EAST YORKSHIRE SOLAR FARM

East Yorkshire Solar Farm EN010143

Environmental Statement Volume 6.2

Appendix 10-1: Relevant Legislation and Policy for Landscape and Visual Amenity Document Reference: EN010143/APP/6.2

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

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East Yorkshire Solar Farm Limited

Prepared by:

AECOM Limited

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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 and Visual Amenity.
- 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:
 - 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 which will be presented in the Environmental Statement. For example, a policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.1.4 Instead, the relevant legislation and policy will be assessed within the Planning Statement. 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 preparing the ES.

2. National Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1 Legislation

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

2.2 Policy

National Policy

- 2.2.1 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. 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, 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.

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 Landscape and Visual Amenity assessment

Relevant NPS paragraph reference

Requirement of the NPS

Location of information provided to address this

NPS EN-1

Paragraph 1.7.2

The development of new energy infrastructure, at the scale and speed required to meet the current and future need, is likely to have some negative effects on biodiversity, landscape/visual amenity and cultural heritage. However the significance of these effects and the effectiveness of mitigation possibilities is uncertain at the strategic and non-locationally specific level at which EN-1 to EN-5 are pitched. Short-term construction impacts are also likely through an increased use of raw materials and resources and negative effects on the economy due to impacts on existing land and sea uses. In general, it should be possible to mitigate satisfactorily the most significant potential negative effects of new energy infrastructure consented in accordance with the energy NPSs, and they explain ways in which this can be done; however, the impacts on landscape/visual amenity in particular will sometimes be hard to mitigate.

Considered in Section 10.7 –Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

Paragraph 1.7.11

As noted above, the principal area in which consenting new energy infrastructure in accordance with the energy NPSs is likely to lead to adverse effects which cannot always be satisfactorily mitigated is in respect of landscape and visual effects. EN-1 already contains policies 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]. which severely limit the prospects for development of large-scale energy infrastructure in the most attractive landscapes and townscapes. Tightening the development consent policies in EN-1 to make it harder for energy infrastructure to be consented which would have adverse landscape or townscape effects would be likely to make

Considered in Section 10.7 Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume

Relevant NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	it significantly more difficult to gain consent for a range of large-scale energy infrastructure projects	
Paragraph 4.1.3	In considering any proposed development, and in particular when weighing its adverse impacts against its benefits, the IPC should take into account: a. its potential benefits including its contribution to meeting the need for energy infrastructure, job creation and any long-term or wider benefits; and b. its potential adverse impacts, including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for any adverse impacts.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 4.2.1	All proposals for projects that are subject to the European Environmental Impact Assessment Directive must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) describing the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the project. The Directive specifically refers to effects on human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate, the landscape, material assets and cultural heritage, and the interaction between them. The Directive requires an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects at all stages of the project, and also of the measures envisaged for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects.	Considered in Sections 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects and 10.10 Cumulative Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 4.5.1	The visual appearance of a building is sometimes considered to be the most important factor in good design. But high quality and inclusive	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely

Relevant NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations. The functionality of an object — be it a building or other type of infrastructure — including fitness for purpose and sustainability, is equally important. Applying "good design" to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, efficient in the use of natural resources and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of much energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area.	Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 4.5.2	Good design is also a means by which many policy objectives in the NPS can be met, for example the impact sections show how good design, in terms of siting and use of appropriate technologies can help mitigate adverse impacts such as noise.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 4.5.3	Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, landform and vegetation. Furthermore, the design and sensitive use of materials in any associated development such as electricity substations will assist in ensuring that such development contributes to the quality of the area.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.5	The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and report it in the ES. The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10 :

Relevant NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	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 and local development plans in Wales.	Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.6	The applicant's assessment should include the effects during construction of the project and the effects of the completed development and its operation on landscape components and landscape character.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.7	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 should include light pollution effects, including on local amenity, and nature conservation.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.8	Landscape effects depend on the existing character of the local landscape, its current quality, how highly it is valued and its capacity to accommodate change. All of these factors need to be considered in judging the impact of a project on landscape. Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape. 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.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.12	The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10 :

