

Gate Burton Energy Park Environmental Statement

Volume 1, Chapter 1: Introduction
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APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)
Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) has been commissioned by Gate Burton Energy Park Limited (the 'Applicant') in relation to an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for Gate Burton Energy Park (hereafter referred to as the 'Scheme').
- 1.1.2 The Scheme comprises the construction, operation, maintenance and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating facility and energy storage facility with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) and export connection to the National Grid. The Scheme will be located within the 'Order limits' (the land shown in **ES Volume 2: Figure 1-1 [EN010131/APP/3.2]**). The area subject to the Application comprises the Solar and Energy Storage Park and the Grid Connection Corridor (as shown on **ES Volume 2: Figure 1-2 [EN010131/APP/3.2]**).
- 1.1.3 The Scheme is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) for the purposes of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1-1) and requires an application for a DCO. The application for the DCO is being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, with the decision on whether to grant a DCO to be made by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (hereafter referred to as the 'Secretary of State') pursuant to the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1-1).
- 1.1.4 The Scheme is considered to be 'EIA development' as defined by the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the 'EIA Regulations') (Ref 1-2), requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA'). This ES forms part of the application for a DCO and presents the findings of the EIA undertaken for the Scheme in accordance with the EIA Regulations and the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1-1).
- 1.1.5 This chapter is supported by the following figures in **ES Volume 2 [EN010131/APP/3.2]**:
- **Figure 1-1:** Scheme Location; and
 - **Figure 1-2:** Scheme Boundary.
- 1.1.6 This chapter is supported by the following appendices in **ES Volume 3 [EN010131/APP/3.3]**:
- **Appendix 1-A:** EIA Scoping Report;
 - **Appendix 1-B:** EIA Scoping Opinion;
 - **Appendix 1-C:** EIA Scoping Opinion Responses; and
 - **Appendix 1-D:** Statement of Competence.
- 1.1.7 A glossary and list of abbreviations are defined in the **Chapter 0: Contents, Glossary and Abbreviations** of the ES **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**.

1.2 The Scheme

- 1.2.1 The Scheme comprises the installation of solar PV panels, on-site battery storage (referred to as the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)), and associated infrastructure including access provision and an underground 7.5km 400kV electrical connection to the National Grid Substation at Cottam Power Station. Subject to obtaining the necessary consents, construction is anticipated to commence in Q1 2025 and be completed ready for operation in Q1 2028. It is anticipated that the Scheme will have an operational lifetime of approximately 60 years, with decommissioning in 2088, however, if equipment is still operating successfully and safely, the Applicant may choose to operate beyond the Scheme’s originally anticipated design life.
- 1.2.2 The location of the Scheme is shown in **ES Volume 2: Figure 1-1**, with the Order limits shown on **ES Volume 2: Figure 1-2 [EN010131/APP/3.2]**. The land within the Order limits and its surroundings are described in **Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1]**, with the consideration of alternatives and progression of the site layout described in **Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010131/APP/3.1]**. The Site comprises approximately 824 hectares (ha) of land for solar PV, battery storage, a grid connection and associated infrastructure and landscaping and biodiversity measures.
- 1.2.3 Further information on site design and infrastructure is provided in **Chapter 2: The Scheme [EN010131/APP/3.1]**.
- 1.2.4 Environmental impacts arising from the Scheme have been considered as part of the EIA process, and the results are presented within this ES. The baseline for the assessment has been derived from surveys and studies within and around the Site. Methodology for the EIA is explained further in **Chapter 5: EIA Methodology [EN010131/APP/3.1]**, and in the methodology section of each technical assessment chapter.
- 1.2.5 The EIA process has considered potential impacts resulting from the construction, operation (including maintenance), and decommissioning of the Scheme, presented conclusions on likely significant effects, and considered measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate any significant adverse effects on the environment and, where possible, enhance the environment. It also identifies ‘residual’ effects, defined as effects remaining following the implementation of mitigation measures. The potential for cumulative effects from the Scheme and other plans and projects are also considered.
- 1.2.6 The structure of this ES is outlined in Table 1-1 below.

