

The Great Grid Upgrade

Eastern Green Link 5 (EGL 5)

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 2

Part 1

Appendix 2.A Regulatory and Planning Context

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2.A Regulatory and Planning Context

2.A.1 Overview

2.A.1.1 This appendix presents the relevant legislation and policy against which the Development Consent Order (DCO) application will be assessed. Details of the key policies and legislation relevant to the environmental aspect chapters in **Volume 1, Part 2 English Onshore Scheme, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme and Part 4 Project Wide Scheme** of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) are presented in the sections below.

2.A.2 English Onshore Scheme

2.A.2.1 This section identifies the relevant legislation, national and local policy and technical guidance which has informed the scope of the environmental aspect chapters for the English Onshore Scheme.

Legislation

2.A.2.2 A summary of the key legislation considered in, but not limited to, the scope of the onshore environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 2.A-1**.

Table 2.A-1 Legislation relevant to the onshore environmental aspect chapters

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) ('Habitats Regulations')	<p>The objective is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora. Regulations provide for the designation and protection of European sites (those part of the national site network), the protection of European protected species, and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites.</p> <p>Following the UK's exit from the European Union (EU), 'The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)' were enacted and resulted in amendments to the Habitats Regulations. Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the UK no longer form part of the European Union's Natura (2000) ecological network. The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019) created a national site network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK. The national site network includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing SACs and SPAs; and	Biodiversity

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New SACs and SPAs designated under these Regulations. <p>Any references to Natura 2000 in the 2017 Regulations and in guidance now refers to the new national site network.</p> <p>It is also a matter of government policy (paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)) that Ramsar sites, proposed Ramsar sites, potential SPA (pSPA) and possible SAC (pSAC) are also considered in the same way as SACs, SPAs and candidate SACs (cSACs).</p>	
Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) (1981) (as amended)	Protected birds, animals and plants are listed under Schedules 1, 5 and 8 respectively of the WCA (1981) (as amended). Invasive, non-native species are also listed under Schedule 9.	Biodiversity
Natural Environment Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006) (as amended)	Species and Habitats of Principal Importance in England and Wales are listed under Section 41 and Section 42 respectively of the NERC Act (2006). Section 41 and 42 lists species that are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and should be used to guide decision-makers such as local and regional authorities when implementing their duty to have regard for the conservation of biodiversity in the exercise of their normal functions – as required under Section 40 of the NERC Act (2006).	Biodiversity
Environment Act (2021)	<p>The Environment Act (2021) has two main functions: to give a legal framework for environmental governance in the UK, and to bring in measures for improvement of the environment in relation to waste, resource efficiency, air quality, water, nature and biodiversity, and conservation. This Act makes a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) a statutory requirement for developments with certain exclusions applying.</p> <p>The act also strengthens the biodiversity duty under the NERC Act for public authorities to enhance biodiversity, rather than just conserve it.</p> <p>The Act also serves to amend the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), enabling licensed to be granted for a new statutory licensing purpose, i.e. reasons of overriding public interest. These amendments to the Wildlife and Countryside Act also require that a wild animal licence may only be granted in England where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no other satisfactory solution, and 	Biodiversity

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant of the licence is not detrimental to the survival of any population of the species of animal or plant to which the licence relates. 	
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) Part 5 brings together measures to strengthen and update the existing regulatory and long-term planning framework for water, helping to reduce environmental risks, including to water quality and land drainage. It also strengthens the regulation of water and sewerage undertakers by the newly established Office for Environmental Protection.</p>	Water Environment
	<p>The Environment Act (2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to protect and enhance the natural environment, including groundwater resources. Provides a framework for the sustainable management of water resources, considering the needs of the environment and society Encourages the implementation of measures to prevent pollution and promote the restoration of damaged environments, including groundwater. Facilitates the integration of environmental considerations into decision-making processes and policies. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) creates the legislative framework by which statutory air quality targets are set by reference to plans such as the Environmental Improvement Plan (2024).</p>	Air Quality
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) outlines targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment. Part 1 (Environmental Targets) Regulation 1 (1) states: ‘<i>The Secretary of State may by regulations set long-term targets in respect of any matter which relates to (a) the natural environment, or (b) people’s enjoyment of the natural environment</i>’.</p>	Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) sets out a series of long-term targets which relate to the natural environment and people’s enjoyment of the natural environment, under Part 1 Regulation 1. Targets for improving air quality, water quality, biodiversity and resource efficiency are required to be met.</p>	Health and Wellbeing
	<p>The Environment Act (2021) outlines the targets to protect and improve the quality of environment for the next 15 years.</p>	

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (2019)	For animal species under this order, it is an offence to release or allow them to escape into the wild, and for plant species it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause them to grow in the wild.	Biodiversity
Protection of Badgers Act (1992)	It is an offence to wilfully take, kill, injure, possess or ill-treat a badger. Under the Protection of Badgers Act (1992) their setts are protected against intentional or reckless interference. Sett interference includes damaging or destroying a sett, obstructing access to any part of the sett, or disturbance of a badger whilst it is occupying a sett. The Protection of Badgers Act (1992) defines a badger sett as ‘any structure or place, which displays signs indicating the current use by a badger’ and statutory bodies take this definition to include seasonally used setts that are not occupied but that show sign of recent use by badgers.	Biodiversity
The Hedgerow Regulations (1997)	<p>Under ‘The Hedgerows Regulations’, it is an offence to remove a hedgerow (as defined within the Regulations) without obtaining local planning authority (LPA) permission. Should the hedgerow be deemed unimportant according to the criteria within the Regulations, the LPA is obliged to allow removal. However, if the hedgerow qualifies as ‘Important’ under the Regulations, the LPA must decide whether the reasons for removal justify the loss of an ‘Important Hedgerow’, with a presumption for retention.</p> <p>These regulations set out criteria to be used to determine the importance of hedgerows and protect important hedgerows from removal. Selection criteria include heritage-based considerations.</p> <p>Hedgerows protected under these Regulations that may be relevant to the Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) process, specifically the assessment of impacts upon landscape elements and the development of design and control measures and/or optional additional mitigation.</p>	Biodiversity
Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) (‘the CRoW Act’)	The CRoW Act has amended the WCA in England and Wales, strengthening the protection afforded to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and the legal protection for threatened species. It adds the word ‘reckless’ to the wording of the offences listed under Section 9(4) of the WCA. This alteration makes it an offence to recklessly commit an offence, where previously an offence had to be intentional to result in a breach of legislation.	Biodiversity

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<p>The CROW Act makes provision for, and aims to protect, public access to the countryside. It extends the right of public access, including to woodlands, the Green Belt, waters and grasslands, and for connectivity purposes.</p>	<p>Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism</p>
<p>Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (1975)</p>	<p>This Act covers regulation of fisheries in England and Wales and includes legislation that covers the introduction of polluting effluents, the obstruction of fish passage (screens, dams, weirs, culverts etc), illegal means of fishing, permitted times of legal fishing and fishing licencing (which covers electric fishing).</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p>
<p>The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations (2009)</p>	<p>The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations (2009) implement Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 of the Council of the European Union (Ref 6.12), which required Member States to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel.</p> <p>The Regulations give powers to the regulators (the Environment Agency in England) to implement recovery measures in all freshwater and estuarine waters. The aim of the regulations is to achieve 40 per cent escapement of adult eels relative to escapement levels under pristine conditions. The measures, as set out in the legislation, by which this is to be achieved is to reduce fishing pressures, improve access and habitat quality and reduce the impact of impingement and entrainment.</p>	<p>Biodiversity</p>
<p>Ancient Monument and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)</p>	<p>This Act sets out that sites considered to be of national importance are required to be compiled in a Schedule of Monuments. These sites are accorded statutory protection. The Act sets out conditions whereby Scheduled Monument Consent is required. This Act also provides for the designation of Areas of Archaeological Interest in which statutory provisions for access to construction sites for carrying out archaeological works apply.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)</p>	<p>The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990) covers the registration of listed buildings (buildings that are seen to be of special architectural or historic interest) and the designation of conservation areas (areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance). It sets out the conditions under which a listed building consent would be required. It is outlined in Sections 66 and Section 72 the duties of Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to give great weight to the desirability of preserving listed buildings and their settings and the character of conservation areas in planning</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<p>decisions. The Section 66 and Section 72 duties are superseded in applications under the Planning Act (2008) by equivalent provisions in the Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations (2010) (see below).</p>	
<p>Historic Buildings and Monuments Act (1953)</p>	<p>Under section 8C of the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act (1953), Historic England compiles a register of gardens and other land situated in England and appearing to them to be of special historic interest.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations (2010)</p>	<p>These regulations require decision-makers to have regard to the desirability of preserving a Scheduled Monument or its setting; listed buildings, any features which contribute to their special interest and their settings and to have regard for the desirability of preserving the character and appearance of conservation areas. These duties supersede sections 66 and 72 of the Planning Act (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (1990) in determining DCO applications.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>Treasure Act (1996)</p>	<p>This Act defines what constitutes ‘treasure’. Any find of ‘treasure’ must be reported to the local Coroner.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>Treasure (Designation) Order (2002)</p>	<p>This Order amends the statutory definition of ‘treasure’.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>The Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order (2023)</p>	<p>This Order amends the Treasure (Designation) Order (2002) to include an additional class of objects within the definition of treasure in section 1(1) of the Treasure Act (1996) (c. 24), and to exclude two classes of objects from that definition.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>Burial Act (1857)</p>	<p>This Act states that it is generally an offence to remove human remains from a place of burial without a licence from the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>Protection of Military Remains Act (1986)</p>	<p>This Act sets out specific protections for aircraft which have crashed or vessels which have sunk or been stranded whilst in military service. It sets out a general prohibition on any disturbance or removal of such remains without a licence granted by the Secretary of State.</p>	<p>Cultural Heritage</p>
<p>The European Landscape Convention (ELC)</p>	<p>A Council of Europe initiative that provides a broad framework for landscape planning and management across all member states including the UK, signed by the UK government in 2006 and introduced in March 2007. The status of this convention is not affected by Brexit. These commitments are implemented by existing domestic policy and legislation rather than through any</p>	<p>Landscape and Visual Amenity</p>

