

**Tillbridge Solar Project
EN010142**

**Volume 6
Environmental Statement
Appendix 10-1 Water Environment Legislation, Policy and
Guidance
Document Reference: EN010142/APP/6.2**

**Regulation 5(2)(a)
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009**

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Appendix

- 1.1.1 This Environmental Statement (ES) appendix identifies and describes the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered relevant to the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Tillbridge Solar Project (hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme') on Water Environment.
- 1.1.2 Legislation and policy are considered at national and local levels.
- 1.1.3 This appendix does not assess the Scheme against legislation and policy, instead the purpose of considering legislation and policy is twofold:
- a. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the importance of receptors (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
 - b. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the methodology to be used within the ES assessment which will be presented in the Environmental Statement. For example, a policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.1.4 Instead, the relevant legislation and policy are assessed within the **Planning Statement [EN010142/APP/7.2]**. The following sections identify and describe the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered specifically relevant to the Water Environment assessment, which has been taken into account in preparing the ES.

2. National Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1 National Legislation

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

- 2.1.1 Regulation 5(2)(c) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref 1) requires that the EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in light of each individual case, the likely significant direct and indirect effects of the Scheme on the Water Environment.

Other National Legislation

- 2.1.2 The legislation relevant to the Water Environment and pertinent to the Scheme includes the following (please note that details of European Directives are not included, just the national legislation that implements them):

- a. Environment Act 2021 (Ref 2): enables better environmental protection to be included into law, includes new binding targets for water, which when set will need to be considered by new development that may affect the water environment.
- b. Water Act (2014) (as amended) (Ref 3): mainly deals with regulating the impact of water supply on the water environment and the price of water.
- c. Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (as amended) (Ref 4) : requires flood and coastal erosion risk management authorities, among other requirements, to aim to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development when exercising their flood and coastal erosion risk management functions. The Act created new roles and responsibilities on local authorities. County and unitary authorities, which are now classed as Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs). LLFAs have responsibilities for coordinating the management of flood risk from local sources, and placed a duty on the Environment Agency to develop the national strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) in England.
- d. Land Drainage Act 1991 (as amended) (Ref 5): sets out the functions of internal drainage boards (IDBs) and local authorities (as LLFA) in relation to land drainage of ordinary watercourses. New development proposing to do works that are near to or which may affect the flows in ordinary watercourses may require a consent from the relevant authority).
- e. Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended) (Ref 6): serves as a comprehensive legal framework in the UK to ensure the responsible management, use, and protection of water resources, for which new developments may need to take into account.
- f. Environmental Protection Act 1990 (as amended) (Ref 7): brings together pollution prevention and disposal regulations, imposes duty of care on those involved with any waste stream.
- g. Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 (as amended) (Ref 8): sets out protection for migration routes of salmon and trout.
- h. Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (Ref 9): these regulations aim to improve and integrate the way water bodies are managed throughout the UK for which new development must be compliant or otherwise be carefully justified and include all necessary mitigation and compensation.
- i. Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) Regulations 2017 (Ref 10): aims to prevent and remediate damage to the environment;
- j. Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 (as amended) (Ref 11): aims to streamline the legislative system for activities in England and Wales including those for construction activities which may pose an alteration of flood risk. New developments that may need to do works to a Main River or discharge unclean water, trade or process effluent into a controlled water may need to apply for a permit.
- k. Eels (England and Wales) Regulation 2009 (as amended) (Ref 12): gives powers to the regulators to implement recovery measures in all

freshwater and estuarine waters in England and Wales and for which new developments that could impact eels should take into account.

- i. The Water Resources Act (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009 (Ref 13): these Regulations amend certain provisions of the Water Resources Act 1991 in order to implement requirements of the Water Framework Directive (Ref 17) to improve the water quality of water bodies by, in particular, the control of diffuse pollution and the protection and improvement of the hydromorphological quality elements of such bodies;
 - m. Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 (as amended) (Ref 14): sets out the requirements for the storage of oil for quantities over 200 litres, which is relevant to any development that may involve the storage of oil during construction or operation.
 - n. The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (as amended) Regulations 2004 (Ref 15): requirements to control and manage risks from hazardous substances, such as may be used on construction sites or as part of the operation of new developments.
 - o. The Anti-Pollution Works Regulations 1999 (Ref 16): outlines the contents of any pollution works notices served under the Water Resources Act 1991.
 - p. The Water Framework Directive (Standards and Classification) Directions 2015 (as amended) (Ref 17): includes directions for classification of surface water and groundwater bodies for which new developments must consider as part of any Water Framework Directive Assessment.
 - q. The Building Regulations. Approved Document Part H: Drainage and Waste Disposal (2010) (Ref 18); includes details of foul water drainage both above and below ground.
 - r. Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009: Includes requirements for new development to obtain a Marine Licence from the Marine Management Organisation for works below Mean High Water Spring Tide (Ref 19).
- 2.1.3 In respect of the effects of climate change on flood risk, this is assessed within the **Flood Risk Assessment (FRA)** within **Appendix 10-3** of the ES **[EN010142/APP/6.2]**.

2.2 National Policy

- 2.2.1 The type of energy generating technology incorporated by the Scheme (solar photovoltaic generation) is specifically referenced within the following National Policy Statements (NPS) therefore the EIA takes these NPSs into account:
- a. Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Ref 20);
 - b. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref 21); and
 - c. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 22).

- 2.2.2 The NPSs set out the Government's energy policy, the need for new infrastructure and guidance for determining an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO). The NPSs include specific criteria and issues which should be covered by applicants in their assessments of the effects of their scheme, and how the decision maker should consider these impacts and mitigation measures.
- 2.2.3 The relevant NPS requirements, together with an indication of where in the ES the information is provided to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 1**. NPS EN-1, EN-3 and EN-5 are each considered relevant to the Scheme and therefore **Table 1** includes the relevant requirements from these NPSs.

Table 1: Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1		
Paragraph 4.12.10	<p>The Secretary of State should work on the assumption that the relevant pollution control regime and other environmental regulatory regimes, including those on land drainage, water abstraction and biodiversity, will be properly applied and enforced by the relevant regulator. The Secretary of State should act to complement but not seek to duplicate them.</p>	<p>Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] outlines pollution controls for the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of development. A Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) [EN010142/APP/7.8], Framework Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) [EN010142/APP/7.9] and Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) [EN010142/APP/7.10] which include management methods for pollution are also submitted with this Application and secured under the DCO.</p>
Paragraph 4.12.15	<p>Working in close cooperation with EA or NRW, and/or the pollution control authority, and other relevant bodies, such as the MMO, the SNCB, Drainage Boards, and water and sewerage undertakers, the Secretary of State should be satisfied, before consenting any potentially polluting developments, that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the relevant pollution control authority is satisfied that potential releases can be adequately regulated under the pollution control framework; and 	<p>Consultation has been undertaken with the Environment Agency and the Internal Drainage Boards. The Outline Drainage Strategy (refer to Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]) includes an assessment using the CIRIA Simple Index Method which concludes that sufficient mitigation is being provided for any runoff from the structures or access roads. An assessment of cumulative</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the effects of existing sources of pollution in and around the site are not such that the cumulative effects of pollution when the proposed development is added would make that development unacceptable, particularly in relation to statutory environmental quality limits. 	effects is provided in Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and concludes there will be no significant cumulative effects of pollution in the area.
Paragraph 5.8.5	Climate change is already having an impact and is expected to have an increasing impact on the UK throughout this century. The UK Climate Projections 2018 show an increased chance of milder, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers in the UK, with more intensive rainfall causing flooding. Sea levels will continue to rise beyond the end of the century, increasing risks to vulnerable coastal communities. Within the lifetime of energy projects, these factors will lead to increased flood risks in areas susceptible to flooding, and to an increased risk of the occurrence of floods in some areas which are not currently thought of as being at risk. A robust approach to flood risk management is a vital element of climate change adaptations; the applicant and the Secretary of State should take account of the policy on climate change adaptation in Section 4.9.	The potential for climate change to result in changes in the future to surface water drainage, and to flood risk is considered within the Flood Risk Assessment (refer to Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]) and the Outline Drainage Strategy (Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]).
Paragraph 5.8.7	Where new energy infrastructure is, exceptionally, necessary in flood risk areas, (for example where there are no reasonably available sites in areas at lower risk), policy aims to make it safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, by reducing flood risk	The findings of a site specific flood risk assessment are included within the Flood Risk Assessment (Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]). The FRA concludes that there are no significant flood risk effects to the

