

Cottam Solar Project

Environmental Statement:

Appendix 8.5 Policy Commentary

Prepared by: Lanpro

January 2023

PINS reference: EN010133

Document reference: C6.3.8.5



Policy/guidance	Compliance commentary
National Planning Policy Statements (NPS)	
<p>EN-1: Undertake LVIA for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. (Section 5.9)</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of EN-1 through the provision of an LVIA chapter within the PEIR and ES and should be read in conjunction with Chapter 6 of the ES, Energy Need, Legislative Context and Energy Policy [EN010133/6.2.6].</p> <p>The Scheme complies in particular with the following policies as defined in EN-1:</p> <p>Paragraph 5.9.5: "The landscape 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. <i>The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England.</i>" Refer to Figure 8.5 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.5], which illustrates Landscape Character Areas at the Regional Level and the assessment undertaken within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8].</p> <p>Paragraph 5.9.6: "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." This is undertaken within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8].</p> <p>Paragraph 5.9.7: "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." This is undertaken within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8].</p> <p>Paragraph 5.9.8: "<i>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</i>"</p>

	<p><i>to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.” This is undertaken within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8] in sections 8.6 and 8.8 and in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.</i></p> <p>Paragraph 5.9.14: <i>“Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally and protected by local designation. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, local landscape designations should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development”.</i> Refer to Figure 8.6 [EN010133/APPC6.4.8.6] and Figures 8.6.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.6.1] to Figure 8.6.4 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.6.4] which illustrate Landscape Receptors and illustrate Areas of Great Landscape Value. The Scheme is located outside of these areas; however, the Scheme has the potential to affect these local designations and therefore an assessment of effects on these local designations is undertaken within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8].</p>
<p>Draft EN-1: Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of section 4.6 since consideration has been given from the outset to development layout, massing, colouring and how the Scheme sits within the landscape context.</p> <p>Paragraph 4.6.1 states that <i>“The visual appearance of a building, structure, or piece of infrastructure, and how it relates to the landscape it sits within, is sometimes considered to be the most important factor in good design. But high quality and inclusive design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations. The functionality of an object - be it a building or other type of infrastructure - including fitness for purpose and sustainability, is equally important. Applying “good design” to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, efficient in the use of natural resources and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of much energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area.”</i> The LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8] defines the proposed mitigation measures at section 8.6 including Embedded (primary) and Additional (secondary) Mitigation. Through the iterative design process the design has been refined to reduce panel areas across the Scheme, to</p>

	<p>avoid sensitive landscape and visual receptors and to mitigate accordingly where appropriate to assimilate the Scheme into the landscape context.</p> <p>The Scheme also complies with the following policies:</p> <p>Paragraph “5.10.5: <i>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.</i>” Figure 8.5 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.5] illustrates the Landscape Character Areas at the Regional Level and these have been taken into account in the assessment set out in the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8].</p> <p>Paragraph “5.10.6 <i>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.</i>” This is undertaken within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8].</p> <p>Paragraph “5.10.7 <i>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.</i>” This is undertaken within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8].</p>
<p>EN-3: Paragraph 2.5.50. Good design that contributes positively to the character and quality of the area will go some way to mitigate adverse landscape/visual effects.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of EN-3 since consideration has been given from the outset to development layout, massing, and colouring. Landscape mitigation measures include the retention and enhancement of existing landscape features and the introduction of new areas of planting. Native species will be selected, and the planting will be designed to give softening and screening where appropriate whilst reinforcing local landscape character and biodiversity. This is undertaken within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8] - see sections 8.6 and 8.8 and is also set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.</p>
<p>EN-3: Paragraph 2.5.51. Mitigation is achieved primarily through aesthetic aspects of the site layout and building</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of EN-3 since consideration has been given at the outset to development layout, massing, and colouring. Details of the</p>