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<p>ELC specific framework. The ELC defines landscape as, ‘an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors’ and is committed to several core principles and actions.</p>	
<p>Levelling up and Regeneration Act 2023</p>	<p>The rebranding of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) to National Landscapes requires public bodies to 'seek to further' the purpose of AONBs in 'conserving and enhancing natural beauty,' replacing the previous obligation to merely 'have regard' for these aims.</p>	<p>Landscape and Visual Amenity</p>
<p>The Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2017)</p>	<p>The 2017 Regulations place a general duty on the Water Secretary of State (SoS), the Welsh Ministers, the Environment Agency, and Natural Resources Wales to exercise their ‘relevant functions’ so as to secure compliance with the WFD (Regulation 3).</p> <p>The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a framework for managing the water environment in the UK, aiming to achieve good ecological and chemical status of water bodies, including groundwater. • Sets out provisions for the protection and improvement of groundwater quality and quantity, including measures to prevent pollution and ensure sustainable water resource management. • Requires the development and implementation of river basin management plans, which consider the protection and restoration of groundwater. • Promotes the involvement of stakeholders and public participation in water management decision-making processes. 	<p>Water Environment Geology and Hydrogeology</p>
<p>Flood and Water Management Act (2010)</p>	<p>The Act created the role of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to take responsibility for leading the co-ordination of local flood risk management in their areas. In accordance with the Act the Environment Agency is responsible for the management of risks associated with main rivers, the sea and reservoirs; and the LLFAs are responsible for the management of risks associated with local sources of flooding such as ordinary watercourses, surface water and groundwater.</p>	<p>Water Environment</p>
<p>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales)</p>	<p>Under these Regulations it is an offence to cause or knowingly permit a water discharge activity, unless complying with an exemption or an Environmental Permit</p>	<p>Water Environment</p>

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
(Amendment) Regulations (2018)	obtained from the Environment Agency. The Regulations also manage works in, under, or near a main river, to ensure no detrimental impacts on these watercourses.	
The Land Drainage Act (1991) together with the Water Resources Act (1991)	Allows for the Environment Agency to prevent the obstruction of any main river through the construction of flow control structures, culverts or any other structure in a main river. Where culverting or other works have a potential to affect the flow regime on ordinary watercourses, consent is required from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) which provides a more comprehensive flood risk management framework for people, homes and businesses.	Water Environment
Environmental Protection Act (EPA) (1990)	<p>The EPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes provisions for preventing and controlling pollution to protect water sources, including groundwater. • Regulates activities that may have an impact on groundwater quality, such as waste management and industrial processes. • Provides powers to regulators for monitoring and enforcing compliance with groundwater protection standards. • Requires the identification and remediation of contaminated land to prevent pollution of groundwater. <p>The EPA sets out: the definition of statutory nuisance due to noise; the duty on local authorities to investigate and abate nuisance; and defence against abatement because ‘<i>best practicable means</i>’ has been employed to minimise noise (including vibration) for business premises. The EPA sets out the means for a person affected by noise nuisance to seek abatement through the courts.</p> <p>The Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act sets out an extension of powers to abate noise nuisance to a wider range of sources than the EPA.</p> <p>Part III of the Environmental Protection Act (1990) provides legislation around statutory nuisance, which applies to dust.</p>	Geology and Hydrogeology
Environmental Protection Act	The overarching objectives of the regime are:	Noise and Vibration
		Air Quality
Environmental Protection Act	The overarching objectives of the regime are:	Geology and Hydrogeology

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
(EPA) (1990) Part IIA	<p>(a) To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.</p> <p>(b) To seek to ensure that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use.</p> <p>(c) To ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and compatible with the principles of sustainable development.</p>	
The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations (2006)	<p>The Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Part IIA of the EPA. • Focuses on the identification and remediation of contaminated land, including the protection of groundwater from contamination. • Sets out procedures and standards for assessing and managing contaminated land to prevent or reduce risks to human health and the environment. • Requires the investigation and remediation of significant pollution incidents that pose a threat to groundwater quality. • Establishes responsibilities for identifying and remediating historical contamination that may impact groundwater. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations (2009)	<p>The Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implements the EU Groundwater Directive to protect and manage groundwater resources in England and Wales. • Sets standards and measures for preventing and reducing pollution of groundwater, including the control of hazardous substances. • Requires the monitoring and reporting of groundwater quality to assess compliance with quality standards. • Facilitates the development and implementation of programs of measures to achieve good groundwater status and prevent deterioration. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
Environmental Damage Regulations (2009)	<p>The Environmental Damage Regulations:</p>	Geology and Hydrogeology

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
The Water Act (2014)	<p>The Water Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places liability on operators to prevent and remedy environmental damage, including damage to groundwater. Requires operators engaged in activities with a significant risk of causing environmental damage to have financial mechanisms in place to cover potential liabilities. Implements the ‘polluter pays’ principle, holding operators responsible for the costs of preventive and remedial measures in case of environmental damage to groundwater. Encourages the restoration of affected groundwater to its original state or as close as possible, ensuring the long-term protection and sustainable use of this resource. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
The Water Resources Act (1991)	<p>The Water Resources Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulates the abstraction and impounding of water, including groundwater, to prevent overexploitation and ensure sustainable water resource management. Establishes licensing requirements and permits for water abstraction activities to protect groundwater quantity and quality. Sets out provisions for controlling pollution and contamination of groundwater to safeguard its ecological and human health significance. 	Geology and Hydrogeology

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes the implementation of water resource management plans to balance water supply needs while considering the protection of groundwater resources. 	
The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations (2016)	<p>The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires operators of certain activities, including those related to waste management and industrial processes, to obtain environmental permits that address the protection of groundwater. Specifies measures to prevent or control pollution of groundwater, including stringent storage and handling requirements for hazardous substances. Mandates monitoring and reporting obligations to ensure compliance with groundwater protection standards and facilitate early detection of potential contamination incidents. Enables regulatory authorities to take enforcement action, including imposing penalties, for non-compliance with the regulations' groundwater protection requirements. 	Geology and Hydrogeology
The Agricultural Land (Removal of Surface Soil) Act (1953)	This Act establishes an offense for removing surface soil from land under specific conditions, and addresses related matters.	Agriculture and Soils
The Highways Act (1980)	The Highways Act (1980) sets out the requirements pertaining to delivering highways infrastructure, managing existing highways and managing highway activity including off site highway works, for example, the creation of temporary site access.	Traffic and Transport
New Roads and Street Works Act (1991)	The New Roads and Street Works Act (1991) provides a legislative framework for street works by undertakers and works for road purposes to the extent that these must be coordinated by street authorities.	Traffic and Transport
Traffic Management Act (2004)	The Traffic Management Act (2004) provides powers to tackle congestion and disruption on the road network and requires local authorities, where possible, to ensure that traffic can move quickly and freely on their roads.	Traffic and Transport
The Control of Pollution Act (1974) (particularly	Sets out the Section 60 notice which local authorities can serve so as to impose requirements upon relevant construction activities with regard to the control of noise.	Noise and Vibration

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
Sections 60 and 61) (CoPA)	<p>Under Section 61 of the CoPA, the party that intends to carry out works to which Section 60 applies may apply to the local authority for consent and ‘<i>an application under this section shall contain particulars of –</i></p> <p><i>The works, and method by which they are to be carried out; and</i></p> <p><i>The steps proposed to be taken to minimise noise resulting from the works’.</i></p>	
Directive 2008/50/EC on Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe	<p>This sets legally binding limits for concentrations of specific air pollutants. It merges, consolidates and replaces the majority of previous EU air quality legislation, and incorporates the Fourth Daughter Directive. While the UK has now left the EU, the Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) (as amended) which implement the Directive still apply in UK legislation as ‘retained EU law’.</p>	Air Quality
The Air Quality (Amendment Domestic Regulations) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)	<p>These regulations amend the Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) to reflect the UK’s departure from the EU.</p>	Air Quality
The Air Quality (England) Regulations (2000)	<p>The Air Quality (England) Regulations (2000) set national air quality objective levels for local authorities to meet in England.</p>	Air Quality
The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations (2002)	<p>The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations (2002) set national air quality objective levels for local authorities to meet in England.</p>	Air Quality
Part IV of the Environment Act (1995)	<p>The Environment Act (1995) contains provisions for protecting air quality in the UK and for local air quality management. It requires the UK Government to produce a national Air Quality Strategy (AQS) which contains standards, objectives and measures for improving ambient air quality, and defines Local Air Quality Management (LAQM). It introduced an obligation on local authorities to issue, where the air quality standards are not being met, an order designating an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA).</p>	Air Quality
Environment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Air Quality Standards Regulations)	<p>Regulation 2 of the Environment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Air Quality Standards Regulations) (2020) updated the Air Quality Standards Regulations (2010) to include a</p>	Air Quality

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
Exit) Regulations (2020)	Limit Value of 20 µg/m ³ for PM _{2.5} ¹ from 2020. The Limit Values for nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) and PM ₁₀ ² remained the same concentration levels as the relevant AQS objectives.	
The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations (2023)	The legislation sets out targets to reduce concentrations of PM _{2.5} to be equal to or less than 10 µg/m ³ by 2040. It also states that exposure to PM _{2.5} must be reduced by at least 35% by 2040.	Air Quality
Equality Act, (2010)	The Equality Act outlines legislation to protect people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society, addressing the key protected characteristics of: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.	Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism Health and Wellbeing
Localism (2011)	Act, The Localism Act gives rights and powers to both communities and individuals. It is relevant in the context of the Project due to its proximity to recreational facilities.	Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism
Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (2017)	Under the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations, a number of topics are required to be assessed. This includes human health, with a description of the factors likely to be significantly affected by the development and a description of the likely significant effects.	All aspects assessed for the English Onshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 2 English Onshore Scheme

Planning Policy

2.A.2.3 A summary of the planning policies at both a national and local level relevant to the scope of the onshore environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 2.A-2** and **Table 2.A-3**.

