Springwell Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 1
Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

EN010149/APP/6.1
November 2024
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd

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5. Approach to the EIA

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a systematic process that examines the likely significant effects (beneficial or adverse) on the environment resulting from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of a proposed development. The findings of an EIA are presented in an Environmental Statement (ES), which is used to report to decision makers, consultees and stakeholders on the likely significant environmental effects of a development and helps the decision maker (in the case of a Development Consent Order, the Secretary of State) determine the application for consent.

5.1.2. The design of the Proposed Development, as presented in this ES, has been informed by the ongoing EIA process and consultation responses as detailed further within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and within the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.1] and Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** submitted in support of the DCO Application.

5.1.3. This chapter is supported by the following figure and appendices presented in **ES Volume 2 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and **ES Volume 3 [EN010149/APP/6.3]**:

- **Figure 5:1: Desk-based Study of Existing Utilities;**
- **Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report;**
- **Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion;**
- **Appendix 5.3: Scoping Opinion Response Matrix;**
- **Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Study;** and
- **Appendix 5.5: High-level Electromagnetic Assessment**.

5.2. Overview of the EIA process

5.2.1. The main stages of the EIA process are as follows:

- **EIA Screening**: Screening is undertaken to determine whether a proposed development constitutes ‘EIA Development’, particularly in cases where there is uncertainty if a project requires an EIA to be undertaken. However, as detailed in **Section 1.4** of **ES Volume 1, Chapter 1: Background and Context [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, the

Applicant recognises that the Proposed Development has the potential to give rise to significant environmental effects. Consequently, the Applicant notified the Secretary of State under Regulation 8(1)(b) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (hereafter, the 'EIA Regulations') **[Ref. 5-1]** of its intention to prepare an ES in respect of the Proposed Development. Therefore, by virtue of Regulation 6(2)(a) of the EIA Regulations, the Proposed Development is considered 'EIA Development', requiring an EIA to be undertaken and an ES prepared. Accordingly, an EIA Screening Report was not required for the Proposed Development.

- **EIA Scoping**: EIA Scoping refers to the process of identifying the scope of the assessment for the development with the relevant decision maker (in the case of a DCO, the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State). As detailed in **Section 5.5**, an EIA Scoping Report was prepared by the Applicant in respect of the Proposed Development and submitted to PINS on 22 March 2023 and a Scoping Opinion was adopted by the Secretary of State on 2 May 2023.
- **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)**: The PEIR, as stated in Regulation 12(2) of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**, sets out the preliminary environmental information for the Proposed Development. The purpose of the PEIR is to provide sufficient information to enable consultation bodies to develop an informed view of the likely significant environmental effects of the development being proposed. A PEIR was prepared by the Applicant and published as part of the Statutory Consultation which took place in January – February 2024.
- **ES**: The ES presents the results of the EIA undertaken for the project and sets out the likely significant environmental effects that would result from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and/or the decommissioning of the Proposed Development, alongside the proposed mitigation measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects. An ES is submitted as part of an application for development consent and is taken into account during the decision-making process.

5.3. Assessment Approach and Guidance

5.3.1. The approach to EIA is in accordance with applicable legislation and guidance which has been tailored to each environmental factor of the EIA using industry standard methods and criteria, and professional opinion where appropriate. Further detail on the assessment approach and methodology applied to each environmental factor assessment is presented within the respective environmental factor assessment chapters provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

5.3.2. This ES has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**. In preparing this ES, reference has been made to the following guidance:

- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation **[Ref. 5-2]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents **[Ref. 5-3]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements **[Ref. 5-4]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope **[Ref.5-5]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments **[Ref. 5-6]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process **[Ref. 5-7]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment **[Ref. 5-8]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Water Framework Directive **[Ref. 5-9]**;
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (30 April 2024) **[Ref. 5-10]**.

5.4. Objectives of the EIA

5.4.1. The EIA aims to identify, assess, and mitigate the potential environmental effects and impacts that a proposed project may have before it is approved and implemented. The primary purpose of conducting an EIA is to ensure that projects are designed and managed in a way that minimises their negative impacts on the environment and promotes sustainable development. Furthermore, the EIA aims to:

- Set the relevant legal and planning policy framework;
- Document the consultation and engagement process that has informed the EIA;
- Outline any reasonable alternatives considered;
- Establish baseline environmental conditions at the site and within the surrounding area;

- Identify, predict and assess the environmental effects associated with the proposed project: beneficial and adverse; permanent and temporary; direct and indirect and short/medium/long term; significant or not significant;
- Identify, predict and qualitatively assess the cumulative effects of the proposed project, including those associated with other existing development and/or approved development(s);
- Identify suitable mitigation measures to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment and identify the likely significant residual effects following the implementation of these measures; and
- Identify monitoring measures where likely significant residual adverse effects are identified.

