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# **EAST YORKSHIRE SOLAR FARM**

**East Yorkshire Solar Farm  
EN010143**

## **Environmental Statement**

**Volume 2, Appendix 6-1: Legislation, Policy and Guidance for Climate Change  
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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 the climate.
- 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 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 used within the ES assessment. 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. The following sections identify and describe the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered specifically relevant to the climate assessment, which has been taken into account in preparing the ES.

## 2. National Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 2.1.1 Legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to climate change, and pertinent to the Scheme, comprises:

### 2.2 International

- 2.2.1 The Paris Agreement (2015) (Ref. 1) sets out a global framework to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. It also aims to strengthen countries' ability to deal with the impacts of climate change and support them in their efforts. In December 2020, the UK communicated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Ref. 2) in line with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. In its NDC, the UK commits to reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.

### 2.3 National Legislation

- 2.3.1 Regulation 5 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017 (Ref. 3) set out that an EIA describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on the climate.

- 2.3.2 The Climate Change Act 2008 (Ref. 4) and Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 (Ref. 5). The Climate Change Act 2008 sets a legally binding target for the UK to reduce its GHG emissions from 1990 levels by at least 80% by 2050. This target is supported by a system of legally binding five-year 'carbon budgets' and an independent body to monitor progress, the Climate Change Committee (CCC). The UK carbon budgets restrict the amount of GHG emissions the UK can legally emit in a defined five-year period. The Act was amended in 2019 to revise the existing 80% reduction target and legislate for Net Zero emissions by 2050 (through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019).
- 2.3.3 UK's Nationally Determined Contribution (2020) (Ref. 6) Updated in 2022, is the formal submission of the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution to the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) under the Part Agreement, in response to the Glasgow Climate Pact.
- 2.3.4 The Carbon Budgets Order 2009 (Ref. 7) sets the carbon budget totals for the First (2008-2012), Second (2013-2017) and Third (2018-2022) Carbon Budget periods.
- 2.3.5 The Carbon Budget Order 2011 (Ref. 8) sets the carbon budget total for the Fourth (2023-2027) Carbon Budget period.
- 2.3.6 The Carbon Budget Order 2016 (Ref. 9) sets the carbon budget total for the Fifth (2028-2032) Carbon Budget period.
- 2.3.7 The Carbon Budget Order 2021 (Ref. 10) sets the carbon budget total for the Sixth (2033-2037) Carbon Budget period.
- 2.3.8 The progress Report to Parliament Climate Change Committee 2023 (Ref. 11). A mandated report which provides an overview of the UK Government's progress regarding emissions reductions.

## 2.4 National Policy

- 2.4.1 UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2022 (Ref. 12), as required by the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK Government undertook this Climate Change Risk Assessment to outline the position on key climate change risks and opportunities that the UK faces today.
- 2.4.2 Net Zero Strategy (2021) (Ref. 13) sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet a net zero target by 2050. One of the key policies is for the UK to be entirely powered by clean energy sources (predominantly solar and wind), by 2035.
- 2.4.3 Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future (Ref. 14) is a proposal paper indicating the future direction of policy for energy, which puts tackling climate change and net zero at its core. When the paper was published, the government's policy was clear that solar (together with onshore and offshore wind) is considered a crucial building block of the future generation mix:
- 2.4.4 *"As announced in the Prime Minister's Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, we will continue to hold regular CfD auction rounds every two years to bring forward a range of low-cost renewable technologies. The next auction in late 2021 will be open to onshore wind, solar photovoltaics and*

*other established technologies, as well as offshore wind. Subject to sufficient projects coming through the planning pipeline to maintain competitive tension, we plan to double the capacity awarded in the last round with the aim to deploy around 12GW of low-cost renewable generation. Onshore wind and solar will be key building blocks of the future generation mix, along with offshore wind. We will need sustained growth in the capacity of these sectors in the next decade to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions in all demand scenarios. "*

