~~aimed at~~ maximis~~e~~~~ing~~ these benefits. With regard to part i) all works required to facilitate the Proposed Development, including works to the local road network, are included in the description of development inChapter 5 of the ES.

Policy CS4 - The location of development	In order to contribute towards the delivery of sustainable development and meet the vision and the strategic objectives of the Core Strategy: Development in Rutland will be directed towards the most sustainable locations in accordance with the settlement hierarchy of Oakham, Uppingham, Local Service Centres, Smaller Service Centres and Restraint Villages. The rest of Rutland, including settlements not identified in settlement categories will be designated as countryside. […] Development in the Countryside will be strictly limited to that which has an essential need to be located in the countryside and will be restricted to particular types of development to support the rural economy and meet affordable housing needs. The conversion and re-use of appropriately located and suitably constructed rural buildings for residential and employment-generating uses in the countryside will be considered adjacent or closely related to the towns, local services centres and smaller services centres provided it is of a scale appropriate to the existing location and consistent with maintaining and enhancing the environment and would contribute to the local distinctiveness of the area. New development will be prioritised in favour of the allocation and release of previously developed land within or adjoining the planned limits of development	The Order Limits are located within the area designated ascountryside as defined in Policy CS4. The Grid Connection Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.4]** confirmsthe capacity secured by the Applicant at the Ryhall 400kv Substation and the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** confirms the importance of utilising capacity within the National Gridwhere this can be secured. The Site Selection assessment at Appendix 1 of the Planning **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** provides an overview of the site selection process undertaken to identify a suitable development site in proximity to the Ryhall 400KV Substation. The Applicant has provided additional detail in regard to its approach to site selection in response to ExA questions and matters raised from IPs. REP-3-054 provides further justification to the Applicant's position and importance of maximizing existing grid capacity: This is relevant to the consideration of Policy CS4 because it concerns the approach to site selection. The weight that should be afforded to the availability of the connection at Ryhall substation is significant and, as the Statement of Need [APP-202] clearly demonstrates, the use of existing capacity within the network is a policy priority. Indeed, paragraph 3.10.38 of Revised Draft EN-3 states that "to maximise existing grid infrastructure, minimise disruption to existing local community infrastructure or biodiversity and reduce overall costs applicants may choose a site based on nearby available grid export capacity". These key facets of Government policy are critical to the understanding of why the Application Site has been pursued to deliver a NSIP scale solar proposal, particularly in relation to the availability of the Grid Connection and capacity at the Ryhall substation in a location which would also minimise disruption to existing local community infrastructure and biodiversity (as concluded in the ES). In response to policy CS4, the countryside location for the Proposed

	where it can support sustainable patterns of development and provides access to services by foot, public transport and cycling.	Development is considered justified as essential infrastructure with a primary function to import energy from renewable sources providing wider sustainability benefits to the community through the delivery of a considerable amount of renewable energy generation capacity that is urgently needed tohelp meet national energy and climate change objectives and commitments, as detailed by the Statement of Need. Chapter 14 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes an assessment of socio-economic impacts of the Proposed Development at local and regional levels. An ~~outline Employment and Skills Action Plan~~ Outline Employment, Skills, and Supply Chain Plan (oES~~A~~SCP) ~~is~~ has ~~to~~ been prepared to support and enable local residents and businesses to access the employmentand supply chain opportunities that will be presented.
Policy CS13 – Employment and economic development	The strategy is to: a) support the provision of a greater range of employment opportunities focused on high skilled, knowledge based, leisure and tourism industries in the county; b) support small scale and start up businesses including through the provision of additional managed incubator and start-up premises; c) safeguard all of the land and premises in the existing industrial estates for employment uses (B1, B2, B8) unless it canbe demonstrated that an alternative use would have economic benefits and would not be detrimental to the overall supply andquality of employment land within the County.; d) safeguard the current undeveloped high quality employment allocations at Lands End Way,	Parts b, c, d, e, f, h of policy CS 13 are not relevant to theProposed Development. With regards to Part (a), Chapter 14 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes an assessment of socio-economic impacts of the Proposed development at local and regional levels.The Chapter confirms that the majority of socio-economic impactsexperienced during the construction and decommissioning phasesrelate to the creation of employment opportunities and increased spend on local services. Once operational, impacts on local labourmarket arising from operational and maintenance jobs would be more limited. An ~~Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.10]** will be agreed with local stakeholders prior to the commencement of construction which will set out measures the Applicant will implement in order to promote and enable access to the employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the construction phase locally in order to help capture as many of the benefits for study area residents as possible~~ outline Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan **[Ref**

	Oakham; Uppingham Gate and Pit Lane, Ketton for employment uses (B1, B2, B8) and waste related uses unless it can be demonstrated that an alternative use would have economic benefits and would not be detrimental to the overall supply and quality of employment land within the County. Provide new employment allocations as set out in Policy CS14.; e) safeguard local employment uses located outside the employment areas where they are important to sustaining the role of the settlements and the local economy; f) support the re-use or re-development of redundant military bases and prisons as set out in Policy CS6; g) improve workforce skills by: • working with local education and skill agencies, and local businesses to establish training facilities to enhance workforce skills; • Supporting the development of new training facilities on employment sites; h) Support the introduction and development of the superfast broadband and information and communications technology networks to support local businesses and flexible working in particular in the rural areas.	**EN010127/APP/7.10]** has been developed, and will be agreed with local stakeholders prior to the commencement of construction. This document ~~which will~~ sets out measures the Applicant will implement in order to promote and enable access to the employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the construction phase locally in order to help capture as many of the benefits for study area residents as possible. . Parts b – f and h of this Policy are not considered relevant to theProposed Development. With regards to Part (g) of Policy CS13, an Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan will be agreed with local stakeholders prior to the commencement of construction which will set out measures the Applicant will implement in order to promote and enable access to the employment and supply chain opportunities associated with the construction phase locally in order to help capture as many of the benefits for study area residents as possible.

Policy CS16 – The rural economy	The strategy for the rural economy is to: a) encourage agricultural, horticultural and forestry enterprises and farm diversification projects where this would be consistent with maintaining and enhancing the environment, and contribute to local distinctiveness; b) support the mineral industry as set out in the Minerals Core Strategy and Policies DPD; c) support waste management developmentas set out in Policy CS25; safeguard existing rural employment sites and permit the improvement and expansionof existing businesses provided it is of a scale appropriate to the existing development where this would be consistent with maintaining and enhancing the environment, and contribute to local distinctiveness of the area; e) allow small scale developments for employment purposes in the local services centres and smaller services centres provided it is of a scale appropriate to the existing location where this would be consistent with maintaining and enhancing the environment, and contribute to local distinctiveness of the area; f) support the conversions and re-use of appropriately located and suitably	The application allows the diversification of existing agricultural businesses. Chapter 12 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** confirms that the land occupied by the Solar PV site only involvespart of their respective wider agricultural land holding, allowing farming activities to continue on land outside of the Solar PV Site.Grazing is also proposed to be undertaken amongst the solar arrays within the Solar PV Site, as described in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].** The Applicant confirmed during Examination that use of land for the grazing of sheep will fall within the definition of "agriculture", as set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 section 336. There is no economic assessment embedded in the definition. In response to a) the Applicant identified during Examination that the economic performance of agricultural land is influenced by a great number of factors. The Applicant further responded to ExA question 7.0.9 from the Second Written Questions [REP5-012]. The revised OCEMP [REP8-010]] at 4.2.30 references 0.5 livestock units per hectare. Based on the typical lowland ewe having a Livestock Unit of 0.11, the stocking rate if ewes are kept would be 4.5 ewes per hectare. The key here is that this is about the economic use of agricultural land as a use of the soil in the context of its place in the countryside. By definition, agricultural land and its economic use of it, takes place in the countryside. The Proposed Development has minimised Solar PV Panels on the BMV agricultural land. Furthermore, it has aimed to retain BMV fields for agricultural use with enhanced sustainable management and technical agricultural practices that will ensure mitigation, productivity, and yield can be maintained. This approach ensures that the land is maintaining its agricultural character, economic potential and ecological value. Agricultural use in the countryside can, therefore, continue.