5.5. Scoping

5.5.1. EIA Scoping is the process of identifying the environmental factors to be considered within the ES and establishing the receptors/matters that will comprise the scope of the assessment. The Applicant submits an EIA Scoping Report setting out a description of the proposed project and an explanation of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment and requests that the Secretary of State states in writing their opinion as to the scope and level of detail of the information to be provided in the ES. Although scoping is not a mandatory requirement under the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**, it is recognised as a useful preliminary procedure which helps to identify the main effects that a development is likely to have on the environment, taking into account responses from prescribed consultees.

5.5.2. An EIA Scoping Report was prepared by the Applicant in respect of the Proposed Development and was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 22 March 2023, with a request for the Secretary of State to adopt a scoping opinion in relation to the Proposed Development. In considering the request for an EIA Scoping Opinion, the Secretary of State consulted with the relevant prescribed consultees under the EIA regime. The EIA Scoping Opinion was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on 2 May 2023. The EIA Scoping Report and Scoping Opinion are provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

5.5.3. A table outlining the Scoping Opinion response and how the ES and other reports submitted in support of the DCO Application have addressed the matters raised within the response received is provided in **ES Volume 3**, **Appendix 5.3: Scoping Opinion Response Matrix [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

5.5.4. As EIA is an iterative process taking place alongside the design of the Proposed Development, the process of scoping the assessment has also been iterative. Engagement has been undertaken with stakeholders to clarify and inform the scope of the assessment and to agree any further work to be undertaken. A summary of the scope which has been assessed in this ES, having full regard to and reflecting the Scoping Opinion response, is presented in **Table 5.1** below.

Table 5.1 Summary of the scope of this ES

Environmental factor	Location within Volume 1 of this ES
Air quality	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 6 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Biodiversity	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 7[EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Climate	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 8 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Cultural heritage	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 9 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Landscape and visual	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 10 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Land, soil and groundwater	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 11 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Noise and vibration	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 12 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Population	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 13 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Traffic and transport	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 14 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Water	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Cumulative effects	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 16 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**

5.5.5. The scope of each of the above assessments, including the elements that have been assessed and the key issues that have been raised in the Scoping Opinion response, are outlined within each environmental factor

assessment chapter presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 16 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

5.5.6. The Planning Inspectorate has agreed (via the Scoping Opinion) that the following environmental factors/other environmental considerations can be scoped out of the assessment. Justification for this agreement, and the approach taken, is presented below.

Glint and Glare

5.5.7. Solar PV modules are specifically designed to absorb light rather than reflect it. Light reflecting from Solar PV modules results in the loss of energy output. Solar PV modules are dark in colour due to their anti-reflective coatings and are manufactured with low-iron, ultra-clear glass with specialised coatings and textures to enable maximum absorption. The combination of these factors significantly increases electrical energy production of the panels and at the same time significantly reduces reflected rays.

5.5.8. Whilst the Planning Inspectorate has agreed that glint and glare can be scoped out of the assessment as part of the EIA of likely significant effects, a glint and glare assessment has been undertaken, as presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Study [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. Mitigation to reduce the glint and glare impacts, in the form of planting is embedded within the design and is presented within **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.

5.5.9. A 700m section of the A15 at the south of Springwell West requires mitigation to reduce glint and glare impacts upon roads users. This includes hedgerows to be infilled and maintained to a height of at least 3m. Until the advance planting (to be planted in Winter 2024/25) in this area has grown to sufficient density and height of 3m to mitigate impacts of glint and glare, temporary mitigation will be implemented to mitigate impacts. This temporary mitigation may include temporary screening or suitable alternative mitigation to be confirmed in the detailed LEMP. This would be removed once the hedgerows are of sufficient height. It is anticipated that a temporary hoarding or suitable alternative would be required for approximately 3 years following the construction phase. The landscape planting proposals are secured within the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.9]**.

5.5.10. The assessment considers ground-based (residential dwellings, road, and rail) and airborne (airfields, Air Traffic Control Towers, and approaching aircrafts) receptors. Detailed geometric analysis has been undertaken using a bespoke glint and glare model for all receptors potentially affected

by the Proposed Development to identify any potential impacts and mitigation which has been embedded into the design.

Heat and Radiation

5.5.11. The Planning Inspectorate has agreed that heat and radiation can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that it is not anticipated that there will be any significant sources of heat or radiation during either construction, operation (including maintenance) or decommissioning. **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]** identifies sources of heat (and radiation), and how this has been considered with respect to site layout and mitigation design. It should be noted that sources of heat and radiation have not influenced the Site selection.

Major Accidents and Disasters

5.5.12. The Planning Inspectorate has agreed that major accidents and disasters can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that by implementing recognised and approved safety legislation and regulation, no significant effects in relation to major accidents and disasters are anticipated during the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases.

5.5.13. However, the impacts of major accidents and disasters are considered within the **BESS Plume Assessment [EN010149/APP/7.19]** and **ES Volume 1, Chapter 15: Water [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, with any relevant mitigation measures secured within the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7]**, **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.10]** and **Outline Battery Safety Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.14]** which are submitted in support of the DCO Application.