<p>design including size and external finish and colour of the generating station to minimise intrusive appearance on the landscape as far as engineering requirements permit.</p>	<p>Mitigation are included within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8] as part of the Mitigation section 8.6 and 8.8 and in line with the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.</p>
<p>Draft EN-3: Section 2.51 Solar photovoltaic generation impacts: landscape, visual and residential amenity.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of Draft EN-3, Section 2.51 through the provision of an LVIA chapter within the PEIR and ES. The impacts on landscape and visual amenity have influenced the iterative design of the Scheme. The proposals have considered the need to mitigate landscape and visual impacts. Details of the identified mitigation required are included within the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8] - see sections 8.6 and 8.8, and the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.51.3: <i>“Visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints.”</i> Visualisations have been produced for both summer and winter photography and visualisations have been produced for Winter views at year 1 of operation to represent a worst-case scenario and summer at year 15 post construction to represent the effects of mature mitigation. The visualisation are verifiable and provide a variety of representative views where significant effects are considered likely. Accurate Visual Representations (AVR’s) have been produced at AVR level 1 and 3. AVR Level 1 shows the location, size and the degree of visibility of the proposals alongside a verifiable photograph with the Scheme represented by a wireframe. Level 3 visualisations show the same as level 1 AVR’s but include the use of materials and are fully rendered. A list of the visualisation produced is provided in the LVIA Chapter 8 and figure sheets are shown in Appendix 8.14 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.14] of the ES.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.51.4: <i>“Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact.”</i> Refer to the LVIA Chapter 8 and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Measures which are shown in Figures 8.16.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.1] to 8.16.10 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.10] of the ES.</p>

Paragraph 2.51.5: *“The applicant should have regard in both the design layout of the solar farm, and future maintenance plans, to the retention of growth of vegetation on boundaries, including the opportunity for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity. The landscape and visual impact should be considered carefully at the pre-application stage. Existing hedges and established vegetation, including mature trees, should be retained wherever possible. Trees and hedges should be protected during construction. The impact of the proposed development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey or a hedge assessment as appropriate.”* Refer to the LVIA **Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8]** and Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Measures Plans which are shown in **Figures 8.16.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.1]** to **Figure 8.16.10 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.10]** of the ES. The Landscape Mitigation Plans accommodated offsets from existing trees and hedgerows to provide sufficient room for future growth and sufficient room for proposed vegetation to be able to grow to maturity without effecting the Scheme. These plans also illustrate the retention of all trees and all hedgerows within the Scheme with the exception of several metres of hedgerow loss at Site entrances. The embedded mitigation avoids all trees on Site and therefore a tree survey was not necessary; however, a hedgerow assessment has been undertaken as part of the ecology fieldwork to establish a record of high-quality hedgerows within the Scheme. This is included within the Ecology chapter of the ES (Chapter 9).

Paragraph 2.51.5: *“Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges. Efforts should be made to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible projects should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to screen security fencing and use natural features, such as vegetation planting, to assist in site security. Projects should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact”.* Refer to the LVIA Chapter 8 and Landscape Mitigation Plans which are shown in **Figures 8.16.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.1]** to **Figure 8.16.10 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.10]** of the ES. The Landscape Mitigation Plans illustrate the use of extensive landscape mitigation to screen the Scheme from sensitive views. Site fencing has been proposed in proximity to existing hedgerows to allow the hedgerows to grow into the fencing to screen it where possible. This approach is secured through the

	<p>Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) with the management of existing and proposed hedgerows prescribed in this document.</p>
<p>EN-5:</p>	<p>Paragraph 2.8.2: <i>“New substations, sealing end compounds and other above ground installations that form connection, switching and voltage transformation points on the electricity network can also give rise to landscape and visual impacts.”</i> The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of EN-5 in that mitigation measures proposed in LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8] to include, the retention and reinforcement of existing woodland, shelterbelts, scrub, and hedgerow areas. The location of the Scheme within a strong landscape framework also provides layering by intervening hedgerows and tree cover that contributes towards screening in views across the Study Area.</p>
<p>Draft EN-5: Section 2.11 landscape and Visual.</p>	<p>The Scheme also complies with the landscape-related criteria of Draft EN-5 in that the Scheme includes undergrounding of the cable routes to reduce the potential impact of overhead cables.</p> <p>The application for the Scheme includes a LVIA chapter within the PEIR and ES as well as having regard to both the design layout of the solar farm, mitigation strategy and future maintenance plans. The mitigation will be secured through the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) and is illustrated on Figures 8.16.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.1] to Figure 8.16.10 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.10] of the ES.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.11.3: <i>“New substations, sealing end compounds, and other above-ground installations that serve as connection, switching, and voltage transformation points on the electricity network may also give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts.”</i> The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of draft EN-5 in that mitigation measures proposed in LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8] include the retention and reinforcement of existing woodland, shelterbelts, scrub, and hedgerow areas. The location of the Scheme within a strong landscape framework also provides layering by intervening hedgerows and tree cover that contributes towards screening in views across the Study Area.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.11.4: <i>“Cumulative adverse landscape and visual impacts may arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms, and/or other new sources of generation.”</i> The LVIA Chapter 8 assesses the impact of</p>