- 2.4.5 The National Infrastructure Strategy (Ref. 15) sets out plans to transform UK infrastructure to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.
- 2.4.6 The Clean Growth Strategy (2017) (Ref. 16) sets out a comprehensive set of policies and proposals that aim to accelerate the pace of “clean growth”, i.e. deliver increased economic growth and decreased emissions.
- 2.4.7 The British Energy Security Strategy (2022) (Ref. 17): This strategy, alongside the government’s ‘Ten-point plan for a green industrial revolution’ and ‘Net zero strategy’ set out how the UK will transition away from oil and gas towards renewables.
- 2.4.8 The national planning policies considered relevant identify the requirements for consideration of climate change resilience, assessment of project impacts, and highlight the need to increase the supply of low-carbon electricity to meet the UK’s 2050 emissions reductions goals. Climate projections should be analysed and appropriate climate change adaptation measures considered throughout the design process. Specific climate change risks identified within these policies include flooding, drought, coastal change, rising temperatures and associated damage to property and people. Project impacts may be direct, indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium, or long-term, and permanent or temporary amongst others.

### **National Planning Policy**

- 2.4.9 The Scheme’s proposed energy generating technology is not currently specifically referenced by a National Policy Statement (NPS). However, the EIA takes account of the following NPSs, which are considered to be matters that will be important and relevant to the Secretary of State’s decision as to whether to grant a DCO for the Scheme:
- a. Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN1) (Ref. 18);
  - b. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref. 19); and
  - c. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref. 20).
- 2.4.10 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.

2.4.11 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 the climate assessment**

<b>Relevant NPS paragraph reference</b>	<b>Requirement of the NPS</b>	<b>Location of information provided to address this</b>
NPS EN-1		
Paragraph 2.2.6	<p>The UK needs to wean itself off such a high carbon energy mix: to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to improve the security, availability and affordability of energy through diversification. Under some of the illustrative 2050 pathways, electricity generation would need to be virtually emission-free, given that we would expect some emissions from industrial and agricultural processes, transport and waste to persist. By 2050, we can expect that fossil fuels will be scarcer, but will still be in demand, and that prices will therefore be far higher. Further, the UK's own oil and gas resources will be depleting and, worldwide, the costs and risks of extracting oil in particular will increase.</p>	<p>The Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> provides an assessment of the Scheme's impact on the UK's net zero pathway and its potential impact on fossil fuels.</p>
Paragraph 2.2.9	<p>To prepare for the impacts of climate change, the Climate Change Act 2008 also sets out a statutory framework for adapting to climate change, with the Government committed to producing a statutory climate change adaptation programme in 2012 (which will be updated on five-yearly cycles). To lead and co-ordinate work in preparation for this, the Government has established the Adapting to Climate Change Programme, which includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. undertaking a UK Climate Change Risk Assessment; and</li> <li>b. using the "Adaptation Reporting Power" to require certain public bodies and statutory undertakers to set</li> </ol>	<p>A UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is undertaken in the Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>



**Relevant NPS Requirement of the NPS paragraph reference**

**Location of information provided to address this**

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out the risks to their work from a changing climate and what they are doing to manage these risks.

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Paragraph 3.4.5

Paragraph 3.4.1 above sets out the UK commitments to sourcing 15% of energy from renewable sources by 2020. To hit this target, and to largely decarbonise the power sector by 2030, it is necessary to bring forward new renewable electricity generating projects as soon as possible. The need for new renewable electricity generation projects is therefore urgent.

The Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of **Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]** discusses the Scheme's contribution towards decarbonising the power sector in line with UK government targets.

Paragraph 4.8.3

To support planning decisions, the Government produces a set of UK Climate Projections and is developing a statutory National Adaptation Programme. In addition, the Government's Adaptation Reporting Power will ensure that reporting authorities (a defined list of public bodies and statutory undertakers, including energy utilities) assess the risks to their organisation presented by climate change. The IPC [now Secretary of State following a recommendation from the Planning Inspectorate] may take into account energy utilities' reports to the Secretary of State when considering adaptation measures proposed by an applicant for new energy infrastructure.

**Appendix 6-2: Climate Change Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]** outlines embedded adaption measures to ensure the Scheme is resilient to climate change.

Paragraph 4.8.4

In certain circumstances, measures implemented to ensure a scheme can adapt to climate change may give rise to additional impacts, for example as a result of protecting against flood risk, there may be consequential impacts on coastal change.

**Appendix 6-2: Climate Change Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]** outlines embedded adaption measures to ensure the Scheme is resilient to climate change.