¹ particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

² particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter.

Table 2.A-2 National planning policy relevant to the onshore environmental aspect chapters

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (6 January 2025)		
Section 4.6 and Biodiversity Net Gain	<p><i>4.6 ‘Energy Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) proposals, whether onshore or offshore, should seek opportunities to contribute to and enhance the natural environment by providing net gains for biodiversity, and the wider environment where possible.</i></p>	Biodiversity
Paragraphs 4.6.6 - 4.6.11, 4.6.13 & 4.6.15.	<p><i>In England applicants for onshore elements of any development are encouraged to use the latest version of the & biodiversity metric to calculate their biodiversity baseline and present planned biodiversity net gain outcomes. This calculation data should be presented in full as part of their application.’</i></p> <p><i>Biodiversity net gain should be applied after compliance with the mitigation hierarchy and does not change or replace existing environmental obligations.</i></p> <p><i>Biodiversity net gain can be delivered onsite or wholly or partially offsite. We encourage details of any off-site delivery of biodiversity net gain to be set out within the application for development consent...</i></p> <p><i>In addition to delivering biodiversity net gain, developments may also deliver wider environmental gains and benefits to communities relevant to the local area, and to national policy priorities, such as:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>reductions in GHG emissions</i> - <i>reduced flood risk</i> - <i>improvements to air, water or soil quality</i> - <i>climate adaptation</i> - <i>landscape enhancement</i> - <i>increased access to natural greenspace, and/or</i> - <i>the enhancement, expansion or provision of trees and woodlands</i> <p><i>Applications for development consent should be accompanied by a statement demonstrating how opportunities for delivering wider environmental net gains have been considered, and where appropriate, incorporated into proposals as part of good design (including any relevant operational aspects) of the project.’</i></p>	Biodiversity
Section 5.4 Biodiversity	<p><i>5.4 ‘Where the development is subject to EIA, the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on</i></p>	Biodiversity

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
and Geological Conservation Paragraphs 5.4.18 – 5.23, 5.4.26, 5.43 & 5.35.	<p><i>internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological conservation importance, on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity, including irreplaceable habitats...'</i></p> <p><i>'The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity conservation interests.</i></p> <p><i>Applicants should also consider wider ecosystem services and natural capital benefits when designing enhancement measures.'</i></p> <p><i>As set out in Section 4.7, the design process should embed opportunities for nature inclusive design. Energy infrastructure projects have the potential to deliver significant benefits and enhancements beyond Biodiversity Net Gain, which result in wider environmental gains (see Section 4.6 on Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain). The scope of potential gains will be dependent on the type, scale, and location of each project.</i></p> <p><i>The design of energy NSIP proposals will need to consider the movement of mobile/migratory species such as birds, fish and marine and terrestrial mammals and their potential to interact with infrastructure. As energy infrastructure could occur anywhere within England and Wales, both inland and onshore and offshore, the potential to affect mobile and migratory species across the UK and more widely across Europe (transboundary effects) requires consideration, depending on the location of development. Applicants should consider relevant plan policies in marine plans in England.</i></p>	
	<p>Applicant assessment – Habitats Regulations</p>	
	<p><i>The applicant should seek the advice of the appropriate SNCB and provide the Secretary of State with such information as the Secretary of State may reasonably require, to determine whether an HRA Appropriate Assessment is required. Applicants can request and agree 'Evidence Plans' with SNCBs, which is a way to record upfront the information the applicant needs to supply with its application, so that the HRA can be efficiently carried out. If an AA is required, the applicant must provide the Secretary of State with such information as may reasonably be required to enable the Secretary of State to conduct the AA. This should include information on any mitigation measures that are proposed to minimise or avoid likely significant effects.</i></p>	
	<p>Applicant assessment – Protection and enhancement of habitats and species</p>	

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<p><i>Applicants should consider any reasonable opportunities to maximise the restoration, creation, and enhancement of wider biodiversity, and the protection and restoration of the ability of habitats to store or sequester carbon as set out under Section 4.6.</i></p> <p><i>Consideration should be given to improvements to, and impacts on, habitats and species in, around and beyond developments, for wider ecosystem services and natural capital benefits, beyond those under protection and identified as being of principal importance. This may include considerations and opportunities identified through Local Nature Recovery Strategies, and national goals and targets set through the Environment Act 2021 and the Environmental Improvement Plan.'</i></p>	
Section 5.9 – Historic Environment Paragraphs 5.9.13, 5.9.17 5.9.21.	<p><i>‘Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or the available evidence suggests it has the potential to include, heritage assets with an archaeological interest, the applicant should carry out appropriate desk-based assessment and, where such desk-based research is insufficient to properly assess the interest, a field evaluation. Where proposed development will affect the setting of a heritage asset, accurate representative visualisations may be necessary to explain the impact</i></p> <p><i>The applicant should ensure that the extent of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of any heritage assets affected can be adequately understood from the application and supporting documents. Studies will be required on those heritage assets affected by noise, vibration, light and indirect impacts, the extent and detail of these studies will be proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset affected.</i></p> <p><i>The applicant is encouraged, where opportunities exist, to prepare proposals which can make a positive contribution to the historic environment, and to consider how their scheme takes account of the significance of heritage assets affected. This can include, where possible:</i></p> <p><i>Enhancing, through a range of measures such a sensitive design, the significance of heritage assets or setting affected;</i></p> <p><i>Considering where required the development of archive capacity which could deliver significant public benefits; and</i></p> <p><i>Considering how visual or noise impacts can affect heritage assets, and whether there may be opportunities to enhance access to, or interpretation, understanding and appreciation of, the heritage assets affected by the scheme.’</i></p>	Cultural Heritage

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Section 5.10 - Landscape and Visual Paragraph 5.10.5	<i>‘Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape, but there may also be beneficial landscape character impacts arising from mitigation.’</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 5.10. Paragraph 5.10.6	<i>‘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.’</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 5.10. Paragraph 5.10.7	<i>‘National Parks, the Broads and [Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty] AONBs have been confirmed by the government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and natural beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes. Projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. For development proposals located within designated landscapes the Secretary of State should be satisfied that measures which seek to further the purposes of the designation are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development.’</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 5.10. Paragraph 5.10.8	<i>‘The duty to seek to further the purposes of nationally designated landscapes also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. In these locations, projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. The Secretary of State should be satisfied that measures which seek to further the purposes of the designation are sufficient, appropriate and proportionate to the type and scale of the development.’</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 5.10. Paragraph 5.10.19	<i>‘The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised and incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme.’</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 5.10. Paragraph 5.10.20	<i>‘The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<i>Broads or an AONBs the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas’.</i>	
Section 5.10. Paragraph 5.10.21	Generic considerations to be given to landscape and visual amenity impacts. It states <i>‘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.’</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 5.10. Paragraph 5.10.32	<p><i>‘When considering applications for development within National Parks, the Broads and AONBs the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty should be given substantial weight by the Secretary of State in deciding on applications for development consent in these areas. The Secretary of State may grant development consent in these areas in exceptional circumstances. Such development should be demonstrated to be in the public interest and consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• the need for the development, including in terms of national considerations, and the impact of consenting or not consenting it upon the local economy;</i> <i>• the cost of, and scope for, developing all or part of the development elsewhere outside the designated area or meeting the need for it in some other way, taking account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.3; and</i> <i>• any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated.’</i> 	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 5.8- Flood Risk Paragraph 5.8.13	<p><i>‘A site-specific flood risk assessment should be provided for all energy projects in Flood Zones 2 and 3 in England or Defended Flood Zones and Flood Zones 2 and 3 in Wales. In Flood Zone 1 in England or Flood Zone 1 in Wales, an assessment should accompany all proposals involving:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- sites of 1 hectare or more</i> <i>- land which has been identified by the EA or NRW as having critical drainage problems</i> <i>- land identified (for example in a local authority strategic flood risk assessment) as being at increased flood risk in future</i> <i>- land that may be subject to other sources of flooding (for example surface water) • where the EA or NRW, Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board</i> 	Water Environment

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<i>or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems.'</i>	
Paragraph 5.8.14	This paragraph states that FRAs <i>'should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account.'</i>	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.8.17	<p><i>'Development (including construction works) will need to account for any existing watercourses and flood and coastal erosion risk management structures or features, or any land likely to be needed for future structures or features so as to ensure:</i></p> <p><i>Access, clearances and sufficient land are retained to enable their maintenance, repair, operation, and replacement, as necessary;</i></p> <p><i>Their standard of protection is not reduced; and</i></p> <p><i>Their condition or structural integrity is not reduced.'</i></p>	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.8.18	Pre-application discussions should be arranged with relevant bodies such as the Environment Agency, LLFAs and Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs).	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.16.1	Outlines some of the adverse effects infrastructure developments can have on the water environment. Indicates how these effects can result in <i>'surface waters, groundwaters or protected areas failing to meet environmental objectives established under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and the Marine Strategy Regulations 2010'</i> .	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.16.15	Regard should be given to current River Basin Management Plans and the requirements of the WFD Regulations. Development will be refused consent where it is <i>'likely to cause deterioration of a water body or its failure to achieve good status or good potential, unless the requirements set out in Regulation 19 are met.'</i>	Water Environment
Paragraphs 5.16.8 to 5.16.11	These paragraphs set out requirements regarding mitigation.	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.16.16	<i>'The Secretary of State should also consider the interactions of the proposed project with other plans such as Water Resources Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans'</i>	Water Environment