	constructed rural buildings in the countryside (adjacent or closely related to the towns, local services centres and smaller services centres) for employment generating uses particularly where they would assist in the retention or expansion of existing rural businesses or encouragement of enterprises that have little adverse environmental impact, support the local delivery of services and retention of local shops and pubs as set out in Policy CS7	In this context, it is for the decision maker to decide if the impacts arising from the change in type of economic use of BMV in the countryside, from agricultural use of the remaining BMV soil areas that are within the Solar PV Site, to solar, is acceptable in the planning balance, given the national policy support for large scale solar. It should also be noted that this policy commitment is high level and relates to all planning policies and decisions covered by the NPPF (e.g. those under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)).
Policy CS18– Sustainabletransport and accessibility	The Council will work with partners to improve accessibility and develop the transport network within and beyond Rutland and accommodate the impacts of new development by focusing on: a) supporting new development in the towns and local service centres in line with the locational strategy in Policy CS4 which are accessible by range of sustainable forms oftransport and minimise the distance peopleneed to travel to shops, services and employment opportunities; b) supporting development proposals that include a range of appropriate mitigating transport measures aimed improved transport choice and encourage travel to work and school safely by public transport, cycling and walking, including travel plans; c) providing safe and well designed transport	With respect to parts a – c of Policy CS18, the transport related mitigation measures that have been integrated into the design of the Proposed Development are outlined in Chapter 9 of the **ES [Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]** and are as follows: Access locations: the location of the proposed vehicle access points to the Solar PV Site has been identified through a review of the Local Road Network (LRN) to identify suitable locations in highway safety terms, including ensuring the nature of the major arm being sufficient to accommodate HGVs and the provision of appropriate visibility splays. The use of existing access points onto the LRN has been prioritised to minimise the environmental impacts associated with the creation of new points of vehicular access, such as the removal of hedgerows. Where there is not a reasonable access location within vicinity of the relevant area of the Solar PV Site, a new vehicle access has been provided that complies with all relevant highway safety requirements. Consolidation: use of a centralised primary construction compound for deliveries to allow direct access to the Solar PV Site and reduce the need for larger deliveries to impact the LRN, as secured through the an outline

	infrastructure; d) improving bus routes, services and passenger facilities around the key transport hubs of Oakham and Uppinghamand linkages to the larger service villages and nearby cities and towns, such as Leicester, Peterborough, Corby and Stamford; e) improving passenger rail services and facilities to Oakham and other parts of the region and bus, pedestrian and cycle linksto the rail station; f) supporting opportunities for sustainable freight movement by rail where possible; g) Integration between the different modes particularly bus and rail services through provision of a sustainable transport interchange in Oakham; h) providing adequate levels of car parking inline with Council's published car parking standards; f) co-ordination and joint working between the education, public, business, voluntary and community sectors to achieve affordable and sustainable transport, wherever possible; and g) the delivery of highways and transport improvements as guided by the Local TransportPlan through joint working with neighbouring authorities and transport	Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) (including outline Travel Plan) [Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]. From this centralised primary compound, the deliveries will be distributed out via smaller, local vehicles to the secondary construction compounds. This allows for extra control over the timings of any construction deliveries, whereby arriving/departing vehicles can arrive in platoons to avoid the likelihood of two construction vehicles passing each other. Layout and Internal Routing: internal access routes will be provided within the Solar PV Site to minimise vehicles needing to use the LRN. The setbacks included in the layout of PV Solar arrays fromsettlements and residential properties also reduces the impact of vehicle routes in relation to these receptors. Vehicle routing: construction vehicles will only utilise the permitted access routes, which will be secured by a requirement on the DCO application via the oCTMP. Highway improvements: permanent improvements will be made to the junction of the A1621 and Uffington Lane, as well as the introduction of passing places well as along Uffington Lane (within the Order limits), prior to the commencement of construction (such passing places to be removed post construction to minimise impacts to the Local Wildlife Site status of the affected verges), as secured through the Outline CTMP), to help facilitate two-way HGV flows. Further details on the mitigation measures are included withinthe supporting (Appendix 9.4) of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** Staff Shuttle: a staff shuttle service will be deployed from the primary construction compound to transport staff to the relevantarea where works are required, which will be subject to phasing,with investigations for a shuttle to areas of residence/public transport hubs. Management Plans: a number of outline management plans including an

	providers, where necessary.	outline Construction Environmental Management Plan oCEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and the oCTMP (including outlineTravel Plan) have been prepared in support of the DCO and will inform the development of final management plans prior to construction as secured by a DCO Requirement. Parts d – j are not considered relevant for the ProposedDevelopment
Policy CS19 – Promotinggood design	All new development will be expected to contribute positively to local distinctiveness and sense of place, being appropriate and sympathetic to its setting in terms of scale, height, density, layout, appearance, materials, and its relationship to adjoining buildings and landscape features, and shall not cause unacceptable effects by reason of visual intrusion, overlooking, shading, noise, light pollution or other adverse impact on local characterand amenities. All new developments will be expected to meet high standards of design that: a) are sympathetic and make a positive contribution towards the unique characterof Rutland's towns, villages and countryside; b) reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime and support inclusive communities, particularly in terms of accessand functionality; c) incorporate features to minimise energy consumption and maximise generation of renewable energy as part of thedevelopment (see Policy CS20); d) minimise water use and the risk of floodingto	In response to part a) the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** sets out how good design has been embeddedin the Proposed Development vision and objectives, how this has influenced the overall siting and aesthetics of the Proposed Development, how the local landscape and visual character has been considered and how good design will be taken forward at detailed design stage. Mallard Pass Solar Farm has adopted the NIC Design Principles of climate, people, place and value to guide the design development of the Proposed Development These NIC Design Principles have been used to frame a set of specific Project Principles to ensure theProposed Development fits sensitively into the local context, mitigating environmental effects, respects local communities and provides enhancements where possible whilst delivering low carbonenergy., to be taken forward in detailed design through further developed Design Guidance. The design has also evolved through the DCO process responding to consultation and stakeholder feedback. Chapter 3 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1}]** sets out a description of the Order limits and their context, and the Design andAccess Statement describes the key elements of the landscape character with reference to the Landscape Character Areas (LCA), and management measures to ensure these LCAs are preserved. These management measures have been carried through to the Project Principles and Design Guidance section of

	and from the development including theuse of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems wherever possible; e) minimise the production of waste during their construction and operation and maximise the re-use and recycling of materials arising from construction and demolition and; f) allow the sorting, recycling and biological processing of waste through the development's operational life. New developments of 10 or more dwellings will be expected to meet a "good" or "very good" rating (14 or more positive answers out of 20) against Buildingfor Life criteria unless it can be demonstrated that this is not feasible or viable on a particular site. Newhousing developments will be required to meet "Lifetime Homes" standards in order to ensure that they meet the current and future needs of occupiers.	the Design and Access Statement to ensure the Proposed Development is sympathetic towards the unique character of countryside, andresponds positively to nearby settlements. In addition, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) hasbeen undertaken to consider the significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of residential visual amenity ~~conditions~~ living conditions in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** In response to part b) Security requirements for the Proposed Development have been embedded into the design of the proposals from the outset and are considered proportionate. Facing and CCTV are employed across the site to secure and monitor solar infrastructure. The oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** sets out measures for the security management, including a programme of security management threat risks assessments. Section 7.1 of the Planning Statement describes how the Proposed Development has been designed in order to address security concerns. In response to part c) The Operational phase of the Proposed Development by its nature will generate substantial levels of renewable energy. Section 3 of the Planning Statement outlines that maximising the generating capacity of schemes improves theireconomic efficiency, bringing power to market at the lowest cost possible. Figure 10-5 in section 10 of the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** confirms that larger solar schemes deliver more quickly and at a lower unit cost than multiple independent schemes which make up the same total capacity, bringing forward carbon reduction and economic benefits in line with government policy. The scale of the Proposed Development responds to this opportunity, and has been designed to respond sensitively to local context as described in the Design and Access Statement. In addition, a series of measures are included to minimise and offset the GHG footprint of the Proposed Development from the