Table 1-1 ES Report Structure

Volume	Chapter	Description
Volume 1 [EN010131/APP/3.1]	Chapter 1: Introduction (this chapter) Chapter 2: The Scheme Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution Chapter 4: Consultation Chapter 5: EIA Methodology	These introductory chapters of the ES provide the basis for the technical environmental assessments which follow (Chapters 6 – 15). Chapter 2 provides a detailed description of the Scheme, while Chapter 3 discusses the design

Volume	Chapter	Description
		evolution and the alternatives considered. A summary of the consultation process undertaken is provided in Chapter 4 and the methodology used to undertake the EIA for the technical assessment chapters is set out in Chapter 5.
	Chapter 6: Climate Change Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation Chapter 9: Water Environment Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use Chapter 13: Transport and Access Chapter 14: Human Health and Wellbeing Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics	The ES considers the environmental effects associated with a number of identified topics, which may result in significant environmental effects. Each topic is presented in a separate technical chapter and details the results of the environmental assessment, likely significant effects arising from the Scheme, and the proposed mitigation measures. Each chapter also presents the potential cumulative effects resulting from other present, or reasonably foreseeable projects together (i.e. cumulatively) with the Scheme. Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics includes consideration of air quality, ground conditions, glint and glare, major accidents and disasters, telecommunications and waste.
	Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects and Interactions	A summary of the cumulative effects considered in the technical chapters is provided here. In addition, the effect interactions that lead to combined effects on sensitive receptors are documented within this chapter.
	Chapter 17: Summary of Environmental Effects	A summary of the residual significant effects remaining following the implementation of mitigation.
Volume 2 [EN010131/APP/3.2]	Figures	This contains a set of figures to accompany the ES.
Volume 3 [EN010131/APP/3.3]	Technical Appendices	These comprise background data, technical reports, tables, figures and surveys which support the assessments in this ES.
[EN010131/APP/3.4]	Non-Technical Summary (NTS)	The NTS is presented in a separate document to provide a concise description of the Scheme, the considered alternatives, baseline, assessment methodology, potential environmental effects and mitigation measures. The NTS is designed to provide information on the Scheme and the EIA in an accessible format using non-

Volume	Chapter	Description
		technical language which can be understood by a wide audience and to assist interested parties with their familiarisation of the Scheme.

The Applicant

- 1.2.7 The Application is submitted by Gate Burton Energy Park Ltd (the Applicant) which is a subsidiary of Low Carbon Ltd - a privately-owned investment and asset management company specialising in renewable energy.
- 1.2.8 Founded in 2011, Low Carbon is committed to making a positive and significant impact on climate change by investing in large-scale renewable energy projects across a range of energy technologies including solar PV, onshore wind, offshore wind, waste-to-energy, battery storage and other renewable energy technologies. Deploying capital at scale into renewables, it invests across the full life cycle from concept through to development, construction, and operation.
- 1.2.9 To date, the Low Carbon investment model has enabled the deployment of more than £600 million in capital into renewable infrastructure with more than 1GW already developed. Its proprietary renewable energy pipeline currently stands at more than 5GW, ideally positioning it to capitalise on investment opportunities as the need for green power and energy security increases. Low Carbon's investments are generating sufficient clean energy to power more than 390,000 homes, avoiding in excess of 750,000 tonnes of CO₂¹ each year.
- 1.2.10 Low Carbon has been active in large-scale solar energy since its formation in 2011. With an established track record in the UK, it also has operations in Europe including the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Finland, Sweden and the Republic of Ireland. Low Carbon is a certified B Corp.