**Relevant NPS Requirement of the NPS paragraph reference**

**Location of information provided to address this**

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Paragraph 4.8.5	New energy infrastructure will typically be a long-term investment and will need to remain operational over many decades, in the face of a changing climate. Consequently, applicants must consider the impacts of climate change when planning the location, design, build, operation and, where appropriate, decommissioning of new energy infrastructure. The ES should set out how the proposal will take account of the projected impacts of climate change. While not required by the EIA Directive, this information will be needed by the IPC.	<b>Appendix 6-2: Climate Change Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b> summarises the climate change risk assessment and outlines the assessment outputs in the Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 4.8.6	The IPC should be satisfied that applicants for new energy infrastructure have taken into account the potential impacts of climate change using the latest UK Climate Projections available was prepared to ensure they have identified appropriate mitigation or adaptation measures. This should cover the estimated lifetime of the new infrastructure. Should a new set of UK Climate Projections become available after the preparation of the ES, the IPC should consider whether they need to request further information from the applicant.	The UKCP18 projections were used in the climate change risks assessment as detailed in the Assessment Method (Section 6.4) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 4.8.7	Applicants should apply as a minimum, the emissions scenario that the Independent Committee on Climate Change suggests the world is currently most closely following – and the 10%, 50% and 90% estimate ranges. These results should be considered alongside relevant research which is based on the climate change projections.	The 10%, 50% and 90% UKCP18 projections are considered for climate parameters as outlined in the Baseline Conditions (Section 6.5) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .

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**Relevant NPS Requirement of the NPS paragraph reference**

**Location of information provided to address this**

Paragraph 4.8.8	The IPC should be satisfied that there are not features of the design of new energy infrastructure critical to its operation which may be seriously affected by more radical changes to the climate beyond that projected in the latest set of UK climate projections, taking account of the latest credible scientific evidence on, for example, sea level rise (for example by referring to additional maximum credible scenarios – i.e. from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change or EA) and that necessary action can be taken to ensure the operation of the infrastructure over its estimated lifetime.	ThinkHazard and the IPCC consider additional climate change hazards as detailed in the Assessment Method (Section 6.4) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 4.8.9	Where energy infrastructure has safety critical elements (for example parts of new fossil fuel power stations or some electricity sub-stations), the applicant should apply the high emissions scenario (high impact, low likelihood) to those elements. Although the likelihood of this scenario is thought to be low, it is appropriate to take a more risk-averse approach with elements of infrastructure which are critical to the safety of its operation.	As a precautionary approach, the UKCP18 RCP8.5 (high emissions) scenario was chosen as outlined in the Baseline Conditions (Section 6.5) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 4.8.10	If any adaptation measures give rise to consequential impacts (for example on flooding, water resources or coastal change) the IPC should consider the impact of the latter in relation to the application as a whole and the impacts guidance set out in Part 5 of this NPS.	The ICCI considers potential consequential impacts from the combined impact of the Scheme and climate change in the Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> and <b>Appendix 6-3: ICCI Environmental Technical Disciplinary Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b> .
Paragraph 4.8.11	Any adaptation measures should be based on the latest set of UK Climate Projections, the Government's latest UK	The latest guidance and climate projections have been used as detailed in the Assessment Method (Section 6.4) of

**Relevant NPS Requirement of the NPS paragraph reference**

**Location of information provided to address this**

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	Climate Change Risk Assessment, when available and in consultation with the EA.	<b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].</b>
Paragraph 4.8.12	Adaptation measures can be required to be implemented at the time of construction where necessary and appropriate to do so. However, where they are necessary to deal with the impact of climate change, and that measure would have an adverse effect on other aspects of the project and/or surrounding environment (for example coastal processes), the IPC may consider requiring the applicant to ensure that the adaptation measure could be implemented should the need arise, rather than at the outset of the development (for example increasing height of existing, or requiring new, sea walls).	<b>Appendix 6-2: Climate Change Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b> sets out the adaptation measures.
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NPS EN-5		
Paragraph 2.4.1	Part 2 of EN-1 provides information regarding the Government's energy and climate change strategy including policies for mitigating climate change. Section 4.8 of EN-1 sets out the generic considerations that applicants and the IPC should take into account to help ensure that electricity networks infrastructure is resilient to climate change. 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	<b>Appendix 6-2: Climate Change Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b> sets out the climate change hazards considered for the assessment in alignment with the Government's energy and climate change strategy and policies.