		construction and decommissioning phases. The adoption of measures detailed in Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, and Table 3-9 Climate Change of the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**. In respect of part c) of CS19, during Examination, the Applicant has responded to a number of points from both the ExA and IPs on matters relating to flexibility and the ability for the Proposed Development to maximise its efficiency. In response to the Examining Authority's First Written Questions (Q1.0.16) [REP2-037] the Applicant explained its approach to overplanting and that the ratio in the case of the Application (1.3 – 1.5) falls within the implied parameters set out in paragraph 3.10.8 of the draft NPS EN-3. The response also provides a more technical explanation of the benefits of overplanting over the life of the project. The response explains that a scheme which is not overplanted has a MW(p) / MW(AC) ratio of 1.0. In a scheme which is overplanted that ratio is greater than 1.0. As the overplanting ratio increases, "unusable" solar generation at times of high irradiation and early in the scheme's operational life increases, but those losses may be compensated for by more output in times of lower irradiation and more generally later in operational life. The Applicant further sets out its position in response to Q1.0.13 of the Examining Authority's Second Written Questions [REP5-012]. In response to part d) a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) included in Appendix 11.54 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been prepared, and the likely effects of the Proposed Development associated with flood risk have been assessed in Chapter 11 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. The FRA concludes that the risk of the Proposed Development flooding from all sources is negligible. ~~minimised and can be effectively~~Surface water run-off rates will be managed via drainage

		measures identified in the outline Surface Water Drainage Strategy (oSWDS) Appendix 11.6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2],** and the Proposed Development ~~is not considered~~will not to give rise to any adverse flood effects either within, or outside of the Order limits. ~~The Proposed Development requires minimal use of water.~~ During the operational phase there is capacity for permanent staff members to be located at the office and welfare facilities. The welfare facilities at the plant building will comprise toilets and a kitchen with foul waters emanating from both facilities. To serve the welfare and office facilities within the Proposed Development potable water may be required. Due to the rural setting of the Order Limits a connection to an existing clean water outlet via Anglian Water is not feasible. Therefore potable water will be sourced from a licensed provider with potable water to be stored within the confines of the welfare and office facilities. The potable water storage will be stored within a industry standard confined vessel (e.g., a demineralised water butt), therefore minimizing water use. ~~However, a~~A Water Management Plan (WMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.13]**. has been prepared and to manage abstraction of water during construction activities. In response to part e) and f) Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 of the ES considers waste streams during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The Waste Hierarchy principles are embedded into the outline environmental management plans that form part of the DCO. An obligation to prepare a Construction Resource Management Plan (CRMP) is set out in the oCEMP and an obligation for a Decommissioning Resource Management Plan (DRMP) is set out inthe oDEMP

Policy CS20 - Energy efficiency and low carbonenergy generation	Renewable, low carbon and de-centralised energy will be encouraged in all development. The design,layout, and orientation of buildings should aim to minimise energy consumption and promote energyefficiency and use of alternative energy sources. All new housing developments will be encouraged to meet the minimum energy efficiency standards ofthe Code for Sustainable Homes in accordance withthe government's proposed timetable for improving energy efficiency standards beyond the requirements of the Building Regulations. All new non-domestic buildings will be encouraged to meet BREEAM design standards for energy efficiency. Wind turbines and other low carbon energy generating developments will be supported where environmental, economic and social impacts can beaddressed satisfactorily and where they address the following issues: a) landscape and visual impact, informed by the Rutland Landscape Character Assessment and the Rutland Historic Landscape Character assessment; b) effects on the natural and cultural environment including any potential impacts on the internationally designated nature conservation area of Rutland Water; c) effects on the built environment, public and residential amenity, including noise intrusion; d) the number and size of wind turbines and their cumulative impact; e) the contribution to national and international	The Proposed Development comprises a low carbon energy generating development which is subject to criteria a – e of PolicyCS20. With respect to part (a), Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development.It also considers cumulative effects, visual and light pollution effects and effects~~ on nature conservation.~~ The LVIA has been informed by, amongst other documents, the Rutland Landscape Character Assessment and the Rutland Historic Landscape Character assessment. Section 7.2 of the Planning Statement presents a summary of the LVIA assessment conclusions. In summary the LIVA has concluded that the Proposed Development will result in some limited adverse landscape and visual effects. However, the applicants have demonstrated that considerable effort has been made to minimise landscape and visual impacts of the Proposed Development. The measures that have been effective in containingthe adverse impacts are demonstrated in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9].** It isconsidered that the wider benefits of the Proposed Development, including biodiversity net gain, provision of permissive footpaths and the delivery of significant level of low carbon energy generationoutweigh these impacts and that the Proposed Development is considered acceptable in terms of overall landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts. With respect to part (b), Chapter 7 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** considers the biodiversity and natureconservation impacts of the Proposed Development. Some temporary impacts are identified on habitats related to the construction phase for the creation of passing places, and for visibility splays to facilitate access. The installation of the Solar PVSite will also

	environmental objectives on climate change andnational renewable energy targets	result in the loss of some nesting areas for ground nesting birds. However, the Chapter concludes that, subject to mitigation, there are anticipated to be no potential significant adverse effects on any designated ecological sites, habitats or protected species. A shadow Habitats Regulation Assessment, ES Appendix 7.5 **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** has been undertaken to support the DCO Application. This concludes that no likely significant effects on any Special Protection Areas (SPA), including Rutland Water, orSpecial Areas of Conservation (SAC) within the study area of theProposed Development, and no specific residual mitigation measures are required. With respect to part (c), a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to consider the significance of effectson the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability residential visual amenity ~~of living conditions~~ in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]**. An assessment of the noise and vibration impacts of the Proposed Development is set out in Chapter 10 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** The outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** includes measures for the control of noise during construction. During the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance [REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised, including providing for a post-opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met. Operational noise has been assessed and the layout of noise- generating equipment has been set back from sensitive receptors (including heritage assets) as embedded mitigation. Noise levels atdetailed design will be controlled through a requirement of the DCO**.** Part (f) is considered to relate to cumulative impact of wind turbinesand therefore does not apply to the Proposed Development. Notwithstanding

		this, cumulative impacts of the Proposed Development have been assessed in the Environmental Statementand are summarised/presented in Chapter 16. With respect to part (e), the Proposed Development includes infrastructure capable of generating up to 350 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy connecting to the National Electricity Transmission System. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** accompanying the DCO Application sets out adetailed case for why the Proposed Development is urgently required, concluding that it will be a critical part of the development of the UK's portfolio of renewable energy generation, and required to decarbonise its energy supply quickly and provide secure and affordable energy supplies. The Proposed Development presents a significant and vital opportunity to develop a large-scale low-carbon generation increasing materially the UKs ability to meet future Carbon Budgets and Net Zero by 2050. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development is of a scale which makes a meaningful contribution todecarbonisation and deliverable in the 2020s, a critically important time period on the journey to achieving the UKs Net Zero commitments. The Proposed Development makes use of existing available capacity on the National Electricity Transmission which means that the power it generates will be easily transmitted to wherever it is needed, without bearing additional costs to develop connection infrastructure thereby ensuring that the development delivers as much low-carbon power as possible in the most affordable way. During the Examination the Applicant responded to matters relating to the urgent need for the deployment of large scale solar to help meet the UK's energy targets. These responses drew upon recent UK Government policy and publications and are particularly relevant to part e) of Policy CS20 as the positions outlined represent the urgency of the need and importance

		of solar within, thereby supporting the objectives of CS20. Notable responses are contained in the Applicant's Response to FWQs, Section 1.2 [REP2-037] and Applicant's Response to SWQs, Section 1.1 [REP5-012] as well as the Applicant's Response to Interested Parties Deadline 2 Submissions – Need [RE)3-024]. The Applicant refers to how Mission Zero re-emphasises the criticality of solar to the UK's future energy mix not only to help achieve net zero but also to help achieve energy independence. In this regard Mallard Pass Solar Farm would make a major contribution as well as significant input towards the 70GW solar target to be delivered by 2035. Indeed, the contribution the Proposed Development could make would be realised as early as 2028. The Applicant further refers to the Committee for Climate Change's June 2023 Report to Parliament: Progress in reducing emissions. The key findings of which states the prospects of the UK meeting its Nationally Determined Contribution for 2030 and the Sixth Carbon Budget for the mid-2030s have worsened since last year. The report measures progress against key indicators with solar PV achieving the lowest rating stating the solar PV targets are substantially off-track. The report advises that in 2022 0.7GW of solar was deployed and that an average of annual deployment rate of 4.3GW is required to deliver 70GW by 2035. It further states that given short lead times, rapid deployment of onshore wind and solar could have helped to mitigate dependence on imported gas during the fossil fuel crisis. The report, published by government advisers, demonstrates further the absolute criticality of the delivery of projects such as Mallard Pass Solar Farm in order to meet these targets which, we must not forget, are designed to avert a global climate crisis
Policy CS21 - The natural environment	Development should be appropriate to the landscape character type within which it is situatedand contribute to its conservation, enhancement or	Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The LVIA