1.3 Legislative and Planning Policy

Consenting Process

- 1.3.1 The Scheme is as an onshore generating station in England exceeding 50MW generating capacity and is therefore an NSIP under Sections 14(1)(a) and 15(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1-1).
- 1.3.2 The Planning Act 2008 provides that the Secretary of State is responsible for determining the application for development consent, with the power to appoint a single person or a panel from the Planning Inspectorate to manage and examine the application (referred to as the 'Examining Authority'). In its role, the Examining Authority will examine the application for the Scheme and make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will then decide whether to grant a DCO.
- 1.3.3 In accordance with section 104(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1-1), where a National Policy Statement ('NPS') has effect to the proposed development,

¹ Low Carbon internal calculations using OFGEM Typical Domestic Consumption Values and BEIS Carbon Conversion Factors.

the Secretary of State is required to have regard to any relevant NPS, amongst other matters, when deciding whether or not to grant a DCO. For renewable energy proposals this would generally involve consideration of EN-1: Overarching NPS For Energy, EN-3: Renewable Energy Infrastructure and EN-5: Electricity Networks Infrastructure. The Secretary of State must also have regard to any other matter which he considers to be important and relevant to his decision.

- 1.3.4 Although, at present the Scheme's proposed energy generating technology (i.e. solar) is not specifically considered by an NPS and therefore does not fall under section 104 of the Planning Act 2008. The Government has consulted on revised versions of the Energy NPS's, and the consultation draft of EN-3 now contains a chapter dedicated to solar energy technology. However, even though the Government's stated aim for designating the updated NPS's was the end of 2021, at the point of writing this ES in October 2022, the timeline for adoption of the updated NPS's has not been confirmed.
- 1.3.5 In the meantime, section 105(2) of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1-1) provides the basis for deciding the DCO application as this section applies in cases where no NPS has effect. The Secretary of State must therefore have regard to these provisions, which includes any matters which the Secretary of State considers to be both important and relevant to its decision. When granting consent for previous solar PV DCO Schemes such as the Little Crow Solar Park Order 2022, the Secretary of State confirmed that the draft NPS are important and relevant for this purpose (Ref 1-24).
- 1.3.6 A DCO, if granted, has the effect of providing consent for development, in addition to a range of other consents and authorisations, where specified, as well as removing the need for some consents (such as planning permission). Section 115 of the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1-1) also states that a DCO can include consent for 'associated development', which is development that is not an NSIP in its own right but is functionally related to the NSIP. This may be development that supports the construction, operation or decommissioning of the NSIP; which helps to address the impacts of the NSIP; or is of a type normally brought forward with the NSIP.

EIA Regulations

- 1.3.7 The EIA Regulations specify which developments are required to undergo EIA and schemes relevant to the NSIP planning process are listed under either of 'Schedule 1' or 'Schedule 2'. Those developments listed in Schedule 1 must be subject to EIA, while developments listed in 'Schedule 2' must only be subjected to EIA if they are considered "*likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location*". The criteria on which this judgement must be made are set out in Schedule 3.
- 1.3.8 The Scheme is a 'Schedule 2' development under Paragraph 3(a) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations as it constitutes '*Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water*'.
- 1.3.9 The Applicant has confirmed to the Planning Inspectorate under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the EIA Regulations that an ES will be provided with the DCO application for the Scheme (as required by Regulation 5(2)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure)

Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations') (Ref 1-2), as it is considered there is the potential for the Scheme to meet the criteria set out in Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations.

- 1.3.10 The issues that the Applicant considers the EIA will need to address were identified in the EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 12 November 2021 (**ES Volume 3: Appendix 1-A [EN010131/APP/3.3]**). The EIA Scoping Report was developed following initial consultation with a number of statutory consultees and was informed by the EIA team's professional opinion from experience working on a number of other solar farm projects. The Planning Inspectorate reviewed and consulted on the EIA Scoping Report and adopted (on behalf of the Secretary of State) a Scoping Opinion on 20 December 2021 (the Scoping Opinion) which included the formal responses received by the Planning Inspectorate from consultees (**ES Volume 3: Appendix 1-B [EN010131/APP/3.3]**). Key issues raised in the Scoping Opinion are summarised and responded to in **ES Volume 3: Appendix 1-C [EN010131/APP/3.3]**. All issues have been considered during the EIA process.

