

**Tillbridge Solar Project
EN010142**

**Volume 6
Environmental Statement
Appendix 15-1: Soils and Agriculture Legislation, Policy and
Guidance
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**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 Soils and Agriculture.
- 1.1.2 Legislation and policy are considered at both 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 in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is twofold:
- a. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the sensitivity 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 of the EIA and signposting where this is dealt with 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 is 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 Soils and Agricultural Land assessment which has been taken into account in preparing the ES.

2. National Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1 Legislation

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

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

Agriculture Act 2020

- 2.1.2 The Agriculture Act 2020 (Ref 2) states that the Secretary of State may give *'financial assistance for, or in connection with, ...protecting or improving the quality of soil'*.

2.2 National Policy

- 2.2.1 The type of energy generating technology incorporated by the Scheme (solar photo voltaic 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 3);
 - b. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3); and (Ref 4)
 - c. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 5).
- 2.2.2 The NPSs set out the Government's energy policy 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, together with an indication of where in the ES the information is provided to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 1**.

Table 1. Relevant NPS requirements for Soils and Agriculture

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information provided to address this
National Policy Statement for Energy EN-1		
Paragraph 5.11.4	Development of land will affect soil resources, including physical loss of and damage to soil resources, through land contamination and structural damage. Indirect impacts may also arise from changes in the local water regime, organic matter content, soil biodiversity and soil process.	Section 15.7 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] includes the embedded mitigation of the Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] submitted alongside the DCO application.
Paragraph 5.11.12	Applicants should seek to minimise impacts on the Best and Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5).	Section 15.6 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and Appendix 15-2: Agricultural Land Baseline Report [EN010142/APP/6.2] provides the Soils and Agriculture baseline including Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) assessment which has informed the Order limits and Principal Site components, further detail is provided in Section 4.5 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.11.13	Applicants should also identify any effects and seek to minimise impacts on soil health and protect and improve soil quality taking into account any mitigation measures proposed	Enhancements to soil health are described in Section 15.9 of Chapter

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.11.14	Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Management Plan which could help minimise potential land contamination. The sustainable reuse of soils needs to be carefully considered in line with good practice guidance where large quantities of soils are surplus to requirements or are affected by contamination.	<p>15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p> <p>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] includes the embedded mitigation of the Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] submitted alongside the DCO application.</p>
Paragraph 5.11.23	Although in the case of most energy infrastructure there may be little that can be done to mitigate the direct effects of an energy project on the existing use of the proposed site (assuming that some of that use can still be retained post project construction) applicants should nevertheless seek to minimise these effects and the effects on existing or planned uses near the site by the application of good design principles, including the layout of the project and the protection of soils during construction.	<p>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] includes the embedded mitigation of the Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] submitted alongside the DCO application.</p> <p>Table 15-11 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] cross references Principal Site components with ALC Grades.</p> <p>Appendix 15-2: Agricultural Land Baseline Report [EN010142/APP/6.2] provides the Soils and Agriculture baseline including ALC assessment which has informed the Order limits and Principal Site components, further</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.11.34	The Secretary of State should ensure that applicants do not site their scheme on the best and most versatile agricultural land without justification. Where schemes are to be sited on best and most versatile agricultural land the Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of that land. Where development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality	<p>detail is provided in Section 4.5 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p> <hr/> <p>Section 15.6 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and Appendix 15-2: Agricultural Land Baseline Report [EN010142/APP/6.2] provides the Soils and Agriculture baseline including ALC assessment which has informed the Order limits and Principal Site components, further detail is provided in Section 4.5 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p>
National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy EN-3		
Paragraph 2.10.29	While land type should not be a predominating factor in determining the suitability of the site location applicants should, where possible, utilise suitable previously developed land, brownfield land, contaminated land and industrial land. Where the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary, poorer quality land should be preferred to higher quality land avoiding the use of “BMV” agricultural land where possible. ‘BMV’ agricultural land is defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification.	Section 15.6 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and Appendix 15-2: Agricultural Land Baseline Report [EN010142/APP/6.2] provides the Soils and Agriculture baseline including ALC assessment which has informed the Order limits and Principal Site components,