Utilities

5.5.14. The Planning Inspectorate has agreed that utilities can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that further consultation will be carried out with the relevant utility companies and that the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7]** includes any additional mitigation measures to protect against interference with below ground utilities during construction. The Applicant would also expect to agree protective provisions with each utility owner, in order to ensure the DCO includes appropriate protections and restrictions on the Applicant's exercise of its powers, for the protection of utilities.

5.5.15. A desk-based study of existing utilities within the Order Limits has been undertaken as presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 5.1: Desk-based Study**

of Existing Utilities [EN010149/APP/6.2] and has informed the design of the Proposed Development.

5.5.16. The following utility companies were found within the Order Limits: Anglian Water; BPA; BT; Cadent Gas; ESP Utilities; Exolum Pipeline; Fulcrum; GTC; Harlaxton Energy; Indigo Pipelines; MBNL; National Grid; Network Rail; NGED; Vodafone.

5.5.17. Ongoing discussions have been held with the utility companies who are also statutory undertakers, resulting in 'Statements of Common Grounds' being prepared for the DCO Application:

- **Statement of Common Ground - Anglian Water Services Ltd [EN010149/APP/7.21]**
- **Statement of Common Ground - Cadent Gas Ltd [EN010149/APP/7.22]**
- **Statement of Common Ground - National Grid Electricity Transmission [EN010149/APP/7.23]**
- **Statement of Common Ground - Exolum Pipeline System Ltd [EN010149/APP/7.25]**

Human Health

5.5.18. The Planning Inspectorate has agreed that human health can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that the ES should clearly set out potential impacts to human health from the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning and cross-reference where impacts are considered and assessed within other relevant chapters of **ES Volume 1 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, with any relevant mitigation measures secured within the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7]** which is submitted in support of the DCO Application.

5.5.19. **Table 5.2** sets out the potential impacts to human health from the Proposed Development during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning and references where these impacts are assessed within the ES.

Table 5.2 Potential human health impacts from the Proposed Development and where these are assessed in the ES

Environmental factor	Potential human health impacts	Where this matter is assessed
Air quality	During construction and decommissioning: • Temporary impacts on residents wellbeing caused by respiratory conditions.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 6: Air Quality [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Landscape and visual	During construction and decommissioning: • Impacts on health and wellbeing of residents and users of the PRoW and minor road network which passes through and within 3km of the Site (including the Spires and Steeples Trail and the Stepping Out walks). • Impacts on residents amenity.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Noise and vibration	During construction and decommissioning: • Impacts on residents wellbeing.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Population	During operation (including maintenance): • Impacts on mental and physical health and wellbeing to users of the new proposed PRoW, permissive paths and community growing areas.	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 13: Population [EN010149/APP/6.1]**

Environmental factor	Potential human health impacts	Where this matter is assessed
Traffic and transport	During construction and decommissioning: • Health and wellbeing impacts caused by disruption to amenity or safety (e.g. related to fear and intimidation on and by road users) • Health and wellbeing where community links and access to facilities and employment may be materially changed (i.e. via severance of communities, driver and passenger delay).	**ES Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1]**
Glint and glare	During operation (including maintenance): • Nuisance to people living in nearby residential properties.	**ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.4: Glint and Glare Study [EN010149/APP/6.3]**

Material Assets and Waste

5.5.20. The Planning Inspectorate has agreed that material assets and waste can be scoped out of the assessment, on the basis that:

- The indirect impacts associated with materials consumption and waste disposal (e.g. release of greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, amenity impacts, ecological impacts, etc) have been assessed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity, Chapter 8: Climate, Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport** and **Chapter 15: Water [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.
- The indirect impacts of any off-site waste management facilities and material production facilities are expected to be assessed (and where necessary, mitigated) under the planning and permitting regime for those sites and thus do not form part of an EIA for a development that uses such facilities for material supply or waste management.

- Relevant mitigation measures in relation to waste management are secured within the **Outline Construction Environment Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7]**, **Outline Operational Environment Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.10]**, **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.13]**, **Outline Site Waste Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7]** which are submitted in support of the DCO Application.
- It is also not intended to remove significant quantities of excavated arisings from the Site during construction. There may, however, be a need to remove some soils from the Site for treatment or disposal, if found to be contaminated, and it is not practical to treat this on-Site (refer to **ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Land, Soil and Groundwater [EN010149/APP/6.1]**). However, where possible, soil arisings will be balanced through a cut and fill exercise to retain volumes on Site.
- For the operational (including maintenance) phase, the potential service life of components, streams construction materials and waste disposal are described within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1] and Outline Site Waste Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7]**. There will be relatively little waste produced during the operational (including maintenance) phase and the requirement for material assets will be limited to maintenance and replacement parts, as required.
- During decommissioning, the removal of any material assets and waste will be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. If items can be recycled, this will be the first-choice option. The impacts of waste during the decommissioning phase will be managed and mitigated through measures documented within and secured by the **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.13]** and the **Outline Site Waste Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.7]**. The Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan will be discussed and agreed with the host local planning authority at the time of decommissioning to ensure any impacts on waste arising at this stage are considered and mitigated.