	cumulative developments on landscape and visual receptors. Cumulative impacts are also illustrated in the following figures: 8.15.1 - 8.15.1.3, 8.15.2, and 8.15.2.1 - 8.15.2.9.
National Planning Policy Framework (2021):	
Paragraph 98: 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.	The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of paragraph 98 of the NPPF in that consideration is given to the enhancement of the network of open spaces, footpaths, and bridleways. The Scheme avoids impacts on the rights of way network and where users of these routes are close to the Site, mitigation measures will provide effective screening and softening of views where effects are predicted. Mitigation measures are illustrated within Figures 8.16.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.1] to Figure 8.16.10 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.10] of the ES. The assessment of potential significant effects is undertaken for the PRow network and the findings are set out within Appendix 8.3.5.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.5.1] to Appendix 8.3.5.3 [EN010133/APP/C6.3.8.3.5.3] including proposals for Embedded (primary mitigation) and Additional (secondary mitigation).
Paragraph 130:	<p>Paragraph 130 states that <i>“Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development;</i> <i>b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping;</i> <i>c) are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities);”</i> <p>Chapter 8 LVIA describes landscape mitigation and provides a comprehensive landscaping scheme which will be secured for the lifetime of the Scheme via the LEMP, as is illustrated in Figures 8.16.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.1] to Figure 8.16.10 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.10] of the ES. The mitigation planting will also create areas which are visually attractive as a result of the Scheme through effective screening. The mitigation proposals are also considered to be sympathetic to local character, history, and landscape setting.</p>

<p>Paragraph 131:</p>	<p>Paragraph 131 states that <i>“Trees make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments, and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards), that appropriate measures are in place to secure the long-term maintenance of newly-planted trees, and that existing trees are retained wherever possible. Applicants and local planning authorities should work with highways officers and tree officers to ensure that the right trees are planted in the right places, and solutions are found that are compatible with highways standards and the needs of different users.”</i></p> <p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of paragraph 131 of the NPPF in that mitigation will ensure existing trees are retained. Opportunities have been exploited to incorporate extensive new tree planting into the design of the Scheme. Measures have also been considered as referred to in in Draft EN-3 paragraph 2.51.5 (see above.) Appropriate measures will also be in place to secure the long-term maintenance and management of both existing and proposed trees through the LEMP</p>
<p>15 . Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment</p>	<p>Paragraph 174 states that:</p> <p><i>“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</i></p> <p><i>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);</i></p> <p><i>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;</i></p> <p><i>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;</i></p> <p><i>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</i></p>

	<p><i>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;"</i></p> <p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of paragraph 174 of the NPPF as follows:</p> <p>Paragraph 174 a) and b): The Scheme avoids valued landscape and ecological designations but also recognises through assessment the value of landscapes on the Sites and in the surrounding areas. It has also recognised opportunities for enhancement and appropriate mitigation which is set out in the LVIA Chapter 8.</p> <p>Paragraph 174 d): The Scheme would deliver compliance with this policy through avoiding removal of existing trees, vegetation and watercourses where possible. In addition, the application includes associated mitigation and ecological enhancement which will deliver significant biodiversity net gains and establishment of coherent ecological networks. There are Sites of locally designated landscape value within the Study Area.</p> <p>The proposals respond sensitively to the value of the existing vegetation features across the Site and the proposed landscape mitigation measures will enable the retention, management, and reinforcement of those features wherever possible.</p>
<p>Paragraph 180c: Developments resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons, and a suitable compensation strategy exists.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of paragraph 180c of the NPPF in that areas of ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees will not be affected.</p>
<p>Planning Practice Guidance (PPG):</p>	
<p>Green Infrastructure: Green Infrastructure is a natural capital asset that provides multiple benefits, at a range of scales.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of the PPG in that mitigation measures will look to retain and enhance areas of open space, woodlands, hedgerows, and</p>