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information provided to address this
Paragraph 2.10.30	Whilst the development of ground mounted solar arrays is not prohibited on BMV agricultural or sites designated for their natural beauty, or recognised for ecological or archaeological importance, the impacts of such are expected to be considered and are discussed under paragraphs 2.10.73 – 2.10.92 and 2.10.107 – 2.10.126.	further detail is provided in Section 4.5 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1]. Section 15.8 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] describe impacts on BMV agricultural land.
Paragraph 2.10.31	It is recognised that at this scale, it is likely that applicants' developments will use some agricultural land. Applicants should explain their choice of site, noting the preference for development to be on suitable brownfield, industrial and low and medium grade agricultural land.	Section 15.6 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and Appendix 15-2: Agricultural Land Baseline Report [EN010142/APP/6.2] provides the Soils and Agriculture baseline including ALC assessment which has informed the Order limits and Principal Site components, further detail is provided in Section 4.5 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 2.10.32	Where sited on agricultural land, consideration may be given as to whether the proposal allows for continued agricultural use and/or can be co-located with other functions (for example, onshore wind	Section 15.8 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] note agricultural land within the Scheme

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information provided to address this
Paragraph 2.10.33	<p>generation, storage, hydrogen electrolyzers) to maximise the efficiency of land use.</p> <p>The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) is the only approved system for grading agricultural quality in England and Wales and, if necessary, field surveys should be used to establish the ALC grades in accordance with the current, or any successor to it, grading criteria and identify the soil types to inform soil management at the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases in line with the Defra Construction Code.</p>	<p>remains available for livestock grazing.</p> <p>Section 15.6 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] describes the ALC baseline and is informed by Appendix 15-2: Agricultural Land Baseline Report [EN010142/APP/6.2].</p>
Paragraph 2.10.34	<p>Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Resources and Management Plan which could help to use and manage soils sustainably and minimise adverse impacts on soil health and potential land contamination. This should be in line with the ambition set out in the Environmental Improvement Plan to bring at least 40% of England’s agricultural soils into sustainable management by 2028 and increase this up to 60% by 2030.</p>	<p>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] includes the embedded mitigation of the Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] submitted alongside the DCO application.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.81	<p>Where soil stripping occurs topsoil and subsoil should be stripped, stored, and replaced separately to minimise soil damage and to provide optimal conditions for site restoration. Further details on minimising impacts on soil and soil handling are above at paragraphs 2.10.33 and 2.10.34.</p>	<p>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] includes the embedded mitigation of the Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] submitted alongside the DCO application.</p>
Paragraph 2.10.127	<p>The Defra Construction code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites provides guidance on ensuring that damage to soil during construction is mitigated and minimised. Mitigation measures focus on minimising damage to soil that</p>	<p>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] includes the embedded mitigation of the</p>

Relevant NPS Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of Information provided to address this
Paragraph 2.10.145	<p>remains in place, and minimising damage to soil being excavated and stockpiled. The measures aim to preserve soil health and soil structure to minimise soil carbon loss and maintain water infiltration and soil biodiversity. Mitigation measures for agricultural soils include use of green cover, multispecies cover crops - especially during the winter- minimising compaction and adding soil organic matter.</p> <p>The Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of the BMV agricultural land. The Secretary of State should ensure that the applicant has put forward appropriate mitigation measures to minimise impacts on soils or soil resources.</p>	<p>Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] submitted alongside the DCO application which makes reference to the Defra code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites.</p> <p>Section 15.7 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] includes the embedded mitigation of the Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] submitted alongside the DCO application which makes reference to the Defra code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites.</p>

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 6), updated 20 December 2023, 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 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 a 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 Soils and Agriculture, 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 Soils and Agriculture

Relevant NPPF Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 180	Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting and enhancing of soils. • Recognising the economic and other benefits of the BMV agricultural land. 	Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] provides an assessment of and discusses the economic and other benefits of BMV land.
Paragraph 181 (Footnote 62)	Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality. The availability of agricultural land used for food production should be considered, alongside the other policies in this Framework, when deciding what sites are most appropriate for development	Section 15.8 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] notes that agricultural land within the Scheme remains available for livestock grazing. Section 14.5 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] demonstrates the design of the Scheme has been considered with respect to BMV land and that significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary.