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.8.9	<p>overall. It should also be designed and constructed to remain operational in times of flood.</p> <p>If, following application of the Sequential Test, it is not possible, (taking into account wider sustainable development objectives), for the project to be located in areas of lower flood risk the Exception Test can be applied as defined in https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change#table2. The test provides a method of allowing necessary development to go ahead in situations where suitable sites at lower risk of flooding are not available.</p>	<p>Scheme and to offsite receptors as a result of the Scheme.</p> <p>An FRA, including the Sequential and Exception Tests of the Scheme, is included as Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p>
Paragraph 5.8.10	<p>The Exception Test is only appropriate for use where the Sequential Test alone cannot deliver an acceptable site. It would only be appropriate to move onto the Exception Test when the Sequential Test has identified reasonably available, lower risk sites appropriate for the proposed development where, accounting for wider sustainable development objectives, application of relevant policies would provide a clear reason for refusing development in any alternative locations identified. Examples could include alternative site(s) that are subject to national designations such as landscape, heritage and nature conservation designations, for example Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), SSSIs and World Heritage Sites (WHS) which would not usually be considered appropriate.</p>	<p>An FRA, including the Sequential and Exception Tests of the Scheme, is included as Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.8.11	<p>Both elements of the Exception Test will have to be satisfied for development to be consented. To pass the Exception Test it should be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the project would provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh flood risk; and• the project will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible will reduce flood risk overall.	<p>The ES for the Scheme includes a site specific FRA, which outlines how the Sequential and Exception Tests have been applied, as necessary. An FRA is included as Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. The FRA concludes that there are no significant flood risk effects to the Scheme and to offsite receptors as a result of the Scheme.</p>
Paragraph 5.8.12	<p>Development should be designed to ensure there is no increase in flood risk elsewhere, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the lifetime of the development. There should be no net loss of floodplain storage and any deflection or constriction of flood flow routes should be safely managed within the site. Mitigation measures should make as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques.</p>	<p>Mitigation measures set out in the FRA are included in Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. The Outline Drainage Strategy (Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]) includes attenuation features to ensure no increase in surface water runoff from the Order limits.</p>
Paragraph 5.8.13	<p>A site specific flood risk assessment should be provided for all energy projects located in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in England or Zones B and C in Wales. In Flood Zone 1 in England, or Zone A in Wales, an assessment should accompany all proposals involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• sites of 1 hectare or more;• land identified by the EA or NRW as having critical drainage problems;	<p>A site-specific FRA is included as Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. The findings of this are summarised, and used in the assessment, in Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.8.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • land identified (for example in a local authority strategic flood risk assessment) as being at increased flood risk in future; • land that may be subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water) • where the EA or NRW, Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems. 	<p>A site specific FRA is included as Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. This includes assessment on all forms of flooding taking climate change into account.</p>
Paragraph 5.8.15	<p>The minimum requirements for Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) are that they should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be proportionate to the risk and appropriate to the scale, nature and location of the project; • consider the risk of flooding arising from the project in addition to the risk of flooding to the project; • take the impacts of climate change into account, across a range of climate scenarios, clearly stating the development lifetime over which the assessment has been made; • be undertaken by competent people, as early as possible in the process of preparing the proposal; 	<p>A site specific FRA is included as Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. This follows the NPPF guidance which includes the minimum requirement bullets.</p>

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- consider both the potential adverse and beneficial effects of flood risk management infrastructure, including raised defences, flow channels, flood storage areas and other artificial features, together with the consequences of their failure and exceedance;
 - consider the vulnerability of those using the site, including arrangements for safe access and escape;
 - consider and quantify the different types of flooding (whether from natural and human sources and including joint and cumulative effects) and include information on flood likelihood, speed-of-onset, depth, velocity, hazard and duration;
 - identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall, making as much use as possible of natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach to flood risk management;
 - consider the effects of a range of flooding events including extreme events on people, property, the natural and historic environment and river and coastal processes;
 - include the assessment of the remaining (known as 'residual') risk after risk reduction measures have been taken into account and demonstrate that these risks can be safely managed, ensuring people will not be exposed to hazardous flooding;

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- consider how the ability of water to soak into the ground may change with development, along with how the proposed layout of the project may affect drainage systems. Information should include:
 - Describe the existing surface water drainage arrangements for the site;
 - Set out (approximately) the existing rates and volumes of surface water run-off generated by the site. Detail the proposals for restricting discharge rates;
 - Set out proposals for managing and discharging surface water from the site using sustainable drainage systems and accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change. If sustainable drainage systems have been rejected, present clear evidence of why their inclusion would be inappropriate;
 - Demonstrate how the hierarchy of drainage options has been followed;
 - Explain and justify why the types of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and method of discharge have been selected and why they are considered appropriate;
 - Explain how sustainable drainage systems have been integrated with other aspects of the development such as open space or green infrastructure, so as to ensure an efficient use of the site;

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.8.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Describe the multifunctional benefits the sustainable drainage system will provide; – Set out which opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding have been identified and included as part of the proposed sustainable drainage system; – Explain how run-off from the completed development will be prevented from causing an impact elsewhere; – Explain how the sustainable drainage system been designed to facilitate maintenance and, where relevant, adoption. Set out plans for ensuring an acceptable standard of operation and maintenance throughout the lifetime of the development; • detail those measures that will be included to ensure the development will be safe and remain operational during a flooding event throughout the development’s lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere; • identify and secure opportunities to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding overall during the period of construction; and • be supported by appropriate data and information, including historical information on previous events. 	<p>The design of the Scheme takes into account the access and clearances required by the Environment Agency and Internal Drainage Boards to ensure they can access and maintain</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access, clearances and sufficient land are retained to enable their maintenance, repair, operation, and replacement, as necessary; • Their standard of protection is not reduced; • Their condition or structural integrity is not reduced 	<p>their channels by allowing a 10m buffer from the watercourses.</p> <p>The FRA assesses existing and future flood risk and sets out any proposed mitigation, as necessary. Refer to Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p>
Paragraph 5.8.18	<p>Applicants for projects which may be affected by, or may add to, flood risk should arrange pre-application discussions before the official pre-application stage of the [NSIP] process with the EA or NRW, and, where relevant, other bodies such as Lead Local Flood Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, sewerage undertakers, navigation authorities, highways authorities and reservoir owners and operators.</p>	<p>Consultation undertaken to date, including with the Environment Agency, Lead Local Flood Authorities and Internal Drainage Boards, is summarised in Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. Meeting minutes from consultation meetings are also provided within Appendix 10-5 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p>
Paragraph 5.8.19	<p>Such discussions should identify the likelihood and possible extent and nature of the flood risk, help scope the FRA, and identify the information that will be required by SoS to reach a decision on the application when it is submitted. The SoS should advise applicants to undertake these steps where they appear necessary but have not yet been addressed.</p>	<p>Early consultation was held with the Environment Agency to agree the scope of the FRA, to ensure the site specific FRA was undertaken in a robust manner and to satisfy any requirements. This is summarised within the FRA, included as Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p>
Paragraph 5.8.20	<p>If the EA, NRW or another flood risk management authority has reasonable concerns about the proposal on flood risk grounds, the applicant should discuss these concerns with the EA or NRW and take all reasonable steps to agree ways in which the proposal might be amended, or</p>	<p>Consultation undertaken to date, including with the Environment Agency, is outlined in Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. Meeting minutes from consultation meetings are also provided within</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	additional information provided, which would satisfy the authority's concerns.	Appendix 10-5 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2] , which confirm the approach to flood risk concerns have been addressed and the FRA was deemed to be appropriate to the scale, nature and location of the Scheme.
Paragraph 5.8.21	The Sequential Test ensures that a sequential, risk-based approach is followed to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking all sources of flood risk and climate change into account. Where it is not possible to locate development in low-risk areas, the Sequential Test should go on to compare reasonably available sites with medium risk areas and then, only where there are no reasonably available sites in low and medium risk areas, within high-risk areas.	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA , which outlines how the Sequential and Exception Tests have been applied, as necessary. The FRA is included as Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2] .
Paragraph 5.8.23	Consideration of alternative sites should take account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.3 above. All projects should apply the Sequential Test to locating development within the site.	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA , which outlines how the Sequential and Exception Tests have been applied in the consideration of alternative sites, as necessary. The FRA is included as Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2] .
Paragraph 5.8.24	To satisfactorily manage flood risk, arrangements are required to manage surface water and the impact of the natural water cycle on people and property.	The Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme within Appendix 10-4 of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.2] and is used within the assessment within Chapter 10: Water

