

Tillbridge Solar Project EN010142

# **Volume 6 Environmental Statement**

Appendix 12-1: LVIA 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 Scheme on landscape character and visual amenity, as assessed in as set out in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 1.1.2 Legislation, policy and guidance are considered at national, regional and local levels.
- 1.1.3 This ES appendix does not assess the Scheme against legislation and policy. The purpose of considering legislation and policy in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is twofold:
  - To identify legislation and policy that could influence the determination of important Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) features (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
  - b. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the methodology of the EIA and signposting where this is dealt with in this ES. For example, a policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.

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1.1.4 Instead, the relevant legislation and policy will be 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 Landscape and Visual Amenity assessment, which has been taken into account in preparing the ES.

### 2. National Legislation, Policy and Guidance

### 2.1 National Legislation

#### **European Landscape Convention (2006)**

- 2.1.1 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) (Ref 1) was signed by the UK Government in 2006 and came into effect in March 2007. The ELC recognises landscape in law. It focuses specifically on landscape issues and highlights the importance of the integration of landscape into areas of policy; and to promote protection, management and planning of all landscapes, including the assessment of landscape and the analysis of landscape change.
- 2.1.2 The ELC defines landscape as: "an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and / or human factors". The ELC considers landscape as a whole (land or marine), from urban to rural areas, and whether special or degraded.

### 2.2 National Policy Statements

- 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 2);
  - b. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref 3); and
  - c. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 4).
- 2.2.2 The NPSs set out the Government's energy policy infrastructure for delivery of major energy infrastructure, along with the need for new infrastructure and guidance for determining applications for Development Consent Orders (DCOs). The NPSs provide specific guidance and criteria that applicants should cover when assessing the effects of their Scheme, and how the Secretary of State should consider these impacts and any mitigation measures applied.
- 2.2.3 The relevant NPS requirements for LVIA are provided in **Table 1**, along with an indication of where in the ES this information can be sourced. All NPS comprise relevant requirements for the Scheme, therefore policy from NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 and NPS EN-5 are considered within **Table 1**.

#### Table 4: Delevent NDC Deliev for LVIA

Table 1: Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA		
Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
National Policy Sta	atement for Energy EN-1	
Paragraph 5.10.6	Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.	Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 5.10.12	Relates to landscape outside nationally designated areas that may be highly valued locally and should be paid particular attention in an LVIA, but such designations "should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development".	Sections 122, 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 5.10.14	The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the	Sections 12.8 and 12.10 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

local area, outweigh the benefits of the project.

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Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 5.10.16	The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.3). Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues.	Section 12.4 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity and Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1
Paragraph 5.10.17	The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England.	Sections 12.2, 12.4 and 12.6 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 5.10.19	The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES both negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised.	Sections 12.3, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 5.10.21	The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This	Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.8 and 12.10 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	should include light pollution effects, including on dark skies, local amenity, and nature conservation.	
Paragraph 5.10.24	Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets where the contribute to landscape and townscape quality.	The Framework Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.18] provides a framework for achieving the outline design, as presented in Figure 3-1: Indicative Principal Site Layout Plan of the ES [EN010142/APP/6.3], including in particular the successful establishment and future management of biodiversity and landscape works. It sets out high-level measures and practices that will be implemented by the Applicant to establish, monitor, and manage landscape and ecological mitigation and enhancement measures embedded in the design of the Scheme.
Paragraph 5.10.26	Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the	Section 12.7 in in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].  Further details on the design evolution of the Scheme are also provided in Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]	
	Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.		
Paragraph 5.10.27	Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site. and wider setting. The careful consideration of colours and materials will support the delivery of a well-designed scheme, as will sympathetic landscaping and management of its immediate surroundings.	Sections 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]	
Paragraph 5.10.28	Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines may mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.	Sections 12.7 and 12.9 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]	
Paragraph 5.10.35	The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible across a very wide area. The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project.	Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]	
Paragraph 5.10.36	In reaching a judgement, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of	Sections 12.8 and 12.10 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]	

Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable.	
Paragraph 5.10.37	The Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation.	Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8 and 12.10 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 5.11.24	Where green infrastructure is affected, the Secretary of State should consider imposing requirements to ensure the functionality and connectivity of the green infrastructure network is maintained in the vicinity of the development and that any necessary works are undertaken, where possible, to mitigate any adverse impact and, where appropriate, to improve that network and other areas of open space including appropriate access to National Trails and other public rights of way and new coastal access routes.	Section 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.18]
Paragraph 5.11.27	Existing trees and woodlands should be retained wherever possible Mitigation may include, but is not limited to, the use of buffers to enhance resilience, improvements to connectivity, and improved woodland management. Where woodland loss is unavoidable, compensation schemes will be required, and the long-	Sections 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.18]

Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured.	
Paragraph 5.11.30	Public Rights of way, National Trails, and other rights of access to land are important recreational facilities for example for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The Secretary of State should expect applicants to take appropriate mitigation measures to address adverse effects on coastal access, National Trails, other rights of way and open access land and, where appropriate, to consider what opportunities there may be to improve or create new access. In considering revisions to an existing right of way, consideration should be given to the use, character, attractiveness, and convenience of the right of way.	Sections 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.18]
National Policy Sta	atement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure EN-3	
Paragraphs 2.10.43, 2.10.44	Applicants are encouraged where possible to minimise the visual impacts of the development for those using existing public rights of way, considering the impacts this may have on any other visual amenities in the surrounding landscape.	Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.13 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	Applicants should consider and maximise opportunities to facilitate enhancements to the public rights of way and the inclusion, through site layout and design of access, of new opportunities for the public to access	

Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	and cross proposed solar development sites (whether via the adoption of new public rights, of way or the creation of permissive paths), taking into account where appropriate the views of landowners.	
Paragraph 2.10.46	Security of the site is a key consideration for developers. Applicants may wish to consider not only the availability of natural defences such as steep gradients, hedging and rivers but also perimeter security measures such as fencing, electronic security, CCTV and lighting, with the measures proposed on a site-specific basis.	Sections 12.6 and 12.17 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 2.10.95	However, whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography, the area of a zone of visual influence could be appropriately minimised.	Sections 12.4 and 12.6 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 2.10.97	Applicants should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and report it in the ES. Visualisations may be required to demonstrate the effects of a proposed solar farm on the setting of heritage assets and any nearby residential areas or viewpoints.	Section 12.8 and Figures 12-13 and 12-14 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 2.10.98	Applicants should follow the criteria for good design set out in Section 4.7 of EN-1 when developing projects and will be expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual	Section 12.7 in in <b>Chapter 12: Landscape</b> and <b>Visual Amenity</b> of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
	impact of solar PV arrays especially within nationally designated landscapes.	Further details on the design evolution of the Scheme are also provided in <b>Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution</b> of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 2.10.100	The applicant should consider as part of the design, layout, construction, and future maintenance plans how to protect and retain, wherever possible, the growth of vegetation on site boundaries, as well as the growth of existing hedges, established vegetation, including mature trees within boundaries. Applicants should also consider opportunities for individual trees within the boundaries to grow on to maturity.	Sections 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.18].
Paragraph 2.10.131	Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges, trees and woodlands.	Sections 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.18].
Paragraph 2.10.132	Applicants should aim to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible applicants should utilise existing features, such as hedges or	Sections 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7 in <b>Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity</b> of this ES <b>[EN010142/APP/6.1]</b> .

Relevant NPS Policy for LVIA	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	landscaping, to assist in site security or screen security fencing.	
National Policy S	tatement for Electricity Networks EN-5	
Paragraph 2.2.8	There will usually be a degree of flexibility in the location of the development's associated substations, and applicants should consider carefully their placement in the local landscape, as well as their design.	Sections 12.4 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 2.2.9	In particular, the applicant should consider such characteristics as the local topography, the possibilities for screening of the infrastructure and/or other options to mitigate any impacts. (See Section 2.10 below and Section 5.10 in EN-1.)	Sections 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].