National Policy Statements

- 1.3.11 The EIA has considered the following NPSs, which are considered to be matters that will be important and relevant to the Secretary of State's decision as to whether to grant a DCO for the Scheme:
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN1) (Ref 1-4);
 - National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref 1-5); and
 - National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 1-6).
- 1.3.12 A summary of the relevant considerations for each technical assessment is provided for each environmental topic (**Chapters 6 to 15** of this ES **[EN010131/APP/3.1]**).

Draft Energy National Policy Statements

- 1.3.13 The Government is currently reviewing and updating the Energy NPSs. It is doing this to reflect its policies and strategic approach for the energy system that is set out in the Energy White Paper (December 2020), and to ensure that the planning policy framework enables the delivery of the infrastructure required for the country's transition to net zero carbon emissions.
- 1.3.14 As part of the Energy NPS review process, the Government published a suite of Draft Energy NPSs for consultation on 6 September 2021. These include Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (Draft NPS EN-3), which includes specific policies for solar photovoltaic generation NSIPs.
- 1.3.15 The designation of Draft NPS EN-3 will bring solar NSIP developments into the coverage of the Energy NPSs. The Government's stated aim for designating the updated Draft NPS's was the end of 2021. Therefore, at the point of writing, it is expected that the revised Draft Energy NPS's will be adopted prior to DCO submission.

1.3.16 The Applicant considers the following Draft Energy NPSs to be important and relevant matters in the SoS's determination of the Application:

- Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Draft NPS EN-1) (Ref 1-7);
- Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (Draft NPS EN-3) (Ref 1-8); and
- Draft National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Draft NPS EN-5) (Ref 1-9).

1.3.17 Further, the Applicant considers that the above Draft Energy NPSs should be given significant weight in the planning balance and when applying the consideration of matters which are important and relevant pursuant to section 105 of the PA 2008. The reasons for this are set out in section 7.4 of the Planning, Design and Access Statement.

National Planning Policy Framework

1.3.18 The National Planning Policy Framework (Ref 1-10) (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are to be applied. Paragraph 5 of the NPPF makes it clear that the document does not contain specific policies for NSIPs and that applications in relation to NSIPs are to be determined in accordance with the decision making framework set out in the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 1-1) and relevant NPSs, as well as any other matters that are considered both important and relevant. However, Paragraph 5 goes on to confirm that the NPPF may be a matter that is relevant for the purposes of assessing DCO applications. The EIA for the Scheme therefore has regard to the relevant policies of the NPPF as part of the overall framework of national policy.

Local Planning Policy

1.3.19 Policies in Local Plans may be considered relevant matters and can influence the content of local impact reports (to be produced by the relevant local authorities pursuant to Section 56A of the Planning Act 2008 following submission of the application for the DCO) which the Secretary of State must have regard to in its decision making in accordance with Section 105(2) of the Planning Act 2008.

1.3.20 The Scheme lies within the administrative areas of Bassetlaw District Council and West Lindsey District Council, and at county level within Nottinghamshire County Council and Lincolnshire County Council.