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.8.25	<p>In this NPS, the term SuDS refers to the whole range of sustainable approaches to surface water drainage management including, where appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • source control measures including rainwater recycling and drainage; • infiltration devices to allow water to soak into the ground, that can include individual soakaways and communal facilities; • filter strips and swales, which are vegetated features that hold and drain water downhill mimicking natural drainage patterns; • filter drains and porous pavements to allow rainwater and run-off to infiltrate into permeable material below ground and provide storage if needed; • basins, ponds and tanks to hold excess water after rain and allow controlled discharge that avoids flooding; and • flood routes to carry and direct excess water through developments to minimise the impact of severe rainfall flooding. 	<p>Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. The Outline Drainage Strategy sets out principles for the management of surface water runoff within the Order limits.</p> <hr/> <p>The Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme within Appendix 10-4 of the ES [EN010142/AP/6.2] is assessed within Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. This includes details of the SuDS to be used by the Scheme, which includes the use of swales and perimeter swales.</p>
Paragraph 5.8.26	<p>Site layout and surface water drainage systems should cope with events that exceed the design capacity of the</p>	<p>Appendix 10-4: Outline Drainage Strategy of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2] includes details of</p>

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system, so that excess water can be safely stored on or conveyed from the site without adverse impacts.

outline site layout and surface water drainage systems to ensure the drainage from the site mimics natural conditions as present now, taking climate change into account. The drainage system for new impermeable areas has been designed to accommodate the 1 in 100-year storm, plus a 40% allowance for an increase in peak rainfall intensity due to climate change.

Paragraph 5.8.27

The surface water drainage arrangements for any project should, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change throughout the development's lifetime, be such that the volumes and peak flow rates of surface water leaving the site are no greater than the rates prior to the proposed project, unless specific off-site arrangements are made and result in the same net effect.

The **Outline Drainage Strategy (Appendix 10-4 of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.2])** is assessed within **Chapter 10: Water Environment** of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. This includes details of the surface water drainage arrangements for the Scheme, including the effects of climate change. Surface water runoff is proposed to be attenuated through the use of swales and discharged to watercourses at greenfield runoff rate.

Paragraph 5.8.28

It may be necessary to provide surface water storage and infiltration to limit and reduce both the peak rate of discharge from the site and the total volume discharged from the site. There may be circumstances where it is appropriate for infiltration facilities or attenuation storage to be provided outside the project site, if necessary, through the use of a planning obligation.

The **Outline Drainage Strategy (Appendix 10-4 of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.2])** is assessed within **Chapter 10: Water Environment** of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. This includes details of the surface water drainage arrangements for the Scheme which are located wholly within the Order limits of the Scheme. Surface water

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
		runoff is proposed to be attenuated through the use of swales and discharged to watercourses at greenfield runoff rate.
Paragraph 5.8.29	The sequential approach should be applied to the layout and design of the project. Vulnerable aspects of the development should be located on parts of the site at lower risk and residual risk of flooding. Applicants should seek opportunities to use open space for multiple purposes such as amenity, wildlife habitat and flood storage uses. Opportunities should be taken to lower flood risk by reducing the built footprint of previously developed sites and using SuDS.	The ES for the Scheme includes a site specific FRA (refer to Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]). This outlines how the Sequential and Exception Tests have been applied in relation to flood risk.
Paragraph 5.8.30	Where a development may result in an increase in flood risk elsewhere through the loss of flood storage, on-site level-for-level compensatory storage, accounting for the predicted impacts of climate change over the lifetime of the development, should be provided	The ES for the Scheme includes a FRA, which assesses existing and future flood risk and any proposed mitigation, as necessary. The FRA is included as Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. No compensatory flood storage areas are required as a result of the Scheme.
Paragraph 5.8.31	Where it is not possible to provide compensatory storage on site, it may be acceptable to provide it off-site if it is hydraulically and hydrologically linked. Where development may cause the deflection or constriction of flood flow routes, these will need to be safely managed within the site.	

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.8.32	Where development may contribute to a cumulative increase in flood risk elsewhere, the provision of multifunctional sustainable drainage systems, natural flood management and green infrastructure can also make a valuable contribution to mitigating this risk whilst providing wider benefits	The ES for the Scheme includes a site specific FRA (Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]) and Outline Drainage Strategy (Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]). The Outline Drainage Strategy ensures the drainage from the area within Order limits mimics natural drainage to ensure no cumulative increase in flood risk elsewhere.
Paragraph 5.8.33	The receipt of and response to warnings of floods is an essential element in the management of the residual risk of flooding. Flood Warning and evacuation plans should be in place for those areas at an identified risk of flooding.	The majority of the developed area of the Scheme is situated within Flood Zone 1, and is not within a Flood Risk Warning Area. A small area is within Flood Zone 2/3. The response to flooding, including monitoring flood warnings alerts and setting out an Emergency Response Plan are included within the Framework CEMP [EN010142/APP/7.8]. Management measures during the operational phase are included within the Framework OEMP [EN010142/APP/7.9].
Paragraph 5.8.34	The applicant should take advice from the local authority emergency planning team, emergency services and, where appropriate, from the local resilience forum when producing an evacuation plan for a manned energy project as part of the FRA. Any emergency planning documents,	The majority of the developed area of the Scheme is situated within Flood Zone 1, and is not within a Flood Risk Warning Area. A small area is within Flood Zone 2/3. The response to flooding, including monitoring flood warnings alerts will be set out in an Emergency

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	flood warning and evacuation procedures that are required should be identified in the FRA.	Response Plan, as detailed within the Framework CEMP [EN010142/APP/7.8] . Management measures during the operational phase are included within the Framework OEMP [EN010142/APP/7.9] .
Paragraph 5.8.35	Flood resistant and resilient materials and design should be adopted to minimise damage and speed recovery in the event of a flood.	The majority of the developed area of the Scheme is situated within Flood Zone 1, with a small area of Solar PV Panels within an area at risk of flooding. The Scheme will remain operational in the event of a flood, with the Solar PV panels raised above the potential height of flooding. Further details are provided within Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] .
Paragraph 5.8.36	<p>In determining an application for development consent, SoS should be satisfied that where relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the application is supported by an appropriate FRA; • the Sequential Test has been applied as part of site selection; • a sequential approach has been applied at the site level to minimise risk by directing the most vulnerable uses to areas of lowest flood risk; • the proposal is in line with any relevant national and local flood risk management strategy; 	The ES for the Scheme includes a site specific FRA as Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.2] , the findings of which are summarised in Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] .