**Relevant NPS Requirement of the NPS paragraph reference**

**Location of information provided to address this**

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	<p>vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it would be resilient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. flooding, particularly for substations that are vital for the electricity transmission and distribution network;</li><li>b. effects of wind and storms on overhead lines;</li><li>c. higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses; and</li><li>d. earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables).</li></ul>	
<p>Paragraph 2.4.2</p>	<p>Section 4.8 of EN-1 advises that the resilience of the project to climate change should be assessed in the ES accompanying an application. For example, future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment (see Section 5.7 in EN-1).</p>	<p>Other chapters, such as <b>Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage, and Water Environment, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> considered climate change impacts such as flooding. These are also summarised in the <b>Appendix 6-3: ICCI Environmental Technical Disciplinary Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b>.</p>

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## Draft National Policy Statements

- 2.4.12 The Government is currently reviewing and updating the Energy NPSs. It is doing this in order to reflect its policies and strategic approach for the energy system that is set out in the Energy White Paper (Ref. 14) (December 2020), and to ensure that the Planning Policy Framework enables the delivery of the infrastructure required for the country's transition to net zero carbon emissions. As part of the Energy NPS review process, the Government published a suite of Draft Energy NPSs for consultation on 30 March 2023. These include the following Draft NPSs:
- a. Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Draft NPS EN-1) (Ref. 21);
  - b. Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Draft NPS EN-3) (Ref. 22); and
  - c. Draft National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref. 23).
- 2.4.13 The consultation on the details of these provisions closed on 23 June 2023, but the documents have not yet been designated.
- 2.4.14 The transitional provisions in the draft EN-1 state that the suite of NPS will only have effect once designated in relation to those applications that are accepted for examination after the date of designation. The date for submission of the Application may mean that there is no NPS specifically in relation to ground mounted solar, but the draft NPS are "important and relevant" matters, as defined in S.105 (2)(c) of the 2008 Act, and are matters which the Secretary of State should have regard to and place significant weight on.
- 2.4.15 Given the importance and relevance of these Draft NPSs, the EIA approach takes account of these new emerging documents. Where the relevant Draft NPSs contain requirements that differ from the requirements of the NPSs, **Table 2** indicates where the information to address these requirements is provided within the ES. From review of the draft documents, it is considered that the draft provisions do not change the assessment approach.

**Table 2. Relevant Draft NPS requirements for the climate assessment**

<b>Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference</b>	<b>Requirement of the NPS</b>	<b>Location of information provided to address this</b>
Draft NPS EN-1		
Paragraph 5.3.4	<p>All proposals for energy infrastructure projects should include a GHG assessment as part of their ES (See Section 4.2). This should include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A whole life GHG assessment showing construction, operational and decommissioning GHG impacts.</li> <li>b. An explanation of the steps that have been taken to drive down the climate change impacts at each of those stages.</li> <li>c. Measurement of embodied GHG impact from the construction stage.</li> <li>d. How reduction in energy demand and consumption during operation has been prioritised in comparison with other measures.</li> <li>e. How operational emissions have been reduced as much as possible through the application of best available technology for that type of technology.</li> <li>f. Calculation of operational energy consumption and associated carbon emissions.</li> <li>g. Whether and how any residual GHG emissions will be (voluntarily) offset or removed using a recognised framework.</li> </ol> <p>Where there are residual emissions, the level of emissions and the impact of those on national and international efforts to limit climate change, both alone and where relevant in combination with other developments at a regional or national level, or sector level, if sectoral targets are developed</p>	<p>The Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> presents a whole-life carbon assessment.</p> <p><b>Appendix 6-2: Climate Change Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b> summarises the climate change risk assessment and outlines the assessment outputs in the Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p>Embodied carbon during the construction stage is measured in the Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p>The Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> discusses energy consumption.</p> <p>The Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> discusses</p>

Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.3.5	A GHG assessment should be used to drive down GHG emissions at every stage of the proposed development and ensure that emissions are minimised as far as possible for the type of technology, taking into account the overall objectives of ensuring our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable and affordable, as we transition to net zero.	operational emissions mitigation measures. The Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> discusses operational emissions. Residual emissions are discussed in the Residual Effects (Section 6.9) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 5.3.6	Applicants should look for opportunities within the proposed development to embed nature-based or technological solutions to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning.	GHG mitigation measures are outlined in the Embedded Mitigation (Section 6.6) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 5.3.7	Steps taken to minimise and offset emissions should be set out in a GHG Reduction Strategy, secured under the development consent order. The GHG Reduction Strategy should consider the creation and preservation of carbon stores and sinks including through woodland creation, peatland restoration and through other natural habitats.	GHG mitigation measures are outlined in the Embedded Mitigation (Section 6.6) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .



<b>Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference</b>	<b>Requirement of the NPS</b>	<b>Location of information provided to address this</b>
Paragraph 5.8.12	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.	Mitigation measures are covered in <b>Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage, and Water Environment, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 5.8.14	This assessment should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account.	Mitigation measures are covered in <b>Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage, and Water Environment, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 5.8.15	The minimum requirements for Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) are that they should... 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.	Mitigation measures are covered in <b>Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage, and Water Environment, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
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.	Mitigation measures are covered in <b>Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage, and Water Environment, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
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.	Mitigation measures are covered in <b>Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage, and Water Environment, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .

<b>Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference</b>	<b>Requirement of the NPS</b>	<b>Location of information provided to address this</b>
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 4.2 and 4.9).	Mitigation measures are covered in <b>Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage, and Water Environment, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 5.16.7	The ES should in particular describe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="394 655 1458 799">a. 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.</li><li data-bbox="394 807 1458 1062">b. 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 Licensing Strategies) and also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance.</li><li data-bbox="394 1070 1458 1182">c. 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.</li><li data-bbox="394 1190 1458 1370">d. 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.</li></ul>	Mitigation measures are covered in <b>Chapter 9: Flood Risk, Drainage, and Water Environment, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> . Effects of both climate change and the Scheme on surrounding receptors is assessed in <b>Appendix 6-3: ICCI Environmental Technical Disciplinary Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b> .

Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. How climate change could impact any of the above in the future.</li> <li>f. any cumulative effects.</li> </ul>	
Draft NPS EN-3		
3.4.10	<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"> <li>a. increased risk of flooding; and</li> <li>b. impact of higher temperature</li> </ul>	<p><b>Appendix 6-2: Climate Change Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b> summarises the climate change risk assessment and outlines the assessment outputs in the Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b>.</p>
Draft NPS EN-5		
2.3.2	<p>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 has been designed to be resilient to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. flooding, particularly for substations that are vital to the network; and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change;</li> <li>b. the effects of wind and storms on overhead lines;</li> <li>c. higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses;</li> </ul>	<p>The UKCP18 projections were used in the climate change risks assessment as detailed in the Assessment Method (Section 6.4) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b>.</p> <p><b>Appendix 6-2: Climate Change Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b> summarises the climate change risk assessment and outlines the assessment outputs in the Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of</p>

**Relevant Draft  
NPS paragraph  
reference**

**Requirement of the NPS**

**Location of information provided to  
address this**

- 
- d. earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables); and
  - e. coastal erosion – for the landfall of offshore transmission cables and their associated substations in the inshore and coastal locations respectively

**Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].**

## **National Planning Policy Framework**

- 2.4.16 Section 14 of the NPPF (Ref. 24) explains the national planning policy with regard to meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change and how local planning authorities should determine planning applications with regard to climate change. The relevant National Planning Policy (NPPF) paragraphs, together with an indication of where in the ES the information is (or will be) provided to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 3**.

**Table 3. Relevant NPPF requirements for the climate assessment**

<b>Relevant NPPF paragraph reference</b>	<b>Requirement of the NPPF</b>	<b>Location of information provided to address this</b>
Paragraph 152	The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.	The Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of the <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> summarises the Scheme's impact on the net-zero trajectory. <b>Appendix 6-2: Climate Change Risk Assessment, ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2]</b> summarises the climate change risk assessment and outlines the assessment outputs in the Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> .
Paragraph 154	New development should be planned for in ways that: a. avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and b. can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the Government's policy for national technical standards.	The Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> assesses the Scheme's vulnerability to climate change. The Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of <b>Chapter 6: Climate Change, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]</b> assesses the Scheme's impact on the National Carbon Budgets and existing policy.

## 2.5 Guidance

2.5.1 The assessment has also considered:

- a. Planning Practice Guidance, Climate Change (Ref. 25): This guidance describes how to identify suitable mitigation and climate adaptation measures to incorporate into the planning process, stating that *"Effective spatial planning is an important part of a successful response to climate change as it can influence the emission of greenhouse gases... Planning can also help increase resilience to climate change impact through the location, mix and design of development."*
- b. IEMA (2022) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance (Ref. 26).
- c. IEMA (2020) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation (Ref. 27).