	sustainable drainage features. Blue infrastructure such as streams, ponds, canals and other water bodies will be retained and protected.
Biodiversity, Geodiversity Ecosystems: The need to consider the opportunities that individual development proposals may provide to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity and contribute to habitat connectivity in the wider area.	The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of the PPG in that mitigation measures will look to secure the long-term maintenance and management of both existing and proposed trees. Management and maintenance measures are set out within the Landscape Ecological Management Plan (LEMP).
Landscape: Use of landscape character assessment in the planning process.	The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of the PPG in that landscape character assessment is used as a tool to inform the LVIA process and mitigation strategy. The process has identified where landscapes and their particular characteristics have a particular local value. The assessment will take into account the evidence that supports the special characteristics and will set out mitigation measures, such as appropriate design and visual screening, where necessary.
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Adopted April 2017)	
<p>Policy LP17: Landscape, Townscape and Views.</p> <p>Character and Setting</p> <p>To protect and enhance the intrinsic value of our landscape and townscape, including the setting of settlements, proposals should have particular regard to maintaining and responding positively to any natural and man-made features within the landscape and townscape which positively contribute to the character of the area, such as (but not limited to) historic buildings and monuments, other landmark buildings, topography, trees and woodland, hedgerows, walls, water features, field patterns and intervisibility between rural historic settlements. Where a proposal may result in significant</p>	<p>Landscape mitigation measures have looked to address the intrinsic value of the landscape and townscape, including the setting of settlements. The Scheme will have particular regard to maintaining and responding positively to any natural and man-made features within the landscape and townscape which positively contribute to the character of the area. Measures will respond to historic buildings and monuments, other landmark buildings, topography, trees and woodland, hedgerows, walls, water features, field patterns and intervisibility between rural historic settlements.</p>

<p>harm, it may, exceptionally, be permitted if the overriding benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh the harm: in such circumstances the harm should be minimised and mitigated.</p>	
<p>Policy LP17: Landscape, Townscape and Views.</p> <p>Creating and Protecting Views</p> <p>All development proposals should take account of views in to, out of and within development areas: schemes should be designed (through considerate development, layout and design) to preserve or enhance key local views and vistas and create new public views where possible. Particular consideration should be given to views of significant buildings and views within landscapes which are more sensitive to change due to their open, exposed nature and extensive intervisibility from various viewpoints.</p>	<p>Landscape mitigation measures have looked to address key views within the landscape, and in to and out of settlements. Measures will also take into consideration views and vistas that are valued by the local community and views that define the local identity of a place or assist in way finding. Opportunities to create new public views have been explored where possible and particular consideration will be given to views of significant buildings. Views within landscapes which are more sensitive to change due to their open, exposed nature and extensive visibility from various viewpoints have been taken into account.</p>
<p>Policy LP17: Landscape, Townscape and Views.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Wolds, Lincoln’s historic skyline and Areas of Great Landscape Value</p> <p>The considerations set out in this policy are particularly important when determining proposals which have the potential to impact upon the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and the Areas of Great Landscape Value (as identified on the policies map) and upon Lincoln's historic skyline.</p>	<p>Landscape mitigation measures have looked to address where the Scheme is likely to impact upon the Areas of Great Landscape Value (as identified on the policies map) and upon Lincoln's historic skyline.</p>

<p>Policy LP17: Landscape, Townscape and Views.</p> <p>Cumulative Impacts</p> <p>In considering the impacts of a proposal, the cumulative impacts as well as the individual impacts will be considered.</p>	<p>Landscape mitigation measures have looked to address the cumulative impacts as well as the individual impacts as set out in LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8] and as illustrated in Figures 8.16.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.1] to Figure 8.16.10 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.10] of the ES.</p>
<p>Policy LP18: Climate Change and Low Carbon Living. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is a key part of limiting climate change, and will require concerted action at all levels, from international to local.</p> <p>Carbon Off-setting</p> <p>Development could provide site based decentralised or renewable energy infrastructure. The infrastructure should be assimilated into the proposal through the careful consideration of design. Where the infrastructure may not be conspicuous, the impact will be considered against the contribution it will make.</p> <p>Development could provide extensive, well designed, multi-functional woodland (and, if possible, include a management plan for the long-term management of the wood resource which is produced), fenland or grassland. The Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (or subsequent relevant document) should be used to guide the most suitable habitat for a particular area.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of Policy LP18 in that mitigation measures have looked to secure well-designed areas of woodland and tree cover. These measures include management and maintenance measures set out within the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP). The Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (or subsequent relevant document) has been used to guide the most suitable habitat in a particular area.</p>