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.8.37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SuDS (as required in the next paragraph on National Standards) have been used unless there is clear evidence that their use would be inappropriate; • in flood risk the project is designed and constructed to remain safe and operational during its lifetime, without increasing flood risk elsewhere (subject to the exceptions set out in paragraph 5.8.42); • the project includes safe access and escape routes where required, as part of an agreed emergency plan, and that any residual risk can be safely managed over the lifetime of the development; • land that is likely to be needed for present or future flood risk management infrastructure has been appropriately safeguarded from development to the extent that development would not prevent or hinder its construction, operation or maintenance. 	<p>The Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme is appended to the ES as Appendix 10-4 [EN010142/APP/6.2] and is assessed within Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. The drainage design is based upon the principle of mimicking natural drainage patterns. The drainage system for new impermeable areas has been designed to accommodate the 1 in 100-year storm, plus a 40% allowance for an increase in peak rainfall intensity due to climate change. This is</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.8.38	In addition, the Development Consent Order, or any associated planning obligations, will need to make provision for the appropriate operation and maintenance of any SuDS throughout the project's lifetime. Where this is secured through the adoption of any SuDS features, any necessary access rights to property will need to be granted.	considered to accord with the relevant National Standards. The Framework OEMP [EN010142/APP/7.9] includes details of the operation and maintenance of the Scheme for its lifetime, which will include the operation and maintenance of any drainage systems.
Paragraph 5.8.39	Where relevant, the SoS should be satisfied that the most appropriate body is being given the responsibility for maintaining any SuDS, taking into account the nature and security of the infrastructure on the proposed site. Responsible bodies could include, for example, the landowner, the relevant Lead Local Flood Authority, or water and sewerage company (though the Ofwat-approved Sewerage Sector Guidance), or another body, such as an Internal Drainage Board	The Framework OEMP [EN010142/APP/7.9] includes details of the operation and maintenance of the Scheme for its lifetime, which will include the operation and maintenance of any drainage systems.
Paragraph 5.8.41	Energy projects should not normally be consented within Flood Zone 3b or Zone C2 in Wales, or on land expected to fall within these zones within its predicted lifetime. This also applies where land is subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water). However, where essential energy infrastructure has to be located in such areas, for operational reasons, they should only be	The ES for the Scheme includes an FRA, which outlines how the Sequential and Exception Tests have been applied, as necessary. The FRA is included as Appendix 10-3 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2] .

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	consented if the development will not result in a net loss of floodplain storage, and will not impede water flows.	
Paragraph 5.16.3	Where the project is likely to have effects on the water environment, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of the proposed project on, water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment, and how this might change due to the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment, as part of the ES or equivalent. (See Section 4.3 and 4.10)	Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] presents an assessment regarding the baseline status of the water environment and impacts that might occur as a result of the Scheme, taking into account mitigation that is embedded in the Scheme design.
Paragraph 5.16.4	The applicant should make early contact with the relevant regulators, including the local authority, the Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation, where appropriate, for relevant licensing and environmental permitting requirements.	Consultation undertaken to date with regards to the water environment impact assessment is summarised in Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.16.5	Where possible, applicants are encouraged to manage surface water during construction by treating surface water runoff from exposed topsoil prior to discharging and to limit the discharge of suspended solids e.g. from car parks or other areas of hard standing, during operation.	The Framework CEMP [EN010142/APP/7.8] includes outline of measures required in order to minimise risk of pollution from suspended solids within runoff from hard standing, or areas of compacted soils. Operational drainage principles are set out within the Outline Drainage Strategy (Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]).

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.16.6	<p>Applicants are encouraged to consider protective measures to control the risk of pollution to groundwater beyond those outlined in River Basin Management Plans and Groundwater Protection Zones – this could include, for example, the use of protective barriers.</p>	<p>The Outline Drainage Strategy (Appendix 10-4 of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]) and pollution mitigation is assessed within Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. The principles upon which the drainage design are based on are outlined in Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p> <p>The Framework CEMP [EN010142/APP/7.8] includes outline of measures required in order to minimise risk of pollution to the ground from any spills, for example the use of bunds for any stored chemicals and fuels, and the use of plant nappies.</p>
Paragraph 5.16.7	<p>The ES should in particular describe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water quality, noting any relevant existing discharges, proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges; • existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction 	<p>Chapter 10: Water Environment, [EN010142/APP/6.1] presents a full water environment baseline, including existing water quality based on Environment Agency data, water resources, and physical characteristics of the water environment. An impact assessment is undertaken within the chapter. An extended screening and scoping WFD assessment is included in Appendix 10-2: WFD Screening and Scoping Assessment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. An assessment of cumulative effects is presented within Chapter</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>Licensing Strategies) and also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics; • any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas (including shellfish protected areas) under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales Regulations 2017 and source protection zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions; • how climate change could impact any of the above in the future; and • any cumulative effects. 	<p>18: Cumulative Effects and Interactions of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.16.8</p>	<p>The Secretary of State should consider whether mitigation measures are needed over and above any which may form part of the project application. A construction management plan may help codify mitigation at that stage.</p>	<p>Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] summarises mitigation proposed for the water environment impacts. The Framework CEMP [EN010142/APP/7.8] includes outline of measures required during the construction stage.</p>
<p>Paragraph 5.16.14</p>	<p>The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a proposal has regard to the River Basin Management Plans and meets the requirements of the Water Environment (Water</p>	<p>An extended WFD Screening and scoping assessment is included in Appendix 10-2: WFD Screening and Scoping Assessment of</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (including Regulation 19). The specific objectives for particular river basins are set out in River Basin Management Plans. The SoS must refuse development consent where a project is likely to cause deterioration of a water body or its failure to achieve good status or good potential, unless the requirements set out in Regulation 19 are met. A project may be approved in the absence of a qualifying Overriding Public Interest test only if there is sufficient certainty that it will not cause deterioration or compromise the achievement of good status or good potential.</p>	<p>the ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. The Scheme is considered to meet the requirements of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (Ref 9) and is not likely to cause the deterioration of a water body.</p>
Paragraph 5.16.15	<p>The Secretary of State should also consider the interactions of the proposed project with other plans such as Water Resources Management Plans and Shoreline/Estuary Management Plans</p>	<p>As set out within Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1], the Scheme is not considered to result in a significant effect on water supply and demand.</p>
Paragraph 5.16.16	<p>The Secretary of State should consider proposals to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment and any enhancement measures put forward by the applicant and whether appropriate requirements should be attached to any development consent and/or planning obligations are necessary.</p>	<p>Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] summarises the proposed mitigation and enhancement measures for water environment.</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy EN-3		
Paragraph 2.4.11	<p>Solar photovoltaic (PV) sites may also be proposed in low lying exposed sites. For these proposals, applicants should consider, in particular, how plant will be resilient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased risk of flooding; and • impact of higher temperatures. 	<p>A site specific FRA has been carried out and is included as Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. This sets out measures embedded within design to mitigate flood risk to the Scheme.</p> <p>An In-combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) assessment is also included in Chapter 7: Climate Change of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p>
Paragraph 2.10.60	<p>As set out above applicants will consider several factors when considering the design and layout of sites, including, proximity to available grid capacity to accommodate the scale of generation, orientation, topography, previous land – use and ability to mitigate environmental impacts and flood risk</p>	<p>A site specific FRA has been carried out and is included as Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. This sets out measures embedded within design to mitigate flood risk to the Scheme.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.84	<p>Where a Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out this must be submitted alongside the applicant's ES. This will need to consider the impact of drainage. As solar PV panels will drain to the existing ground, the impact will not, in general, be significant.</p>	<p>A site specific FRA has been carried out and is included as Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. The Outline Drainage Strategy is appended as Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p>

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 2.10.85	Where access tracks need to be provided, permeable tracks should be used, and localised SuDS, such as swales and infiltration trenches, should be used to control any runoff where recommended.	The Outline Drainage Strategy is appended as Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2] . The drainage design includes the use of swales, and permeable tracks for access round the site.
Paragraph 2.10.86	Given the temporary nature of solar PV farms, sites should be configured or selected to avoid the need to impact on existing drainage systems and watercourses	The design of the Scheme has utilised existing watercourse crossings where possible for access track crossings. The creation of new tracks will be minimised and, as a design principle, culverts will be avoided wherever possible. However, where culverting for access is unavoidable, the use of culverts has been assessed in Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] . Where culverts are necessary, the least impacting design that is reasonably practicable is proposed (e.g. arch rather than box culverts, and box culverts in preference to pipes etc.).
Paragraph 2.10.87	Culverting existing watercourses/drainage ditches should be avoided.	The design of the Scheme has utilised existing watercourse crossings where possible for access track crossings. The creation of new tracks will be minimised and, as a design principle, culverts will be avoided wherever possible. However, where culverting for access is unavoidable, the use of culverts has been assessed in Chapter 10: Water Environment

