



HELIOS RENEWABLE
ENERGY
PROJECT

PINS Document Number:
EN010140/APP/6.1.1

Pursuant to:
APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Environmental Statement Chapter 1: Introduction

June 2024

1. Introduction

1.1.1. This chapter is supported by the following figure:

- **Figure 1.1 Order Limits Location Plan [EN010140/APP/1.1].**

1.1.2. This chapter is supported by the following appendix:

- **Appendix 1.1 Statement on the Expertise [EN010140/APP/6.3.1.1]** and Qualifications of the Competent Experts Contributing to the ES as required by Regulation 14(4)(b) of the *Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017* (the 'EIA Regulations').

1.2. Introduction

1.2.1. This Environmental Statement ('ES') has been prepared on behalf of Enso Green Holdings D Limited (the 'Applicant') to accompany an application to the Secretary of State ('SoS') for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero ('DESNZ') under Section 37 of the Planning Act 2008 (as amended) ('the PA2008'). The application seeks a Development Consent Order ('DCO') for the Helios Renewable Energy Project ('the Proposed Development').

1.2.2. The Proposed Development is located within the Order limits. The location of the Order limits is shown on **Figure 1.1 Order Limits Location Plan [EN010140/APP/1.1]** of the ES and is described in further detail within **Chapter 3 Site and Development Description [EN010140/APP/6.1.3]** of this ES.

1.3. The Environmental Impact Assessment Process

1.3.1. The requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment ('EIA') of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects ('NSIPs') is transposed into law through the EIA Regulations. The EIA Regulations set out the statutory process and minimum requirements for the provision of adequate environmental information to enable the EIA process. The EIA Regulations specify which developments are required to undergo EIA, and schemes relevant to the NSIP planning process are listed under either 'Schedule 1' or 'Schedule 2'. Those developments listed in Schedule 1 must be subject to EIA, while developments listed in 'Schedule 2' are only subject to EIA if they are considered 'likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue

of factors such as their nature, size or location’ (Regulation 3(1) of the EIA Regulations). The selection criteria for Schedule 2 development are set out in Schedule 3. The Proposed Development 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*’, and is not a project listed in Schedule 1.

- 1.3.2. This ES represents the findings of the EIA undertaken for the Proposed Development and has been compiled in accordance with the EIA Regulations, including Regulation 14 and Schedule 4, discussed as follows in this chapter.

Table 1.1: Location of Information Required by Regulation 14 and Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations

| Specified Information | | Location within the ES |
|---|---|---|
| Regulation 14 (2) An environmental statement is a statement which includes at least— | | |
| (a) | a description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the development; | Chapter 3 [EN010140/APP/6.1.3] |
| (b) | a description of the likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment; | Technical Chapters 6 – 14 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| (c) | a description of any features of the proposed development, or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment; | Chapters 3, 5, Technical Chapters 6 – 14, and Appendix 16.1 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13, 6.1.14 & 6.3.16.1] |
| (d) | a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the development on the environment; | Chapter 4 [EN010140/APP/6.1.4] |
| (e) | a non-technical summary of the information referred to in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d); and | Separate Standalone Non-Technical Summary [EN010140/APP/6.4] |
| (f) | any additional information specified in Schedule 4 relevant to the specific characteristics of the | Technical Chapters 6 – 14 |

| Specified Information | | Location within the ES |
|--|--|---|
| | particular development or type of development and to the environmental features likely to be significantly affected. | [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| Regulation 14 (3) The environmental statement referred to in paragraph (1) must- | | |
| (a) | where a scoping opinion has been adopted, be based on the most recent scoping opinion adopted (so far as the proposed development remains materially the same as the proposed development which was subject to that opinion); | Chapter 2 [EN010140/APP/6.1.2] |
| (b) | include the information reasonably required for reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the development on the environment, taking into account current knowledge and methods of assessment; and | Technical Chapters 6 – 14 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| (c) | be prepared, taking into account the results of any relevant UK environmental assessment, which is reasonably available to the applicant with a view to avoiding duplication of assessment. | Appendix 8.9 Information of inform Habitats Regulations Assessment [EN010140/APP/6.3.8.9] |
| Regulation 14 (4) In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the environmental statement- | | |
| (a) | the applicant must ensure that the environmental statement is prepared by competent experts; and | A 'statement of expertise' is provided in Appendix 1.1. [EN010140/APP/6.3.1.1] |
| (b) | the environmental statement must be accompanied by a statement from the applicant outlining the relevant expertise or qualifications of such experts. | |
| Schedule 4: 1. A description of the development, including in particular- | | |
| (a) | a description of the location of the development; | Chapter 3 [EN010140/APP/6.1.3] |
| (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 3 [EN010140/APP/6.1.3] and Chapter 5 [EN010140/APP/6.1.5] |
| (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; | Chapter 3 [EN010140/APP/6.1.3] |
| (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 | Technical Chapters 6 – 14 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, |