5.5.21. It should also be noted that borrow pits are no longer being considered as part of the Proposed Development.

5.5.22. Following discussions with the Applicant (as recommended in the Scoping Opinion response), North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council has also agreed that decommissioning waste can be scoped out of the assessment with mitigation measures secured in the **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.13]**.

Electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields (EMF)

5.5.23. The majority of underground cabling within the Site to facilitate the connection between the Solar PV modules, Balance of Solar System (BoSS), Satellite Collector Compound, BESS and Springwell Substation will be up to 132kV, apart from the short section of 400kV underground cabling which would connect the Springwell Substation to the National Grid Navenby Substation. **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** proposed to scope out EMF as at this time, all cabling was expected to be 132kV or below. This approach was agreed within **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. However, following the subsequent development of the design, it was determined that approximately 2km 400kV cable would be required to connect the Springwell Substation and National Grid Navenby Substation, which was consulted on during the phase two consultation (statutory consultation). The location of the Grid Connection Corridor is presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1: Zonal Masterplan [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.

5.5.24. The 400kV underground cabling would be buried within trenches, with each up to 2m in width and approximately 1.5m in depth and will be sited at a distance of approximately 500m from the nearest sensitive receptors and designed in accordance with the relevant guidance (DECC Power Lines: Demonstrating compliance with EMF public exposure guideline, A Voluntary Code of Practice 2012) **[Ref. 5-11]**.

5.5.25. In accordance with the Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development **[Ref. 5-12]**, a standalone EMF study has been undertaken and is presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.5: High-level Electromagnetic Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. The study sets out the proposed siting zone for the cabling and an includes an assessment of EMF for underground cabling and the Springwell Transformers. The assessment recommends a minimum clearance distance of 25m relative to public exposure limits for magnetic and electric fields which is secured in the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]** and concludes that there would be no effects to sensitive receptors.

5.6. Consultation and engagement

5.6.1. Consultation and engagement throughout the EIA process is essential for the development of a comprehensive and proportionate ES. The views of both the statutory and non-statutory consultees are valuable to ensure that the EIA prioritises specific issues with potential significant environmental effects and identifies areas requiring further investigation.

5.6.2. Consultation and engagement, as an ongoing process, facilitate the evolution of design, allowing the integration of both embedded and additional mitigation measures into the Proposed Development. This approach aims to minimise adverse environmental effects and optimise environmental benefits.

5.6.3. Early engagement with consultees has played a crucial role in influencing the design process of the Proposed Development and the preparation of the EIA. Where appropriate, targeted consultations have been conducted with relevant stakeholders to gather feedback and ensure that their inputs are integrated into the evolving design.

5.6.4. Consultation has been undertaken with the following stakeholders:

- Lincolnshire County Council;
- North Kesteven District Council;
- Host Parish Councils;
- The Planning Inspectorate;
- Historic England;
- Natural England;
- Environment Agency;
- National Highways;
- Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust;
- Ministry of Defence; and
- Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue.

5.6.5. The response to consultation is included within the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.1]** and the stages of the development of the design to take into account consultation feedback are detailed within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** which is submitted in support of the DCO Application.

5.6.6. Details of specific consultation and engagement undertaken for each of the environmental factor assessments are presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 16 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

5.7. The EIA process

5.7.1. The method behind the EIA process generally considers the existing conditions of the area into which the development is being introduced (**the baseline**), providing a future baseline context for assessments where

relevant, and makes reasonable worst case predictions of the likely change (**the impact – in terms of magnitude**) that may occur during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning. The predicted impact is considered in terms of key environmental and social aspects (**receptors**) present within the Site and surrounding area, and based on their sensitivity to change, the scale of the resulting change experienced by the receptor/resource (**the effect**) is then determined, along with a statement on whether the effect is significant or not in accordance with significance criteria.

5.7.2. Any mitigation measures required to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset adverse effects are then considered and assessed, with the resulting residual effect scale being determined as significant or not.

5.7.3. Effects resulting from the interaction and combination of different environmental residual (post-additional mitigation) effects from within the Proposed Development affecting a receptor (intra-project combined effects) and the combined residual (post-mitigation) effects of the Proposed Development and another project or projects on a single receptor/resource (inter-project cumulative effects) are also assessed. All the likely effects of the Proposed Development are reported within an **Environmental Statement** – this document (**ES Volume 1 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**) in addition to **ES Volume 2 [EN010149/APP/6.2], ES Volume 3 [EN010149/APP/6.3]**, **ES Volume 4 [EN010149/APP6.4]** and the **Non-Technical Summary (NTS) [EN010149/APP/6.5]**.

5.7.4. Each of the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**) follow the same structure for ease of reference, as outlined below:

- Introduction
- Legislative framework, planning policy and guidance
- Stakeholder engagement
- Approach to the assessment
- Environmental baseline
- Mitigation embedded into the design
- Assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation)
- Additional mitigation
- Assessment of residual effects (with additional mitigation)
- Opportunities for enhancement
- Monitoring requirements

- Difficulties and uncertainties
- Summary

Rochdale envelope and approach to flexibility

5.7.5. As outlined in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, a Rochdale Envelope approach with maximum parameters is being used for the purposes of this EIA. This approach has been taken to allow for flexibility to accommodate changes in technological advancements at the time of construction.