2.4 Guidance

- 2.4.1 The assessment has also considered the following Guidance documents within the assessment of effects on the Scheme on Soils and Agriculture (included within **Table 3** in further detail):
- a. Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2022) Guidance: A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environment Impact Assessment (Ref 8);
 - b. Planning Practice Guidance for the Natural Environment (2019) (PPGNE) (Ref 9);
 - c. Natural England (2012): Technical Information Note 049 (TIN049): Agricultural Land Classification: Protecting the BMV Agricultural Land (Ref 10);
 - d. Natural England (2021), Guide to Assessing Development Proposals on Agricultural Land (Ref 11);
 - e. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), (2009), Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Site (Ref 12);
 - f. Institute of Quarrying (2021): Good Practice for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings (Ref. 18);
 - g. The British Society of Soil Science (2022): Guidance Note Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction (Ref. 19); and
 - h. Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) (1988), Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land (Ref. 20).

Table 3. Relevant Guidance requirements for the Soils and Agricultural Land Assessment

Requirement of the Guidance	Location of information provided to address this
<p>Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guidance: A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environment Impact Assessment (Ref 8)</p> <p>This document has informed the methodology section of the assessment. This guidance sets out a new ‘soil functions’ approach, to assess the effects on land and soil of developments likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The guidance seeks to embed into EIA practice the concepts of soil functions, soil biodiversity, soil health, ecosystem services and natural capital, and to consider the influence of soil carbon on climate change. The guidance introduces a soil functions-based EIA evaluation methodology and improved mitigation measures for soil conservation, to avoid and minimise detrimental impacts on soil resources and to ensure that all soils are sustainably managed.</p>	<p>Section 15.4 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] outline the significance criteria used for soils and agriculture including those adopted from IEMA guidance.</p>
<p>Planning Practice Guidance for the Natural Environment (2019) (PPGNE) (Ref 9)</p> <p>Sets out the need for planning decisions to take into account the value of soils and agricultural land to enable informed choices on the future use of soil resources and agricultural land within the planning system.</p>	<p>Section 15.4 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] outline the significance criteria used for soils and agriculture.</p>
<p>Natural England (2012) Technical Information Note 049 (TIN049): Agricultural Land Classification: Protecting the BMV agricultural land (Ref 10)</p> <p>Explains the Government Policy to protect agricultural land; and the ALC system and its uses.</p>	<p>Section 15.3 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] references TIN049 and its use within the assessment.</p>
<p>Natural England (2021) Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land (Ref 11)</p> <p>Provides a summary and signpost of all relevant policy and legislation concerning the assessment of developments on agricultural land. The overarching aims being</p>	<p>Section 15.3 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] outlines how the</p>

Requirement of the Guidance	Location of information provided to address this
protecting the BMV (BMV) agricultural land from significant, inappropriate or unsustainable development proposals, and protecting all soils by managing them in a sustainable way.	Scheme was assessed for the presence of BMV land.
Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA): Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soil on Development Site (2009) (Ref 12)	
Technical Guidance on the handling, storage and (re)use of soil within construction projects.	Section 15.4 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and the Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] .
Institute of Quarrying (2021) Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings (Ref 13)	
Details the correct stripping, handling, storage, reinstatement and management of soil resources. This guide is an update and replaces the MAFF Good Practice Guide for Handling soils (2000).	Section 15.7 Embedded Mitigation of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and the Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] submitted alongside the DCO application.
The British Society of Soil Science (2022). Guidance Note Benefitting from Soil Management in Development and Construction (Ref 14)	
Promotes the early consideration of soils, soil survey and the preparation of site-specific Soil Management Plans.	Section 15.7 Embedded Mitigation of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] and the Framework Soil Management Plan [EN010142/APP/7.12] .