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 2.10.88	Where culverting for access is unavoidable, applicants should demonstrate that no reasonable alternatives exist and where necessary it will only be in place temporarily for the construction period.	of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. Where culverts are necessary, the least impacting design that is reasonably practicable is proposed (e.g. arch rather than box culverts, and box culverts in preference to pipes etc.).
Paragraph 2.10.92	Applicants should consider whether they need to provide geotechnical and hydrological information (such as identifying the presence of peat at each site) including the risk of landslide connected to any development work	The design of the Scheme has utilised existing watercourse crossings where possible for access track crossings. The creation of new tracks will be minimised and, as a design principle, culverts will be avoided wherever possible. However, where culverting for access is unavoidable, the use of culverts has been assessed in Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. Where culverts are necessary, the least impacting design that is reasonably practicable is proposed (e.g. arch rather than box culverts, and box culverts in preference to pipes etc.).
Paragraph 2.10.154	Water management is a critical component of site design for ground mount solar plants. Where previous management of the site has involved intensive agricultural	There are no areas of peat or at risk of landslide within the Order limits.
		The Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme is included within Appendix 10-4 of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. The principles

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment

Requirement of the NPS

Location of information provided to address this

practice, solar sites can deliver significant ecosystem services value in the form of drainage, flood attenuation, natural wetland habitat, and water quality management.

upon which the drainage design is based are outlined in **Chapter 10: Water Environment** of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. A **Biodiversity Net Gain Report** [EN010142/APP/7.14] is also submitted with the DCO application, setting out the net gain as a result of the biodiversity zones proposed by the Scheme.

National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks EN-5

Paragraph 2.3.2

As climate change is likely to increase risks to the resilience of some of this infrastructure, from flooding for example, or in situations where it is located near the coast or an estuary or is underground, applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it would be resilient to:

- flooding, particularly for substations that are vital to the network; and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change;
- effects of wind and storms on overhead lines;
- higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses;
- earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables); and

A site specific FRA has been carried out and is included as **Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. The **Outline Drainage Strategy** is appended as **Appendix 10-4** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].

Climate Change Resilience review and In-combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) assessment are also included in the ES in **Chapter 7: Climate Change** [EN010142/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPS Policy for Water Environment	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 2.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">coastal erosion – for the landfall of offshore transmission cables and their associated substations in the inshore and coastal locations respectively. <p>Section 4.10 of EN-1 advises that the resilience of the project to climate change should be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying an application. For example, future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment (see Section 5.8 in EN-1). Consideration should also be given to coastal change (see section 5.6 in EN-1)</p>	<p>A site specific FRA has been carried out and is included as Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. The Outline Drainage Strategy is appended as Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p> <p>Chapter 7: Climate Change of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] includes a Climate Change Resilience review and In-combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) assessment.</p>

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 23), updated on 20 December 2023, sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Paragraph 5 outlines that while the NPPF does not contain specific policies for NSIPs, the NPPF is still relevant when considering the determination of DCOs. Therefore, the ES for the Scheme has taken the NPPF into account.
- 2.3.2 Paragraph 8 defines three overarching objectives within the NPPF, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways:
- a. **an economic objective:** to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
 - b. **a social objective:** to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - c. **an environmental objective:** to contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
- 2.3.3 Relevant NPPF requirements relating to Water Environment, along with an indication of where this information is located within the ES to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 2**.
- 2.3.4 The policies set out in the NPPF to a large extent mirror those that are explained in NPS EN-1.

Table 2: Relevant NPPF Policy for Water Environment

Relevant NPPF paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 165	Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk (whether existing or future). Where development is necessary in such areas, the development should be made safe for its lifetime without increasing flood risk elsewhere.	A site specific FRA has been carried out and is included as Appendix 10-3: Flood Risk Assessment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]. The FRA outlines how the Sequential and Exception Tests have been applied. No significant flood risk effects to the Scheme or offsite receptors have been identified.
Paragraph 169	If it is not possible for development to be located in areas with a lower risk of flooding (taking into account wider sustainable development objectives), the exception test may have to be applied. The need for the exception test will depend on the potential vulnerability of the site and of the development proposed, in line with the Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification set out in Annex 3.	The Outline Drainage Strategy is included within Appendix 10-4 of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].
Paragraph 170	The application of the exception test should be informed by a strategic or site specific flood risk assessment, depending on whether it is being applied during plan production or at the application stage. To pass the exception test it should be demonstrated that: a) the development would provide wider sustainability benefits to the community that outweigh the flood risk; and b) the development will be safe for its lifetime taking account of the vulnerability of its users, without increasing flood risk elsewhere, and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall.	Operational management measures are set out within the Framework OEMP [EN010142/APP/7.9].
Paragraph 171	Both elements of the exception test should be satisfied for development to be allocated or permitted.	

Relevant NPPF paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
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Paragraph 173

When determining any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific flood-risk assessment. Development should only be allowed in areas at risk of flooding where, in the light of this assessment (and the sequential and exception tests, as applicable) it can be demonstrated that:

- a) within the site, the most vulnerable development is located in areas of lowest flood risk, unless there are overriding reasons to prefer a different location;
- b) the development is appropriately flood resistant and resilient such that, in the event of a flood, it could be quickly brought back into use without significant refurbishment;
- c) it incorporates sustainable drainage systems, unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate;
- d) any residual risk can be safely managed; and
- e) safe access and escape routes are included where appropriate, as part of an agreed emergency plan.

Paragraph 175

Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate. The systems used should:

- a) take account of advice from the lead local flood authority;
- b) have appropriate proposed minimum operational standards;

Relevant NPPF paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 180	<hr/> <p>c) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation for the lifetime of the development; and</p> <p>d) where possible, provide multifunctional benefits.</p> <hr/>	
	<p>Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <p>(...) e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.</p> <hr/>	

2.4 National Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.4.1 Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (Ref 24) was published on the 6 March 2014, with flood risk and coastal change last updated in 2022, and provides more in-depth guidance to the NPPF. The PPG for flood risk and coastal change advises on how to take account of and address the risks associated with flooding and coastal change in the planning process.
- 2.4.2 It outlines a number of steps to be followed which are designed to ensure that if there are better sites in terms of flood risk (Sequential and Exception Tests), or if a proposed development cannot be made safe, it should not be permitted. These steps include: assess flood risk; avoid flood risk; control, mitigate and manage residual flood risk. The guidance states that developers and applicants need to consider flood risk to and from the development site and it is likely to be in their own best interests to do this as early as possible. In addition, the guidance provides detail on the application of the Sequential Test and the Exception Test, which will be considered in the **FRA (Appendix 10-3** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]).

Environmental Improvement Plan 2023

- 2.4.3 In 2023, the UK Government published the Environmental Improvement Plan (Ref 25), the first revision of the 25 Year Improvement Plan (see below). The plan covers the provision of clean air and water; protection and enhancement of habitats, wildlife and biosecurity; reducing the risk from environmental hazards and mitigating and adapting to climate change; using resources more sustainably and efficiently, minimizing waste and managing exposure to chemicals; enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.
- 2.4.4 Ten goals were set out by the original plan and the 2023 iteration document reviewed the progress made against each goal, specific targets and commitments and the plan to continue to deliver these goals. One of these specific goals is improving water environmental quality. Defra's goals for the forthcoming period include to tackle nutrient pollution, including by upgrading 160 wastewater treatment works by 2027 and providing increased advice and incentives to support a shift to sustainable agricultural techniques, restore 400 miles of river through the first round of Landscape Recovery projects, establish 3,000 hectares of new woodlands along England's rivers, and roll out water efficiency labelling across appliances and ensure water companies deliver a 50% reduction in leakages by 2050.