5.7.6. Establishing the maximum parameters enables a robust and cautious assessment of likely significant effects, based on reasonable worst case scenarios, to be undertaken within this ES for environmental factors where the nature of the assessment requires a specific level of detail, such as maximum heights, massing, or noise levels. Thus, the assessment parameters form the basis of the assessment. The assessment parameters are detailed in the works descriptions detailed within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and presented in full in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 3.1: Project Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.3]**, the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]**, **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4], Streets, Rights of Way and Access Plans [EN010149/APP/2.4]** and supported by the following figures located in **ES Volume 2 [EN010149/APP/6.2]**:

- **Figure 3.1: Zonal Masterplan**
- **Figure 3.2: Height Parameters**
- **Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters**
- **Figure 3.4: Indicative Construction and Operational Access Parameters**

5.7.7. The **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]** and the parameter figures listed above and presented in **ES Volume 2 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** show the spatial extent to which each element of the Proposed Development can be located. Each environmental factor has assessed the maximum parameters within the Rochdale Envelope as outlined in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1: Zonal Masterplan [EN010149/APP/6.2]** which aligns with the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3]** to determine the potential for significant effects. For some assessments contained within this ES, the worst case location for the element (for example, the closest point to the sensitive receptor), has been assessed. Further detail on the reasonable worst case approach for each environmental factor assessment is presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

5.7.8. The flexibility that has been retained in the DCO Application and how this has been approached for the assessment within this ES is set out in **Table 5.3** below.

Table 5.3 Flexibility retained in the DCO Application

Project element	Reasonable worst case scenario that has been assessed
Springwell Substation and Main Collector Compound	This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location of the Springwell Substation and Main Collector Compound as outlined in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1: Zonal Masterplan [EN010149/APP/6.2]**, unless stated in the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**).
Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)	This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location of the BESS as outlined in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1: Zonal Masterplan [EN010149/APP/6.2],** unless stated in the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**).
Satellite Collector Compounds	There is flexibility on the location of the Satellite Collector Compounds within the parameters outlined in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1: Zonal Masterplan [EN010149/APP/6.2].** This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the locations of the Satellite Collector Compounds as outlined in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1: Zonal Masterplan [EN010149/APP/6.2]**, unless stated in the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**).
Balance of Solar System (BoSS) – Inverters	The inverters which form part of the BoSS would comprise either string inverters which are placed underneath the Solar PV modules or central inverters which are

Project element	Reasonable worst case scenario that has been assessed
	sited at regular intervals amongst the Solar PV modules. Extensive modelling has been undertaken for the different types of inverters within solar generating fields in order to identify where either central or string inverters can be located to not cause unacceptable impacts at sensitive receptors. A hybrid option of both options is considered for the assessment and is embedded into the design. The detailed list of each field and inverter is provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 3.1: Project Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and will be secured by the detailed design requirement in **Schedule 2** of the **Draft DCO [EN010149/APP/3.1]**.
Balance of Solar System (BoSS) – Inverter Configuration	The location of the BoSS has not been defined. The BoSS would comprise locating the inverter, transformer and switchgear equipment, independently outdoors, or within an enclosed Inverter and Transformer Station (ITS) located throughout the Solar PV development fields as presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1: Zonal Masterplan [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. This assessment assumes the BoSS to be located independently outdoors as this is considered to be the worst case scenario, unless stated in the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**).
Construction Compounds	This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location of the construction compounds as identified in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.10: Primary and Secondary Construction Compounds [EN010149/APP/6.2],**

Project element	Reasonable worst case scenario that has been assessed
	unless stated in the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**).
Cable routes and internal tracks	This assessment has considered the indicative cable route as presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.9: Indicative Cable Crossing [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and access tracks as presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.14: Indicative Location of Internal Access Tracks [EN010149/APP/6.2].**
Foundation type	The foundation type for the Solar PV modules would be either driven or helical piles or concrete footings. This assessment assumes that piled foundations will be used (unless stated in the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**)) except within the identified mitigation and enhancement areas.
Solar PV module angle	The Solar PV modules would be sloped towards the south, at a fixed angle of 10 to 30 degrees from horizontal. This assessment assumes that all Solar PV modules would be sloped towards the south, at a fixed angle of 30 degrees, unless stated in the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**).
Depth of foundations	The depth of foundations for Solar PV modules would be 1.5m to 3m, depending on ground conditions. This assessment assumes that the foundation depth would be 3m as this is considered the reasonable worst case.

Defining the study area

5.7.9. Study areas have been defined individually for each environmental factor assessment, taking into account the geographic scope of the potential impacts relevant to that environmental factor and the information required to assess those impacts.