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Paragraph 5.16.16	<i>'The Secretary of State should consider proposals to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment and any enhancement measures put forward by the applicant and whether appropriate requirements should be attached to any development consent and / or planning obligations are necessary.'</i>	Water Environment
Paragraph 5.4.13- 5.4.14.	EN-1 notes the contribution that regional and local geological sites have in supporting local biodiversity and geological interest.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.4.20.	States that <i>'the Applicant should show how the Project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests.'</i>	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.11.3 and 5.11.5.	Outlines the potential risk associated with the re-use of – previously developed land for new development, noting that it may not be suitable for all forms of energy infrastructure. Paragraphs 5.11.4 and 5.11.5 identify potential effects on soil resources through land contamination as well as indirect impact on the local water regime, organic matter content and soil biodiversity. Risks would require consideration in accordance with the contaminated land statutory guidance as a minimum.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.11.18.	States that for developments on previously developed land, the Applicant's assessment <i>'should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination, and where contamination is present, applicants should consider opportunities for remediation where possible'</i> . It is noted that engagement with relevant bodies should be carried out.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.11.19.	States that the Applicant <i>'should safeguard any mineral resources on the proposed site as far as possible, taking into account the long-term potential of the land use after any future decommissioning has taken place'</i> .	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.11.28.	States that <i>'Where a proposed development has an impact upon a Mineral Safeguarding Area (MSA), the Secretary of State should ensure that appropriate mitigation measures have been put in place to safeguard mineral resources'</i> .	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 5.16.3 and 5.16.7.	Outlines the aspects that should be considered by the Applicant's assessment and the features that should be described in the ES, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water 	Geology and Hydrogeology

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect	
	<p>quality, noting any relevant existing discharges, proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies) and also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance. Existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics. Any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas (including shellfish protected areas) under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and Source Protection Zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions. 		
Paragraph 5.11.12	Sets out the preference for the use of poorer quality land (Grades 3b, 4 and 5) over Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a).	Agriculture and Soils	and
Paragraph 5.11.13	<i>‘Applicants should also identify any effects and seek to minimise impacts on soil health and protect and improve soil quality taking into account any mitigation measures proposed.’</i>	Agriculture and Soils	and
Paragraph 5.11.14	<i>‘Applicants are encouraged to develop and implement a Soil Management Plan which could help minimise potential land contamination. The sustainable reuse of soils needs to be carefully considered in line with good practice guidance where large quantities of soils are surplus to requirements or are affected by contamination.’</i>	Agriculture and Soils	and
Paragraph 5.11.34	This paragraph states that schemes should not be built on BMV land without justification, and poorer quality land should be used preferentially. Economic benefits of the land should also be accounted for.	Agriculture and Soils	and
Section Paragraph 5.14.4	2.6 The consideration and mitigation of transport impacts is an essential part of Government’s wider policy objectives for sustainable development as set out in Section 12.6 of NPS EN-1.	Traffic and Transport	and

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect	
Paragraph 5.14.5 Paragraph 5.14.6	If a project is likely to have significant transport implications, the Environmental Statement (ES) should include a vision for transport and an assessment of potential transport impacts. National Highways and Highways Authorities are statutory consultees where it is expected to affect the Strategic Road Network (SRN) and / or have an impact on the local road network. Applicants should consult with National Highways and Highways Authorities as appropriate on the assessment and mitigation to inform the application to be submitted.	Traffic Transport	and
Paragraph 5.14.8	<i>‘The applicant should prepare a travel plan adopting a vision-led approach to identify demand management and monitoring and fallback measures that proactively mitigate transport impacts by providing details of proposed measures to improve access by active, public and shared transport to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Reduce the need for parking associated with the proposal;</i> - <i>Contribute to decarbonisation of the transport network; and</i> - <i>Improve user travel options by offering genuine modal choice.’</i> 	Traffic Transport	and
Paragraph 5.14.15	Where substantial Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) traffic is likely to occur the Secretary of State (SoS) may attach requirements to DCO consent to control numbers and routing of HGV movements, make sufficient provision for HGV parking and make arrangement for reasonably foreseeable abnormal disruption.	Traffic Transport	and
Paragraph 5.14.17	‘Applicants should consider the DfT policy guidance ‘Water Preferred Policy Guidelines for the movement of abnormal indivisible loads’ when preparing their application’	Traffic Transport	and
Paragraph 5.12.1 - 5.12.4	These paragraphs of EN-1 set the context of the potential adverse effects that excessive noise and vibration can have on human health, wildlife and buildings. Noise can also have an adverse impact on the value of a landscape and quality of enjoyment in an area.	Noise Vibration	and
Paragraph 5.12.5	Sets out <i>‘the factors that will determine the likely noise impact of a proposed development include:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The inherent operational noise from the proposed development, and its characteristics.</i> • <i>The proximity of the proposed development to noise sensitive premises (including residential properties,</i> 	Noise Vibration	and

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<p><i>schools and hospitals) and noise sensitive areas (including certain parks and open spaces).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The proximity of the proposed development to quiet places and other areas that are particularly valued for their soundscape or landscape quality.</i> <i>The proximity of the proposed development to sites where noise may have an adverse impact on protected species or other wildlife, including migratory species.</i> <i>The potential of unexploded ordnance on the seabed.'</i> 	
Paragraph 5.12.6	<p>States that: <i>'Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the applicant should include the following in the noise assessment:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A description of the noise generating aspects of the development proposal leading to noise impacts, including the identification of any distinctive tonal characteristics, if the noise is impulsive, whether the noise contains particular high or low frequency content or any temporal characteristics of the noise.</i> <i>Identification of noise sensitive receptors and noise sensitive areas that may be affected.</i> <i>The characteristics of the existing noise environment.</i> <i>A prediction of how the noise environment will change with the proposed development.</i> <i>In the shorter term, such as during the construction period.</i> <i>In the longer term, during the operating life of the infrastructure.</i> <i>At particular times of the day, evening and night (and weekends) as appropriate, and at different times of year.</i> <i>An assessment of the effect of predicted changes in the noise environment on any noise-sensitive receptors, including an assessment of any likely impact on health and quality of life / well-being where appropriate, particularly among those disadvantaged by other factors who are often disproportionately affected by noise-sensitive areas.</i> <i>If likely to cause disturbance, an assessment of the effect of underwater or subterranean noise.</i> 	Noise and Vibration

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<i>All reasonable steps taken to mitigate and minimise potential adverse effects on health and quality of life.'</i>	
Paragraph 5.12.7	<i>'The nature and extent of the noise assessment should be proportionate to the likely noise impact.'</i>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 5.12.8	<i>'Applicants should consider the noise impact of ancillary activities associated with the development, such as increased road and rail traffic movements, or other forms of transportation'</i>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 5.12.9	<p>Paragraph states that: <i>'Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance.'</i></p> <p>It further states: <i>"For the prediction, assessment and management of construction noise, reference should be made to any relevant British Standards and other guidance which also give examples of mitigation strategies.'</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 5.2.2 to paragraph 5.2.7	These paragraphs prompt the consideration of environmental assessment levels (LVs and Objectives), human and ecological receptors as a means of informing any required air quality assessment.	Air Quality
Paragraph 5.2.9	<p>Outlines that:</p> <p><i>'The ES should describe:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>existing air quality concentrations and the relative change in air quality from existing levels;</i> <i>any significant air quality effects, mitigation action taken and any residual effects, distinguishing between the project stages and taking account of any significant emissions from any road traffic generated by the project;</i> <i>the predicted absolute emissions, concentration change and absolute concentrations as a result of the proposed project, after mitigation methods have been applied; and</i> <i>any potential eutrophication impacts'.</i> <p>Should the screening of traffic data for any of the proposed project stages indicate that detailed assessment is required, then dispersion modelling would be undertaken as part of the air quality assessment to determine the impact of pollutant concentrations resulting from the proposed development at relevant sensitive human and ecological receptors.</p>	Air Quality

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Paragraph 5.2.12	Should the proposed project be expected to lead to a breach of any relevant statutory air quality limits, objectives or targets, or affect the ability of a non-compliant area to achieve compliance, relevant mitigation to reduce significant adverse environmental effects will be proposed.	Air Quality
Paragraph 5.2.16	<p>This paragraph explains that with regards to decision making, the Secretary of State (SoS) would give air quality considerations substantial weight where a project leads to a new breach of LVs and/or statutory air quality objectives, or where it makes an existing breach worse. It also adds that air quality considerations will be important where substantial increases in pollutant concentrations below these thresholds.</p> <p>Therefore, changes in pollutant concentrations in AQMAs and on Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Pollution Climate Mapping (PCM) links (as a means of assessing compliance risk with LVs) are expected to be key considerations for the proposed project.</p>	Air Quality
Paragraphs 5.2.17 to 5.2.19	These sections state that air quality would be given to substantial weight if there are adverse air quality effects on sensitive human and ecological receptors as a result of the project. If the applicant cannot justify the location or provide a suitable plan of mitigation, the SoS would refuse consent.	Air Quality
Paragraphs 5.2.19	This paragraph re-emphasises that air quality environmental assessment levels (statutory LVs and Objectives) must be taken into account in decision making, but that consent would be refused if the construction and/or operational phase of the proposed project led to non-compliance with a LV.	Air Quality
Section 5.13	Details how potential socio-economic impacts for development of energy infrastructure should be considered in any application for development consent.	Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism
Paragraph 5.13.4	Details some of the likely economic impacts that should be considered as part of any assessment.	Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism
Paragraph 5.13.10	States that it may be concluded <i>‘that limited weight is to be given to assertions of socio-economic impacts that are not supported by evidence (particularly in view of the need for energy infrastructure as set out in the NPS)’</i> .	Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism
Paragraph 4.3.1 – 4.3.5	The National Policy Statement details that an ES should assess effects for each element of the Project, identifying measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for health impacts. The policy highlights that effects resulting from other	Health and Wellbeing