<p>Policy LP19: Renewable Energy Proposals. Proposals for non-wind renewable technology will be assessed on their merits, with the impacts, both individual and cumulative, considered against the benefits of the scheme.</p> <p>Proposals for non-wind renewable energy development</p> <p>Proposals for non-wind renewable technology will be assessed on their merits, with the impacts, both individual and cumulative, considered against the scheme, taking account of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The surrounding landscape and townscape... <p>...Proposals will be supported where the benefit of the development outweighs the harm caused and it is demonstrated that any harm will be mitigated as far as is reasonably possible.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of Policy LP19 in that mitigation measures take into account the surrounding landscape and townscape. Other mitigation considerations will include ecology and biodiversity and residential and visual amenity. The mitigation measures aim to outweigh the harm caused as far as is reasonably possible.</p>
<p>Policy LP20: Green Infrastructure Network. The Central Lincolnshire Authorities will aim to maintain and improve the green infrastructure network in Central Lincolnshire by enhancing, creating, and managing multifunctional green space within and around settlements that are well connected to each other and the wider countryside. Development proposals which are consistent with and help deliver the opportunities, priorities and initiatives identified in the latest Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Study and Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study, will be supported. Proposals that cause loss or harm to this network will not be permitted unless</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the criteria of Policy LP20 in that mitigation measures target the highlighted areas of the Central Lincolnshire Green Infrastructure Study 2011 of existing habitats and areas where there are deficiencies in green infrastructure at the strategic level across Central Lincolnshire and identified opportunities to enhance the network. The network priority areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Green Corridors • Strategic Green Access Links • Urban Green Grids • Green Infrastructure Zones

<p>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. Development proposals should ensure that existing and new green infrastructure is considered and integrated into the scheme design from the outset. Where new green infrastructure is proposed, the design should maximise the delivery of ecosystem services and support healthy and active lifestyles. Development proposals must protect the linear features of the green infrastructure network that provide connectivity between green infrastructure assets, including public rights of way, bridleways, cycleways, and waterways, and take opportunities to improve such features. Development will be expected to make contributions proportionate to their scale towards the establishment, enhancement, and on-going management of green infrastructure by contributing to the development of the strategic green infrastructure network within Central Lincolnshire, in line with guidance set out in LP12.</p>	
<p>Policy LP21: Biodiversity and Geodiversity.</p> <p>All development should: protect, manage, and enhance the network of habitats, species, and sites of international, national and local importance (statutory and non-statutory), including sites that meet the criteria for selection as a Local Site; minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity; and seek to deliver a net gain in</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of Policy LP21 in that mitigation measures target the known areas of opportunity for local landscape-scale habitat improvement. This mitigation will adopt a landscape scale approach to the planning, design, and management of connected Green Infrastructure assets. This will in turn provide the framework within which species migration can more readily occur in response to environmental pressures such as climate change.</p>

biodiversity and geodiversity. Development proposals that will have an adverse impact on a European Site or cause significant harm to a Site of Special Scientific Interest, located within or outside Central Lincolnshire, will not be permitted, in accordance with the NPPF. Planning permission will be refused for development resulting in the loss, deterioration, or fragmentation of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss or harm. Proposals for major development should adopt an ecosystem services approach, and for large scale major development schemes (such as Sustainable Urban Extensions) also a landscape scale approach, to biodiversity and geodiversity protection and enhancement identified in the Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping Study. Development proposals should create new habitats, and links between habitats, in line with Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping evidence to maintain a network of wildlife sites and corridors to minimise habitat fragmentation and provide opportunities for species to respond and adapt to climate change. Development should seek to preserve, restore, and re-create priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species set out in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan and Geodiversity Action Plan. Where development is within a Nature Improvement Area (NIA), it should contribute to the aims and aspirations of the NIA. Development proposals should ensure opportunities are taken to retain, protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity features