5.7.10. The proposed study areas for each environmental factor are described within **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

5.7.11. These study areas have also been used to inform the zone of influence for the purposes of assessing cumulative effects, as detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Cumulative effects [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

Establishing existing baseline conditions

5.7.12. The purpose of the EIA is to predict how environmental conditions may change as a result of the Proposed Development. The assessment of the magnitude of impact and then the resulting scale and nature of effect is undertaken against a reference condition, known as the baseline. The baseline represents the environmental condition of the Site and the surrounding area at the time of the assessment.

5.7.13. Baseline information (environmental characteristics and conditions) utilise desk-based existing information available at the time of the assessment, as well as new information either collected through surveys undertaken during the EIA process or additional information provided as part of the EIA Scoping and the consultation process. **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]** provide details of the current baseline conditions of the Site and surrounding area for each of the individual environmental factors.

5.7.14. For most technical disciplines, the baseline has been taken as the current conditions within the Site and the surrounding area, at the time of assessment (i.e. in the assessment year of 2024), although in defining the baseline conditions, data from preceding years may be used where the data remains relevant.

5.7.15. A summary of the baseline information is provided in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 2: Location of the Proposed Development [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The reports detailing the results of baseline studies or surveys are provided within **ES Volume 3 [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

Establishing future baseline conditions in the absence of the Proposed Development

5.7.16. Schedule 4(3) of the EIA Regulations [**Ref. 5-1**] requires consideration of the likely evolution of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) in the absence of the Proposed Development, as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge (the 'future baseline'). Whilst there are limitations to the predictions that can be made about natural baseline conditions at a future point in time, reasonable effort has been made to characterise the future baseline in the absence of the Proposed Development in the assessment for each environmental factor. In addition, some assessments require projections to account for future change, such as traffic growth within the assessment of likely significant effects associated with the Proposed Development.

5.7.17. **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]** provide a description of the future baseline scenario and the data sources that have informed it (where relevant) for each environmental factor.

Assessment scenarios

5.7.18. The assessment scenarios considered for the Proposed Development are as follows:

- **Existing baseline (without Proposed Development)** - Reported at the time that the baseline data has been collected.
- **Future baseline (without the Proposed Development)** – For comparison with the construction phase, operational (including maintenance) phase, and decommissioning phase. It should be noted that without the Proposed Development, the Site would continue to be occupied for agricultural use.
- **Construction of the Proposed Development** - As presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, construction is scheduled to commence in 2027 and last for approximately 48 months. Where relevant, environmental factor assessments have assessed the relevant 'worst case' construction scenario and where necessary, the relevant period or 'peak' of activity within the construction programme.
- **Operation (including maintenance) of the Proposed Development** – As presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, it is assumed that the Proposed Development will be operational and maintained for a duration of 40 years per phase.

- **Decommissioning of the Proposed Development (where appropriate)** - As presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, decommissioning activities will begin following the cessation of the operational Proposed Development and will take approximately 24 months.

5.7.19. The ES assumes that there will be a need to repair or replace components of the Proposed Development that fail or break during the operational (including maintenance) phase. It is anticipated that maintenance and servicing would include the inspection, removal, reconstruction, refurbishment or replacement of faulty or broken equipment, and adjusting and altering the components of the Proposed Development. These measures are set out in further detail within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and within the **Outline Operational Environmental Management Plan [EN010149/APP/7.10]**.

Assessment assumptions

5.7.20. Assumptions adopted in the evaluation of impacts for each environmental factor are reported in each of the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15**) **[EN010149/APP/6.1]**. However, these assumptions are often implicit and rely on expert judgement. The principal assumptions that have been made, and any limitations that have been identified, in undertaking the EIA are set out below:

- Baseline conditions have been established from a variety of sources, including historical data and are accurate at the time of writing;
- It is assumed that information received from third parties is accurate, complete and up to date;
- Where detailed information has not been available, reasonable assumptions have been made, and have been clearly set out, based on experience of developments of similar type and scale to enable assessment of likely significant effects; and
- Other existing development and/or approved developments will be implemented substantially in accordance with information that is publicly available and subject to the same regulatory regimes and good practice management controls as this Proposed Development.

Embedded (primary) mitigation measures

5.7.21. Mitigation can be relied on to reduce potential significant environmental effects from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and/or the

decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The sequential steps of the mitigation hierarchy are as follows:

- Avoidance: Take measures to avoid creating impacts from the outset;
- Minimisation: Measure taken to reduce the duration, intensity and extent of the impact if they cannot be avoided;
- Restoration: Measures taken to improve ecosystems following exposure to unavoidable impacts; and
- Offset: Measure taken to compensate for any residual impacts.

5.7.22. As part of the EIA, an iterative approach has been adopted where significant environmental effects have been avoided where possible in the first instance through design refinements and iterations as detailed further within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 4: Reasonable Alternatives Considered [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3].** This approach also informed the initial selection process of the Order Limits as detailed in the **Site Selection Report** which forms Appendix 1 to the **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]**. Where adverse environmental effects were identified through early assessment work, opportunities to reduce or control impacts and effects have been identified and incorporated into the Proposed Development. In accordance with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's (IEMA) 'Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development' **[Ref. 5-13]**, this is known as 'primary' mitigation (hereafter referred to as 'embedded' mitigation). In addition, opportunities to enhance the beneficial environmental effects of the Proposed Development have also been sought and incorporated into the Proposed Development.