A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

- 2.4.5 In 2018 Defra published 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' (Ref 26) setting out the UK Government's goals for improving the environment within a generation and leaving it in a better state than we

found it. The plan covered the provision of clean air and water; protection and enhancement of habitats, wildlife and biosecurity; reducing the risk from environmental hazards and mitigating and adapting to climate change; using resources more sustainably and efficiently, minimising waste and managing exposure to chemicals; and enhancing beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment.

- 2.4.6 With regards to the water environment, the Plan includes specific goals to reduce the environmental impact of water abstraction, meet the objectives of River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive, reduce leakage from water mains, improve the quality of bathing waters, restore protected freshwater sites to a favourable condition, and do more to protect communities and businesses from the impact of flooding, coastal erosion and drought. The foundation of the Plan incorporates a natural capital approach with the aspiring goal that there should always be a net gain in biodiversity from new development.

Future Water, The Government's Water Strategy for England (2011)

- 2.4.7 The Government's Future Water strategy (Ref 27), published in June 2011, sets out the Government's long-term vision for water and the framework for water management in England. It aims to permit the supply of secured water supplies whilst ensuring an improved and protected water environment. Future Water brings together the issues of water demand, water supply, water quality in the natural environment, surface water drainage and river/coastal flooding into a single coherent long-term strategy, in the context of the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2.4.8 The strategy also considers the issue of charging for water. The water environment and water quality have great economic, biodiversity, amenity and recreational value, playing an important role in many aspects of modern day society, and thus the functions provided must be sustainably managed to ensure they remain available to future generations without compromising environmental quality.

Sustainable Drainage Systems Guidance

- 2.4.9 The following paragraphs set out the guidance documents which have been considered in relation to SuDS.
- 2.4.10 Defra published guidance on the use, design and construction of SuDS in Non-Statutory Technical Standards for SuDS (Ref 28), in 2015.
- 2.4.11 Industry good practice guidance on the planning for and design of SuDS is also provided by CIRIA C753 The SuDS Manual (Ref 29) and Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) CD532 Vegetated Drainage Systems for Highways Runoff (Ref 30).
- 2.4.12 Consideration is also given to The Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document H Drainage and Waste Disposal (Ref 31) and Water UK: Sewerage Sector Guidance (Ref 32).

PINS Advice Note 18: Water Framework Directive (2017)

- 2.4.13 PINS has produced Advice Note 18: The Water Framework Directive (Ref 33). This contains advice on the preparation and submission of any separate WFD assessment reports by DCO applications. This note includes advice of bodies to be consulted, and screening, scoping and impact assessment, together information on Article 4.7 derogations.

2.5 Regional Policy

- 2.5.1 At a regional level, water management is coordinated through ten River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). Each RBMP is prepared by the Environment Agency for six-year cycles and sets out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment.
- 2.5.2 Water management is coordinated through 10 River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). Each RBMP is prepared by the Environment Agency for six-year cycles and set out how organisations, stakeholders and communities will work together to improve the water environment. The waterbodies within the Study Area fall under the Humber RBMP (Ref 34) and the Anglian RBMP (Ref 35). The waterbodies within the Study Area fall under both the Humber RBMP (Ref 34) and the Anglian RBMP (Ref 35). The most recent RBMPs for the Humber and Anglian river basin districts were updated in October 2022 and will remain in place until 2027. These set legally binding locally specific environmental objectives, and contain the current WFD status of the waterbodies in the area. More information on these is included in the baseline section of this chapter

3. Local Policy and Guidance

3.1 Local Planning Policy

- 3.1.1 Local planning policy documents concerning Water Environment that are relevant to the Scheme, have been outlined below and policy relevant to these documents further considered within **Table 3**.

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)

- 3.1.2 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Ref 36) was adopted in April 2023 and is a revision of the previous Central Lincolnshire Plan that was adopted in 2017. Following approval by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee at the end of February 2022, consultation on the plan ran between March and May 2022.
- 3.1.3 The Local Plan contains planning policies and allocations for the growth and regeneration of Central Lincolnshire over the next 20 years. The Local Plan was revised to ensure it remains current and consistent with latest national guidelines and local circumstances.

Adopted Bassetlaw District Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD) (2011)

- 3.1.4 The Bassetlaw Core Strategy (Ref 37) is the key Local Development Framework (LDF) document and provides the overarching framework for all other documents that may be produced. It sets out a vision for change in Bassetlaw to 2028, along with place-specific policy approaches taken in order to achieve this vision.
- 3.1.5 The Core Strategy was adopted on 22 December 2011 and sets out a vision of change in Bassetlaw to 2028.

Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan Main Modifications (2023)

- 3.1.6 The Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038 is being produced to help guide development in Bassetlaw over the plan period from 2020 to 2037. It sets out the Council's development strategy, planning policies and proposal, including site allocations, to guide land use and planning decisions within the district up to 2038. As part of the Local Plan examination process, the independent Local Plan Inspectors have identified Main Modifications they consider necessary to ensure the Plan is legally compliant and sound. The Main Modifications document (Ref 38) was published in August 2023.
- 3.1.7 Once adopted, the Local Plan will replace the Bassetlaw Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD 2011.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.1.8 The following Neighbourhood Plans provide relevant policy and guidance on Water Environment and are considered further in **Table 3**.
- a. **Corringham Neighbourhood Plan** (Ref 39), formally adopted on the 24 January 2022.
 - b. **Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan** (Ref 40), Local Policy NP6 formally adopted on 6 March 2023.
 - c. **Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan** (Ref 41), formally adopted on 4 July 2022.
 - d. **Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan** (Ref 42), formally adopted in November 2019.

3.2 Guidance

3.2.1 Guidance documents which are relevant to the Scheme include:

- a. Non-statutory technical standards for Sustainable Drainage Systems (Ref 47): includes information on volume and peak flow control in relation to mitigation of flood risk;
- b. Water UK Sewerage Sector Guidance (2019) (Ref 48): guidance in relation to the adoption of sewerage assets by sewerage companies in England;
- c. Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) Report C753 The SuDS Manual 2nd Edition (2016) (Ref 29): guidance covers the planning, design, construction, and maintenance of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, includes the Simple Index Method for mitigation calculations;
- d. CIRIA (2023) Environmental Good Practice on site guide (Fifth Edition) (Ref 49): provides essential guidance to site managers, with up to date practical guidance;
- e. National Highways (2020) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) CD532 Vegetated Drainage Systems for Highways Runoff (Ref 30): guidance for the design of vegetated drainage systems, with information on their mitigation potential;
- f. Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 18: The Water Framework Directive (Ref 33). This outlines the WFD process and the information required to undertake screening, scoping and WFD impact assessment stage assessments;
- g. Lincolnshire County Council Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Guidance (Ref 43);
- h. Lincolnshire County Council Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. (2011) (Ref 44);
- i. Second Cycle Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment for Lincolnshire. (2017) (Ref 45); and
- j. West Lindsey District Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. (2009) (Ref 46).