	restoration, or the creation of appropriate new features. The quality and diversity of the natural environmentof Rutland will be conserved and enhanced. Conditions for biodiversity will be maintained and improved and important geodiversity assets will beprotected. Protected sites and species will be afforded the highest level of protection with priority also given tolocal aims and targets for the natural environment. All developments, projects and activities will beexpected to: a) Provide an appropriate level of protection to legally protected sites and species; b) Maintain and where appropriate enhance conditions for priority habitats and species identified in the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan; c) Maintain and where appropriate enhance recognised geodiversity assets d) Maintain and where appropriate enhance other sites, features, species or networks of ecological interest and provide for appropriate management of these; f) Maximise opportunities for the restoration, enhancement and connection of ecologicalor geological assets, particularly in line withthe Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan;	assesses the landscape character and visual amenity of the Order limits and its surroundingcontext, its sensitivity to change, and the likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** describes the key elements of the landscape character with reference to the Landscape Character Areas (LCA), and management measures to ensure these LCAs are preserved. These management measureshave been carried through to the Project Principles and Design Guidance section of the Design and Access Statement to ensure the Proposed Development is sympathetic towards the unique character of landscape, and identifies opportunities for restorationor enhancement of landscape features. The biodiversity and nature conservation impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in Chapter 7 of the ES on ecology and biodiversity. With respect to parts a – c of Policy CS21, the Chapter sets out all relevant designated sites (international, national and local) of ecological or geological conservation importance; protectedspecies; and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits. With respect to part d) the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan whichis included in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP7.7]** which is secured as part ofthe DCO sets out the potential mitigation and enhancement measures identified, such as enhanced or new structural planting, and prescriptions for management of these features. With respect to parts (e), (f) and (h), biodiversity and nature geodiversity conservation considerations have informed the design of the Proposed Development from the outset and integrated as part of the design process, as described in the Design and Access Statement. This has facilitated an approach to mitigating impacts

	g) Mitigate against any necessary impacts through appropriate habitat creation, restoration or enhancement on site or elsewhere; h) Respect and where appropriate enhance the character of the landscape identified inthe Rutland Landscape Character assessment; e) Maintain and where appropriate enhance greeninfrastructure. (see Policy CS23	that first seeks to avoid impacts, then minimise them, and then take on-site measures to rehabilitate or restore biodiversity, before finally offsetting residual, unavoidable impacts. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** details the design process which has enabled the layout of the proposed development to maximise opportunities to enhance and conserve biodiversity and geological conservation interests. A key element of the strategy hasbeen the identification and retention of beneficial biodiversity or geological landscape features into the layout of the Proposed Development. The design has evolved throughout the DCO process as a result of consultation and stakeholder feedback. Chapter 7 describes the mitigation measures embedded into the layout as identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan whichis included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**, and in the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline decommissioning Environmental Management plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**, all of which are secured under the DCO. The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver a significant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be a minimum of 65% Net Gain, with the use of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1 as shown in the Biodiversity Net Gain assessment. Delivery of BNG is secured via Requirement 7 of the DCO. ~~The habitat creation and enhancements identified that will deliver asignificant net gain in biodiversity value of the land within the Order Limits. This has been shown to be just over 72% Net Gain with theuse of the Biodiversity Metric 3.1~~ With respect to part (g), as set out above, the Proposed Development has been designed to respect, and where possible enhance the relevant Landscape Character as outlined within theDesign and Access Statement

		[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3] and ES Chapter 6, LVIA **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].**
Policy CS22 - The historic and cultural environment	The quality and character of the built and historic environment of Rutland will be conserved and enhanced. Particular protection will be given to the characterand special features of: a) listed buildings and features; b) conservation areas; c) scheduled ancient monuments; d) historic parks and gardens; e) known and potential archaeological sites. All developments, projects and activities will be expected to protect and where possible enhancehistoric assets and their settings, maintain local distinctiveness and the character of identified features. Development should respect the historic landscape character and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration, or the creation of appropriate new features. The adaptive re-use of redundant or functionally obsolete listed buildings or important buildings willbe supported where this does not harm their essential character.	Chapter 8 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Cultural Heritage Assessment of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological remains, builtheritage and the historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets. The Chapter confirms that there are no non-designated or designated heritage assets comprising Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments or Registered Parksare located within the Order limits. A limited number of historic assets have been identified which could potentially be affected by the Proposed Development. These are: • the Scheduled Monument of Essendine Castle and the Grade II* Listed Church of St.Mary located 50m to the westof the Order limits; • the Grade II Listed Banthorpe Lodge located 190m to theeast of the Order limits; • the non-designated heritage asset Braceborough Grange is located 10m to the north of the Order limits; and • the potential for buried impacts upon non-designated buried archaeological remains within the Solar PV Site area of the Order limits. The Chapter identifies that no significant effects upon these assets,or upon buried archaeological remains, the historic landscape or historic buildings will result from the construction, operation ordecommissioning of the

		Proposed Development. A heritage settings assessment was undertaken early in the designprocess in order to allow avoidance and mitigation measures to be designed into the Proposed Development. The incorporation of offsets to maintain a degree of separation between the Solar PV Site and surrounding designated heritage assets, including the Scheduled Essendine Castle and Grade II*Listed Church of St. Mary, and Grade II Listed Banthorpe Lodgehave been incorporated into the design. These ensure that the characteristics of their existing settings are maintained. The farmland immediately surrounding the non-designated Braceborough Grange is maintained. The existing landscape structure within the Order limits, including hedgerows and tree-lines defining historic field systems will be preserved, and in many instances enhanced through additional planting. Where possible, new planting has been aligned to historic field boundaries which will serve to repair historic landscape structures, and serve to reduce any visibility of the Proposed Development from the identified heritage assets.This includes circa 670 metre native treebelt planting south of Carlby Road which broadly follows the alignment of a historic field boundary previouslylost through arable intensification. Retention and management of these landscape features as detailed in the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** would serve to minimise the effect of the Proposed Development upon historic landscape features within the Order limits.
Policy CS23- Greeninfrastructure, openspace, sport and recreation	The existing green infrastructure network will be safeguarded, improved and enhanced by further provision to ensure accessible multi-functional green spaces by linking existing areas of open space. This will be achieved by:	The DCO Application is accompanied by an Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** which includes a proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. With respect to parts (a) - (c) of Policy CS23, maintaining and enhancing Green Infrastructure connections across the Order limitshas been

	a) the continued development of a network of green spaces, paths and cycleways in and around the towns and villages; b) requiring new development to make provision for high quality and multifunctionalopen spaces of an appropriate size and willalso provide links to the existing green infrastructure network; c) resisting development resulting in the loss of green infrastructure or harm to its use or enjoyment by the public. Proposals involving the loss of green infrastructure willnot be supported unless there is no longer a need for the existing infrastructure or an alternative is provided to meet the local needs that is both accessible and of equal or greater quality and benefit to the community; d) resisting the loss of sport and recreation facilities where they are deficient and supporting the provision of additional new facilities in an equally accessible location as part of the development, particularly where this will provide a range of facilities of equal or better quality on a single site or provide facilities that may be used for a variety of purposes.	embedded into the design approach of the Proposed Development. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan included in the oLEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]** deliveries multifunctional green spaces across the Order limits, connecting habitats, delivering Biodiversity Net Gain and new permissive pathways. There are five ~~six~~ Public Rights of Way (PRoW) which cross the Order Limits which are described in Table 3.1 of Chapter 3 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. in addition, the Macmillan Way recreational route follows the south-western boundary before crossing the SolarPV Site and continues along the northern boundary of the south- western extent of the Solar PV Site. All PRoW within the Order limits are retained and the proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts on these recreational resources. TheProposed Development would also include new permissive paths approximately 7.9~~8.1~~km in total length connecting into the wider network of PRoW and rural lanes as a recreation benefit. Appendix 6.5, of the ES includes an Access and Recreation Assessment (ARA) **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1].** The adjustment to the route which has resulted in a lessening of the overall length is in direct response to engagement with an Interested Party and addresses a concern relating to the proximity of one of the permissive paths to their business and land. With respect to part (d), the Proposed Development does not resultin the loss of sport and recreation facilities.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Table 9 Rutland County Council Local Planning Policy – Table of Compliance

Rutland Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (adopted October 2014)		
Policy	Policy Text	Assessment
Policy SP1 – Presumptionin favour of sustainable development	When considering development proposals the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF. It will alwayswork proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area. Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policiesin neighbourhood plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at thetime of making the decision then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:	The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Table of Compliance (Table 4 at Appendix 3) outlines how the Proposed ~~d~~Development complies with Paragraph 8 in terms of achieving sustainable development.