### 2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 5) sets out the Governments 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 Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), the NPPF is still relevant when considering the determination of DCOs. Therefore, the EIA 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;
  - 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 welldesigned, 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 LVIA, along with an indication of where this information is located within the ES to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Relevant NPPF Policy for LVIA** 

Relevant NPPF Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address thus
Paragraph 135	Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments "b) are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping".	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Paragraph 160	States that  "to help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should:  a) provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts)"	Sections 12.7, 12.18, 12.9 and 12.10 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity and Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 180	States: "Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by protecting and enhancing valued landscapes(in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); [and] recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services; [and] minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity".	Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17]
Paragraph 191	Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development "[limits] the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation".	Landscape and Visual Amenity of

#### 2.4 National Guidance

#### **National Planning Practice Guidance**

- 2.4.1 The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) is a suite of documents first published in 2012 to provide more in-depth guidance to the NPPF.
- 2.4.2 The NPPG 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (Ref 6) sets out the benefits of landscape character assessments and the importance of considering LVIA in the early stages of schemes. With reference to the former, it states whilst Landscape Character Areas have been developed at a National Level by National England (as National Character Areas (NCA)):
  - "Landscape Character Assessment carried out at a county or district level may provide a more appropriate scale for assessing the likely landscape and visual impacts of individual proposals".
- 2.4.3 The stated relevant LVIA considerations for ground mounted solar set out in the NPPG for Renewable and Low Carbon Energy are:
  - a. "The deployment of large-scale solar farms can have a negative impact on the rural environment, particularly in undulating landscapes. However, the visual impact of a well-planned and well-screened solar farm can be properly addressed within the landscape if planned sensitively.
  - b. Particular factors a local planning authority will need to consider include:
    - i. That solar farms are normally temporary structures and planning conditions can be used to ensure that the installations are removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to its previous use:
    - ii. The proposal's visual impact, the effect on landscape of glint and glare (see guidance on landscape assessment) and on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety;
    - iii. The extent to which there may be additional impacts if solar arrays follow the daily movement of the sun;
    - iv. The need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing:
    - v. The potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges; and
  - c. The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing the impact of wind turbines. However, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography the area of a zone of visual influence could be zero."

### 3. Local Policy and Guidance

### 3.1 Local Planning Policy

3.1.1 Local planning policy documents concerning LVIA that are relevant to the Scheme have been outlined below. Policy relevant to these documents is further considered within **Table 3**.

#### Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)

- 3.1.2 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Ref 7) 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 Core Strategy District Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD) (2011)

- 3.1.4 The Bassetlaw Core Strategy (Ref 8) 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 is being produced to help guide development in Bassetlaw over the plan period from 2020 to 2038. 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 9) 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 LVIA and are considered further in **Table 3**.

- a. Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan (Ref 10), supported by a Neighbourhood Character Profile (Ref 11), formally adopted on 4 November 2019.
- b. **Corringham Neighbourhood Plan** (Ref 12), supported by the Corringham Character Assessment (2019) (Ref 13), formally adopted on 24 January 2022.
- c. Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan (Ref 14), supported by the Hemswell Character Assessment (2018) (Ref 15) and the Hemswell Village Design Principles (2019) (Ref 16), formally adopted on 6 March 2023.
- d. **Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan** (Ref 17), supported by a Plan Profile (2019) (Ref 18) with supporting plans (Ref 19) and views (Ref 20); and a Protected Views Assessment (2020) (Ref 21). It was formally adopted on 4 July 2022.
- e. **Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan** (Ref 22), supported by the Treswell with Cottam Character Assessment (2018) (Ref 23), formally adopted on 21 February 2019. The Neighbourhood Plan is currently under review with a Submission Draft (Ref 22) published in 2024.
- f. Rampton and Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan (Ref 24), supported by the Rampton and Woodbeck Character Assessment (2019) (Ref 25), formally adopted on 6 May 2021.

#### 3.2 Local Guidance

#### **Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire (2011)**

3.2.1 The Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire (Ref 26) comprises a strategy, alongside an audit and assessment, which aims to provide a strategic framework for guiding the planning and delivery of Green Infrastructure across Central Lincolnshire; and forming part of the evidence base for Local Plan policy. It identifies strategic green corridors (including along the Trent valley), strategic green access links (along the Trent and Lincoln Cliff) and green infrastructure zones, for which key Green Infrastructure assets and opportunities are identified.

#### **Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping for Central Lincolnshire**

3.2.2 Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping for Central Lincolnshire (Ref 27) was undertaken by the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership and is displayed on the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan map. It identifies areas with opportunities for creation and management, including on a field-by-field basis.