Table 3: Relevant local policy and guidance with respect to Water Environment

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
Bassetlaw Local Plan Main Modifications (August 2023)	<p>Policy ST35: Design Quality</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All development must be of a high quality design that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...p) mitigates flood risk and water run-off utilising the drainage hierarchy in accordance with Policy ST52, and integrates water management appropriate to place. 	<p>The ES includes an FRA and Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme within Appendix 10-3 and Appendix 10-4 respectively [EN010142/APP/6.2], and all impacts on the water environment are assessed within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p>
	<p>Policy ST39: Green and Blue Infrastructure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The connectivity, quality, multifunctionality, biodiversity and amenity value of the green and blue infrastructure network will be enhanced, extended and managed through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ...b) protecting, enhancing and restoring watercourses, ponds, lakes and water dependent habitats where appropriate; ...f) applying climate change mitigation and adaptation measures through new development, including flood risk and watercourse management. 	<p>The ES includes an FRA and Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme within Appendix 10-3 and Appendix 10-4 respectively [EN010142/APP/6.2], and all impacts on the water environment are assessed within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. The Framework Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (LEMP) [EN010142/APP/7.17] sets out measures for the management of habitats. Climate change resilience and adaptation are also considered within Chapter 7: Climate Change of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p>
	<p>Policy ST50: Reducing Carbon Emissions, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p>	<p>The ES includes an FRA and Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme within</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>1. ...Proposals should incorporate, where appropriate, the following measures that address issues of climate change mitigation and adaptation through:</p> <p>e) ...using integrated water management systems to manage runoff and provided a non-potable water supply.</p>	<p>Appendix 10-3 and Appendix 10-4 respectively [EN010142/APP/6.2], and all impacts on the water environment are assessed within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. The Outline Drainage Strategy includes a climate change allowance to ensure resilience of the design and sets out design principles for the discharge of runoff at greenfield rates.</p>
	<p>Policy ST51: Renewable Energy Generation</p> <p>Development that generates, shares, transmits and/or stores zero carbon and/or low carbon renewable energy including community energy schemes will be supported subject to the satisfactory resolution of all relevant site specific and cumulative impacts upon:</p> <p>c. air and water quality</p> <p>d. hydrology and hydrogeology</p>	<p>The ES includes an FRA and Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme within Appendix 10-3 and Appendix 10-4 respectively [EN010142/APP/6.2], and all impacts on the water environment are assessed within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p>
	<p>Policy ST52: Flood Risk and Drainage</p> <p>1. Proposals are required to consider and, where necessary, mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on flood risk, on-site and off-site, commensurate with the scale and impact of the development. Proposals, including change of use applications, must be accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment (where appropriate), which demonstrates that the development,</p>	<p>The ES includes an FRA and Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme within Appendix 10-3 and Appendix 10-4 respectively [EN010142/APP/6.2], and all impacts on the water environment are assessed within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>including the access and egress, will be safe for its lifetime, without increasing or exacerbating flood risk elsewhere and where possible will reduce flood risk overall.</p> <p>2. Where relevant, proposals must demonstrate that they pass the Sequential Test and if necessary the Exceptions Test in Flood Zones 2 and 3 and ensure that where land is required to manage flood risk, it is safeguarded from development.</p> <p>4. All development where practicable) should incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in line with national standards. These should:</p> <p>a) be informed by the Lead Local Flood Authority, sewerage company and relevant drainage board;</p> <p>d) have maintenance arrangements in place to ensure an acceptable standard of operation and management for the development’s lifetime;</p> <p>e) prevent surface water discharge into the sewerage system;</p> <p>f) maximise environmental gain through enhancing the green/blue infrastructure network, including urban greening measures, contributing to biodiversity net gain where possible, and securing amenity benefits along with flood storage volumes;</p> <p>g) seek to reduce runoff rates in areas at risk from surface water flooding, and that any surface water is directed to sustainable outfalls.</p>	<p>[EN010142/APP/6.1]. The FRA applies the Sequential and Exception Tests to the Scheme. The Outline Drainage Strategy includes a climate change allowance to ensure resilience of the design and sets out design principles for the discharge of runoff at greenfield rates.</p> <p>Consultation with regards to drainage and flood risk is summarised within Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and meeting minutes are provided within Appendix 10-5 [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p> <p>Operational management arrangements are set out within the Framework OEMP [EN010142/APP/7.9].</p> <p>A standalone Biodiversity Net Gain assessment [EN010142/APP/7.14] is also submitted with the DCO application.</p>
	<p>Policy ST53: Protecting Water Quality and Management</p> <p>1. In line with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, the quantity and quality of surface and groundwater bodies will be protected and where possible</p>	<p>The ES includes an FRA and Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme within Appendix 10-3 and Appendix 10-4 respectively [EN010142/APP/6.2], and all</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>enhanced. Development adjacent to, over or in, a main river or ordinary watercourse will be supported where proposals consider opportunities to improve the river environment and water quality where possible by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) actively contributing to enhancing the status of the waterbody through positive actions or ongoing projects;b) naturalising watercourse channels;c) improving the biodiversity and ecological connectivity of watercourses;d) safeguarding and enlarging river buffers with appropriate habitat; ande) mitigating diffuse agricultural and urban pollution. <p>2. Proposals within a Source Protection Zone will need to demonstrate that any risk to the Sherwood Sandstone Principle Aquifer and its groundwater resources and groundwater quality will be protected throughout the construction and operational phase of development, by demonstrating the satisfactory resolution of all relevant identified impacts.</p> <p>3. All proposals must ensure that appropriate infrastructure for water supply, sewerage and sewage treatment, is available or can be made available at the right time to meet the needs of the development. Proposals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) utilise the following drainage hierarchy:<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. into the ground (infiltration);ii. to a surface water body;	<p>impacts on the water environment are assessed within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. to a surface water sewer, highway drain, or another drainage system; iv. to a combined sewer <p>ensure that foul and surface water flows are separated with foul water being disposed to a public sewer or to a private self-treatment plant and that the design of the waste disposal system will be safe over the lifetime of the development.</p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) ensure that development that discharges water into a watercourse incorporates appropriate water pollution control measures; c) ensure that drainage design take into account an appropriate climate change allowance as agreed with the relevant authority(s); d) ensure that infiltration based SuDS incorporate appropriate water pollution control measures; e) consider use of water recycling, rainwater and storm water harvesting, wherever feasible, to reduce demand on mains water supply. 	
<p>Bassetlaw District Core Strategy Development Management Policies DPD (Adopted December 2011)</p>	<p>POLICY DM4: DESIGN AND CHARACTER</p> <p>B. General Design Principles, vi) Carbon reduction</p> <p>New development will need to demonstrate that careful consideration has been given to minimising CO2 emissions and</p>	<p>The ES includes an Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme, (refer to Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]). During detailed design stage following DCO consent the</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>measures that will allow all new buildings in Bassetlaw to adapt to climate change. Such measures include minimising water consumption and maximising water recycling and maximising opportunities to integrate renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure.</p>	<p>use of rainwater harvesting for non-potable water supplies for operational compounds will be investigated. However, the use of rainwater collection for fire supply tanks is not suitable as the tanks must be at full capacity at all times, which cannot be guaranteed if they are solely supplied by rainwater.</p>
<p>Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Adopted April 2023)</p>	<p>Policy S21: Flood Risk and Water Resources Flood Risk All development proposals will be considered against the NPPF, including application of the sequential and, if necessary, the exception test. Through appropriate consultation and option appraisal, development proposals should demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) that they are informed by and take account of the best available information from all sources of flood risk and by site specific flood risk assessments where appropriate; b) that the development does not place itself or existing land or buildings at increased risk of flooding; c) that the development will be safe during its lifetime taking into account the impacts of climate change and will be resilient to flood risk from all forms of flooding such that in the event of a flood the development could be quickly brought back into use without significant refurbishment; d) that the development does not affect the integrity of existing flood defences and any necessary flood mitigation measures have been agreed with the relevant bodies, where adoption, 	<p>The ES includes an FRA and Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme within Appendix 10-3 and Appendix 10-4 respectively [EN010142/APP/6.2], and all impacts on the water environment are assessed within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p> <p>A WFD screening and scoping assessment is provided within Appendix 10-2 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>ongoing maintenance and management have been considered and any necessary agreements are in place;</p> <p>e) how proposals have taken a positive approach to reducing overall flood risk and have considered the potential to contribute towards solutions for the wider area; and</p> <p>f) that they have incorporated Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)/ Integrated Water Management into the proposals unless they can be shown to be inappropriate.</p> <p>Protecting the Water Environment Development proposals that are likely to impact on surface or ground water should consider the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Development proposals should demonstrate:</p> <p>g) that water is available to support the development proposed;</p> <p>h) that adequate mains foul water treatment and disposal already exists or can be provided in time to serve the development. Non mains foul sewage disposal solutions should only be considered where it can be shown to the satisfaction of the local planning authority that connection to a public sewer is not feasible;</p> <p>i) that they meet the Building Regulation water efficiency standard of 110 litres per occupier per day or the highest water efficiency standard that applies at the time of the planning application (see also Policy S12);</p>	