	• any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweighthe benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or specific policies in that Framework indicate that development should be restricted.	
Policy SP7 – Non- residential development inthe countryside	Sustainable development in the countryside will be supported where it is: a) essential for the efficient operation of agriculture, horticulture or forestry; b) essential for the provision of sport, recreation and visitors facilities for whichthe countryside is the only appropriate location; c) essential investment in infrastructure including utilities, renewable energy and road side services required for public safetypurposes; d) a rural enterprise comprising small scale alterations, extensions or other development ancillary to an existing established use appropriate to the countryside; e) new employment growth comprising small scale, sustainable rural tourism, leisure or rural enterprise that supports the local economy and communities;	The Proposed Development represents essential investment in renewable energy infrastructure and is therefore considered to fall under part I of Policy SP7. The Proposed Development presents a significant and vital opportunity to develop a large-scale low-carbon generation increasing materially the UKs ability to meet future Carbon Budgets and Net Zero by 2050. The Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** demonstrates that the Proposed Development is of a scale which makes a meaningful contribution to decarbonisation and deliverable in the 2020s, a critically important time period on the journey to achieving the UKs Net Zero commitments. This is further set out in the Applicant's responses to the ExA's First [REP2-037] and Second Written [REP5-012] Questions on Need and Carbon. The Outline CEMP [REP8-010] provides that post-consent it must be demonstrated that this net benefit will be achieved. The Proposed Development makes use of existing available capacity on the National Electricity Transmission which means that the power it generates will be easily transmitted to wherever it is needed, without bearing additional costs to develop connection infrastructure thereby ensuring that the development delivers as much low-carbon power as possible in the most

	f) farm diversification that supports waste management development. Provided that: i. the development cannot reasonably be accommodated within the Planned Limits of Development of towns and villages; ii. the amount of new build or alteration is kept to a minimum and the local planning authority is satisfied that existing buildings are not available or suitable for the purpose iii. the development itself, or cumulatively with other development, would not adversely affect any nature conservation sites or be detrimental to the character and appearance of the landscape, visual amenity and the setting of towns and villages; iv. the development would not adversely affect the character of, or reduce the intervening open land between settlements so that their individual identity or distinctiveness is undermined; and the development would be in an accessible locationand not generate an unacceptable increase in the amount of traffic movements including car travel.	affordable way. Section 3 of the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** provides an overview of the need for, and benefits of, the Proposed Development, and the Statement of Need accompanying the DCO Application sets out a detailed case for why the Proposed Development is urgently required, concluding that it will be a critical part of the development of the UK's portfolio of renewable energy generation, and required to decarbonise its energy supply quickly and provide secure and affordable energy supplies. In response to part (i) of Policy SP7, the Proposed Development could not be reasonably accommodated within the Planned Limits of Development of towns and villages. The Site Selection assessment at Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement provides an overview of the site selection process undertaken to identify the development site. It should also be noted that it would be very unlikely that the development of any of these alternative sites could deliver anywhere close to the development capacity of the Application Site. Development economics suggests that landowners will seek to generate the highest reasonable land value, likely based on residential and employment values for scarce brownfield land allocated for a mix of uses. Such sites would, therefore, only ever be able to deliver a relatively small proportion of solar, either on rooftops, or as smaller elements of a wider scheme rather than utility scale solar developments. Woolfox Depot had already obtained planning approval for a smaller solar development (Ref: 2014/1004/MAJ). Development of these sites for large scale solar, rather than for housing and employment uses, is unlikely to be supported in policy terms on the basis that national planning policy supports making the most effective use of brownfield land to reduce the pressure of permanent encroachment on the countryside. In response to part (ii), Paragraph 7.6.4 of the Statement of Need **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.1]** explains that the use of 'brownfield' locations for solar is required in addition to large-scale developments such as the Proposed

		Developments, to meet Government's climate change targets. ~~Section 3 of the Planning Statement outlines that maximising the generating capacity of schemes improves their economic efficiency, bringing power to market at the lowest cost possible. Figure 10-5 in section 10 of the Statement of Need [**Ref EN010127/APP/7.1**] confirms that larger solar schemes deliver more quickly and at a lower unit cost than multiple independent schemes which make up the same total capacity, bringing forward carbon reduction and economic benefits in line with government policy.~~ In response to part (iii), the biodiversity and geological conservation impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in Chapter 7 of the ES [**Ref EN010127/APP/6.1**]. The Chapter sets out all the designated sites (international, national and local) of ecological or geological conservation importance; protected species; and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits. The Chapter concludes that, subject to implementation ofmitigation, there are anticipated to be no potential for significantadverse effects on any designated ecological sites, habitats or protected species. The DCO Application is accompanied by an Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**. which includes a proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. These documents set out the proposed landscape mitigation andenhancement measures that would be delivered through the Proposed Development. In response to part iv) Chapter 6 of the ES assesses the impacts upon landscape character of the Proposed Development. Section 6.3. of Chapter 6 of the ES sets out the national, regional, and localcharacter areas that the Order limits relate to. Locally the Order Limits are located within the Rutland Plateau D(ii) Clay Woodlands Landscape Character Area (LCA) broadly covering the north, eastern and southern parts of the Solar PV Site, and Kesteven Uplands LCA broadly covering Essendine village and the eastern and western parts of the Solar PV

		Site. Section 6.5 of the of Chapter 6 of the ES set out landscape effects of the Proposed Development upon these LCAs. In summary, the LVIA concludes that whilst the development would affect the character and appearance of the Order limits and its immediate environs within the ZVI, the key characteristics of the wider LCAs would prevail. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** describes the process undertaken to minimise potential impactsupon the character of nearby settlements. Embedded mitigation measures including substantial setbacks from settlements to the Solar PV Site, retention of existing landscape features and substantial new planting ensures the character and identify of individual settlements is preserved. In response to part (v), Chapter 9 of the ES summarises the traffic and transport related impacts of the Proposed Development. It concludes that that the potential for adverse effects would be local, temporary, and not significant.

Policy SP15 – Design and amenity	All new developments will be expected to meet the requirements for good design set out in Core Strategy CS19 – Promoting good design. Proposalswill be assessed to ensure they effectively address the following matters: **a) Siting and layout** The siting and layout must reflect the characteristicsof the site in terms of its appearance and function. **b) Relationship to surroundings and to other development** The development must complement the character of the local area and reinforce the distinctiveness ofthe wider setting. In particular, development shouldrespond to surrounding buildings and the distinctive features or qualities that contribute to the landscape and streetscape quality of the local area. Design shouldalso promote permeability and accessibility by making places connect with each other and ensure ease of movement between homes, jobs and services. **c) Amenity** The development should protect the amenity of thewider environment, neighbouring uses and occupiers of the proposed development in terms of overlooking, loss of privacy, loss of light, pollution (including contaminated land, light pollution or emissions), odour, noise and other forms of disturbance. **d) Density, scale, form and massing** The density, scale, form, massing and height of a development must be appropriate to the local context of the site and to the surrounding landscape and/or streetscape character.	The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** demonstrates how the Proposed Development complies with parts a – d; f – g, and part I of Policy SP15 PaI(e) is not considered to berelevant to the Proposed Development. In addition, and in responseto part c of the Policy, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken (contained in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** to consider the significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of residential visual amenity ~~living conditions~~, and outlines how residential visual amenity mitigation has been embedded within the Proposed Development. This mitigation also accounts for potential impacts arising from glintand glare, as set out in the glint and glare assessment included Appendix 15.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** In response to parts a – d; f – g, the Design and Access Statement sets out how good design has been embedded in the Proposed Development vision and objectives, how these have influenced the overall siting and aesthetics of the Proposed Development, how thishas been considered and how good design will be taken forward at detailed design stage. Mallard Pass Solar Farm has adopted the NIC Design Principles of climate, people, place and value to guide the design development of the Proposed Development. These NIC Design Principles have been 'localised' and developed into project specific Project Principles (and then on into Design Guidance for the post-consent process) to ensure the Proposed Development fits sensitively into the local context, mitigating environmental effects, respects local communities and provides enhancements where possible whilst delivering low carbon energy. Section 7.1 of the Planning Statement describes how the Proposed Development has been designed in order to address security concerns. Security requirements for the Proposed Development have been embedded into the design of the proposals from the outset and are considered proportionate. Fencing and CCTV are employed across the site to secure and monitor solar infrastructure. The oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** sets out measures for the security management, including a programme of security