Relevant NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	The aim should be to avoid compromising the purposes of designation and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. This should include projects in England which may have impacts on National Scenic Areas in Scotland.	Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.14	Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally and protected by local designation. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, local landscape designations should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.15	The scale of such projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure. The IPC 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	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.16	In reaching a judgment, the IPC 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 being reversed in a timescale that the IPC considers reasonable.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.17	The IPC 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 reasonable mitigation.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 5.9.18	All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites. The IPC will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project. Coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to visual intrusion because of the potential high visibility of development on the foreshore, on the skyline and affecting views along stretches of undeveloped coast.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.21	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, the 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 IPC may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.22	Within a defined site, adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site, design including colours and materials, and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and designs of buildings should always be given careful consideration.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.9.23	Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10 :

Relevant NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines would mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.	Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
NPS EN-5		
Paragraph 2.2.5	There will usually be some flexibility around the location of the associated substations and applicants will give consideration to how they are placed in the local landscape taking account of such things as local topography and the possibility of screening.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 2.8.9	The impacts and costs of both overhead and underground options vary considerably between individual projects (both in absolute and relative terms). Therefore, each project should be assessed individually on the basis of its specific circumstances and taking account of the fact that Government has not laid down any general rule about when an overhead line should be considered unacceptable. The IPC should, however only refuse consent for overhead line proposals in favour of an underground or sub-sea line if it is satisfied that the benefits from the non-overhead line alternative will clearly outweigh any extra economic, social and environmental impacts and the technical difficulties are surmountable. In this context it should consider: a. the landscape in which the proposed line will be set, (in particular, the impact on residential areas, and those of natural beauty or historic importance such as National Parks, AONBs and the Broads); b. the additional cost of any undergrounding or sub-sea cabling (which experience shows is generally significantly more	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPS paragraph reference

Requirement of the NPS

Location of information provided to address this

- expensive than overhead lines, but varies considerably from project to project depending on a range of factors, including whether the line is buried directly in open agricultural land or whether more complex tunnelling and civil engineering through conurbations and major cities is required. Repair impacts are also significantly higher than for overhead lines as are the costs associated with any later uprating.); and
- c. the environmental and archaeological consequences (undergrounding a 400kV line may mean disturbing a swathe of ground up to 40 metres across, which can disturb sensitive habitats, have an impact on soils and geology, and damage heritage assets, in many cases more than an overhead line would).

Draft National Policy Statements

- 2.2.3 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. 5) (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. 6),
 - b. Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Draft NPS EN-3) (Ref. 7), and
 - c. Draft National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Draft NPS EN-5) (Ref. 8).
- 2.2.4 The consultation on the details of these provisions closed on 23 June 2023, but the documents have not yet been designated.
- 2.2.5 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.
- 2.2.6 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 Landscape and Visual Amenity assessment

Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Draft NPS 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.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.13	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 local area, outweigh the benefits of the project.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.15	The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.2). Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects and 10.10 – Cumulative Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.16	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 and local development plans in Wales.	Policy and Guidance and 10.5 – Baseline Conditions of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1
Paragraph 5.10.18	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	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10 :

Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	demonstrate in the ES how both negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised.	Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.19	The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or an Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas'	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.20	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 should include light pollution effects, including on local amenity, and nature conservation.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.23	Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets where they contribute to landscape and townscape quality	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.24	In considering visual effects it may be helpful for applicants to draw attention, in the supporting evidence to their applications, to any examples of existing permitted infrastructure they are aware of with a similar magnitude of impact on sensitive receptors. This may assist the Secretary of State in judging the weight they should give to the assessed visual impacts of the proposed development.	Considered in Section 10.5 – Baseline Conditions of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.26	Within a defined site, adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site,	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely

Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	design including colours and materials, and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and designs of buildings should always be given careful consideration.	Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.27	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	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.8 – Additional Mitigation, Enhancement, and Monitoring of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.29	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that local authorities will have sufficient design content secured to ensure future consenting will meet landscape, visual and good design objectives.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.11 – Additional Mitigation, Enhancement, and Monitoring of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.33	The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for the Secretary of State to refuse consent	Considered in Sections 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.34	The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure. 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	Considered in Sections 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.35	In reaching a judgment, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction,	Considered in Sections 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10 :

Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable.	Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.10.36	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	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1]
Paragraph 5.10.37	The Secretary of State should consider whether requirements to the consent are needed requiring the incorporation of particular design details that are in keeping with the statutory and technical requirements for landscape and visual impact	Considered in Sections 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 5.11.27	Existing trees and woodlands should be retained wherever possible. The applicant should assess the impacts on, and loss of, all trees and woodlands within the project boundary and develop mitigation measures to minimise adverse impacts and any risk of net deforestation as a result of the scheme. Mitigation may include 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-term management and maintenance of newly planted trees should be secured.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Draft NPS EN-3		
Paragraph 3.10.85	The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large-scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing other onshore energy infrastructure. Solar farms are likely to be in low lying	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects and 10.10 – Cumulative Effects of Chapter 10 :

Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	areas of good exposure and as such may have a wider zone of visual influence than other types of onshore energy infrastructure.	Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 3.10.86	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	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 3.10.87	Landscape and visual impacts should be considered carefully preapplication. Potential impacts on the statutory purposes of nationally designated landscapes should form a part of the pre application process.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 3.10.88	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.	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 3.10.89	Applicants should follow the criteria for good design set out in Section 4.6 of EN-1 when developing projects and will be expected to direct considerable effort towards minimising the landscape and visual impact of solar PV arrays especially within nationally designated landscapes.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 3.10.90	Whilst there is an acknowledged need to ensure solar PV installations are adequately secured, required security measures such as fencing should consider the need to minimise the impact on the landscape and visual impact.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 3.10.91	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.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 3.10.92	The impact of the proposed development on established trees and hedges should be informed by a tree survey and arboricultural/hedge assessment as appropriate.	Considered in Appendix 10-5: High Level Tree Constraints Report of ES Volume 2 [EN010143/APP/6.2].
Paragraph 3.10.122	Applicants should consider the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges, trees and woodlands.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 3.10.123	Applicants should aim to minimise the use and height of security fencing. Where possible applicants should utilise existing features, such as hedges or landscaping, to assist in site security or screen security fencing.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 3.10.124	Applicants should minimise the use of security lighting. Any lighting should utilise a passive infra-red (PIR) technology and should be designed and installed in a manner which minimises impact.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 3.10.148	The Secretary of State will consider the landscape and visual impact of any proposed solar PV farm, taking account of any sensitive visual	Considered in Section 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects and 10.10 –

Relevant Draft NPS paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPS	Location of information provided to address this
	receptors, and the effect of the development on landscape character, together with the possible cumulative effect with any existing or proposed development. Nationally designated landscapes (National Parks, The Broads and Areas of Outstanding Beauty) are afforded extra protection due their statutory purpose. Development in these areas needs to satisfy policy as set out in EN-1 Section 5.10.	Cumulative Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Draft NPS 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.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10. 7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

National Planning Policy Framework

2.2.7 The relevant National Planning Policy (Ref. 9) (NPPF) paragraphs, together with an indication of where in the ES the information is provided to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 3.**

Table 3. Relevant NPPF requirements for the Landscape and Visual Amenity assessment

Relevant NPPF paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 8(c)	To protect and enhance our 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.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 100	Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 120	Encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 130	Planning policies and decisions should ensure that developments: a. will function well and add to the overall quality of the area, not just for the short term but over the lifetime of the development; b. are visually attractive as a result of good architecture, layout and appropriate and effective landscaping; c. are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10. 7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPPF paragraph reference

Requirement of the NPPF

Location of information provided to address this

- preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change (such as increased densities):
- d. establish or maintain a strong sense of place, using the arrangement of streets, spaces, building types and materials to create attractive, welcoming and distinctive places to live, work and visit;
- e. optimise the potential of the site to accommodate and sustain an appropriate amount and mix of development (including green and other public space) and support local facilities and transport networks; and
- f. create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being, with a high standard of amenity for existing and future users; and where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion and resilience.

