

Byers Gill Solar  
EN010139

# 6.2.1 Environmental Statement

## Chapter 1 Introduction

Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms  
and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Volume 6

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Purpose

- 1.1.1. This document is an Environmental Statement (ES) which presents a description of Byers Gill Solar (the Proposed Development), the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development, the measures to avoid, prevent or reduce such effects, and the reasonable alternatives considered.
- 1.1.2. The ES forms part of a Development Consent Order (DCO) application under the Planning Act 2008 (the Act) and is produced in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations).
- 1.1.3. The suite of ES Documents is structured as follows:
- Non-Technical Summary (NTS) (Document Reference 6.1);
  - Volume 1 Environmental Statement (Document Reference 6.2);
  - Volume 2 Environmental Statement Figures (Document Reference 6.3); and
  - Volume 3 Environmental Statement Appendices (Document Reference 6.4).
- 1.1.4. As part of the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill (LURB), the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities ran a consultation on a new system of environmental assessment known as Environmental Outcomes Reports (EOR) (17 March 2023 to 9 June 2023).
- 1.1.5. The progression of the LURB to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURA) has confirmed that the Secretary of State (SoS) or devolved authority will have the power to make regulations (EOR Regulations) which create a new system to measure the potential impact of a proposed development on the environment. The introduction of an outcomes-based approach is at early consultation stage, and subject to the creation of EOR Regulations, and therefore should not affect existing best practice in EIA as outlined above.

## 1.2. Overview of the Proposed Development

- 1.2.1. The Proposed Development is a renewable energy scheme, located in the north-east of England, covering an area of approximately 490 hectares (ha), and comprising solar photovoltaic (PV) panels, on-site Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), associated infrastructure as well as underground cable connections between panel areas and to connect to the existing National Grid Substation at Norton. The Proposed Development will have the capacity to generate over 50 Megawatts (MW) alternating current (AC) of electricity.
- 1.2.2. It would take approximately 12-18 months to construct the Proposed Development in a single phase, or 18-24 months to undertake the construction in phases (e.g. moving

from east to west). The Proposed Development would be operational for approximately 40 years.

- 1.2.3. A full description of the Proposed Development and a detailed description of the design and environmental mitigation is provided in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2).

### **1.3. Proposed Development Location**

- 1.3.1. The Proposed Development is centred on National Grid Reference NZ 34013 21735 and located approximately 3.5km northeast of Darlington and 0.5km west of Stockton-on-Tees. The majority of the Proposed Development, including the panel areas, BESS and on-site substation are located within the administrative area of Darlington Borough Council. The eastern part of the cable routes crosses into the administrative area of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The northern extent of the planning boundary (the Order Limits) borders Durham County Council's administrative area in a manner which means that a very small area of the Order Limits is within the administrative area of Durham County Council. The Order Limits for the Proposed Development are shown in ES Figure 1.1 Location Plan (Document Reference 6.3.1.1).
- 1.3.2. The Order Limits and surroundings are comprised of agricultural fields, interspersed with individual trees, hedgerows, farm access tracks, woodlands and local farmholdings. There are several local villages located within close proximity to the Proposed Development, including Brafferton, Newton Ketton, Great Stainton, Bishopton and Old Stillington.
- 1.3.3. A description of key environmental designations in and around the Order Limits is presented in ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2). A review of alternatives which have been considered is provided in ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3).

### **1.4. Need for the Proposed Development**

- 1.4.1. The Proposed Development would provide new energy generating infrastructure, in line with national policy targets for decarbonisation, including meeting Net Zero targets, safeguarding energy supply and ensuring affordability.
- 1.4.2. Section 3 of the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1) demonstrates the clear need for the Proposed Development, as supported through national planning policy and energy strategy. The Proposed Development would contribute to the UK Government's legally binding target to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and respond to the projected increase in demand for electricity, as well as improving UK energy security and resilience in line with national strategy. The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) [1] designated in January 2024 establishes that the delivery of low carbon energy infrastructure, such as the Proposed Development, is of Critical National Priority (CNP).