	e) Appropriate facilities The development should incorporate appropriate waste management and storage facilities, tprovision for the storage of bicycles, connection to broadband networks. **f) Detailed design and materials** The detailing and materials of a building must be of high quality, respect and contribute to enhancing the local vernacular in respect of building traditions and appropriate to its context. New development should employ sustainable materials, building techniques and technology where appropriate. **g) Crime prevention** The design and layout of development should be safe and secure, with natural surveillance. Measures to reduce the risk of crime and anti-social behaviour must however not be at the expense of overall design quality. **h) Energy and water consumption measures** The development should incorporate measures to minimise energy and water consumption, through carefully considered design, layout and orientation of buildings and to make provision for recycling of waste, in particular ensuring that adequate binstorage areas are provided. **i) Landscaping** The development will only be acceptable if it provides for adequate landscaping, which preserves visual amenity and is designed as an integral part of the layout. Where development would abut or be within open countryside and be exposed to view, landscaping will be required to	management threat risks assessments. Controls on the fencing are set out in the Parameters [REP7-013], the Design Guidance [REP5-058] and through LPA approval pursuant to DCO requirement of the fencing details. In response to part (h) An outline Water Management Plan **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, is submitted as part of the DCO Application and describes water management measures. However, the Proposed Development will not result in water consumption other than possible minor abstraction for construction. In response to pI–ts (i - k) of Policy SP15, the DCO Application is accompanied by an Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) which includes a proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. These documents set out the proposed landscape mitigation and enhancement measures that would be delivered through the Proposed Development. In response to part (l) of Policy SP15, the location of the proposed vehicle access points to the Solar PV Site has been identified through a review of the Local Road Network (LRN) to identify suitable locations in highway safety terms, including ensuring the nature of the major arm being sufficient to accommodate HGVs andthe provision of appropriate visibility splays. The use of existing access points onto the LRN has been prioritised to minimise the environmental impacts associated with the creation of new points ofvehicular access, such as the removal of hedgerows. Where there is not a reasonable access location within vicinity of the relevant area of the Solar PV Site, a new vehicle access has been provided that complies with all relevant highway safety requirements.All PRoW within the Order limits are retained and the proposed Development has been designed to minimise impacts on these recreational resources. The Proposed Development would also include three new permissive paths approximately 7.98~~.1~~km in total length connecting into the wider network of PRoW and rural lanes as a recreation benefit. In response to part (m), Chapter 9 of the ES outlines the transportrelated mitigation measures that have been integrated into the design of the Proposed Development. The Chapter confirms that the assessment of transport impacts

	help integrate it into the surroundings. Landscapingwill be expected to make use of native and local species of plants which are resilient to climate change. The use of invasive and non-native plants will be discouraged. For major development an acceptable integrated structural landscaping scheme will need to be submitted. **j) Trees and hedgerows** Development that would result in the loss of treesand hedgerows will only be acceptable where it would not detract from visual amenity in the area (see also Policy SP–9 - Biodiversity and geodiversity conservation). **k) Outdoor playing space and amenity openspace** The development will only be acceptable if it makes adequate provision for open space which: i) is integrated and well located in relation to the proposed and existing development; ii) has step free access, making the site accessiblefor those with disabilities and pushchair users; provides pathways to and through the openspace Standards for provision of new open space are setout in Policy SP22 (Provision of new open space). **l) Access and Parking** The development should make provision for safe access by vehicles, pedestrians, wheelchair usersand cyclists as well as provide good links to and from public transport routes. Developers will be expected to retain existing footpaths, cycle routes and bridleways or tomake provision for their reinstatement, and to makeprovision for new routes to link with existing networks. This includes taking opportunities to enhance access to the countryside through improvements to the rights of way network. Adequate vehicle parking facilities must be providedto	confirms that the potential foradverse effects would be local, temporary and medium term and not significant. In respect of Part d), during the Examination the Applicant provided further justification and explanation around the scale and siting of the Proposed Development. The Applicant recognises that this is a large scheme but one which is required in order to deliver UK government targets on renewable energy generation. It is also recognised that there will be a change in the landscape but one which has been minimised to a significant degree through the inclusion of appropriate mitigation measures. The Applicant has continued to engage with LPAs and IPs to improve the Proposed Development during the Examination with notable updates to permissive path route, style of planting and committed widths of PRoWs (2m) and Byways (3m). The Applicant responded comprehensively on matters of scale, siting and design within its response to Interested Parties Submission [REP3-023].

	serve the needs of the proposed development. Development proposals should make provision forvehicle and cycle parking in accordance with the parking standards set out in Appendix 2, includingparking for people with disabilities. There should where practicable be convenient external access for mobility scooters to the rear gardens of residential properties to facilitate parking and storage, if suitable provision has not been made at the front or side of the dwelling. In exceptional circumstances, particularly in the town centres of Oakham and Uppingham, the application of these standards may be varied in order to reflect the accessibility of the site by non- car modes or other identified local requirement. **m) Impact on the highway network** Development should be designed and located so that it does not have unacceptable adverse impact on the highway network. Where necessary mitigation measures will be required to ensure that any impact is kept within acceptable limits. Development that would have an unacceptable adverse impact on the highway network will not be permitted.	
Policy SP18 - Wind turbines and low carbonenergy developments	Proposals for wind turbines and other low carbon energy developments will be supported where environmental, economic and social impacts can beaddressed satisfactorily in accordance with Core Strategy Policy CS20 (Energy efficiency and low carbon energy developments). 1. Wind turbine developments Proposals for wind turbine developments will be supported where they are acceptable in terms of: a) impact on the landscape, having regard to the	In response to Part 2 of Policy SP18 relating to 'other low carbon energy generating developments', the Planning Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.2]** presents a summary of the assessment of impacts and proposed mitigations in relation to various environmental topic areas (covering landscape and visual, noise, the natural environment (biodiversity and geological conservation),the historic and cultural environment, air quality, water quality and resources, and transport) with a view to demonstrating that proposals are acceptable with respect to parts a – h of the Policy. In addition to this, and with respect to part (a) of Policy SP18, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to consider the

	findings of the Rutland Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study (Wind Turbines); b) visual impact; c) cumulative impact; d) shadow flicker; e) noise; f) separation distances from: i) residential dwellings in order to protect residential amenity and to minimise any impact of noise or shadow flicker; ii) public footpaths and bridleways; iii) power lines, roads and railways; g) the natural environment; h) the local economy and tourism; i) the historic and cultural environment; j) grid connection; k) air traffic and radar; l) form and siting; m) mitigation; n) decommissioning and reinstatement of land at the end of the operational life of the development. Further guidance on these issues is provided in the Supplementary Planning Document on Wind Turbine Developments. 2. Other low carbon energy generating developments Proposals for other low carbon energy developments will be supported where they are acceptable in terms of: a) impact on residential amenity; b) landscape and visual effects; c) the natural environment; d) the historic and cultural environment; e) noise;	significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of livingconditions in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** With response to part b) Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The LVIAassesses the landscape character and visual amenity of the Orderlimits and its surrounding context, its sensitivity to change, and thelikely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. It considers cumulative effects, visual and light pollution effects and effects on nature conservation. It includes reference to landscape character assessments relevant to the Proposed Development and takes account of development local development plan policies. The impacts are presented in Chapter 6 of the ES and considered in section 7.2 of the Planning Statement. With respect to part c) The biodiversity and nature conservation impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in Chapter 7 of the ES on ecology and biodiversity. The Chapter sets out all relevant designated sites (international, national and local) of ecological or geological conservation importance; protected species; and habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits. The impacts are presented in Chapter 7 the ES and considered in section 7.6 of the Planning Statement. With respect to part d) Appendix 8.4 of the ES includes a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, encompassing assessment of buried archaeological remains, built heritage and the historic landscape including designated and non-designated heritage assets. The impacts are presented in Chapter 8 the ES Chapter and considered in section 7.3 of the Planning Statement. With respect to part e) Chapter 10 of the ES includes a noise assessment of the Proposed Development, including construction / decommissioning affects and