Paragraph 132

Design quality should be considered throughout the evolution and assessment of individual proposals. Early discussion between applicants, the local planning authority and local community about the design and style of emerging schemes is important for clarifying expectations and reconciling local and commercial interests. Applicants should work closely with those affected by their proposals to evolve designs that take account of the views of the community. Applications that can demonstrate early, proactive and effective engagement with the community should be looked on more favourably than those that cannot.

Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPPF paragraph reference

Requirement of the NPPF

Location of information provided to address this

Paragraph 134

Development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes. Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume Conversely, significant weight should be given to:

- a) development which reflects local design policies and government guidance on design, taking into account any local design guidance and supplementary planning documents such as design guides and codes; and/or
- b) outstanding or innovative designs which promote high levels of sustainability or help raise the standard of design more generally in an area, so long as they fit in with the overall form and layout of their surroundings.

Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

Paragraph 155

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):
- b) consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure their development; and
- c) identify opportunities for development to draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers.

Considered in Sections 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects and 10.10 – Cumulative Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPPF paragraph reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 157	In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should expect new development to: a) comply with any development plan policies on local requirements for decentralised energy supply unless it can be demonstrated by the applicant, having regard to the type of development involved and its design, that this is not feasible or viable; and b) take account of landform, layout, building orientation, massing and landscaping to minimise energy consumption.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 171	Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].
Paragraph 174	Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: a. protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); b. recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other	Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

Relevant NPPF paragraph reference

Requirement of the NPPF

Location of information provided to address this

- benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;
- c. maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;
- minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures;
- e. preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and
- f. remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.

National Planning Practice Guidance

2.2.8 The relevant National Planning Practice Guidance (Ref. 10) paragraphs, together with an indication of where in the ES chapter the information is provided to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 4**.

Table 4. Relevant NPPG requirements for the Landscape and Visual Amenity assessment

Relevant NPPG paragraph reference

Requirement of the NPPG

Location of information provided to address this

Natural Environment 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. Particular factors a local planning authority will need to consider include: 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; 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; The extent to which there may be additional impacts if solar arrays follow the daily movement of the sun; The need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing: The potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges; and 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.

Considered in Sections 10.6 – Embedded Mitigation and 10.7 – Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects of Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity, ES Volume 1 [EN010143/APP/6.1].

2.3 Guidance

2.3.1 The assessment has also considered the following guidance documents.

Published Landscape Character Assessments and Related Studies

2.3.2 The Study Area and Site boundary are covered by several published character assessments and related studies, which form part of the evidence base for Selby District Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. These documents will be reviewed as part of the iterative design process. The following section provides an overview of these publications.

National Landscape Character Assessments

2.3.3 At the national level, the Site boundary is covered by Natural England's National Character Area 39: Humberhead Levels (NCA 39) (Ref. 11), which is characterised as:

"a flat, low-lying and large scale agricultural landscape bounded to the west by the low ridge of the Southern Magnesian Limestone and to the east by the Yorkshire Wolds (north of the Humber) and the Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (south of the Humber)."

2.3.4 Statements of Environmental Opportunity for NCA 39 include safeguard, manage and expand wet pastures and watercourses to contribute to landscape character and to manage the agricultural landscape, historic field patterns to retain its distinctive character. Green infrastructure should be accommodated to retain long views and make a positive contribution to biodiversity.

Regional and District Assessments and Studies

- 2.3.5 Regional and District Assessments and Studies include:
 - a. The North Yorkshire and York Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 12);
 - b. The Selby Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13);
 - c. The East Riding of Yorkshire Council Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 14); and
 - d. East Riding of Yorkshire Council Lower Derwent Valley Supplementary Planning Document (Ref. 15).

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 it's 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.

3.1.2 The following local policy (**Table 5**) is relevant to the assessment of the effects of the Scheme on Landscape and Visual Impact.