- 1.4.3. The Energy Security Strategy [2] produced by the UK Government in April 2022 announced the intent to increase solar capacity in the UK from 14GW to 70GW by 2035. In addition, the Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future [3] outlined the need to ‘build back greener’ following the impact of Coronavirus, addressing the inter-generational challenge of climate change. The White Paper identifies the UK Government’s aim for a fully decarbonised, reliable and low-cost power system by 2050. The ‘Powering Up Britain’ policy paper [4] further reiterates the Government commitment to solar energy, setting out a goal for a fivefold increase in solar power by 2035.
- 1.4.4. A detailed account of the need for the Proposed Development is set out in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1).

## **1.5. The Applicant**

- 1.5.1. RWE is a leading solar and battery energy storage developer with one of the largest development pipelines in the UK and a leading supplier of renewable energies globally. RWE recently acquired JBM Solar (the Applicant) which is now known as RWE Renewables UK Solar And Storage Limited. The highly experienced JBM Solar team are now part of RWE, and have been developing projects in the UK since 2012, achieving consent for projects delivering over 1.2 Gigawatt (GW) of generating capacity across the UK and Ireland.
- 1.5.2. RWE is currently developing a pipeline of solar and solar with storage projects with a potential generating capacity in excess of 4GW in the UK by 2025. In addition to the 800MW consented in the UK in the last 24 months, RWE has an additional 350MW already in the planning system across 11 sites and a programme to submit in excess of 500MW in the coming year.

## **1.6. Legislation and Planning Policy context**

### **Overview**

- 1.6.1. To support the preparation of the ES, it is necessary to review the national and local planning policy and legislation that informs the overall approach. An overview of legislation and policy relevant and important to the Proposed Development are presented in this section. Topic specific legislation, guidance and policy has been considered within each of the topic chapters, set out within ES Chapters 5 to 13 of (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.13). Unless stated otherwise, any references to legislation within the ES is as amended and in force at the time of compiling the ES.
- 1.6.2. A detailed account of the legislative and planning policy framework relevant to the Proposed Development is provided in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1). The Policy Compliance Document (Appendix A to the Planning Statement, Document Reference 7.1.1) demonstrates how the assessment has been informed by and is in compliance with national and local planning policies. It provides specific reference to relevant sections of the ES which address requirements set out in policy.

## Planning Act 2008

- 1.6.3. The Proposed Development is considered to be a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under Section 14(1)(a) and Section 15(2) of the Act as an onshore generating station in England with a capacity of more than 50MW.
- 1.6.4. As an NSIP, RWE is required to make an application for a DCO before it can lawfully construct or operate the Proposed Development. The Act provides that the SoS is responsible for determining the application for development consent. The Planning Inspectorate (PINS), on behalf of the SoS, has responsibility for administering the examination of DCO applications and supporting the examining authority that will be appointed to make a recommendation to the SoS as to whether to grant development consent. If granted by the SoS, the DCO will provide the necessary authorisation to allow the scheme to be constructed and operated.
- 1.6.5. The relevant SoS for the Proposed Development is the SoS for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (formally the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)<sup>1</sup>.

## The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017

- 1.6.6. The EIA Regulations set out the legislative requirements for undertaking an EIA, and it is defined by Regulation 5 of the EIA Regulations as a process consisting of:
- a) *“the preparation of an environmental statement or updated environmental statement, as appropriate, by the applicant;*
  - b) *the carrying out of any consultation, publication and notification as required under these Regulations or, as necessary, any other enactment in respect of EIA development; and*
  - c) *the steps that are required to be undertaken by the Secretary of State under regulation 21 or by the relevant authority under regulation 25, as appropriate.”*
- 1.6.7. The EIA Regulations identify which developments are potentially required to undergo EIA, and these are listed under either ‘Schedule 1’ or ‘Schedule 2’ of the EIA Regulations. Those developments listed under ‘Schedule 1’ must always be subject to EIA and ‘Schedule 2’ developments are only subject to EIA should it be judged, in accordance with Regulation 3(1), that the development is ‘likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue of factors such as its nature, size or location’. Schedule 3 of the EIA Regulations provides the selection criteria for reaching a conclusion on that judgement, a process known as “screening”.