1.3.21 Whilst the NPSs are the primary consideration in deciding applications for NSIPs, the local Development Plan is also an important and relevant matter. The relevant adopted Development Plan documents for the land in which the Scheme is located includes the following:

- Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036 (covering West Lindsey), adopted 24 April 2017 (Ref 1-11);
- Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan including the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies Plan adopted in June 2016 and the Site Locations Plan adopted in December 2017 (Ref 1-12);

- Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan, made February 2019 (Ref 1-13);
 - Rampton and Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan, made May 2021 (Ref 1-14);
 - Lea Neighbourhood Development Plan, made March 2019 (Ref 1-25);
 - Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Development Plan (Ref 1-26);
 - Bassetlaw District Council Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD, adopted 22 December 2011 (Ref 1-15);
 - Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan, adopted March 2021 (Ref 1-16);
 - Nottinghamshire Waste Local Plan, adopted 2002 (Ref 1-17); and
 - Nottinghamshire Waste Core Strategy, adopted 2013 (Ref 1-18).
- 1.3.22 The Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan has undergone an in-depth review assessing whether the policies remain relevant and effective. The review concluded that while many of the policies are performing well, the whole plan would benefit from being updated. Lincolnshire resolved to update the plan on 19 February 2021. The new plan will replace both parts of the adopted plan which covers the period to the end of 2031. It is proposed that the updated plan will extend this period until the end of 2040. The plan is currently at an early stage of preparation. A consultation on the issues and options (Ref 1-20) for updating the plan took place from 28 June 2022 to 12 August 2022. The plan is not anticipated to be adopted before Winter 2024/2025, therefore the plan carries limited weight in this Application.
- 1.3.23 The Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan is also undergoing a review, as parts of the plan were considered out of-date and therefore had less weight in decision making. The neighbourhood plan is at an early stage in its preparation and therefore carries limited weight.
- 1.3.24 Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council are working together to prepare a new Waste Local Plan which will replace the previous Adopted Waste Local Plan (2002) (Ref 1-21) and the Waste Core Strategy (2013) (Ref 1-22). A Draft Plan has been written, informed by the results of the previous consultation and further evidence of future need for recycling and waste sites. The Plan was published for public and stakeholder comment between the 7 February and the 4 April 2022. The plan is expected to go for independent examination in September 2022/January 2023, with the view to being adopted in July 2023. The plan is at a relatively advanced stage, therefore carries weight and is considered by the Applicant an important and relevant matter.
- 1.3.25 It should be noted that Bassetlaw District Council recently consulted on a new Local Plan 2020-2037 (Publication version) in late 2021 and early 2022. A number of changes were proposed, and an Addendum was then consulted on between January and February 2022. A second Addendum was then consulted on between May and June 2022. Bassetlaw District Council have now submitted the Local Plan 2020-2038: Publication Version, Addendum and Second Addendum to the Secretary of State on 18 July 2022 for independent examination. The Council anticipate the adoption of the Local Plan in Spring

2023. Accordingly, upon adoption the Local Plan would replace the current Core Strategy and therefore policies within the emerging plan are relevant considerations with appropriate weight being applied relative to the stage of production.

- 1.3.26 Work on a review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan has commenced with consultation on a Proposed Submission Local Plan taking place between 16 March and 9 May 2022. The Local Plan Review was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 8 July 2022 for examination. Based on the most recent details on the preparation timetable it is likely that the Local Plan will be adopted at some point after the submission and examination of the Scheme. The Applicant will continue to monitor the progress of the review of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan when preparing its DCO application and consider it as appropriate.

Consideration of Planning Policy in EIA

- 1.3.27 This ES describes and takes account of the national and local planning policies that are relevant to the EIA. It does not assess the accordancy of the Scheme with planning policy. This has been undertaken separately and is set out in the **Planning, Design and Access Statement [EN010131/APP/2.2]**.
- 1.3.28 The purpose of considering the planning policy in the EIA is two-fold:
- To identify policies that could influence the sensitivity of receptors (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
 - To identify planning policies that could influence the methodology of the EIA. For example, a planning policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.3.29 A summary of national and local planning policy relevant to each technical assessment is provided within the relevant chapters for each environmental topic.

1.4 IEMA Quality Mark

- 1.4.1 AECOM is an Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Registered Impact Assessor and holds the IEMA EIA Quality Mark as recognition of the quality of our EIA product and continuous training of our environmental consultants. A Statement of Competence is included within this ES (**ES Volume 2: Appendix 1-D [EN010131/APP/3.3]**), outlining the relevant expertise and qualifications of the experts who prepared the ES.