| Specified Information | | Location within the ES |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| | phases. | 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| | Schedule 4: 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. | Chapter 4 [EN010140/APP/6.1.4] |
| | Schedule 4: 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. | Baseline Conditions section of Technical Chapters 6 – 14 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| | Schedule 4: 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 | Scoped of the ES set out in Chapter 2 EIA Methodology [EN010140/APP/6.1.2] and assessed in Technical Chapters 6 – 14 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| | Schedule 4: 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; | Chapters 3, 5 [EN010140/APP/6.1.3 and 6.1.5) and Technical Chapters 6 – 14 EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| (b) | the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources; | Chapters 5, 8, 9 and 14 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| (c) | the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste; | Chapters 5 and 11 [EN010140/APP/6.1.5 & 6.1.11] |
| (d) | the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters); | Chapters 6 and 13 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, |

| Specified Information | | Location within the ES |
|--|---|--|
| | | 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12 & 6.1.13] and Accidents and Disasters Scoped out of the ES |
| (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; | Chapter 15 [EN010140/APP/6.1.15] |
| (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; | Chapter 12 [EN010140/APP/6.1.12] |
| (g) | the technologies and the substances used. | Chapters 3, 5, and Technical Chapters 6 – 14 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| 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(1) and Directive 2009/147/EC(2). | | Likely Significant Effects, Cumulative Effects, and Residual Effects section of Technical Chapters 6 – 14 and Chapters 15 and 16 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13; 6.1.14; 6.1.15 & 6.1.16] |
| Schedule 4: 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. | | Assessment Methodology sections within Technical Chapters 6 – 14 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13 & 6.1.14] |
| Schedule 4: 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. | | Embedded Mitigation and Mitigation Measures sections of Technical Chapters 6 – 14 and Appendix 16.1 [EN010140/APP/6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13; 6.1.14 & 6.3.16.1] |

| Specified Information | Location within the ES |
|--|--|
| <p>Schedule 4: 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(3) or Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom(4) 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.</p> | <p>Scoped out of the ES, see Chapter 2 [EN010140/APP/6.1.2]</p> |
| <p>Schedule 4: 9. A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 8.</p> | <p>Separate Standalone Non-Technical Summary [EN010140/APP/6.4]</p> |
| <p>Schedule 4: 10. A reference list detailing the sources used for the descriptions and assessments included in the environmental statement.</p> | <p>Provided as footnotes and endnotes within each chapter of the ES [EN010140/APP/6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3, 6.1.4, 6.1.5; 6.1.6, 6.1.7, 6.1.8, 6.1.9, 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12, 6.1.13; 6.1.14; 6.1.15 & 6.1.16]</p> |

1.3.3. The EIA process can be broadly summarised as consisting of three main elements that take place prior to the submission of a DCO application:

- Scoping: an Applicant is required to submit a Scoping Report in support of a request for a Scoping Opinion from the Planning Inspectorate ('PINS'), who conduct scoping on behalf of the SoS for DESNZ. PINS must consult prescribed consultation bodies before adopting a Scoping Opinion. The request for a Scoping Opinion (refer to **Appendix 2.1 Scoping Report [EN010140/APP/6.3.2.1]**) was submitted by the Applicant on 6th June 2022, and the Scoping Opinion (refer to **Appendix 2.2 Scoping Opinion [EN010140/APP/6.3.2.2]**) was adopted on 14th July 2022.
- Consultation: an applicant is required to conduct pre-application consultation in accordance with the PA2008 and the EIA Regulations. For EIA development, an applicant must consult on preliminary environmental information (as listed in

Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations). The preliminary information compiled by the Applicant (in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report ('PEIR')) presented the preliminary findings of the environmental assessments in sufficient detail to allow consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the Proposed Development, the assessment process, and preliminary findings prior to submission of the ES. The PEIR was published to accompany Statutory Consultation and publicity under Sections 42¹, 47², 48³ and 49⁴ of the PA2008, and feedback was sought from the local communities and other stakeholders during the Statutory Consultation period which ran from 9:00am on 26th October 2023 until 11:59:59pm on 7th December 2023, which was further extended to 11:59:59pm on 21st December 2023 to give select stakeholders extra time to comment. Elements of the design, baseline conditions, and assessment methodology have been updated in response to the Statutory Consultation; where relevant these amendments will be discussed in **Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010140/APP/6.1.4]** this ES and have formed the basis for the assessment undertaken in the ES.

- ES Preparation: this ES has been prepared considering the responses to the Statutory Consultation process. This ES advances the content of the PEIR and incorporates the design responses to the consultation and the results of the further surveys undertaken since the PEIR. Consultation responses to the PEIR have informed the Applicant in refining the Proposed Development's design, which is assessed in this ES for likely significant environmental effects. The issues that have been raised through Statutory Consultation and how these have been considered and addressed by the Proposed Development are presented within **Chapter 2 EIA Methodology [EN010140/APP/6.1.2]**, **Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010140/APP/6.1.4]** and, where specific to a technical discipline, within the Methodology sections of each technical chapter of this ES. This ES forms part of the DCO application.

¹ Section 42 of the PA2008 requires the Applicant to consult with 'prescribed persons' comprising relevant statutory undertakers (such as Natural England and the Environment Agency), relevant local authorities, those with an interest in the land, as well as those who may be affected by the Proposed Development.

² Section 47 of the PA2008 requires the Applicant to consult with the community local to the Proposed Development.

³ Section 48 of the PA2008 requires that the Applicant publicises the Proposed Development in a national newspaper, The London Gazette, and local newspapers circulating in the vicinity of the Site.

⁴ Section 49 places a duty on the Applicant to take account of any relevant responses received to the consultation and publicity that is required by Sections 42, 47 and 48.

1.4. The Purpose of the ES

- 1.4.1. This ES provides the findings of the assessment of likely significant environmental effects resulting from the construction, operation and maintenance, and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development, including measures where necessary, to mitigate significant adverse environmental effects.
- 1.4.2. The ES has been prepared in accordance with the EIA Regulations and Planning Inspectorate's *Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environmental Information and Environmental Statements (June 2020)*⁵.

1.5. The Proposed Development

- 1.5.1. The Proposed Development comprises the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a solar photovoltaic (PV) electricity generating station, with a total capacity exceeding 50 megawatts (MW) with export connection to the national electricity transmission system ('NETS') at National Grid's Drax Substation. The Proposed Development has a design life of 40 years.
- 1.5.2. The DCO Application Order Limits comprise 475 hectares ('ha') of land located to the south-west of the village of Camblesforth and to the north of the village of Hirst Courtney in North Yorkshire ('the Site'), which includes the solar PV equipment, substation, battery electrical storage system (BESS), interconnecting cable corridor, Grid Connection Corridor, green infrastructure and associated site accesses (the 'Site'). The Site is located wholly within the host authority area of North Yorkshire Council ('NYC'). (refer to **Figure 1.1 Order Limits Location Plan [EN010140/APP/6.2.1.1]**).
- 1.5.3. The Proposed Development has an expected energy generating capacity in excess of the 50MW threshold for onshore generating stations in England and therefore constitutes an NSIP under sections 14(1)(a) and 15(1) and (2) of the PA2008.

1.6. The Applicant

- 1.6.1. The Applicant is a joint-venture partnership between Enso Energy and Cero Generation.

⁵ Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-and-environmental-statements/#8> Accessed August 2023.