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<sup>1</sup> The UK Government confirmed on 7 February 2023 a new Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, which replaces the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/making-government-deliver-for-the-british-people>

- 1.6.8. The Proposed Development is categorised as ‘Schedule 2’ development under Paragraph 3(a) of Schedule 2 of the EIA Regulations, as it comprises of ‘industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water’.
- 1.6.9. Under the EIA Regulations, an ES is to be provided with a DCO application for EIA development. Regulation 14 of the EIA Regulations specifies the information which an ES accompanying a DCO application must include.
- 1.6.10. Further details on the approach to EIA for the Proposed Development is provided in ES Chapter 4 Approach to EIA (Document Reference 6.2.4).

### **National Policy Statements**

- 1.6.11. Under Section 104 of the Act, the SoS is directed to determine a DCO application with regard to the relevant National Policy Statement (NPS), the local impact report, matters prescribed in relation to the Proposed Development, and any other matters regarded by the SoS as important and relevant. Following their designation on 17 January 2024, there are three NPSs which are considered to be ‘relevant NPS’ under Section 104 of the Act:
- Overarching NPS for energy (NPS EN-1) [1]
  - NPS for renewable energy infrastructure (NPS EN-3) [5]
  - NPS for electricity networks infrastructure (NPS EN-5) [6]
- 1.6.12. It is considered that other national and local planning policy will be regarded by the SoS as ‘important and relevant’ to the Proposed Development. A detailed account of the planning policy framework relevant to the Proposed Development is provided in the Planning Statement (Document Reference 7.1). The Policy Compliance Document (Document Reference 7.1.1) evidences how the EIA has been informed by and is in compliance with the NPSs and relevant national and local planning policies. It provides specific reference to relevant sections of the ES which address requirements set out in policy.

### **National Planning Policy Framework**

- 1.6.13. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) [7] sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF does not contain specific policies relating to NSIPs. However, pursuant to Section 104 of the Act, the SoS may consider that the policies of the NPPF are both important and relevant to the determination of a DCO application. These policies have been considered where relevant.

### **Local policy**

- 1.6.14. The majority of the Proposed Development is located within the administrative boundary of Darlington Borough Council, with a section of the cable route situated within the administrative boundary of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. A very small

section of the Order Limits is within the administrative boundary of Durham County Council. Therefore, under Section 43 of the Act, all three Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) are defined as ‘host’ authorities. The relevant development plan documents from each LPA have been considered, as set out below.

1.6.15. Darlington Borough Council:

- Darlington Borough Council Local Plan (2016-2036) [8];
- Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste Development Plan Documents (DPD) [9]. This is a Joint Plan with four other LPAs grouped as ‘Tees Valley’, which are: Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, and Stockton on Tees; and
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD): Revised Design of New Development SPD [10] and Planning Obligations SPD [11].

1.6.16. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council:

- Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Local Plan [12];
- Tees Valley Joint Minerals and Waste DPD (as above);
- SPD: Sustainable Design Guide SPD [13], Planning Obligations SPD [14]; Conservation Areas and Historic Environment SPD [15] and Open Space, Recreation and Landscaping SPD [16].

1.6.17. Durham County Council:

- County Durham Plan adopted October 2020 [17];
- 15 ‘saved’ Minerals Local Plan (adopted 2000) policies and 13 ‘saved’ Waste Local Plan (adopted 2005) policies which continue to form part of the development plan; and
- Emerging Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocation Document [18] (consulted on in January 2023) has been submitted to the SoS for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities on 3 July 2023 for independent examination.