## 3. Local Policy and Guidance

3.1.1 The Scheme lies within the administrative areas of East Riding of Yorkshire Council and the newly formed Unitary Authority of North Yorkshire Council. North Yorkshire Council was formed on 1 April 2023 by the merger of the administrative areas of North Yorkshire County Council and its six constituent District Councils. Therefore prior to the merger and the formation of the Unitary Authority the Scheme was located in the administrative areas of Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council. It is expected that over time a new Local Plan for North Yorkshire Council will be prepared, however it is anticipated that this will not be in place (either adopted or at draft review stage) within the timescale of the DCO Application and that the planning policy for Selby District Council and North Yorkshire County Council, as described within this Appendix, along with that for the East Riding of Yorkshire will continue to be the relevant local planning policy for the Scheme. Should any new planning policy or guidance be issued by the Unitary Authority, this will be considered within the Environmental Statement (ES).

3.1.2 The following local policy (**Table 4**) is relevant to the assessment of the effects of the Scheme on climate.

**Table 4. Relevant local policy and guidance**

Relevant Document	Relevant policies
East Riding Environmental Policy (Ref. 28) and Appendix B Environmental Policy Summary (Ref. 29)	Particularly in relation to reducing and managing local causes of climate change through appropriate mitigation and adapting council services for resilience to the predicted impacts of climate change.
Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission, as part of the Economic	Particularly in relation to progress, review and stock-take on the main issues and

## Relevant Document

## Relevant policies

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and Social Research Council (ESRC) funded place-based climate action network (PCAN) (Ref. 30)

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challenge/activities in the region, to feed into local and combined authorities and the Yorkshire and Humber Leaders Board.

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Yorkshire and Humber Climate Action Plan (Ref. 31)

Action 29: Build on our current targets, including our regional target of achieving net zero emissions by 2038 with significant progress by 2030, but accept the UK Climate Change Committee's call for these budgets to be extended to incorporate aviation and shipping emissions and to adopt and work towards five-yearly carbon budgets, while also seeking to address our broader consumption-based emissions

Action 30: Put the primary emphasis on reducing demand for all types of energy as the most effective and efficient way of cutting carbon by promoting ambitious demand reduction and energy efficiency initiatives across all sectors.

Action 31: Introduce smart and flexible energy networks by developing local/regional energy action plans that enable management and matching of supply and demand (including through energy storage and load spreading and the application of smart technologies) and by upgrading our distribution networks to proactively enable decarbonisation, for instance through the electrification of heating and transport and the wider uptake of hydrogen.

Action 32: Support the greatly accelerated decarbonisation of energy supply, ensuring that the highest sustainability standards are met, recognising that:

- a. renewables such as offshore wind should make an increasingly significant contribution;
- b. green hydrogen can play an important role where the scope for electrification of heating and transport is limited;
- c. large scale bioenergy can play a role providing that competing land



Relevant Document	Relevant policies
	<p>uses are accounted for in sustainability terms;</p> <p>d. carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) could make a significant contribution to the decarbonisation of some key industrial sectors where they cannot decarbonise through electrification or switching to green hydrogen.</p> <p>e. Action 33: Promote significant expansions in community energy and distributed renewables by actively enabling and investing in distributed and especially community led/owned schemes on solar, onshore wind, anaerobic digestion, air/ground/ water source heating and district heating</p>
<p>East Riding Local Plan 2012-2029 (2016) (Ref. 32)</p>	<p>Policy S2: Addressing climate change.                      Policy EC5: Supporting the energy sector</p>
<p>East Riding Local Plan Update 2020 – 2039 (2022) (Ref. 35)</p>	<p>Policy S2: Addressing climate change                      Policy EC5: Supporting the energy sector                      Policy ENV1: Integrating High Quality Design</p>
<p>Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) (Ref. 33)</p>	<p>Policy SP15: Sustainable Development and Climate Change                      Policy SP17: Low-Carbon and Renewable Energy</p>
<p>Selby District Council Local Plan Publication Version (2022) (Ref. 34)</p>	<p>Policy SG10: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Strategic Policy</p>
<p>East Riding Climate Change Strategy 2022-2030 (Ref. 36)</p>	<p>Priority Areas in relation to:</p> <p>a. Transport                      b. Energy                      c. Waste                      d. Environment                      e. Economy                      f. Climate Resilience</p>
<p>North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy 2023-2030 (Ref. 37)</p>	<p>Key objectives:</p> <p>a. Mitigation                      b. Adaption and Resilience                      c. Supporting Nature</p>