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	environmental topics should be assessed, but that regulation of these topics is considered effective mitigation.	
Section 4.4	The National Policy Statement details that an ES should assess effects on health and wellbeing, including from related topics and indirect impacts. The NPS particularly highlights potential impacts on vulnerable groups within society and those with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.	Health and Wellbeing
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (6 January 2025)		
Section 2.5 Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain	<p><i>‘Recognition that the linear nature of electricity networks infrastructure can allow for excellent opportunities to:</i></p> <p><i>i. reconnect important habitats via green corridors, biodiversity stepping zones, and reestablishment of appropriate hedgerows; and / or</i></p> <p><i>ii. connect people to the environment, for instance via footpaths and cycleways constructed in tandem with environmental enhancements.’</i></p>	Biodiversity
Section 2.9 paragraphs 2.9.21, 2.9.26.	<p>Requires that applicants should seek to avoid altogether internationally and nationally designated areas of cultural value, which includes heritage assets with statutory protection.</p> <p>Development of underground cables should consider the potentially very disruptive effects on archaeological and historic assets.</p>	Cultural Heritage
Section 2.9. Paragraph 2.9.9	<p><i>‘New substations, sealing end compounds (including terminal towers), and other above-ground installations that serve as connection, switching, and voltage transformation points on the electricity network may also give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts.’</i></p>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 2.9. Paragraph 2.9.10	<p><i>‘Cumulative adverse landscape, seascape and visual impacts may arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms, and / or other new sources of generation.’</i></p>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 2.9. Paragraph 2.9.11	<p><i>‘Landscape and visual benefits may arise through the reconfiguration, rationalisation, or undergrounding of existing electricity network infrastructure. Though mitigation of the landscape and visual impacts arising from overhead lines and their associated infrastructure is usually possible, it may not always be so, and the impossibility of full mitigation in</i></p>	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<i>these cases does not countermand the need for overhead lines.'</i>	
Section 2.9. Paragraph 2.9.14	<i>'Where the nature or proposed route of an overhead line will likely result in particularly significant landscape and visual impacts, as would be assessed through landscape, seascape and visual impact assessment, the applicant should demonstrate that they have given due consideration to the costs and benefits of feasible alternatives to the overhead line. This could include – where appropriate – re-routing, underground or subsea cables and the feasibility e.g. in cost, engineering or environmental terms of these.'</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Section 2.3	<p>This section of EN-5 covers resilience to climate change and the need to look to design for flood resilience. Paragraph 2.3.2 states “Applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it would be resilient to flooding, particularly for substations that are vital for the electricity transmission and distribution network”.</p> <p>Paragraph 2.3.3 advises that “the resilience of the project to the effects of climate change must be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying an application”, also stating that ‘future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment’.</p>	Water Environment
Paragraph 2.9.26.	<i>The policy acknowledges the ‘potential disruptive effects of undergrounding on local communities, habitats, archaeological and heritage assets, marine environments, soil (including peat soils), hydrology, geology, and, for a substantial time after construction, landscape and visual amenity’.</i>	Geology and Hydrogeology
Paragraph 2.9.26	<p>Final bullet point: <i>‘the applicant’s commitment, as set out in their ES, to mitigate the potential detrimental effects of undergrounding works on any relevant agricultural land and soils (including peat soils), particularly regarding Best and Most Versatile land, including development and implementation of a Soil Resources and Management Plan. Such a commitment must guarantee appropriate handling of soil, backfilling, and return of the land to the baseline Agricultural Land Classification (ALC), thus ensuring no loss or degradation of agricultural land. Such a commitment should be based on soil and ALC surveys in line with the 1988 ALC criteria and due consideration of the Defra Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites.’</i></p>	Agriculture and Soils

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Paragraph 2.9.59	<i>'There is little evidence that exposure of crops, farm animals or natural ecosystems to transmission line EMFs has any agriculturally significant consequences.'</i>	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 2.9.27	All high voltage transmission lines have the potential to generate noise under certain conditions.	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 2.9.27 2.9.35	These paragraphs set the context of the potential for adverse noise effects that may be associated with the operation of overhead lines and overhead line fittings such as spacers, insulators and clamps. Paragraph 2.9.35 notes that transmission line audible noise is <i>'generally categorised as 'crackle' or 'hum', according to its tonal content.'</i>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 2.9.37 2.9.40	Paragraphs note the potential audible noise effects that can arise from substation equipment such as transformers, quadrature boosters and mechanically switched capacitors which can generate low frequency hum. Paragraph 2.9.40 states that: <i>'For the assessment of noise from substations, standard methods of assessment and interpretation using the principles of the relevant British Standards are satisfactory.'</i>	Noise and Vibration
N/A	Supports EN-1 by providing guidance on new electricity networks infrastructure to ensure it is well designed. It includes advice on landscape and visual and noise and vibration matters which may have a bearing on the socio-economic, recreation and tourism assessment.	Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism
Paragraph 2.9.45 2.8.59	The Policy Statement states that the applicant must consider a series of factors in relation to Electric and magnetic Fields (EMFs), requiring compliance with International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) limits, and mitigation such as re-routeing, undergrounding or increased clearances to ensure this. It is noted that it is not the government's policy for power lines to be undergrounded solely for the purpose of EMF mitigation. The Policy Statement additionally supports the scoping out of physical health impacts from EMFs at paragraph 2.9.57, citing the scientific evidence over several decades.	Health and Wellbeing
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2025)		
Paragraphs 192, 193, and 194	The NPPF supports the delivery of sustainable developments which protect and enhance biodiversity (including <i>"minimising impacts"</i>) by safeguarding ecological networks, and promote conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and	Biodiversity

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<p>the protection and recovery of priority and/or threatened species.</p> <p>LPA's should assess if significant harm would occur to biodiversity and refuse planning permission if such harm cannot be avoided, mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated for. Further, the NPPF advises that <i>'development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists.'</i> Finally, LPA's should assess if improvements to biodiversity which can secure measurable gains for biodiversity have been integrated into development plans.</p> <p>The NPPF also identifies that Ramsar sites, proposed Ramsar sites, potential Special Protection Areas (pSPAs) and possible Special Areas of Conservation (pSAC) are also considered in the same way as SACs, SPAs and candidate SACs (cSACs).</p>	
Section 16	<p>Paragraphs 202 – 221 relate to the historic environment and its sustainable management with regards to proposed development. It defines heritage assets and why they should be conserved.</p>	Cultural Heritage
Paragraph 187	<p><i>'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</i></p> <p><i>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);</i></p> <p><i>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 benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland;</i></p> <p><i>c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate;</i></p> <p><i>d) minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs....'</i></p>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Paragraph 189	<p><i>'Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues. The conservation and enhancement of wildlife and cultural heritage are also important considerations in these areas and should be given</i></p>	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<i>great weight in National Parks and The Broads. The scale and extent of development within all these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.'</i>	
Paragraph 170 to 182	These paragraphs relate to flood risk and surface water drainage and their sustainable management with regards to proposed development. They describe two planning tests, the sequential test, which encourages development in areas at low risk of flooding, and the exception test. This is applied where development in flood risk areas cannot be avoided and requires that development provides wider sustainability benefits that outweigh the flood risk and will be safe for its lifetime within increasing flood risk elsewhere.	Water Environment
Paragraph 187	<i>'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</i> <i>a) Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils [...]</i> <i>b) Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside...including the economic and other benefits of the BMV agricultural land [...]</i> <i>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.'</i>	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 187, Footnote 65	This footnote states that schemes should not be built on BMV land without justification, and poorer quality land should be used preferentially. Emphasis on the availability of land for food production.	Agriculture and Soils
Paragraph 116	<i>'In terms of transport, a development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe.'</i>	Traffic and Transport
Paragraph 118	<i>'All developments that will generate significant amounts of movement should be required to provide a travel plan, and the application should be supported by a Transport Statement (TS) or Transport Assessment (TA) so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed.'</i>	Traffic and Transport
Paragraph 187	<i>'Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</i>	Noise and Vibration

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<p>(a) <i>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).</i></p> <p>(b) <i>Recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.</i></p> <p>(c) <i>Maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate.</i></p> <p>(d) <i>Minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures and incorporating features which support priority or threatened species such as swifts, bats and hedgehogs.</i></p> <p>(e) <i>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.</i></p> <p>(f) <i>Remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.'</i></p>	
Paragraph 198	<p><i>'Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:</i></p> <p>a) <i>Mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development – and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life.</i></p> <p>b) <i>Identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.</i></p>	Noise and Vibration

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	c) <i>Limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.</i>	
Paragraph 199	<i>‘Planning policies and decisions should sustain and contribute towards compliance with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones, and the cumulative impacts from individual sites in local areas. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, such as through traffic and travel management, and green infrastructure provision and enhancement. So far as possible these opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage, to ensure a strategic approach and limit the need for issues to be reconsidered when determining individual applications. Planning decisions should ensure that any new development in Air Quality Management Areas and Clean Air Zones is consistent with the local air quality action plan’</i>	Air Quality
Paragraph 86a. Paragraph 97c.	The NPPF sets out national planning policies in accordance with the relevant NPS. Chapter 6 includes policies aimed at building a strong, competitive economy and Chapter 8 includes policies aimed at promoting healthy and safe communities.	Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism
Paragraph 96 – 102	The NPPF sets out a series of objectives and priorities for planning in England and how they should be applied. The overarching aim includes a social objective to support strong and healthy communities, with accessible services and open spaces. Section 8 specifies the objectives for promoting healthy and safe communities.	Health and Wellbeing
National Highways		
Department for Transport (DfT) Circular 01/2022 <i>‘Strategic road network and the delivery of sustainable development’</i>	Sets out the ways in which National Highways will engage with the development industry, public bodies and communities to assist the delivery of sustainable development. Environmental assessments must be comprehensive enough to establish the likely impacts on air quality, light pollution and noise arising from traffic generated by a development, along with the impacts from any proposed works to the SRN and identify measures to mitigate these impacts. Requirements and advice for undertaking environmental assessments in respect of transport impacts can be found in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).	Traffic and Transport