## 1.7. Competent expert evidence

1.7.1. Regulation 14(4)(a) of the EIA Regulations require that the ES is prepared by ‘competent experts’. The EIA is being led by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd. (Arup) on behalf of the Applicant. Arup has been awarded the EIA Quality Mark from the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) demonstrating competency in EIA preparation.

1.7.2. ES Chapters 1 to 4, 13 and 14 (Document Reference 6.2.1 to 6.2.4, 6.2.13 and 6.2.14) have been prepared by Arup, drawing on material provided by the Applicant, which includes engineers, designers and external consultants. The design details contained in this document have been approved by the Applicant.



- 1.7.3. The topic-specific chapters of this ES (Chapters 5 to 12) (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.13) and their corresponding appendices have been prepared by Arup and a number of consultants on the Applicant team, as summarised in Table 1-1. The credentials of each topic expert and lead authors are detailed in ES Appendix 1.1 (Document Reference 6.4.1.1).

**Table 1-1 Competent Authors**

<b>Chapter</b>	<b>Author</b>
<b>Chapter 1 Introduction (Document Reference 6.2.1)</b>	Arup
<b>Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2)</b>	Arup and Stephenson Halliday
<b>Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3)</b>	Arup
<b>Chapter 4 Approach to EIA (Document Reference 6.2.4)</b>	Arup
<b>Chapter 5 Climate Change (Document Reference 6.2.5)</b>	Arup
<b>Chapter 6 Biodiversity (Document Reference 6.2.6)</b>	RSK Biocensus
<b>Chapter 7 Landscape and Visual (Document Reference 6.2.7)</b>	Abseline and Stephenson Halliday
<b>Chapter 8 Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Document Reference 6.2.8)</b>	Wessex Archaeology
<b>Chapter 9 Land Use and Socio Economics (Document Reference 6.2.9)</b>	Arup and Reading Agricultural Consultants
<b>Chapter 10 Hydrology and Flood Risk (Document Reference 6.2.10)</b>	Wallingford Hydro Solutions Ltd
<b>Chapter 11 Noise and Vibration (Document Reference 6.2.11)</b>	Wardell Armstrong
<b>Chapter 12 Traffic and Transport (Document Reference 6.2.12)</b>	Arup
<b>Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13)</b>	Arup
<b>Chapter 14 Summary (Document Reference 6.2.14)</b>	Arup

## **1.8. Stakeholder engagement**

### **Approach to consultation**

- 1.8.1. Effective and meaningful engagement and consultation with stakeholders is an essential aspect of developing the design of the Proposed Development and of undertaking a comprehensive EIA.
- 1.8.2. The Applicant has carried out consultation and engagement iteratively, seeking feedback on the proposals at different stages of design development and environmental assessment. This has sought to ensure that feedback of relevant statutory consultees and the local community has been taken into account and reflected in the Proposed Development.

- 1.8.3. The Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.1) provides a detailed account of the engagement and consultation exercises undertaken by the Applicant and how the feedback received has informed the design and assessment of the Proposed Development. A high-level summary is provided below.

### **Collaborative design**

- 1.8.4. The Applicant sought to gather the views of a variety of representatives of groups with an interest in the area to help shape the Proposed Development at an early stage. This was a method of Collaborative Design, which involved inviting stakeholders to workshops carried out between 1 – 3 November 2022. These stakeholders included local councils, elected representatives, statutory environmental bodies, and local interest groups.
- 1.8.5. The Applicant engaged with these groups in order to enable the sharing and consideration of local knowledge and technical advice from an early stage of the Proposed Development. The comments made in the Collaborative Design workshops were taken into account to inform the design of the Proposed Development prior to the statutory consultation.