	f) emissions to ground, watercourses and air; g) odour; h) vehicular access and traffic; i) proximity of generating plants to the renewable energy source; j) grid connection; k) form and siting; l) mitigation; m) the decommissioning of the development and reinstatement of land at the end of its operational life.	impacts of operational noise. The impacts are presented in Chapter 10 of the ES and considered in section 7.10 of the Planning Statement. During the Examination, further commitments have been added to the oOEMP [REP8-011] and the Design Guidance [REP5-058] to ensure that noise impacts are minimised, including providing for a post opening check that the noise limits in the DCO are being met. With respect to part f) Chapters 13 (Climate Change), 11 (Water Resources and Ground Conditions) and section 15.2 (Air Quality) of Chapter 15 (other environmental topics) assess the potential effects of the Proposed Development upon ground, watercourses and the air. These Chapters refer to embedded mitigation incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development and environmental management included within the outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]**, outline Operational Management Plan (oOEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** and outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8].** With these measures in place it is concluded that the proposed development would be acceptable in terms of part f) of the policy. With respect to part (g), the Proposed Development is not anticipated to give rise to any impacts from emissions of odour. With respect to part (h) vehicular access and traffic impacts are assessed in Chapter 9 of the ES. Appendix 9.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** includes a Transport Assessment. The results of the assessment are set out in Chapter 9 of the ES and section 7.12 of the Planning Statement. The oCTMP [REP5-067] includes a number of highways improvements to facilitate safe access to site, and ensures that HGVs will not travel past local primary schools at their opening and closing times. With respect to part i) the nature of the Proposed Development is such that

		the generating plants are located at the renewable energy source (i.e site irradiance levels). The Site Selection Report at Appendix 1 of the Planning Statement sets out the process for identifying the location of the proposed development in relation tothe available capacity at the Ryhall 400kv Substation. With respect to part j) the Grid Connection Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.4]** confirms the capacity secured by theApplicant. With respect to part (k) of Policy SP18, the Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** sets out how good design hasbeen embedded in the Proposed Development vision and objectives, how these have influenced the overall siting and aesthetics of the Proposed Development, how this has been considered and how good design will be taken forward at detailed design stage. Siting within the Order Limits is shown on the Works Plans. With respect to part (l), mitigation measures have been embeddedin the design and layout of the proposals and are described in Chapter 16 of the ES. With respect to part (m) of Policy SP18, The Solar PV Site would beremoved in accordance with a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**. The DEMP will be required to be in accordance with the outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) which has been prepared to support the DCO Application.

Policy SP19 – Biodiversity and geodiversity conservation	Development proposals will normally be acceptablewhere the primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity or geodiversity. All new developments will be expected to maintain,protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity conservation interests in accordance with Core Strategy CS21 (The natural environment). **Sites of biodiversity and geodiversityimportance** a) Areas of international importance Development proposals that may individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on sites of international importance for nature conservation willbe subject to the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and other legislation that may apply to such sites. b) Areas of national importance Development proposals within or outside a Site ofSpecial Scientific Interest (SSSI) that may individually or in combination with other developments have an adverse effect on the site will not normally be acceptable. Where an adverse effect on the notified special interest of the site is likely, an exception will only be made for development where its benefits clearly outweigh both the impacts that it is likely to have on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest and any broader impacts on the national network of SSSIs. In exceptional cases where development is permitted which would affect the special interest of a SSSI,	The biodiversity and geological conservation impacts of the Proposed Development are considered in Chapter 7 of the ES **[RefEN010127/APP/6.1]**. The Chapter sets out all the designated sites (international, national and local) of ecological or geological conservation importance; protected species; and habitats and otherspecies identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity within the study area for the Order limits. The Chapter concludes that, subject to implementation of mitigation, there are anticipated to be no potential for significant adverse effects on any designated ecological sites, habitats or protected species. The Proposed Development has been designed to retain the existing landscape structure, including hedgerows and trees, withinthe Order limits. An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) is included in Appendix 15.2 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2]** and has identified veteran trees within the Order limits. Impacts on trees are avoided via embedded mitigation measures including standard offsets from all woodland, trees and hedges within and immediately adjacent to the Order limits and micro siting of infrastructure where cable routes or access tracks are in proximity to veteran and other trees as detailed in the outline Landscape andEnvironmental Management plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9]**. Measures to protect trees from accidental damage during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development have been set out within the Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.6]** and outline Decommissioning EnvironmentalManagement Plan (oDEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.8]**

	development will only be permitted if the detrimental impact has been minimised through the use of all practicable prevention, mitigation and compensation measures. c) Areas of local importance Development that is likely to result in significant harm to a site of local importance for biodiversity or geodiversity conservation will not be acceptable unless the harm can be avoided (for example by locating development on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated or as a last resort compensated for. Where compensatory habitat is created, it should be of equal or greater ecological value than the area lost as a result of the development. **Protected species** Where there is reason to suspect the presence of protected species, applications should be accompanied by a survey assessing their presence and if present the proposal must make necessarymeasures to protect the species. Development proposals that are likely to have an adverse effect on protected species will subject to the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the "Habitats Regulations") and other legalisation that may applyto such species. In exceptional circumstances, development may be acceptable that would have an effect on protected species, subject to requirements to: a) facilitate the survival of individual members of the species; b) reduce disturbance to a minimum;	

	c) provide adequate alternative habitats to sustainat least the current levels of population. **Irreplaceable habitats** Development that would result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and ancient semi-natural grasslands and the loss of aged or veteran treesfound outside ancient woodland will not be acceptable unless the need for, and benefits of development in that location clearly outweigh the loss. **Trees and hedgerows** Development that would result in the loss of treesand hedgerows of biodiversity importance will not be acceptable unless the trees or hedgerows are dead, dying, diseased or dangerous or in exceptional circumstances due tothe practicalities of development – see also Policy SP15 (Design and amenity).	
Policy SP23 – Landscape character in the countryside	Proposals to develop on land in the countryside willonly be permitted where the development complies with either Policy SP6 (Housing in the countryside) or Policy SP7 (Non-residential development in the countryside) and Policy SP15 (Design and amenity)and Policy SP19 (Biodiversity and geodiversity conservation). New development in and adjoining the countryside will only be acceptable where it is designed so as tobe sensitive to its landscape setting. Development will be expected to enhance the distinctive qualities of the landscape character types in which it would be situated, including the distinctive elements, features, and other	Compliance with Policies SP7 (Non-residential development in thecountryside), SP15 (Design and amenity) and Policy SP19 (Biodiversity and geodiversity conservation) is discussed and demonstrated against the relevant Policy in this table. The Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** sets out how good design has been embedded in the Proposed Development vision and objectives, how this has influenced the overall siting and aesthetics of the Proposed Development, how thelocal landscape and visual character has been considered and howgood design will be taken forward at detailed design stage. Mallard Pass Solar Farm has adopted the NIC Design Principles ofclimate, people, place and value to guide the design development of the Proposed