1.5 Consultation and Preliminary Environmental Information

- 1.5.1 The Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report was published in June 2022 to satisfy the requirements of the EIA Regulations (Ref 1-2). Preliminary environmental information is defined in the EIA Regulations as information “*which (a) has been compiled by the applicant; and (b) is reasonably required for the*



consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development (and of any associated development)”.

- 1.5.2 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 7 (EIA: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information, and Environmental Statements) (Ref 1-3) notes: *“A good PEI document is one that enables consultees (both specialist and non-specialist) to understand the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and helps to inform their consultation responses on the Proposed Development during the pre-application stage.”*
- 1.5.3 In order to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme, the PEI Report presented preliminary findings of the environmental assessments undertaken up to that point. Together with ongoing discussion and meetings, this allowed consultees the opportunity to provide informed comments on the Scheme, the assessment process, and preliminary findings prior to the finalisation of the DCO application and this ES. The Applicant sought the views of consultees on the information contained within the PEI Report, and there was an opportunity within the process up to submission of the DCO application for both the EIA and the project design to have regard to comments received.
- 1.5.4 Further detail on the consultation undertaken is provided in **Chapter 4: Consultation** of the ES [EN010131/APP/3.1], within each of the technical discipline ES chapters (Chapters 6 to 15) and in the **Consultation Report [EN010131/APP/4.1]**.

1.6 The Environmental Statement

- 1.6.1 Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations sets out the information for inclusion in an ES.
- 1.6.2 Table 1-2 below summarises where the requirements of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 1-18) have been addressed in this ES.

Table 1-2 Requirements of Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations

Requirement	Location in this ES
1. A description of the development, including in particular:	Chapter 1: Introduction (this chapter) Chapter 2: The Scheme
(a) A description of the location of the development	
(b) A description of the physical characteristics of the whole development including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases.	Chapter 2: The Scheme
(c) A description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in	Chapter 2: The Scheme

Requirement	Location in this ES
<p>particular any production processes), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources used.</p>	
<p>(d) An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air, soil and sub-soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and types of waste produced.) during the construction and operation phases.</p>	<p>Chapter 2: The Scheme Chapter 6: Climate Change Chapter 9: Water Environment Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration Chapter 13: Transport and Access Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics</p>
<p>2. A description of the reasonable alternatives which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects.</p>	<p>Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution</p>
<p>3. A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge.</p>	<p>Chapters 6-15 (technical assessments) Baseline Conditions sections</p>
<p>4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 5(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity, land, soil, water, air, climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and landscape.</p>	<p>Chapters 6-15 (technical assessments) Likely Impacts and Effects sections</p>
<p>5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The construction and existence of the development; (b) The use of natural resources considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources; (c) The emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste; (d) The risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment; (e) The cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects; 	<p>Chapters 6-15 (technical assessments) Likely Impacts and Effects and Cumulative Effects sections; Chapter 16 Cumulative Assessment</p>

Requirement	Location in this ES
<p>(f) The impact of the project on climate and the vulnerability of the project to climate change;</p> <p>(g) The technologies and the substances used.</p> <p>The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 4(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development.</p>	
<p>6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.</p>	<p>Chapters 6-15 (technical assessments) Scheme Design, Impact Avoidance, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures, and Limitations or Assumptions sections</p>
<p>7. A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements during both the construction and operational phases.</p>	<p>Chapters 6-15 (technical assessments) Design, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures sections</p>
<p>8. A description of the expected significant adverse effects of the development on the environment deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned.</p>	<p>Chapter 15: Other Environmental Topics section 15.6 Major Accidents and Disasters</p>
<p>9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part.</p>	<p>Non-Technical Summary</p>
<p>10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments.</p>	<p>Chapters 1-17 Reference section</p>

References

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