1.7. The Structure of the ES

1.7.1. The ES comprises two volumes and a Non-Technical Summary ('NTS'). The structure of the ES, and chapter authors, is set out in Table 1.2. In line with Regulation 14(4)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the ES has been prepared by competent experts and the relevant expertise or qualifications of the experts are provided at **Appendix 1.1 Statement on the Expertise [EN010140/APP/6.3.1.1]** and Qualifications of the Competent Experts Contributing to the ES as required by Regulation 14(4)(b) of the EIA Regulations).

Table 1.1: Structure of the ES and Helios Renewable Energy Project Team

| Chapter no. | Chapter Title | Author |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| ES Non-Technical Summary Summary of the information provided in the ES in non-technical language | | |
| Volume 1: ES Main Text and Figures | | |
| 1 | Introduction | Stantec ⁶ |
| 2 | EIA Methodology | Stantec |
| 3 | Site and Development Description | Stantec |
| 4 | Alternatives and Design Evolution | Stantec |
| 5 | Construction and Decommissioning Methodology and Phasing | Stantec |
| 6 | Cultural Heritage | Pegasus |
| 7 | Landscape and Views | SLR ⁷ |
| 8 | Biodiversity | Avian Ecology |
| 9 | Water Environment | PFA ⁸ |
| 10 | Transport and Access | Transport Planning Associates |
| 11 | Noise and Vibration | Inacoustic |
| 12 | Climate Change | Stantec |
| 13 | Socio-Economics | Stantec |
| 14 | Soils and Agricultural Land | Kernon Countryside Consultants |
| 15 | Cumulative Effects | Stantec |
| 16 | Summary and Residual Effects | Stantec |
| Volume 2: Technical Appendices Technical data, figures, plans and reports to support the chapters in Volume 1 | | |

⁶ In the EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (Appendix 2.1 of the PEIR), Barton Willmore, now Stantec was stated as the author of Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 12, 13, 15 and 16. Although Stantec is now these chapters' author, the author remains unchanged.

⁷ In the EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (Appendix 2.1 of the PEIR), Barton Willmore, now Stantec was stated as the author of Chapter 7 Landscape and Views; however, SLR is now this chapter's author.

⁸ In the EIA Scoping Report submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (Appendix 2.1 of the PEIR), Neo Environmental was stated as the author of Chapter 9 Water Environment; however, PFA is now this chapter's author.

1.8. The Consenting Process

The DCO Process

- 1.8.1. The process for applying for a DCO is as set out in the PA2008, including the thresholds above which certain developments are considered to be nationally significant and therefore require development consent, and outlining the the statutory process for the consenting of NSIPs. Section 31 of the PA2008 states that a DCO is required for development that is or forms part of an NSIP.
- 1.8.2. The DCO application process is split into the following six stages:
- Pre-application (the DCO application is currently at this stage);
 - Acceptance;
 - Pre-examination;
 - Examination;
 - Decision; and
 - Post-decision.
- 1.8.3. During the pre-application phase, Part 5 of the PA2008 requires promoters of a DCO application to engage in pre-application consultation with statutory consultees and other listed parties under Section 42 of the PA2008 and the local community under Section 47 of the PA2008. The proposed application must also be publicised under Section 48 of the PA2008. The PEIR was published in support of the Statutory Consultation and publicity required under Sections 42, 47, 48 and 49 of the PA2008 and Regulations 11 to 13 of the EIA Regulations.
- 1.8.4. Following completion of pre-application consultation, the DCO application for the Proposed Development has been prepared for submission to the SoS via PINS. In line with Regulation 5(2)(a) of the Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009 ('APFP Regulations'), the application is accompanied by '*the environmental statement required pursuant to the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 and any scoping or screening opinions or directions*'.