5.7.23. The Proposed Development has been through three stages of design development which has resulted in the identification of mitigation measures that have been embedded into the design and layout of the Proposed Development.

5.7.24. Project Principles have been developed through consultation and the various stages of masterplan iteration to provide the design narrative and design policy response, as detailed in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**.

5.7.25. The Project Principles have been distilled into Design Commitments, which will secure design mitigation and account for embedded mitigation identified through the EIA process. These are secured within the **Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]** and in the detailed design requirement in **Schedule 2** of the **Draft DCO [EN010149/APP/3.1].** The parameters for the Proposed Development are detailed in **ES Volume 3,**

Appendix 3.1: Project Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.3] and within the **Works Plans [EN010149/APP/2.3].**

5.7.26. For the purposes of this ES, embedded (primary) mitigation measures will form part of the design of the Proposed Development subject of the application for consent.

5.7.27. The embedded (primary) mitigation measures relevant to each environmental factor are detailed in **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The mechanism by which the measures are to be secured and implemented and the party responsible for their delivery is outlined within **ES Volume 3, Chapter 17: Mitigation Schedule [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

Assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation)

5.7.28. The assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation) presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]** is a general commentary of the likely effects that could occur as a result of the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development, taking account of the embedded (primary) mitigation that forms part of the Proposed Development being assessed, but in the absence of any additional mitigation measures. This general commentary sets the scene for the potential need (or otherwise) for additional mitigation measures to be considered.

5.7.29. The assessment criteria discussed below has not been applied to the assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation).

Additional (secondary and tertiary) mitigation measures and monitoring

5.7.30. In accordance with the IEMA 'Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development' **[Ref. 5-13]**, additional (secondary and tertiary) mitigation describes actions that will require further activity in order to achieve the anticipated outcome, and measures that will be required regardless of any EIA assessment, as it is imposed, for example, as a result of legislative requirements and/or standard sectoral practices. Examples of secondary mitigation include additional detailed design, for example to comply with proposed lighting limits or developing a travel plan for the Proposed Development. Examples of tertiary mitigation include considerate contractor's practices that manage activities which have potential nuisance effect (i.e. through the implementation of a Construction Environmental Management Plan).

5.7.31. Additional mitigation measures include the implementation of management plans as outlined below:

- Construction Environmental Management Plan;
- Operational Environmental Management Plan;
- Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan;
- Landscape and Ecological Management Plan;
- Construction Traffic Management Plan;
- Soil Management Plan;
- Public Rights of Way and Permissive Path Management Plan;
- Battery Safety Management Plan; and
- Employment, Skills and Supply Chain Plan.

5.7.32. The above management plans are submitted in outline in support of the DCO Application.

5.7.33. Where likely significant adverse effects have been identified in the assessment, measures to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment are described. In accordance with the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**, monitoring should be proposed (where appropriate) where significant adverse residual effects remain. In some cases, for instance where there is uncertainty over a residual effect, it may also be appropriate to implement monitoring.

5.7.34. Additional (secondary and tertiary) mitigation and monitoring measures are set out within **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The mechanism by which the measures are to be secured and implemented and the party responsible for their delivery is outlined within the mitigation schedule which is presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 17: Mitigation Schedule [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

Assessment of residual effects (with additional mitigation)

5.7.35. The EIA process requires the identification of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development. The general approach to the determining the assessment of likely significant effects is detailed further below.

5.7.36. However, it should be noted that not all environmental factor assessments follow this approach. Where this is the case, that is explained within the relevant environmental factor assessment chapter (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15) [EN010149/APP/6.1]**).

Assessment criteria

5.7.37. The following criteria have been taken into account when determining significance for the purposes of the ES:

- The receptors/resources (natural and human) that would be affected and the pathways for such effects;
- The geographic importance, sensitivity or value of receptors/resources;
- The duration (short-term, medium-term or long-term); permanence (permanent or temporary) and changes in significance (increase or decrease);
- Reversibility - e.g. is the change reversible or irreversible, permanent or temporary;
- Environmental and health standards (e.g. local air quality standards) being threatened; and
- Feasibility and mechanisms for delivering mitigating measures, e.g. is there evidence of the ability to legally deliver the environmental assumptions which are the basis for the assessment.

5.7.38. The method for assessing the significance of effects varies between environmental factors and is derived from a variety of legislative requirements, technical guidance and the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**, but in principle, this is based on the environmental sensitivity (or value/importance) of a receptor/resource that could be affected by the Proposed Development and the magnitude of change from the baseline conditions in order to derive the resultant effect.

Sensitivity/value/importance of receptors

5.7.39. Within **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, the ES has addressed the sensitive receptors associated with each environmental factor, considering their respective sensitivity/value/importance. This assessment is based on industry standards and guidance, quantifiable data, existing designations, and professional judgement where applicable and available.