<p>proportionate to their scale, through site layout, design of new buildings and proposals for existing buildings.</p>	
<p>Development proposals should protect, conserve, and seek opportunities to enhance the historic environment of Central Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the criteria of the LP25 in that the environmental quality, character and diversity of the historic environment will be protected and, where possible enhanced. This will be achieved through proposed mitigation and enhancement set out in the LEMP, which is secured through a requirement in the draft DCO.</p>
<p>Policy LP25: The Historic Environment.</p> <p>Listed Buildings</p>	<p>Landscape mitigation measures will address the setting of Listed Buildings which may be affected by the Scheme. Measures will take into account the architectural, historic or archaeological interest, the special character and views and vistas both from and towards the asset The assessment of the effects on heritage assets is set out in the Cultural Heritage Chapter 13 and LVIA Chapter 8 (see paragraph 8.4.39).</p>
<p>Policy LP25: The Historic Environment.</p> <p>Conservation Areas</p>	<p>Landscape mitigation measures will take into consideration any impacts the Scheme may have on the skyline and surrounding landscape in close proximity to Conservation Areas.</p>
<p>Policy LP26: Design and Amenity</p> <p>All development, including extensions and alterations to existing buildings, must achieve high quality sustainable design that contributes positively to local character, landscape, and townscape, and supports diversity, equality, and access for all... As such, and where applicable, proposals will be required to demonstrate, to a degree proportionate to the proposal, that they:</p> <p>c. Respect the existing topography, landscape character and identity, and relate well to the site and surroundings, particularly in relation to siting, height, scale, massing, form and plot widths;</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of the LP26 in that the topography, landscape character and identity will be protected and, where possible enhanced. This has been taken into account through the design of the Scheme.</p> <p>Landscape mitigation measures address the relationship between the Scheme and its surroundings. The mitigation measures have looked to incorporate and retain, as far as possible, existing natural features such as hedgerows, trees, and field patterns. The landscape mitigation measures also incorporate landscape treatment to ensure that the Scheme can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area. The landscape mitigation measures also look to protect any important local views into, out of or through the Site. Landscape mitigation measures are set out in the LVIA Chapter 8 [EN010133/6.2.8] and as illustrated in Figures 8.16.1 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.1] to Figure 8.16.10 [EN010133/APP/C6.4.8.16.10] of the ES.</p>

<p>f. Incorporate and retain as far as possible existing natural and historic features such as hedgerows, trees, ponds, boundary walls, field patterns, buildings or structures;</p> <p>g. Incorporate appropriate landscape treatment to ensure that the development can be satisfactorily assimilated into the surrounding area.</p> <p>i. Protect any important local views into, out of or through the site.</p>	
<p>Policy LP38: Protecting Gainsborough’s Setting and Character.</p> <p>Proposals for development should seek to make a positive contribution to the built and natural environment and quality of life in Gainsborough. All development proposals should contribute to the realisation of the following key principles, as applicable, taking into account the Gainsborough Masterplan:</p> <p>a. Protect, conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the benefits of heritage assets, key landmarks and their settings to local distinctiveness and sense of place, through sensitive development and environmental improvement;</p> <p>b. Protect important local views from both within and outside the town;</p> <p>c. Deliver improvements to the public realm that will enhance Gainsborough’s attractiveness as a destination;</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of the LP38 in that the environmental quality, character and diversity of Gainsborough’s character and setting will be protected and, where possible enhanced.</p> <p>Landscape mitigation measures have looked to address the protection of important views from both within and outside the town. Measures have also looked to protect and enhance the landscape character of the setting of the town to maintain the setting and integrity of the surrounding villages.</p>

<p>d. Support the development of art, cultural, social and leisure assets and facilities within or close to the town centre, and improve access to such assets and facilities;</p> <p>e. Protect and enhance the landscape character and setting of Gainsborough and the surrounding villages by ensuring key gateways are landscaped to enhance the setting of the town, minimise impact upon the open character of the countryside and to maintain the setting and integrity of surrounding villages</p>	
<p>Policy LP55: Development in the Countryside. The significant rural population means that it is important to maintain and enhance the services and features of the rural area in order to sustain the vibrancy of rural settlements and the quality of life experienced by those living in such areas.</p> <p>Part E: Non-residential development in the countryside Proposals for non-residential developments will be supported provided that:</p> <p>a. The rural location of the enterprise is justifiable to maintain or enhance the rural economy or the location is justified by means of proximity to existing established businesses or natural features;</p> <p>b. The location of the enterprise is suitable in terms of accessibility;</p> <p>c. The location of the enterprise would not result in conflict with neighbouring uses; and</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of the LP55 in that the Scheme will deliver a sustainable use and the location is suitable in terms of accessibility. The Scheme complies with Part E of policy LP55 as the proposed mitigation is designed in line with the rural character of the landscape and the existing fabric of the landscape enables a development of this scale to be successfully assimilated into the landscape.</p>