1.9. Planning and Energy Policy Context

National Policy Statements ('NPS')

- 1.9.1. NPSs set out the government's objectives for the development of nationally significant infrastructure, and each NPS covers a different aspect of nationally significant infrastructure. Where an NPS has effect in relation to development of the description to which the application relates (a 'relevant NPS'), Section 104(2) of the PA2008 provides that the SoS must have regard to any relevant NPS. Other matters which the SoS must have regard to, under Section 104(2) of the PA2008, include any local impact report, any matters prescribed in relation to development of the description to which the application relates, and any other matters which the SoS thinks are both important and relevant to the decision. Under Section 104(3) of PA2008, the application must be determined in accordance with the relevant NPS, except where certain criteria apply.
- 1.9.2. There are currently three NPSs relevant to the determination of this DCO application, there are as follows:
- **Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (November 2023, designated January 2024)**⁹ ('NPS EN-1'): This NPS sets out national policy for a prescribed list of energy infrastructure, inclusive of onshore renewable electricity generation which meet the NSIP criteria. This NPS sets out the general policies for the submission and assessment of energy infrastructure applications under the PA2008, including the generic impacts which arise from the development of all types of energy infrastructure covered by the energy NPSs, which should be considered; and
 - **Overarching National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (November 2023, designated January 2024)**¹⁰ ('NPS EN-3'): This NPS, together with NPS EN-1, provides the primary policy for decisions by the SoS on applications for nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure. The NPS sets out the urgent need for, and commitment to, the provision of new electricity generating capacity to meet national energy objectives. Paragraphs 2.10.18 to 2.10.72 set out the factors and technical considerations influencing site selection

⁹ Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65bbfdbc709fe1000f637052/overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf>. Accessed February 2024

¹⁰ Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a7889996a5ec000d731aba/nps-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en3.pdf>. Accessed February 2024

and design. These are as follows, and are considered further in **Chapter 4 Alternatives and Design Evolution [EN010140/APP/6.1.4]** of this ES as to how they have informed the location and design of the Proposed Development:

- a. Irradiance and site topography;
 - b. Network connection;
 - c. Proximity to dwellings;
 - d. Agricultural land classification and land type;
 - e. Accessibility;
 - f. Public Rights of Way;
 - g. Security and lighting;
 - h. Capacity of a site;
 - i. Site layout, design and appearance;
 - j. Project lifetime;
 - k. Decommissioning; and
 - l. Flexibility in the project details.
- **National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (November 2023, designated January 2024)**¹¹ ('NPS EN-5'): Should be read in conjunction with NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-3. This NPS sets out required assessments and technology-specific matters for consideration. It covers above ground electricity lines whose nominal voltage is expected to be 132kV or above. However, paragraph 1.6.4 states that any other kind of electricity infrastructure (including underground cables at any voltage and associated infrastructure such as substations and converter stations) will be covered by this NPS if it constitutes associated development for which consent is sought along with an NSIP such as a generating station.

Local Policy

- 1.9.3. Paragraph 4.1.12 of NPS EN-1 acknowledges that the policies outlined in Development Plan documents and other Local Development Framework documents

¹¹ Available at: <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a78a5496a5ec000d731abb/nps-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en5.pdf>
Accessed February 2024

may hold significance and relevance in the decision-making process of planning. Section 104 of the PA2008 refers to Local Impact Reports ('LIR') as a document the SoS must have regard to in their decision-making process. The LIRs are informed by the relevant local planning policy. However, in cases where conflicts arise, this paragraph reaffirms Section 104(3) of the PA2008 which requires that the NPS takes precedence for the purpose of the SoS's planning decision-making.

1.9.4. The local planning policy is therefore likely to be of consideration in the SoS decision; the local planning policy comprises of:

- Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013)¹²;
- Selby District Local Plan Publication Version (2024)¹³;
- Selby District Local Plan (2005)¹⁴ (saved policies); and
- Minerals and Waste Joint Plan 2016 to 2030 (2022)¹⁵.

1.9.5. Each technical chapter (Chapter 6 to 14) of the ES will set out the relevant policies to their assessments.

¹² Available at:

https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/sites/default/files/fileroot/planning_migrated/planning_policy/CS_Adoption_Ver_OCT_2013_REDUCED.pdf
Accessed January 2024

¹³ Available at: <https://selby-consult.objective.co.uk/file/6303893> Accessed April 2024

¹⁴ Available at: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/planning-and-conservation/planning-policy/planning-policy-your-local-area/selby-planning-policy/selby-development-plan> Accessed January 2024

¹⁵ Available at: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/planning-and-conservation/planning-policy/planning-policy-minerals-and-waste> Accessed: August 2023