### **Statutory consultation**

- 1.8.6. The Act requires applicants for DCOs to carry out pre-application consultation on their proposals. The Act and associated regulations prescribe how pre-application statutory consultation should be undertaken, including a requirement under Section 49 of the Act for the Applicant to have regard to any feedback received on the proposals. The Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.1) evidences how the statutory pre-application consultation was undertaken in compliance with the Act.
- 1.8.7. The Applicant carried out statutory consultation between 5 May 2023 and 16 June 2023. The consultation materials available for inspection locally and online comprised:
- The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and NTS;
  - Consultation booklet;
  - Feedback form;
  - Landscape concept masterplan;
  - Indicative cross-sections and photomontages from viewpoints; and
  - Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) and Section 48 Notice.
- 1.8.8. Three consultation events were held in the vicinity of the Proposed Development, whereby members of the public could attend in person to view the materials and discuss the Proposed Development with the Applicant and its specialist technical team. Three online webinars were also held, in which the Applicant presented information about the proposals and answered any questions raised by attendees.

- 1.8.9. In total, over 400 responses to the statutory consultation were received. These responses have been analysed and reviewed by the Applicant, with due regard given to the matters raised. As detailed in the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.1), the feedback received at statutory consultation resulted in a number of changes to the design of the Proposed Development and has informed the approach to environmental assessment reported in this ES. ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3) also provides a summary of how the design of the Proposed Development has developed throughout the pre-application period, taking into account both technical considerations and the feedback received through consultation and engagement exercises.
- 1.8.10. In November 2023, further consultation was held with persons with an interest in the land. This was carried out where relevant due to the introduction of new land interests and/or the identification of persons with a sub-soil interest in the land. In total, 11 responses to the consultation were received and are reported on in the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.1).

### **Feedback to the community following statutory consultation and engagement**

- 1.8.11. Following statutory consultation and prior to DCO application submission, the Applicant has sought to continue engagement with the local community on the progression of the design and assessment of the Proposed Development. In November 2023, a newsletter detailing the principal changes made to the design of the Proposed Development was sent to properties in the consultation zone (as defined at statutory consultation) and updates published on the project website, alongside a webinar that was held on 15 November 2023. Local meetings were also held in December 2023. These activities are described in more detail in the Consultation Report (Document Reference 5.1).

### **Topic-specific consultation and engagement**

- 1.8.12. Consultation with relevant statutory consultees and stakeholders has been undertaken to inform the approach to EIA.
- 1.8.13. A number of meetings have taken place with stakeholders to share information on the Proposed Development and the approach to environmental assessment including, but not limited to, the following:
- Darlington Borough Council;
  - Durham County Council;
  - Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council;
  - The Planning Inspectorate;
  - Environment Agency;
  - The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA);

- County Archaeologists;
- Historic England;
- The County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service; and
- Natural England.

1.8.14. Details of topic specific consultation and how the feedback from consultees has been taken into account in the assessment is included within each of the topic-specific chapters of this ES (Chapters 5 to 13) (Document Reference 6.2.5 to 6.2.13).

## **1.9. Structure of the ES**

1.9.1. The ES is arranged in three volumes and subsequent topic chapters. These are outlined further below.

1.9.2. The NTS (Document Reference 6.1.1) is a standalone report which summaries the findings of the EIA, written in non-technical language.

1.9.3. The main text of this ES is located within Volume 1 (Document Reference 6.2):

- ES Chapters 1 to 4 (Document References 6.2.1 to 6.2.4) describe the Proposed Development, the alternatives considered, and the approach that will be taken to the EIA;
- ES Chapters 5 to 12 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.12) present the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development in relation to specialist topics covering particular aspects of the environment;
- ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13) considers the potential inter-relationships between the topics covered in chapters 5 to 12, and between the Proposed Development and other developments in the surrounding area; and
- ES Chapter 14 Summary (Document Reference 6.2.14) presents a summary of the likely significant environmental effects.