#### Table 3: Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to LVIA

### Relevant Local Policy Requirement of the policy Paragraph Reference

## Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)

**Policy S5**: Development in the Countryside, including reference to size, scale and location of development in such areas with respect non-residential development; agricultural diversification; and forestry or other rural land-based development.

Sections 12.4, 12.5

Chapter 12: Lands

Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.]

**Policy S14:** Renewable Energy, including reference to landscape character and visual amenity; and new habitats and planting linked into the nature recovery strategy, specifically with reference to solar projects.

**Policy S48:** Walking and Cycling Infrastructure, with reference to the incorporation of new pedestrian and cycle routes within development proposals.

**Policy S53:** Design and Amenity, which states the requirement to achieve high quality sustainable design, including a positive contribution to local character and landscape; supports access for all; and considers elements such as site context, local history, historic features, local views and the sense of place. It states the requirement to incorporate and retain natural features such as trees, waterbodies and hedgerows; and include appropriate planting in order to maximise biodiversity, strengthening wildlife corridors and green infrastructure. It also states that harm to amenity should not result from artificial light or glare.

### Location of information provided to address this

Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17]

**Policy S57:** The Historic Environment is predominantly concerned with Cultural Heritage matters, but references the protection of landscape features, views and vistas both from and towards heritage assets; and views into or out of Conservation Areas.

**Policy S59:** Green and Blue Infrastructure Network is concerned with the protection and enhancement of the green and blue infrastructure network, including opportunities to incorporate new routes, spaces and features; respond to landscape and historic character; support climate change resilience through use of appropriate species and habitats; and encourage healthy and active lifestyles, including the expansion of Public Rights of Way (PRoW).

**Policy S60:** Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity states that development should protect, manage, enhanced and extend the ecological network of habitats; and includes reference to mitigation.

Policy S61: Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping and Delivering Measurable Net Gain states the requirement for development to retain, protect and enhance biodiversity. New habitats should be created in line with Central Lincolnshire Biodiversity Opportunity and Green Infrastructure Mapping evidence (Ref 26) and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (once completed), in order to maintain and enhance a network of wildlife sites and corridors, and to minimise habitat fragmentation.

Policy S62: Area of Outstanding Beauty and Areas of Great Landscape Value states "Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) are locally designated landscape areas recognised for their intrinsic character and beauty and their natural, historic and cultural importance. A high level of protection will be afforded to AGLV reflecting their locally important high scenic quality, special landscape features and sensitivity.

Development Proposals within, or within the setting of, AGLV shall:

- e) conserve and enhance the qualities, character and distinctiveness of locally important landscapes; and
- f) protect, and where possible enhance, specific landscape, wildlife and historic features which contribute to local character and landscape quality; and
- g)maintain landscape quality and minimise adverse visual impacts through high quality building and landscape design; and
- h) demonstrate how proposals have responded positively to the landscape character in relation to siting, design, scale and massing and where appropriate have retained or enhanced important views, and natural, historic and cultural features of the landscape; and
- i) where appropriate, restore positive landscape character and quality".

**Policy S66:** Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows states the overriding principle that such features should be maintained, improved and expanded; and opportunities for expanding woodland are actively considered and implemented. It also makes reference to veteran trees and ancient woodland; and provides guidance (including tree sizes

### Location of information provided to address this

Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17]

#### Location of information provided to address this

and numbers) for replacement trees. Failed trees should be replaced over a five year period and species should be selected based on local provenance and suitability for the site. A similar approach is indicated for any replacement hedgerows in **Policy S62**:

"Where a proposal may result in adverse impacts, it may exceptionally be supported if the overriding benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh the harm – in such circumstances the harm should be minimised and mitigated through design and landscaping"

#### **Bassetlaw District Council Core Strategy** (2011)

**Policy DM3:** General Development in the Countryside, which includes Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in reference to previously developed land in rural areas, noting that restoration and natural regeneration of the site should be either in line with the Council's Green Infrastructure aims, or to become a functional part of the open countryside.

**Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17]

Policy DM4: Design and Character, which states the need for major development to complement and enhance the built, historic and natural environment, along with provision of general design principles. It also notes that account should be taken of relevant Village Design Statements or character appraisals, and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment.