Magnitude of impact (change)

5.7.40. The magnitude of impact or change is predicted as a deviation from the established baseline conditions, as a result of the construction, operation (including maintenance) and/or decommissioning of the Proposed Development. The magnitude of these impacts/changes is defined within **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, and has been determined, where available and appropriate, using quantifiable data,

applicable national and international standards or limits and professional judgement.

5.7.41. The magnitude of impact/change identified is based on the peak potential magnitude of impact/change, representing the greatest likely magnitude of impact/change anticipated for a sensitive receptor (existing or proposed).

Significance of effects

5.7.42. The approach to assessing and assigning significance to an environmental effect is derived from a variety of sources including legislative requirements, topic-specific guidance, standards and codes of practice, the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**, advice from statutory consultees and other stakeholders and the expert judgement of the team undertaking the EIA.

5.7.43. Determining the significance of effects has been undertaken using accepted industry standards and guidance and professional judgements that underpin the attribution of significance. Each effect has been assessed against the sensitivity/value/importance of the receptor and the magnitude of impact/change. For most environmental factor assessments, where more than one effect classification exists for any given scenario (i.e. slight or moderate), professional judgement is used to assign a single effect classification.

5.7.44. Unless otherwise stated in the environmental factor assessment chapters (**ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15**) **[EN010149/APP/6.1]**, effects that are classified as moderate or above are considered to be significant. Effects classified as slight or below are considered to be not significant.

5.7.45. Tables summarising the potential effects associated with each environmental factor, required mitigation measures and residual effects are provided at the end of each environmental factor assessment chapter (**ES Volume 1, Chapter 6 to 15**) **[EN010149/APP/6.1]**. The tables provide a clear distinction of the type of effect:

- Beneficial or adverse
- Permanent or temporary;
- Direct or indirect;
- Short, medium or long-term;
- Secondary, cumulative or transboundary; and
- Significant or not significant.

5.8. Opportunities for environmental enhancement

5.8.1. Where the Applicant considers that opportunities for environmental enhancement exist, these are detailed within **ES Volume 1, Chapters 6 to 15 [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. However, in accordance with the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**, any enhancement opportunities proposed have not been taken account of within the respective environmental factor assessments.

5.8.2. Opportunities for environmental enhancement are also detailed in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]**.

5.9. Cumulative effects

5.9.1. The approach taken to the assessment of cumulative effects is reported in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

5.10. Coordinated assessment with habitat regulations assessment and water framework directive

5.10.1. Whilst the over-arching objectives of EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment are similar, the scope, level of detail and terminology used varies. As such, these processes have been undertaken separately. However, the scope presented within this ES has been developed to ensure that the needs of these processes have been considered to ensure a coordinated assessment compliant with Regulation 26 of the EIA Regulations **[Ref. 5-1]**.

5.10.2. The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 **[Ref. 5-14]** requires consenting authorities to decide whether or not a project may have a significant effect on a European designated site. This process is known as Habitats Regulations Assessment. The overarching aim of Habitats Regulations Assessment is to determine, in view of a site's conservation objectives and qualifying interests, whether a plan, either in isolation and/or in-combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European designated site. A **No Significant Effects Report [EN010149/APP/7.17]** has been produced which supports the DCO Application.

5.10.3. The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 **[Ref. 5-15]** aims to protect and enhance the quality of water in England and Wales. It has been agreed with the Environment Agency that Water Framework Directive Scoping and Assessment is not required for the Proposed Development as the Proposed Development will not have a significant effect on the Metheringham Beck Water Framework Directive classified waterbody.

Further detail is included within **ES Volume 1, Chapter 15: Water [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

5.11. References

- **Ref. 5-1** The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available online: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents/made
- **Ref. 5-2** The Planning Inspectorate. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on EIA Notification and Consultation (2024). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-eia-notification-and-consultation
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- **Ref. 5-4** The Planning Inspectorate. Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements (2020). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-seven-environmental-impact-assessment-process-preliminary-environmental-information-an
- **Ref. 5-5** The Planning Inspectorate. Advice Note Nine: Rochdale Envelope (2018). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-nine-rochdale-envelope
- **Ref. 5-6** The Planning Inspectorate. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Habitats Regulations Assessments (2024). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-note-ten-habitats-regulations-assessment-relevant-to-nationally-significant-infrastructure-pr
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- **Ref. 5-10 Ministry of** , Housing Communities and Local Government. Planning Act 2008: Pre-application stage for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (30 April 2024). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-act-2008-pre-application-stage-for-nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects
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- **Ref 5-12** Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development (2024). Available online: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-technical-advice-page-for-scoping-solar-development
- **Ref. 5-13** Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2015) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to Shaping Quality Development. Available online: https://www.iaia.org/pdf/wab/IEMA%20Guidance%20Documents%20EIA%20Guide%20to%20Shaping%20Quality%20Development%20V6.pdf
- **Ref. 5-14** The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Available online: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents/made
- **Ref. 5-15** The Water Framework Directive 2017. Available online: The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017. Available online: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents

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