1.9.4. Volume 2 ES Appendices (Document Reference 6.3) includes the technical reports and data that accompany the technical assessments in Volume 1.

1.9.5. Volume 3 ES Figures (Document Reference 6.4) includes all the figures that are referenced, however some figures relating to the description of development are integrated into the main text for ease of reference.

1.9.6. A list of contents, glossary and abbreviations is provided in ES Chapter 0 (Document Reference 6.2.0).

1.9.7. Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations sets out information to be included in the ES. Table 1-2 below identifies where this information can be found within this ES.

**Table 1-2 Recommended information for inclusion in the ES**

<b>Information required to be included as part of the ES (as specified in Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations)</b>	<b>Relevant Sections in this ES</b>
<p>1. A description of the development, including in particular: (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; (c) a description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used; (d) an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation and quantities and types of waste produced during the construction and operation phases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2)</li> <li>▪ ES Chapters 5 to 12 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.12)</li> </ul>
<p>2. A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of development design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the developer, 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ES Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (Document Reference 6.2.3)</li> </ul>
<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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ES Chapters 5 to 12 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.12)</li> </ul>
<p>4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 5(2) likely to be significantly affected by the development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ES Chapters 5 to 12 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.12)</li> </ul>
<p>5. A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia: (a) the construction and existence of the development, including, where relevant, demolition works; (b) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, 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 (for example due to accidents or disasters); (e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources; (f) the impact of the project on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the project to climate change; (g) the technologies and the substances used.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ES Chapters 5 to 13 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.13)</li> </ul>

Information required to be included as part of the ES (as specified in Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations)	Relevant Sections in this ES
The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 5(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. This description should take into account the environmental protection objectives established at Union or Member State level which are relevant to the project, including in particular those established under Council Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC.	
6. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence, used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information and the main uncertainties involved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ES Chapter 4 Approach to EIA (Document Reference 6.2.4)</li> <li>▪ ES Chapters 5 to 12 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.12)</li> </ul>
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 (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis). That description should explain the extent, to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset, and should cover both the construction and operational phases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ES Chapter 2 The Proposed Development (Document Reference 6.2.2)</li> <li>▪ ES Chapters 5 to 12 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.12)</li> </ul>
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. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to EU legislation such as Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom or UK environmental assessments may be used for this purpose provided that the requirements of this Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for and proposed response to such emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ES Chapter 4 Approach to EIA (Document Reference 6.2.4)</li> <li>▪ ES Chapters 5 to 12 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.12)</li> <li>▪ ES Appendix 2.5 Major Accidents and Disasters Assessment (Document Reference 6.4.2.5)</li> </ul>
9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-Technical Summary (NTS) (Standalone Document) (Document Reference 6.1)</li> </ul>
10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ES Chapter 1 Introduction (Document Reference 6.2.1)</li> <li>▪ ES Chapter 14 Summary (Document Reference 6.2.14)</li> </ul>

## 1.10. Next Steps

- 1.10.1. The ES forms part of the DCO application submitted to PINS in accordance with the Act. PINS, on behalf of the SoS, has a period of up to 28 days to consider acceptance of the application for examination.
- 1.10.2. If the application is accepted, the pre-examination period will commence. The documents accompanying the DCO application, including this ES, will be publicly

available on PINS website. The general public and consultees will be able to make relevant representations about the Proposed Development and its potential impacts. If they do so, they will become "interested parties" in respect to the Proposed Development. This stage of the process usually lasts for approximately three months.

- 1.10.3. PINS then has up to six months to carry out the examination. Interested parties are invited to provide further details of their views in writing. PINS will consider all relevant and important matters during this stage, including the representations of all interested parties.
- 1.10.4. Within three months of the close of the examination, PINS will then make a recommendation to the SoS in respect of the application. Subsequently, the SoS has a further three months to decide whether to grant development consent for the Proposed Development.

## References

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