Sections 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Policy DM9: Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Geodiversity; Section 12.6, 12.7 and 12.9 in Chapter Landscape; Open Space & Sports Facilities references the need for 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of

Relevant Local Policy Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the policy	Location of information provided to address this
	proposals to enhance Green Infrastructure, with particular support to those that further the development of the Trent Vale Partnership; and the need for proposals to enhance qualities of the relevant policy zones and respond to local recommendations made in the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment.	this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17]
	Policy DM10: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy states that such proposals will need to demonstrate that they are compatible with policies that safeguard the built and natural environment including landscape character, and not result in unacceptable impacts (including cumulative) on visual amenity.	Section 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity and Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan Main Modifications (2023)	Policy ST6: Cottam Priority Regeneration Area, which relates to the broad mixed-use regeneration of the site and associated masterplan framework, but also references linkages to the wider green/blue infrastructure network;	Section 12.6 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	Policy ST11: Rural Economic Growth and Economic Growth outside Employment Areas includes general reference to impacts on townscape, landscape and residential amenity.	Section 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	Policy ST35: Design Quality includes general reference to impacts on townscape, landscape and residential amenity.	Sections 12.6 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Location of information provided to address this

Policy ST37: Landscape Character references the protection and where possible enhancement of the distinctive qualities identified for relevant landscape policy zones, as identified in the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment, by conserving, reinforcing or creating relevant landscape forms or features.

Sections 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Policy ST39: Green and Blue Infrastructure lists elements that make up such infrastructure, including Local Green Space identified on the Policy Map; and a requirement to enhance, extend and manage ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] these features, including the 'Main Green Corridor' (identified, with respect to the Scheme, on the Proposals Map along the River Trent) and 'Minor Green Corridors' (identified, with respect to the Scheme, along the along the Trent Valley Way long distance footpath).

Section 12.6 and 12.7 in **Chapter 12**: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this

Policy ST40: Biodiversity and Geodiversity references the District's Section 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Nature Recovery Network; the draft Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Opportunity Model for Bassetlaw and Idle Valley; and the Districts' Nature Recovery Network.

Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Policy ST41: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows references the retention, protection and improvement of such features, including both on their individual merit and their contribution to amenity as part of a group within the broad landscape setting; an avoidance or mitigation strategy to include replacement planting for specimens of at least

Section 12.6 and 12.7 in **Chapter 12**: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Location of information provided to address this

egual amenity and ecological value of a local provenance; and a detailed management plan providing details of maintenance for ten years.

Policy ST51: Renewable Energy Generation relates to development Section 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape that "generates, shares, transmits and/or stores zero carbon and/or low carbon renewable energy", stating that such schemes will be supported subject to the satisfactory resolution of all relevant sitespecific and cumulative impacts; and should include a decommissioning programme to demonstrate the effective restoration of land and condition three years after cessation of operations.

and Visual Amenity and Chapter 18: Cumulative Effects of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

#### Glentworth **Neighbourhood Plan** (2019)

Policy 1: Views relates to accompanying maps, which identifies ten 'Key Local Views'. The Policy states:

- "Development proposals will be supported where they take account of Kev Local Views and have demonstrated how they are maintaining and responding positively to such views; and:
- Development proposals that that would cause harm to Key Local Views will be supported where the benefits of the development outweigh the harm: in such circumstances the harm should be minimised and mitigated."

The Plan goes on to note that "the direction and scope of the views identified in the maps are for indication only; they are not definitive." Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

### Location of information provided to address this

**Policy 2: Local Green Space** relates to parcels of land, as defined on the accompanying map. These are all within the settlement boundary and the policy wording only relates to development on these areas, with no reference to wider views.

Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

**Policy 3: Design and Character of Development** relates to design and detailing of development, predominantly in relation to the village and including listed buildings and non-designated heritage assets. There is no policy wording that specifically relates to the locations outside the settlement boundary, or views.

Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

**Policy 5: Green Infrastructure** relates in part to the accompanying map, which denotes areas of Green Infrastructure in the form of Public Rights of Way and Natural and Semi-natural Open Space. The latter mainly comprises areas of woodland around the village and along Kexby Road, not necessarily with public access. The policy states:

- 5.1 "A development proposal will be supported where it contributes, where practicable, to
  - 5.1.1 the enhancement and management of existing green infrastructure...: and
  - 5.1.2 the provision of new public green spaces and enhances green infrastructure assets".
  - 5.2 "A development proposal that will result in a detrimental impact on the purpose or function of existing green infrastructure will be supported only where it demonstrates that

Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]; and the Framework LEMP [EN010142/APP/7.17]

### Location of information provided to address this

- 5.2.1 the detrimental impact on the green infrastructure is unavoidable and is significantly and demonstrably outweighed by the benefit of the development; and
- 5.2.2 the implementation of alternative solutions as part of the development, reinstates the green infrastructure's purpose or function to the previous quality and connectivity".