- 3.1.3 East Riding Local Plan 2012-2029 (2016) (Ref. 32) and East Riding Local Plan Update 2020 – 2039 (Ref. 35) policy S2 set out that the local plan sets out to support a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Climate Change Act 2008. Policy EC5 sets out planning requirements for new energy sector developments by placing assessment requirements on the developments to identify significant impacts to environmental receptors, including cumulative impacts. Development will be supported where any significant adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, and the residual harm is outweighed by the wider benefits of the proposal. Where appropriate, proposals should include provision for decommissioning at the end of their operational life.
- 3.1.4 East Riding Local Plan Update 2020 – 2039 (Ref. 35) policy ENV1 states *“Where possible, the design of development that minimises the demand for energy and maximises the use of decentralised and renewable or very low carbon technologies will be supported (D)”* Additionally, the policy recommends incorporating, where possible, a reduced vulnerability and increased resilience to climate change.
- 3.1.5 Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) (Ref. 33) policy SP15 (Sustainable Development and Climate Change) promotes sustainable development by improving energy efficiency and minimising energy consumption through the orientation, layout and design of buildings and incorporating facilities to support recycling. In addition, the policy seeks to encourage incorporating sustainable design and construction techniques, including solar water heating storage. Policy SP15 seeks to protect, enhance and create habitats to improve biodiversity resilience to climate change and utilise biodiversity to contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation. Additionally, the policy supports low-carbon transport movements and decentralised, renewable and low-carbon forms of energy generation. SP17 (Low-Carbon and Renewable Energy) supports opportunities for development to draw its energy from a renewable, low carbon or decentralised energy supply system. Furthermore, the policy supports community-led initiatives for renewable and low-carbon energy developments and sets requirements for development proposals for new sources of renewable energy and low-carbon energy generation and supporting infrastructure.
- 3.1.6 Selby District Local Plan Publication Version (2022) (Ref. 34) Policy SG10 (Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Strategic Policy) supports opportunities for low carbon and renewable energy generation and storage where:
- a. planning impacts of the development and associated infrastructure, both individually and cumulatively, are, or can be made, acceptable;
  - b. Consideration and mitigation is given to the relevant effects;
  - c. Community engagement has been undertaken which demonstrates the delivery of environmental, social and economic benefits and how concerns will be addressed/mitigated for; and
  - d. The site will be recovered to a safe condition, with a suitable use, to minimum of its original value and condition, within a defined and agreed period should the infrastructure cease to be operational.

3.1.7 The East Riding Climate Change Strategy 2022 - 2030 (Ref. 36) establishes the vision for how East Riding of Yorkshire Council will reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change. It states (at page 33) that *"Based on future scenarios of our energy system, if we are to meet net zero by 2050 or earlier, we would likely require the following:*

- *A transition away from unabated natural gas. Some natural gas will be required for hydrogen energy production in the short-term.*
- *An increase in renewable energy production, particularly wind and solar power".*

3.1.8 It details the overarching climate change response for the Council, building on the suite of plans already in place for mitigation and adaptation across the authority and the wider region. The strategy sets out key priorities and opportunities for climate action across the East Riding.

3.1.9 The North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy (July 2023) (Ref. 37) sets out the current position in North Yorkshire, outlines the Council's ambitions and targets and proposes the Council's response to the Climate Emergency through reducing greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to the changing climate and supporting nature. This states in 'Key Theme 1: Mitigation' that *"This means reducing our impact on the climate by decreasing greenhouse gas emissions that are produced in North Yorkshire. This is done by:*

- a. *Decreasing production of the greenhouse gases by reducing energy demand and modernising agricultural processes.*
- b. *Generating and storing low carbon energy such as solar power as an alternative to fossil fuels.*

*Capturing greenhouse gas emissions and storing them in organic sinks such as trees, hedgerows, grasslands, peat and seaweed (kelp) and capturing carbon from industrial processes.*

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