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Highways England Water Preferred Policy 2019	<p>The WPP 2019 requires that heavy abnormal indivisible loads (AILs) are transported by water wherever this is practical, economic and environmentally beneficial. Applicants must demonstrate that water-based options have been properly explored before road transport will be authorised, including early engagement with the national AIL team and completion of a high-level comparison of road and water options.</p> <p>This assessment considers the technical feasibility of waterways and landing points, infrastructure and environmental constraints and an economic appraisal that includes congestion impacts and a 'financial reasonableness' test. The policy also supports strategic, industry-wide reviews to identify long-term water transport opportunities, with agreed access points potentially secured through Agreements in Principle.</p>	Traffic and Transport

Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)

Paragraph 1.6	Sets out the long-term vision of Government noise policy, i.e., to <i>'promote good health and a good quality of life through the effective management of noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development.'</i>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 1.7	The NPSE vision is supported by aims to effectively manage and control environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development by avoiding significant adverse impacts, mitigating and minimising adverse impacts and contributing to the improvement of health and quality of life.	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 2.20	<p><i>'To identify 'significant adverse' and 'adverse' impact in line with the three aims of NPSE there are two established concepts from toxicology that are currently being applied to noise impacts, for example, by the World Health Organization:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No Observed Effect Level (NOEL): This is the level below which no effect can be detected. In simple terms, below this level, there is no detectable effect on health and quality of life due to the noise.</i> <i>Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL): This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected. Extending these concepts for the purpose of this NPSE leads to the concept of a significant observed adverse effect level.</i> 	Noise and Vibration

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Paragraph 2.24	<p><i>Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level (SOAEL). This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.</i></p> <p><i>'Where an impact lies somewhere between LOAEL and SOAEL all reasonable steps should be taken to mitigate and minimise adverse effects on health and quality of life while also taking into account the guiding principles of sustainable development. This does not mean that such adverse effects cannot occur.'</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
Paragraph 2.22	<p>The NPSE notes that <i>'it is not possible to have a single objective noise-based measure that defines SOAEL that is applicable to all sources of noise in all situations. Consequently, the SOAEL is likely to be different for different noise sources, for different receptors and at different times. It is acknowledged that further research is required to increase our understanding of what may constitute a significant adverse impact on health and quality of life from noise.</i></p> <p><i>However, not having specific SOAEL values in the NPSE provides the necessary policy flexibility until further evidence and suitable guidance is available.'</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)		
Air Quality	Provides guidance on the relevant principals of air quality assessment; including the regulatory framework, the role of plan making, available air quality information, when assessment is required, what potential air quality issues require consideration, the level of detail required, and mitigation.	Air Quality
Flood Risk and Coastal Change	Advises how to take account of and address the risks associated with flooding and coastal change in the planning process.	Water Environment
Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)		
Goal 2 Clean air	– Details government actions to reduce air pollution over next 25 years to achieve 'clean air' as a means of complying with concentration and emissions reduction targets, such as those facilitated by the Environment Act (2021). The delivery plan focusses on reducing domestic emissions, empowering local authorities to deliver clean air, maintaining and improving the regulatory framework for industrial emissions, reducing agricultural ammonia emissions and reducing emissions from transport.	Air Quality

Table 2.A-3 Local planning policy relevant to the onshore environmental aspect chapters

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
East Lindsey District Council (East Lindsey Local Plan Core Strategy), (adopted July 2018)		
Strategic Policy 24 (SP24) - Biodiversity and Geodiversity	<p>Development proposals should seek to protect and enhance the biodiversity value of land and buildings and minimise fragmentation and maximise opportunities for connection between natural habitats.</p> <p>The Council will protect sites designated internationally, national or locally for their biodiversity importance, species populations and habitats identified in the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Development which could adversely affect such a site will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances. If adverse impacts are demonstrated to be unavoidable, the Council will ensure that such damage is kept to a minimum and will ensure appropriate mitigation, compensation or enhancement of the site through the use of planning conditions or planning obligations.</p>	Biodiversity
Strategic Policy 25 (SP25) – Green Infrastructure	<p>The Council will safeguard and deliver a network of accessible green infrastructure by protecting and safeguarding green space, maximising opportunities for new and enhanced green infrastructure and publicly accessible open spaces in and around all communities and seek opportunities to connect existing green infrastructure to improve the network of spaces and accessibility for both the local population and wildlife.</p>	Biodiversity
Strategic Policy 11 (SP11) – Historic Environment	<p>The Council will support proposals that secure the continued protection and enhancement of heritage assets in East Lindsey, contribute to the wider vitality and regeneration of the areas in which they are located and reinforce a strong sense of place.</p> <p>Proposals will be supported where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preserve or enhance heritage assets and their setting. ● Preserve or enhance the special character, appearance and setting of the District’s conservation areas. ● Do not harm the site or setting of a scheduled monument; any unscheduled nationally important or locally significant archaeological site. ● Are compatible with the significance of non-designated heritage assets in East Lindsey. 	Cultural Heritage

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Strategic Policy 2 (SP2) – Sustainable Development	The Council adopted a positive and solution-focused approach to development, aligned with the NPPF’s presumption in favour of sustainable development and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Strategic Policy 10 (SP10) – Design	The Council supports well-designed, sustainable development that respects and enhances the character of towns, villages, and the countryside. Key principles include: <i>‘The Council will support well-designed sustainable development, which maintains and enhances the character of the District’s towns, villages and countryside.’</i>	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Strategic Policy 23 (SP23) – Landscape	The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the District’s landscapes to support a healthy and attractive environment. Development will be guided by the Landscape Character Assessment, with highly sensitive areas receiving the greatest protection.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Strategic Policy 24 (SP24) – Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Development should protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, promoting habitat connectivity and minimising fragmentation.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Strategic Policy 25 (SP25) – Green Infrastructure	This policy highlights a commitment to safeguarding and enhancing a connected network of accessible green infrastructure.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Strategic Policy 27 (SP27) – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	The Council supports large-scale renewable and low carbon energy developments, where the benefits outweigh any adverse impacts. This policy highlights that development affecting the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB or highly sensitive landscapes will only be permitted in exceptional public interest cases.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Strategic Policy 28 (SP28) – Infrastructure and S106 Obligations	The Council supports essential infrastructure projects that contribute to sustainable development and respect the District’s character. Proposals must be accompanied by impact assessments addressing landscape and cumulative effects, with evidence of mitigation and alternative options considered.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Strategic Policy 16: (SP) Flood Risk	Proposals in areas at risk of flooding must be accompanied by a site-specific flood risk assessment and that development will be supported that demonstrates an integrated approach to sustainable drainage.	Water Environment

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
SP 17: Coastal East Lindsey	Development will need to satisfy the Sequential and Exception Tests and all relevant development will need to provide adequate flood mitigation.	Water Environment
Strategic Policy 24 (SP24) Biodiversity and Geodiversity	SP24, sets out how development should protect and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of land and buildings, noting a requirement to protect sites designated internationally, nationally and locally for the geodiversity importance. SP24 also notes the potential risks of pollution from nearby development.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Strategic Policy 10 (SP10) – Design	This paragraph states that schemes should not be built on BMV land without justification, and poorer quality land should be used preferentially. Emphasis on maintaining character of the surrounding villages and countryside.	Agriculture and Soils
Strategic Policy 24 (SP24) Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Paragraph 12.17 emphasises the multifaceted importance of soils to a landscape, environment and society. Reference is made to the Defra Construction Code of Practice	Agriculture and Soils
Strategic Policy 22 (SP22) (Transport and Accessibility).	SP22 outlines how East Lindsey will support accessibility and seek to reduce isolation.	Traffic and Transport
Strategic Policy 27 (SP27) Renewable and Low Carbon Energy.	<p><i>‘1. Large-scale renewable and low carbon energy development, development for the transmission and interconnection of electricity, and infrastructure required to support such development, will be supported where their individual or cumulative impact is, when weighed against the benefits, considered to be acceptable in relation to:</i></p> <p><i>a) residential amenity;</i></p> <p><i>c) the significance (including the setting) of a historic garden, park, battlefield, building, conservation area, archaeological site or other heritage asset;</i></p> <p><i>d) sites or features of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, or protected species;</i></p> <p><i>3. Development within or affecting the setting of the Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and landscape areas defined as highly sensitive within the East Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment, will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, where the development is in the public interest and considering the following:</i></p> <p><i>c) any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be satisfactorily moderated.</i></p>	Noise and Vibration

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<i>3.[sic] The presumption will be for connecting cables to be placed underground, or use made of existing or replacement infrastructure (of the same size and scale) along existing routes to carry any additional base load cabling.'</i>	
Strategic Policy 28 (SP28) Infrastructure and S106 Obligations.	<p><i>'1. Infrastructure schemes will be supported provided they are essential in the national interest; contribute to sustainable development and respect the distinctive character of the district.</i></p> <p><i>2. Infrastructure schemes should be accompanied by an impact assessment that shows how the proposal impacts on the landscape or local setting of the area, including individual and cumulative effects. It should identify what steps have been taken to minimize its effects and the alternative options that have been considered.'</i></p>	Noise and Vibration
Strategic Policy 24 (SP24) Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policy SP24 outlines that developments can impact upon sites protected for their biodiversity importance, this includes air pollution caused by increased traffic movements and operational needs of a given development.	Air Quality
Strategic Policy 2 (SP2): Sustainable Development	When considering development proposals, the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF.	Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism
Strategic Policy 13 (SP13): Inland Employment	The Council will support growth and diversification of the local economy by identifying and protecting employment land, and by supporting proposals that strengthen the rural economy.	Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism
Strategic Policy 17 (SP17): Coastal East Lindsey	The Council will give a high priority to development that extends and diversifies all-year round employment opportunities, contributes directly to the local economy, infrastructure or extends and diversifies the tourism market.	Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism
Strategic Policy 10 (SP10) Strategic Policy 22 (SP22) Transport and Accessibility	<p>Developers are encouraged to carry out a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) commensurate with the size and nature of the development to show how they have factored this into their proposal.</p> <p>The Plan sets out how landscape, green infrastructure, open space and access to facilities can create an attractive and healthy working and living environment.</p>	Health and Wellbeing