Table 5. Relevant local policy and guidance

Relevant Document	Relevant policies
East Riding Local Plan 2012–2029 (2016) (Ref. 16)	Policy A4: Goole and Humberhead Levels sub area Policy S4: Supporting development in Villages and the Countryside Policy S8: Connecting people and places Policy EC5: Supporting the Energy Sector Policy ENV1: Integrating high quality design Policy ENV2: Protecting high quality landscape Policy ENV3: Valuing our heritage Policy ENV4: Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity Policy ENV5: Strengthening green infrastructure
East Riding Local Plan Update 2020 – 2039 (2021) (Ref. 17)	Policy A4: Goole and Humberhead Levels sub area Policy S4: Supporting development in Villages and the Countryside Policy S8: Connecting people and places. Policy EC5: Supporting the Energy Sector Policy ENV1: Integrating high quality design Policy ENV2: Protecting high quality landscape Policy ENV3: Valuing our heritage Policy ENV4: International, National and Local Sites of Importance for Biodiversity Policy ENV5: Enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity Policy S9: Strengthening green infrastructure
Selby District Local Plan (2005) (Ref. 18)	Policy ENV1: Control of Development Policy ENV3: Light Pollution

Relevant Document	Relevant policies
	Policy ENV15: Conservation and Enhancement of Locally Important Landscape Areas Policy EMP10: Additional Industrial Development at Drax and Eggborough Power Stations. Policy T8: Public Rights of Way
Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) (Ref. 19)	Policy SP15: Sustainable Development and Climate Change Policy SP17: Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Policy SP18: Protecting and Enhancing the Environment Policy SP19: Design Quality
Selby District Council Local Plan Publication Version 2022 (Ref. 20)	Policy SG7: Strategic Countryside Gaps Policy NE2: Protecting and Enhancing Green and Blue Infrastructure Policy NE4: Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character Policy NE5: Protecting and Enhancing Rivers and Waterbodies Policy NE6: Protecting and Enhancing Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

- 3.1.3 Policies A4 (Goole and Humberheard Levels Sub Area), Policy S4 (Supporting development in Villages and the Countryside), Policy EC5 (Supporting the Energy Sector), Policy ENV1 (Integrating high quality design), Policy ENV2 (Protecting high quality landscape), Policy ENV3 (Valuing our heritage) and Policy ENV4 (Conserving and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity) of the East Riding Local Plan (2016) (Ref. 16) require development to give consideration to the existing landscape character and to ensure that the development would not result in harm to the character of the surroundings, visual amenity or important views. Policy ENV5 (Strengthening Green Infrastructure) requires development to incorporate existing and /or new green infrastructure and enhance the functionality and connectivity of existing corridors. Similarly, the policies listed within the East Riding Local Plan Update (2022) (Ref. 17) have the same requirements.
- 3.1.4 Policies ENV1 (Control of Development), ENV3 (Light Pollution), ENV15 (Conservation and Enhancement of Locally Important Landscaped Areas) and EMP10 (Additional Industrial Development at Drax and Eggborough Power Stations) of the Selby District Local plan (2005) (Ref. 18) state that development should not detract from the rural character of the area and require the enhancement of landscapes. Policy T8 (Public Rights of Way) requires the effect on PRoW to be considered.

- 3.1.5 Policies SP18 (Sustainable Development and Climate Change), SP17 (Low Carbon and Renewable Energy), SP18 (Protecting and Enhancing the Environment) and SP19 (Design Quality) of the Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan (2013) (Ref. 19) state that development should be designed and located to protect the environment and local amenity.
- 3.1.6 Policies SG7 (Strategic Countryside Gaps), NE2 (Protecting and Enhancing Green and Blue Infrastructure), NE4 (Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character) and NE5 (Protecting and Enhancing Rivers and Waterbodies) of the Selby District Council Local Plan Publication Version (2022) (Ref. 20) state that the open character of the countryside is important and existing green infrastructure should be enhanced. NE6 (Protecting and Enhancing Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows) sets out that Developments will be supported where there has been a suitable assessment of the woodland, trees and hedgerows and it has been demonstrated the existing and new features will be protected his policy context provides a framework to ensure that proposed developments have regard to landscape character and distinctiveness through the use of design tools to ensure that key views and settings are respected and that schemes are assimilated into the landscape through having regard to existing character and amenity considerations.

4. References

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- Ref. 5 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2020). Energy white paper: Powering our net zero future. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future [Accessed 16 November 2023]
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- Ref. 13 Selby District Council (2019). The Selby Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://www.selby.gov.uk/landscape-character-assessments [Accessed 09 August 2023]
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