Requirement of the Guidance

Location of information provided to address this

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) (1988), Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales Revised guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land (Ref 15)

The current guidelines and criteria for grading the quality of agricultural land in England and Wales.

The assessment presented in **Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] makes reference to the MAFF guidelines and criteria.

3. Local Policy and Guidance

- 3.1.1 Local planning policy documents concerning Soils and Agriculture that are relevant to the Scheme, have been outlined below and policy relevant to these documents further considered within **Table 4**.

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)

- 3.1.2 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Ref 16) 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 Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Documents (DPD) (2011)

- 3.1.4 The Bassetlaw Core Strategy (Ref 17) 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 18) 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 There are no neighbourhood plans and policies therein that are relevant to Soils and Agriculture.

Table 4. Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to Soils and Agriculture

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
<p>Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (April 2023)</p>	<p>Policy S14: Renewable Energy states that proposals for ground based photovoltaics and associated infrastructure, including commercial large scale proposals, will be under a presumption in favour.</p>	<p>Section 15.8 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture [EN010142/APP/6.1] and Appendix 15-2: Agricultural Baseline Survey Report [EN010142/APP/6.2] of this ES provides the agricultural land quality baseline including the presence of BMV land.</p>
	<p>Policy S67: BMV Agricultural Land states that proposals should protect the BMV agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy.</p> <p>Significant development resulting in the loss of the BMV agricultural land will only be supported if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for the proposed development has been clearly established and there is insufficient lower grade land available at that settlement (unless development of such lower grade land would be inconsistent with other sustainability considerations); • The benefits and/or sustainability considerations outweigh the need to protect such land, when taking into account the economic and other benefits of the BMV agricultural land; • The impacts of the proposal upon ongoing agricultural operations have been minimised through the use of appropriate design solutions; and 	<p>The assessment provided in Section 15.8 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture [EN010142/APP/6.1] indicates there is not a significant loss of BMV land and agricultural land within the Scheme remains available for livestock grazing. The assessment also states the benefits and/or sustainability considerations outweigh the need to protect BMV land.</p> <p>Section 14.5 of Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] set out how the design of the Scheme</p>

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where feasible, once any development which is supported has ceased its useful life the land will be restored to its former use (this condition will be secured by planning condition where appropriate). <p>Where proposals are for sites of 1 hectare or larger, which would result in the loss of BMV agricultural land, an agricultural land classification report should be submitted, setting out the justification for such a loss and how criterion b has been met.</p>	<p>has been considered with respect to BMV land.</p> <p>The impact of the Scheme on agricultural operations has been assessed in Section 15.8 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture [EN010142/APP/6.1].</p> <p>Section 15.8 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture [EN010142/APP/6.1] indicates that land will be returned to agricultural use once decommissioning is undertaken.</p>
<p>Bassetlaw Core Strategy (2011)</p>	<p>Policy DM10: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy states that <i>'proposals for renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure will need to demonstrate that they... will not lead to the loss of or damage to high-grade agricultural land (Grades 1 & 2)'</i>.</p>	<p>The assessment provided in Section 15.8 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture [EN010142/APP/6.1] indicates there is not a significant loss of BMV land.</p>
<p>Bassetlaw Local Plan Main Modifications (August 2023)</p>	<p>Policy ST51: Renewable Energy Generation states 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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BMV agricultural land 	<p>The assessment provided in Section 15.8 of Chapter 15: Soils and Agriculture [EN010142/APP/6.1] indicates there is not a significant loss of BMV land.</p>