#### Corringham Neighbourhood Plan (2022)

**Policy CNP1: Sustainable Development Principles** includes reference to 'key landscape views' identified in Policy CPN5, as well as having regard to their setting and character of the local area.

Sections 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Policy CPN5: Local Character and the Design of New Development states that all development should "recognise and complement the local character of the areas identified and described in the Corringham Character Assessment" and, as appropriate to their scale and nature, should, inter alia:

- (i) "Respect existing plot boundaries, ratios, orientation, historic or traditional forms and the established grain of development within the character area: and
- (ii) Protect and retain watercourses as open features, with other sustainable drainage measures."

Policy CPN5 goes on to state the development alongside or serviced from rural lanes, which are shown on the accompanying Proposals Map, should:

"...respect, and where practicable enhance, the rural appearance of the byways and their green verges/hedgerows. Development ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Sections 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12:

Sections 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Location of information provided to address this

proposals which would have an unacceptable impact on the rural character and appearance of the identified rural byways will not be supported."

**Policy CPN6: Key Views** identifies ten views, as identified on the Proposals Maps. Those with particular relevance to the Scheme are:

- Key View 8 East from the pond/recreation ground into open countryside and across to the windmill; and
- Key View 10 East from the village hall into open countryside and across to the windmill

Sections 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

#### **Policy CPN6** States:

"The location, design and scale of new development should take account of any relevant key view and not compromise its integrity or significance.

In addition, development proposals should be sensitive to, and designed to maintain the rustic and rural appearance of village approaches to ensure that views of key landmarks on entry to the village in general, and in particular the windmills to the west and east and St Laurence Church, are not compromised.

Proposed developments which would have an unacceptable effect on a key view or an approach to Corringham will not be supported."

### Location of information provided to address this

**Policy CNP13: Nature Conservation and Diversity** relates to the safeguarding and sensitive incorporation of features such as woodland, trees, hedgerows, ponds and watercourses; resists harm to such features; and indicates support for enhancement of habitats and tree/hedgerow planting.

Sections 12.4, 12.6 and 12.7 in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

#### Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan (2023)

Policy 4: Classification of Harpswell Parish as Open Countryside states that any future development proposals within Harpswell parish will be considered as development within the open countryside as defined and set out within the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Policy LP2: The Spatial Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy.

Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6 and 12.7 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Policy 5: Protecting the Wider Landscape Character and Setting of the Neighbourhood Plan Area requires that new development demonstrates it has met the following criteria, in order to protect the wider landscape character and AGLV:

Sections 12.4, 12.5, 12.6. 12.7 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

- a. it would not represent an unacceptable visual intrusion into the landscape setting and the landscape designations;
- it would not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the publicly accessible views summarised on Map 17 and detailed in the Hemswell & Harpswell Character Assessment;
- c. it would not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the integrity, character, and appearance of the open countryside and the setting of the Area of Great Landscape Value.
- d. it would use soft landscaping to provide generously planted green edges to site boundaries;

#### Location of information provided to address this

- e. it would not introduce or expose any prominent built forms along the Lincoln Cliff: and
- f. it has explored opportunities to utilise existing tree planting, or, alternatively, proposes to introduce new tree planting as a means to mitigate against any potential harmful impacts on the landscape character

#### Policy 6: Design Principles states that any new development proposals should:

- a. recognise and seek to reinforce the distinct local character in relation to the height, scale, spacing, layout and orientation of new buildings;
- b. be designed to maintain the rustic, rural appearance of the approaches to the settlements; and
- d. seek to retain and enhance key views, as identified on Maps 17, 18 and 19, and explore opportunities to create new, distinct views within the village.

Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

#### Policy 7: Protecting Non-Designated Heritage Assets lists those that are considered to be the most important: this includes the remains Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual of Harpswell Hall parklands (outside the Scheduled Monument boundary).

Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Policy 8: Designated Local Green Spaces relates to those sites identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, whereby any development having an adverse effect on the openness or special character will not be supported, except in exceptional circumstances or if the development clearly enhances the Local Green Space.

Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Relevant Local Policy Requirement of the policy Paragraph Reference		Location of information provided to address this
Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan (2022)	Policy 5: Delivering Good Design states that development should respect the character and appearance of the surrounding area.	Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	<b>Policy 9: Protected Views</b> identifies 17 such views, none of which is towards the Scheme.	Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	<b>Policy 11: Green Infrastructure</b> states that such features should be protected and enhanced. The Plan includes a map indicating 'Green Assets and Wildlife Corridors', two of which run broadly north-south, to either side of Sturton and Sturton-by-Stow.	Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
Tresswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan (2019)	Policy 1: Development in Treswell and Cottam states that development should be designed having regard to the policies and supporting evidence in the Neighbourhood Plan and will be located to ensure that development does not significantly and adversely affect the	Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]
	a) amenity of nearby residents;	
	<ul> <li>b) the character and appearance of the area in which it is located; and</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>c) the social, built, historic character and natural assets of the parish.</li> </ul>	

#### Location of information provided to address this

Policy 2: Design Principles relate to the accompanying Character Assessment and includes general design guidance relating to the identified views and that applications should include an assessment of the proposal and the positive qualities of such views; respect plot boundaries; and protect existing green spaces. Two views into the Green Space (Policy 4 below) are denoted, along with a view from Overcoat Lane towards the church.

Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Policy 4: Local Green Space states that proposals for development within Cottam Playing Field, which is identified as a Local Green Space, will not be supported, except in exceptional circumstances. unless the development proposes the erection of ancillary buildings required to enhance the public usage of the space.

Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

The **accompanying notes** state that Cottam playing field is "used by residents as an informal space for sports and public amenity...for over Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual 40 years...used, largely by local children for informal sports and play". It is described as special on account of being the only space within the **[EN010142/APP/6.1]** parish that can be used for sports and recreation. The field is the only Local Green Space identified in the Neighbourhood Plan.

Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Amenity of this ES

#### **Treswell and Cottam Neighbourhood Plan Submission Draft** (2024)

**Policy 6: Design Principles** states that all development should:

"a) take inspiration from the identified character area concerned, as identified within the most up-to-date Treswell with Cottam Character Assessment:

Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in **Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual** Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

### Location of information provided to address this

- b) respect existing plot boundaries, ratios, orientation and the historic or traditional forms and grain of development within its character area; and
- c) reflect high quality standards and, where possible, reflect local design references in both the natural and built environment and reflect and reinforce local distinctiveness"

#### Rampton and Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan (2019)

**Policy 5: Development Principles** states that new development should respond positively to its natural and built context, and take account of a number of principles, including:

- a) "development should take inspiration from the identified key characteristics and features as identified within the Rampton and Woodbeck Character Assessment: and
- b) development should be designed to safeguard "views in both Rampton and Woodbeck" that contribute to the character and appearance of the area. These views include (but not limited to) the views, as identified on Maps 6 and 7, and applications shall include an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the positive qualities of such view(s), explaining the rationale of design choices used".

Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

Policy 10: The Protection of the Parish Landscape states that proposals for new development within the wider parish should demonstrate the following, with particular reference to the Scheme.

a) "Well-designed proposals which seek to enhance distinctive character, in particular the soft edges of the village, will be supported. All proposals for new development should integrate into the village's landscape setting and avoid creating unsatisfactory,

Sections 12.4, 12.6, 12.7 and 12.8 in Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Amenity of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]

### Location of information provided to address this

- overly hard edges to the villages. The retention of existing planting and vegetation will be particularly supported;
- b) Proposals which incorporate soft landscaping on boundaries will be supported in general...
- c) Development proposals should be designed to maintain the rural appearance of the village's approaches through sensitive siting and the retention of existing roadside planting and important frontages, as identified on Map 11.
- d) Outside of the established settlements of Rampton and Woodbeck, new development forms... should be carefully sited and designed so as to minimise their visual impact on the landscape setting. New development should explore opportunities to utilise existing tree planting to partially screen the development and help it better integrate into its setting and/or introduce new tree planting as a means to mitigate against any potential harmful impacts on the landscape character."

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