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
East Lindsey District Council: East Lindsey District Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2023)		
N/A	The East Lindsey District Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy sets out five key aims for the successful delivery of the plan, including themes of improving the supply of homes, to address inactivity, to deliver on environment and health improvements together, to reduce economic inequality and alleviate poverty, and support local communities.	Health and Wellbeing
Lincolnshire District Councils' Health and Wellbeing Strategy		
04 Strategic Framework Activity Outputs 4.2 06 Key data, indicators and 'levelling up' 6.1	The Lincolnshire District Councils' Strategy covers East Lindsey District Council, South Holland District Council and Boston Borough Council, aiming to alleviate poverty as a driver for improving mental and physical health. The plan further sets out goals to work with communities to support engagement and collaboration, develop programmes for improving quality of accommodation and improve access to safe places and spaces, in which to take part in regular physical activity. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy additionally sets out a number of key indicators for measuring success.	Health and Wellbeing
Lincolnshire County Council Local Transport Plan 5		
Policy SH4	Seeks to reduce air, light and noise pollution created by the transport system, focussing on areas with designated Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) and where impacts are felt by significant populations.	Traffic and Transport
Policy E4	Identify and support a range of transport improvements to better connect employment centres with workforce and broaden the opportunities for those seeking employment to access and increasingly diverse range of opportunities.	Traffic and Transport
Policy GREEN4	Deliver sustainable development by ensuring that new developments are designed to minimise the need to travel, minimise car use and support the use of more sustainable modes.	Traffic and Transport
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018 – 2023		
Policy BP2	This policy promotes a landscapes care approach to landscape and habitat conservation, restoration and creation of habitats.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Policy WBP1	This policy seeks to reinforce the existing pattern of woodland, seeking to increase the area of native broadleaved woodland (including wet woodland).	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Policy WBP2	This policy seeks to re-establish complementary habitats adjacent to woodlands.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Policy HTP1	This policy requires the restoration of all species-rich and ancient hedgerows, encouraging planting and management of hedgerows and trees to benefit landscape and habitat connectivity.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Policy PP1	This policy requires protection and enhancement of local character and distinctiveness through the highest quality of design in new development and re-development, including making space for biodiversity, being sensitive to the considerations of heritage assets and tackling climate change.	Landscape and Visual Amenity
Policy PP6	This policy requires recognition and protection of the night skies and general tranquillity through ensuring future development minimises impact upon light and noise levels.	Landscape and Visual Amenity

Lincolnshire County Council: Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, (adopted June 2016)

Strategic Objective H	A Strategic Objective of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan is to <i>'protect Lincolnshire's high quality agricultural land... and soil where practicable from development; and in cases where it is affected, safeguard its long-term potential by encouraging restoration back to agriculture, or protection of soils through restoration schemes to biodiversity where soils are cared for in a sustainable manner, enabling habitat creation in addition to soil preservation for future agricultural needs.'</i>	Biodiversity
Policy DM Presumption in favour of sustainable development	1: The County Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF. It will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area. When considering development proposals, the County Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF.	Biodiversity Socio economics, Recreation and Tourism

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (LMWLP)		
Policy M11 Safeguarding of Mineral Resources	Policy M11 identifies potential economic mineral resources to be safeguarded from non-minerals development and avoid preventing future extraction. Applications for non-mineral development within a mineral safeguarding area should be accompanied by a minerals assessment.	Geology and Hydrogeology
Policy M12: Safeguarding of Existing Mineral Sites and Associated Minerals Infrastructure	Policy M12 safeguards strategically allocated mineral sites and associated infrastructure against development that could sterilise or jeopardise their use.	Geology and Hydrogeology

2.A.3 English Offshore Scheme

2.A.3.1 This section identifies the relevant legislation, national and local policy and technical guidance which has informed the scope of the environmental aspect chapters for the English Offshore Scheme.

Legislation

2.A.3.2 A summary of the key legislation considered in, but not limited to, the scope of the offshore environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 2.A-4**.

Table 2.A-4 Legislation relevant to the offshore environmental aspect chapters

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
European Directive 2008/56/EC of the Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008	Commonly referred to as the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the full title of this directive is “European Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy”. This Directive sets out a framework within which Member States must take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment by the year 2020 at the latest. Since leaving the EU, the existing UK-wide framework has been maintained to allow for consistent	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
Marine Strategy Regulations 2010	<p>marine environmental monitoring and standards across the UK.</p> <p>These regulations require the UK to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status in its marine waters by 2020. The high-level descriptors of Good Environmental Status relevant to marine processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptor 6: Sea floor integrity: Seafloor integrity is at a level that ensures that the structure and functions of the ecosystems are safeguarded and benthic ecosystems are not adversely affected; and • Descriptor 7: Permanent alteration of hydrographical conditions does not adversely affect marine ecosystems. <p>The Marine Strategy Regulations 2010 require action to be taken to achieve or maintain Good Environmental Status (GES) in seas.</p>	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme
The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017	This Act transposes EU Directive 2011/92/EU (the EIA Directive) into UK law for NSIPs, ensuring environmental safeguards while potentially streamlining the process.	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme
The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007	The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 require certain types of projects that have the potential to significantly affect the environment to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment before a marine licence decision is made.	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme
Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009	<p>The MCAA provides a framework for managing and protecting marine and coastal areas, promoting sustainable development, enhancing public access to the coast, and conserving marine biodiversity and habitats, including establishing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and coastal access routes.</p> <p>The Act also establishes the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) as the authority responsible for the preparation</p>	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<p>and implementation of marine plans and enforcing fisheries and nature conservation regulations.</p>	
	<p>The Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009) forms key legislature underpinning the activities of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), who are responsible for overseeing balanced and considerate marine development in English waters. The Act also sets out powers to designate Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs).</p>	
<p>Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora)</p>	<p>The ‘Habitats Directive’ (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. Together with the ‘Birds Directive’ (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds), the Habitats Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites (i.e., ‘Natura 2000 Sites’) designated for their ecological status. This includes SACs and SPAs and in accordance with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Circular 06/2005 (ODPM, 2005), Ramsar sites. Collectively SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are referred to as European Sites in UK legislation.</p>	<p>Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology Marine Mammal</p>
<p>‘Birds Directive’ (Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds)</p>	<p>The Habitats Directives are transposed into UK law in the offshore area (>12 NM from the coast) by The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (COMHS); and within the inshore area (<12 NM from the coast) by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (COHSR). This legislation is collectively referred to as the Habitats Regulations.</p>	
	<p>Under the Habitats Regulations, the competent authority is required to undertake a HRA to determine whether there is potential for a plan or project to have an adverse effect on a European Site, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects</p>	

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (COHSR)	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (amended 2019) transposes the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and implements provisions from the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), into UK legislation. These regulations cover the requirements to protect sites that are internationally important for threatened habitats and species out to the 12 nautical mile (NM) limit.	Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology Fish and Shellfish Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles
The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) (COMHSR)	The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) covers the requirements to protect sites that are internationally important for marine habitats and species within the UK Offshore Marine Area (beyond the 12 NM limit).	Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology Fish and Shellfish Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981	The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) provides legal protection for marine habitats and species within the UK within 12NM of the coast.	Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology Fish and Shellfish Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles
European Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000	Commonly referred to as the Water Framework Directive, the full title of this directive is “European Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy”. This is an EU directive which commits European Union member states to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies. Since leaving the EU, the EU Water Framework Directive has been revoked and replaced in England, Wales and Northern Ireland by the Water Environment (Water Framework	Coastal and Marine Physical Processes

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2017), and the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) (2017).	
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	<p>The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (the 'WFD') protects surface waters including rivers, lakes, transitional waters (referred to in this advice as estuarine waters), coastal waters and groundwater.</p> <p>The WFD protects surface waters including rivers, lakes, transitional waters (referred to in this advice as estuarine waters), coastal waters and groundwater. These waters directly influence sensitive benthic habitats and species where they occur within coastal waters.</p>	<p>Coastal and Marine Physical Processes</p> <p>Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology</p> <p>Fish and Shellfish</p> <p>Other Marine Users</p>
The Bathing Regulations 2013	<p>Water</p> <p>These regulations apply to England and Wales and set out standards for monitoring water quality in places where large numbers of people are expected to bathe. The regulations include a requirement to provide bathers with information on water quality at each designated bathing water, so that they can make an informed choice on going into the water.</p>	<p>Coastal and Marine Physical Processes</p> <p>Other Marine Users</p>
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	<p>The Act requires competent authorities to have due regard for protecting and enhancing species and habitats when making public decisions. In particular, Section 41 refers to a published list of habitats and species which are of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England. There are eleven sensitive subtidal habitats listed under this act; five of which are found within the wider region the English Offshore Scheme occurs within and could potentially be encountered. Several intertidal and marine birds are included in the list. European otter, 16 species of cetacean and common / harbour seal are included on the list.</p>	<p>Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology</p> <p>Fish and Shellfish</p> <p>Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology</p> <p>Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles</p>
Environment Act 2021	<p>The Environment Act 2021 sets clear statutory targets for the recovery of the natural world in four priority areas: air quality, biodiversity, water and waste.</p>	<p>Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology</p>