<p>d. The development is of a size and scale commensurate with the proposed use and with the rural character of the location</p>	
<p>West Lindsey Local Plan First Review (June 2006)</p>	
<p>The West Lindsey Local Plan (First Review) was adopted on 19 June 2006 and formally replaced by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan on 24 April 2017.</p>	
<p>Bassetlaw District Local Development Framework (2011)</p>	
<p>Policy DM9: Green Infrastructure; Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Landscape; Open Space and Sports Facilities.</p> <p>A. Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate, in line with the Council’s Green Infrastructure work, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. they protect and enhance green infrastructure assets affected by the development and take opportunities to improve linkages between green corridors; ii. where they overlap with or will affect existing green infrastructure nodes or corridors, such assets are protected and enhanced to improve public access and use; iii. where opportunities exist, development proposals provide improvements to the green infrastructure network that benefit biodiversity through the incorporation of retained habitats and by the creation of new areas of habitat; and iv. they provide robust delivery mechanisms for, and means of ensuring the long-term management of, green infrastructure. 	<p>The Scheme complies with policy DM9 as it protects and enhances green infrastructure assets through retention of existing vegetation and the introduction of a significant quantum of new green infrastructure leading to the creation of new habitats and the long-term management of such features, as secured through the LEMP. This also includes the retention of existing protected features and designations outlined in Section B of the policy. The Scheme will also conserve, restore, and create landscape forms and features which aim to reinforce and enhance landscape character.</p>

B. Biodiversity and Geodiversity

Development proposals will be expected to take opportunities to restore or enhance habitats and species' populations and to demonstrate that they will not adversely affect or result in the loss of features of recognised importance, including:

- i. Protected trees and hedgerows;
- ii. Ancient woodlands;
- iii. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI); iv. Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites; Bassetlaw Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD 66 v. Local Wildlife Sites (Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC));
- vi. Local and UK Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats (including Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land); and
- vii. Protected Species.

C. Landscape Character

New development proposals in and adjoining the countryside will be expected to be designed so as to be sensitive to their landscape setting. They will be expected to enhance the distinctive qualities of the landscape character policy zone in which they would be situated, as identified in the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment. Proposals will be expected to respond to the local recommendations made in the Assessment by

<p>conserving, restoring, reinforcing, or creating landscape forms and features accordingly.</p>	
<p>Gainsborough Neighbourhood Town Plan (2020-2036)</p>	
<p>NPP 2 Protecting the Natural Environment and Enhancing Biodiversity</p> <p>1. As appropriate to their scale and nature development proposals should protect and, where practicable, enhance the natural environment, especially those areas identified on Maps 5 and 6. 2.</p> <p>2. Where practicable development proposals should achieve a net biodiversity gain, in accordance with local and national planning policy. If significant ecological impacts are identified, appropriate mitigation or compensation measures will be required. These measures should be targeted to benefit local conservation priorities as identified in the most recent Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>3. Development proposals should ensure there is no net loss of significant biodiversity habitat as a result of the Plan's approach towards prioritising development on brownfield land.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with NPP2 in principle as it aims to protect and enhance the natural environment through the retention of existing vegetation and the introduction of proposed mitigation planting. The Scheme is also anticipated to achieve a net biodiversity gain, this being secured through the measures that will be set out in the LEMP.</p>
<p>Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire</p>	
<p>Provides a strategic framework for guiding the planning and delivery of Green Infrastructure across Central Lincolnshire.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the criteria of the Study in that the existing assets and attributes that contribute to the GI in Central Lincolnshire will be protected and, where possible enhanced.</p> <p>The network priority areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Green Corridors

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Green Access Links • Urban Green Grids • Green Infrastructure Zones <p>Landscape mitigation takes account of the above priority measures within the following Sub-Area Boundaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gainsborough Area • Lincoln Area <p>The mitigation measures also take account of the Strategic Green Infrastructure Initiatives and projects for each of the Sub-Areas. Such projects include the Coversands Heathlands Initiative, which is a partnership involving Natural England to restore and recreate Coversands heathlands to help reserve habitat decline and fragmentation.</p>
<p>Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping for Central Lincolnshire</p>	
<p>In early 2019 the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) created a Biodiversity Opportunity Map (BOM) for North Lincolnshire Council area as part of their requirements in producing a new local plan. The expertise led Central Lincolnshire to undertake the same BOM exercise.</p>	<p>The Scheme complies with the landscape-related criteria of the Study in that the existing assets and attributes that contribute to the ecological network in Central Lincolnshire will be protected and, where possible enhanced.</p>