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
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- j) that water reuse and recycling and rainwater harvesting measures have been incorporated wherever possible in order to reduce demand on mains water supply as part of an integrated approach to water management (see also Policy S11);
- k) that they have followed the surface water hierarchy for all proposals:
 - i. surface water runoff is collected for use;
 - ii. discharge into the ground via infiltration;
 - iii. discharge to a watercourse or other surface water body;
 - iv. discharge to a surface water sewer, highway drain or other drainage system, discharging to a watercourse or other surface water body;
 - v. discharge to a combined sewer;
- l) that no surface water connections are made to the foul system.
- m) that surface water connections to the combined or surface water system are only made in exceptional circumstances where it can be demonstrated that there are no feasible alternatives (this applies to new developments and redevelopments) and where there is no detriment to existing users;
- n) that no combined sewer overflows are created in areas served by combined sewers, and that foul and surface water flows are separated;
- o) that development contributes positively to the water environment and its ecology where possible and does not adversely affect surface and ground water quality in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive;

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>p) that development with the potential to pose a risk to groundwater resources is not located in sensitive locations to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive;</p> <p>q) how Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)/ Integrated Water Management to deliver improvements to water quality, the water environment and to improve amenity and biodiversity net gain wherever possible have been incorporated into the proposal unless they can be shown to be impractical;</p> <p>r) that relevant site investigations, risk assessments and necessary mitigation measures for source protection zones around boreholes, wells, springs and water courses have been agreed with the relevant bodies (e.g. the Environment Agency and relevant water companies);</p> <p>s) that suitable access is safeguarded for the maintenance of watercourses, water resources, flood defences and drainage infrastructure; and</p> <p>t) that adequate provision is made to safeguard the future maintenance of water bodies to which surface water and foul water treated on the site of the development is discharged, preferably by an appropriate authority (e.g. Environment Agency, Internal Drainage Board, Water Company, the Canal and River Trust or local Council).</p> <p>In order to allow access for the maintenance of watercourses, development proposals that include or abut a watercourse should ensure no building, structure or immovable landscaping feature is included that will impede access within 8m of a</p>	

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>watercourse, or within 16m of a tidal watercourse. Conditions may be included where relevant to ensure this access is maintained in perpetuity and may seek to ensure responsibility for maintenance of the watercourse including land ownership details up to and of the watercourse is clear and included in maintenance arrangements for future occupants.</p>	
	<p>Policy S60: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity All development should: ...d) protect and enhance the aquatic environment within or adjoining the site, including water quality and habitat.</p>	<p>All impacts on the water environment and proposed mitigation measures are set out within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p>
<p>Corringham Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted Oct 2021)</p>	<p>Policy CNP5: Local Character and the Design of New Development (A) Development proposals should recognise and complement the local character of the areas identified and described in the Corringham Character Assessment. As appropriate to their scale and nature proposals should: ...(vii) protect and retain watercourses as open features, with other sustainable drainage measures.</p>	<p>Within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] discussion of the embedded mitigation includes that permanent access tracks will utilise existing crossings where possible. This is to protect and minimise impact on watercourse features. Sustainable drainage measures are described within the Outline Drainage Strategy (Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]).</p>
	<p>Policy CNP13: Nature Conservation and Biodiversity</p>	<p>Within the Chapter 10: Water Environment of the ES</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<p>Development proposals which impact ponds and watercourses should identify how features have been safeguarded and sensitively incorporated within the overall design. Where appropriate any loss of biodiversity should be minimised and mitigated by the creation of new habitats or the enhancement of existing places.</p> <p>...</p> <p>(i) Development proposals which would result in loss or unacceptable harm to... ponds and watercourses... will not be supported.</p>	<p>[EN010142/APP/6.1] discussion of the embedded mitigation includes that include features to protect watercourses during construction and during operation, with the use of SuDS drainage features, and the utilisation of green ditch outfalls where possible to discharge surface water drainage into watercourses.</p>
<p>Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted March 2023)</p>	<p>Policy 5: Protecting the Wider Landscape Character and Setting of the Neighbourhood Plan Area</p> <p>...</p> <p>2. In order to protect the wider landscape character and the Cliff Landscape Character Area, development proposals within the neighbourhood plan area, are required to demonstrate that they have met the following criteria:</p> <p>...</p> <p>(g) where new tree planting is proposed, the use of sustainable drainage systems, such as tree pits, should be used to sustainably manage surface water.</p>	<p>The ES includes an Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme, this highlights the use of SuDS, by the use of swales to attenuate surface water runoff (refer to Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]).</p>
	<p>Policy 6: Design Principles</p> <p>1. As appropriate to their scale, nature and location, development proposals within the Parishes of Hemswell & Harpswell should:</p> <p>(g) demonstrate that all surface-water discharges have been carried out in accordance with the principles laid out within the</p>	<p>The ES includes an Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme, refer to Appendix 10-4 of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2], This sets out the SuDS measures proposed for the Scheme.</p>

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drainage hierarchy, so that a discharge to the public sewerage system is avoided, where possible;

(h) not prevent the continuation of existing natural or man-made drainage features; where watercourses or dry ditches are present within a development site, these should be retained and where possible enhanced;

(i) retain access to drainage features for maintenance, and ownership of land should be clearly defined as part of the overall site maintenance plan;

(j) prior to the alteration of any alignment, carry out an assessment to ensure that all connections into the watercourse are retained and that exceedance flows are not then directed away from the watercourse channel towards properties;

(k) ensure that sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) for the management of surface water run-off are put in place unless demonstrated to be inappropriate;

(l) demonstrate they have considered all four aspects of good SuDS design: quantity, quality, amenity and biodiversity, and that the SuDS and development will fit into the existing landscape; and

(m) the completed SuDS schemes should be accompanied by a maintenance schedule detailing maintenance boundaries, responsible parties and arrangements to ensure that the SuDS are maintained in perpetuity.

Relevant Document	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this
Sturton By Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan (Adopted July 2022)	<p>Policy 13: Flood Risk</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Development proposals, including those within areas that have experienced flooding, as shown on accredited flood risk maps, should demonstrate that the proposal has considered the risk of flooding from all sources and will not have an unacceptable impact on existing foul and surface water drainage infrastructure. Development proposals should make use of sustainable drainage systems to manage surface water, wherever practicable.2. Development proposals should not increase the rates of surface water runoff or increase flood risk in the area.3. Development proposals that include de-culverting any culverted watercourses within the development boundary will be particularly supported.4. Development proposals for new dwellings should be designed to minimise the discharge of surface water. Proposals that include the provision of permeable parking spaces and driveways will be particularly supported.5. Drainage strategies for the management of surface water runoff from new development should incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems and be designed to incorporate ecological benefits where practicable.	The ES includes an FRA and Outline Drainage Strategy for the Scheme as Appendix 10-3 and Appendix 10-4 respectively [EN010142/APP/6.2], No significant flood risk effects to the Scheme or to offsite receptors as a result of the Scheme have been identified.

4. References

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- Ref 4 H.M. Government (2010) Flood and Water Management Act. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents> [Date Accessed: 03/01/2024].
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- Ref 12 H.M. Government (2009) Eels (England and Wales) Regulations. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/3344/contents> [Accessed 03/01/2024]
- Ref 13 HM Government (2009), The Water Resources Act (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/3104/contents> [Accessed 03/01/2024]
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- Ref 16 H.M. Government (1999) The Anti-Pollution Works Regulations 1999. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1999/1006/contents/made> [Accessed 03/01/2024]
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- Ref 18 The Building Regulations 2010 Approved Document Part H: Drainage and Waste Disposal. Available at:
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