	spatial characteristics as identified in the Council's current Rutland Landscape Character Assessment. Proposals will be expected to respond to therecommended landscape objectives for the character area within which it is situated.	Development. These NIC Design Principles havebeen 'localised' and developed into project specific Project Principles to ensure the Proposed Development fits sensitively intothe local context, mitigating environmental effects, respects local communities and provides enhancements where possible whilst delivering low carbon energy, to be taken forward in detailed design through further developed Design Guidance. The DAS sets out a description of the Order limits and their context, describes the key elements of the landscape character with reference to the Landscape Character Areas (LCA), and management measures to ensure these LCAs are preserved. These management measures have been carried through to the Project Principles and Design Guidance section of the Design and Access Statement to ensure the Proposed Development has been designed so as to be sensitive towards the unique character of countryside, and responds positively to nearby settlements. Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]** includes a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) of the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. The LVIA assesses the landscape character and visual amenity of the Order limits and its surrounding context, its sensitivity to change, and the likely significance of effects arising from the Proposed Development. Section 6.3. of Chapter 6 of the ES sets out the national, regional, and local character areas that the Order limits relate to. Locally the Order Limits are located within the Rutland Plateau D(ii) Clay Woodlands Landscape Character Area (LCA) broadly covering the north, eastern and southern parts of the Solar PV Site, and Kesteven Uplands LCA broadly covering Essendine village and the eastern and western parts of the Solar PV Site. Section 6.5 of the LVIA set out landscape effects of the Proposed Development upon these LCAs. In summary, the LVIA concludes that whilst the development would affect the character and appearance of the Order

		limits and its immediate environs, the keycharacteristics of the wider LCAs would prevail. It is considered that these impacts are clearly outweighed by the Benefits of the proposed development, including biodiversity netgain and permissive path network, and the delivery of significantlevel of low carbon energy generation. The DCO Application is accompanied by an Outline Landscape andEcological Management Plan (oLEMP) which includes a proposed Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan. These documents set out the proposed landscape mitigation and enhancement measures that would be delivered through the Proposed Development.

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Table 10 Carlby Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy – Table of Compliance

Carlby Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan 2018-2036 (adopted 2019)		
Policy	Policy Text	Assessment
P.O. Pollution Control	P.1 Subject to the provisions of other development plan policies, development that would conserve therural character and tranquillity of the neighbourhoodarea will be supported where they have no unacceptable impact on residential amenity, air andlight quality, and traffic movements or where the impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated	Mallard Pass Solar Farm has adopted the NIC Design Principles of climate, people, place and value to guide the design development of the Proposed Development. These NIC Design Principles have been used to frame a set of specific Project Principles to ensure theProposed Development fits sensitively into the local context, mitigating environmental effects, respects local communities and provides enhancements where possible whilst delivering low carbon energy, to be taken forward in detailed design through further developed Design Guidance. Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** describesthe key elements of the landscape character with reference to the Landscape Character Areas (LCA), and management measures toensure these LCAs are preserved. These management measures have been carried through to the Project Principles and Design Guidance section of the Design and Access Statement to ensure the Proposed Development is sympathetic towards the unique character of countryside, and responds positively to nearby settlements. Section 6.3. of Chapter 6 of the ES sets out the national, regional, and local character areas that the Order limits relate to. Locally the Order Limits are located within the Rutland Plateau D(ii) Clay Woodlands Landscape Character Area (LCA) broadly covering the north, eastern and southern parts of the Solar PV Site, and Kesteven Uplands LCA broadly covering Essendine village and the eastern and western parts of the Solar PV Site. Section 6.5 of the LVIA set out landscape effects of the Proposed Development upon these LCAs. In summary, the LVIA concludes that whilst the development would affect the character and appearance of the Order limits, the key characteristics of the wider LCAs would prevail Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) has been undertaken to consider the

		significance of effects on the private views of the surrounding properties and the acceptability of living conditions in Appendix 6.4 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.2].** With respect to air quality, an Air Quality Assessment has been undertaken, the results of which are set out in section 15.2 of Chapter 15 of the ES, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. It is concluded that the Proposed Development would not lead to a deterioration in air quality locally or lead to any air quality breaches elsewhere. With respect to light quality, impacts of artificial light during each phase of the development are considered in Chapter 6 of the ES. During operation, no areas of the Solar PV Site would be continuously lit. No visible lighting would be required at the perimeter fencing and Infra-Red (IR) lighting would be provided by the security system to provide night vision functionality for the CCTV. The lighting of the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings would be in accordance with Health and Safety requirements, particularly around any emergency exits where there would be lighting, similar to street lighting that operates from dusk. Otherwise, lighting sensors for security purposes will be implemented around the Onsite Substation and ancillary buildings. The lighting design would seek to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors through directional cowls, as secured through the oOEMP **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.7]** With respect to traffic movements, a Transport Assessment has been prepared and undertaken as part of the ES (see details in Chapter 9 of the ES, **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. It assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on traffic and transport. In addition, Appendix G of the outline Construction Traffic Management Plan (oCTMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.11]**, which also includes an outline Transport Plan (oTP) which provides measures proposed to mitigate the transport impacts as well as improve existing infrastructure and promote sustainable transport. These documents are included are in the DCO Application and the details of the full CTMP would be approved by South Kesteven District Council as a Requirement of the DCO. The oCTMP [REP5-067] includes a number of highways improvements to facilitate safe access to site, and ensures that HGVs will not travel past local primary schools at their opening and closing times.

V.0. Village ruralcharacter and appearance,	All proposed development, including conversions, extensions and new development, should ensure that the scale of buildings does notunacceptably impact on the character or appearance of the village. V.2 Development which would have a negative impact, which impedes or changes the views and green spaces on the entrance to the west of the village will not be supported. V.3 Developments which would affect 'Carlby Rag' dry stone and dressed wall features will be supported where they retain, repair and/or reinstate these vernacular materials as appropriate to the particular proposal. V.4 Developments should safeguard and where appropriate incorporate traditional hedgerows and trees both in general, and on the approaches into the village in particular. Development that results in the loss of such features will not be supported, and V.5 The plan will support small residential installations up to a maximum of 4500 kWh per year that are sensitively located . Commercial P.V. panel and wind generator farms which impact on natural views from and to the village will not be supported.	In response to V.1. and V.2. Great care has been taken in the design development of the proposals to ensure that the Proposed Development does not unacceptably impact upon the character orappearance of the village, and the green spaces on it's western entrance. The Proposed Development and Solar PV Site has beenset back circa 400m from Carlby Village at it's closest point. Key viewpoints have been assessed in the Carlby Village and is summarised in Chapter 6 of the ES **[Ref EN010127/APP/6.1]**. Visual Receptor Group 3 covers those visual receptor groups within Carlby village. The LVIA confirms that the Solar PV Site would be distantly perceptible to a limited degree from Carlby High Street (rural lane) on the rising ground between the railway underpass andthe village centre and from the PRoW and properties on the southern fringe of Carlby village. Embedded mitigation would be provided through additional woodland planting along the disused railway embankment to the west of the eastern part of the Order limits to reduce the visual effects. Given the existing vegetation along the embankment, effective screening will be in place from year 1, with the impacts reducing as planting establishes resulting in minimal adverse effects. With regard to V.3. the proposal will not impact up on the Carlby Rag' dry stone and dressed wall features. With regard to V.4. A fundamental structuring element of the design has been to retain as far as possible the existing landscape features within the Order limits. The Green Infrastructure Strategy Plan which is included in the outline Landscape and Environmental Management Plan (oLEMP) **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.9**] which is secured in DCO Application, identifies how trees and hedgerows are retained. With regard to V.5. as noted in response to V.1. and V.2. the visual impacts of the proposed development from Carlby Village have been assessed in Chapter 6 of the ES, which concludes that, accounting for the embedded mitigation designed into the Proposed Development, minimal adverse visual impacts will be experienced.

D.0. Generic Development “where suitable & acceptable”	D.0.1. All new development should demonstrategood quality design that respects the scale and character of existing and surrounding buildings. Development proposals that would result in poor design that fails to take the opportunities available for improving local character and quality of an areaand the way it functions will not be supported.	Mallard Pass Solar Farm has adopted the NIC Design Principles ofclimate, people, place and value to guide the design development of the Proposed Development. These NIC Design Principles havebeen ‘localised’ and developed into project specific Project Principles to ensure the Proposed Development fits sensitively into the local context, mitigating environmental effects, respects local communities and provides enhancements where possible whilst delivering low carbon energy, to be taken forward in detailed designthrough further developed Design Guidance. Design and Access Statement **[Ref EN010127/APP/7.3]** sets out adescription of the Order limits and their context, describes the key elements of the landscape character with reference to the Landscape Character Areas (LCA), and management measures toensure these LCAs are preserved. These management measures have been carried through to the Project Principles and Design Guidance section of the Design and Access Statement to ensure the Proposed Development is sympathetic towards the unique character of countryside, and responds positively to nearby settlements.