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (the 'OSPAR' convention) adopted in 1992	The OSPAR convention provides a binding framework of environmental protection and sustainable development management to ensure marine development is conducted in an environmental responsible manner.	Fish and Shellfish All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme
The Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975	Aims to protect salmon and trout from commercial poaching, to protect migration routes, to prevent wilful vandalism and neglect of fisheries, ensure correct licensing and water authority approval.	Fish and Shellfish
The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations (2009)	The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations (2009) implement Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007 (EC) No 1100/2007 establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel including providing for the free passage of eels. This is now part of the body of retained EU law.	Fish and Shellfish
Prohibition of the fishing of sandeel within English waters of International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) Area IV (North Sea)	Prohibits the fishing of sandeel in the English part of the North Sea, due to their ecosystem importance.	Fish and Shellfish Commercial Fisheries
Common Fisheries Policy 2013 reform	The reform aimed to make EU fisheries more sustainable, economically viable, and socially responsible. Key changes included a ban on discarding fish (where exemptions do not apply), and a focus on fishing at Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY).	Fish and Shellfish
Conservation of Seals Act 1970 (as amended)	This Act provides specific regulations for both harbour seals (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) and grey seals (<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>), ensuring their welfare and regulating activities that may harm them. Licensing conditions ensure that any authorised actions involving seals are justified and do not negatively impact seal populations in the long term.	Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles
Offshore Regulations (2002) amended)	Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations (2002) (CHIP) ensures people are supplied with the information they need to protect	Shipping and Navigation

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<p>themselves from chemicals. CHIP obliges suppliers of chemicals to identify hazards and provide appropriate packaging labels and safety data sheets.</p>	
<p>United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)</p> <p>Article 79: Submarine cables and pipelines on the continental shelf</p>	<p>The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is considered the 'constitution of the oceans' and represents the result of an unprecedented, and so far, never replicated, effort at codification and progressive development of international law.</p>	<p>Shipping and Navigation</p> <p>Other Marine Users</p>
<p>Article 113: High Sea Areas</p>	<p>Paragraph 5 protects submarine cables and pipelines and requires developers to have due regard for any existing cables or pipelines in position and not prejudice the possibilities of repair.</p> <p>This article states that if an existing submarine or power cable is broken or injured, this will be a punishable offence. If a cable or pipeline is broken during the laying or repairing of another cable, the developer will be subject to pay the repair costs.</p>	
<p>Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREGs)</p>	<p>Also known as Collision Regulations (COLREGs), are published by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and set out, among other things, the "rules of the road" or navigation rules to be followed by ships and other vessels at sea to prevent collisions between two or more vessels. COLREGs can also refer to the specific political line that divides inland waterways, which are subject to their own navigation rules, and coastal waterways which are subject to international navigation rules.</p>	<p>Shipping and Navigation</p>
<p>International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) (1974)</p>	<p>The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) is an international maritime treaty which sets out minimum safety standards in the construction, equipment and operation of merchant ships. The International Maritime Organization convention requires signatory flag states to ensure that ships flagged by them comply with at least these standards. SOLAS in its successive forms is generally</p>	<p>Shipping and Navigation</p>

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments (2004)	regarded as the most important of all international treaties concerning the safety of merchant ships.	Shipping and Navigation
International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL)	The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 as modified by the Protocol of 1978, or "MARPOL 73/78" (short for "marine pollution") is one of the most important international marine environmental conventions. It was developed by the International Maritime Organization with an objective to minimize pollution of the oceans and seas, including dumping, oil and air pollution.	Shipping and Navigation
Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation Convention) Regulations (1998)	<p>Parties to the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) are required to establish measures for dealing with pollution incidents, either nationally or in co-operation with other countries.</p> <p>Ships are required to carry a shipboard oil pollution emergency plan. Operators of offshore units under the jurisdiction of Parties are also required to have oil pollution emergency plans or similar arrangements which must be co-ordinated with national systems for responding promptly and effectively to oil pollution incidents.</p> <p>Ships are required to report incidents of pollution to coastal authorities and the convention details the actions that are then to be taken. The Convention calls for the</p>	Shipping and Navigation

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<p>establishment of stockpiles of oil spill combating equipment, the holding of oil spill combating exercises and the development of detailed plans for dealing with pollution incidents.</p> <p>Parties to the convention are required to provide assistance to others in the event of a pollution emergency and provision is made for the reimbursement of any assistance provided.</p>	
<p>Merchant Shipping (Prevention of Pollution by Sewage and Garbage from Ships) Regulations (2008) (as amended)</p>	<p>These Regulations implement Annexes IV (Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Sewage) and V (Regulations for the Prevention of Pollution by Garbage) of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (1973) as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating to that Convention. They concern, among other things: surveys to be carried out and Sewage Certificates; the disposal of plastics into the sea; and powers of inspection and detention of ships.</p>	<p>Shipping and Navigation</p>
<p>The Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations (2002, as amended 2020)</p>	<p>The Merchant Shipping (Safety of Navigation) Regulations (2020) (“the 2020 Regulations”) implement Chapter V of the Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, (1974) (“SOLAS” or “the Convention”) and all outstanding amendments to Chapter V. Chapter V was negotiated and agreed in the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Chapter V focuses on measures which improve safety of navigation, and to reduce the risk of accidents occurring at sea, specifically in the areas of the carriage and use of equipment to assist in safe navigation, the receipt of vital safety information and communications, including emergency communications and signals.</p>	<p>Shipping and Navigation</p>
<p>Submarine Telegraph Act (1885)</p>	<p>The Act applies to cables in the United Kingdom (UK) waters and was most recently updated by the Merchant Shipping Act 1995. This Act is designed to protect cables by making it an offence to damage a cable and restricting vessels and fishing activities within certain distances of cables.</p>	<p>Shipping and Navigation</p> <p>Other Marine Users</p>

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	<p>This Act protects submarine telegraph cables. The English Offshore Scheme has the potential to affect submarine cables and therefore the protection of these cables has been considered within the scope of this report.</p>	
<p>The World Heritage Convention (1972)</p>	<p>The Convention defines the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties, recognising the way in which people interact with nature and the need for balance between nature and culture. Signatories are required to preserve World Heritage Sites defined by the Convention and to identify and preserve national heritage through suitable planning programmes and measures.</p>	<p>Marine Archaeology</p>
<p>Protection of Wrecks Act (1973)</p>	<p>The Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 was enacted to safeguard wreck sites in United Kingdom (UK) territorial waters that are of historical, archaeological, or artistic importance, or pose a danger to navigation or public safety. The Act is divided into two key sections; Section 1 – Protection of sites of historic wrecks³ and Section 2 – Prohibition on approaching dangerous wrecks⁴. The Act provides a legal mechanism for managing and preserving wreck sites <i>in situ</i> in alignment with international heritage principles (e.g., the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) and UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)).</p>	<p>Marine Archaeology</p>
<p>Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)</p>	<p>Enshrines the protection and preservation of remains with high archaeological or historical interest. Operations or activities with the potential to disturb or damage the remains within the boundaries of the protected area may be permitted following the granting of Scheduled Monument</p>	<p>Marine Archaeology</p>

³ Section 1 of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 outlines the definition of sites of historic wrecks, conditions for the application of the Act, authorisation for activities within protected sites and activities which breach protections.

⁴ Section 2 of the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973 outlines the definition of dangerous wrecks and associated prohibited areas, conditions and activities which breach protections and exemptions.

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982) (UNCLOS)	Consent from the Secretary of State but any unlicensed operations that may disturb the site are illegal.	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme
Protection of Military Remains Act (1986)	<p>The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources. It enshrines the notion that all problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be addressed as a whole.</p> <p>In respect to installation of cables within the European Economic Zone, installation of cables which are solely for the transmission of electricity are exempt from marine licensing under the MCAA beyond 12 NM, furthermore a licence within 12 NM must be granted, although conditions can be placed with the consent. Beyond 12 NM a licence is required for cable protection and dredging of sand waves only.</p>	Marine Archaeology
Merchant Shipping Act (1995)	Provides protection for the wreckage of military aircraft and certain military wrecks. Designations can be either as a Controlled Site ⁵ or Protected Place ⁶ where access may be permitted but any operations that may disturb the site are illegal, unless licensed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). All military aircraft are automatically protected under this legislation; however, vessels must be designated individually.	The Act stipulates that the 'Receiver of Marine Archaeology Wreck' administers and is responsible for processing incoming reports of wreck and cargo.

⁵ A 'controlled site' under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 means an area designated as such under Section 1 of the Act, particularly aircraft or vessels sunk, stranded or crashed whilst in military service to the UK (exemptions applicable).

⁶ A 'protected place' under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986 means such a place as defined in accordance with Section 1(6) of the Act: the remains or substantial part of an aircraft or vessel (falling under the Act) and on or within the seabed or place or immediate vicinity of the place of crash, sinking or stranding.

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
International Council of Monuments and Sites Charter on the Protection and Management of Underwater Cultural Heritage (1996) (the Sofia Charter)	The Sofia Charter is intended to encourage the protection and management of underwater cultural heritage in inland and inshore waters, shallow seas and deep oceans. The Sofia Charter should be read as a supplement to the International Council on Monuments and Sites Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage (1990), which defines ‘...archaeological heritage...’ as that part of the material heritage in respect of which archaeological methods provide primary information, comprising all vestiges of human existence and consisting of places relating to all manifestations of human activity, abandoned structures and remains of all kinds, together with all the portable cultural material associated with them.	Marine Archaeology
UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage (2001)	<p>The 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage establishes a common framework for the identification, preservation and sustainability of objects that have been immersed for at least 100 years.</p> <p>The 2001 Convention provides a common legally binding framework for States Parties on how to better identify, research and protect their underwater heritage while ensuring its preservation and sustainability. Adopted on 2 November 2001 at the 31st General Conference of UNESCO, the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage urges States to take all appropriate measures to protect underwater heritage.</p>	Marine Archaeology
European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (revised) (1992) (the Valletta Convention) – ratified by the UK Government in 2000 and came into force in 2001	The Valletta Treaty (formally the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Revised), also known as the Malta Convention) is a multilateral treaty of the Council of Europe. The 1992 treaty aims to protect the European archaeological heritage "as a source of European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study". All remains and objects and any other traces of humankind from past	Marine Archaeology

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	times are considered to be elements of the archaeological heritage. The archaeological heritage shall include structures, constructions, groups of buildings, developed sites, moveable objects, monuments of other kinds as well as their context, whether situated on land or under water	
European Convention (2000) – adopted in the UK in 2007	Landscape The Convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes. Through its approach and broader scope, it complements the Council of Europe’s and UNESCO’s heritage conventions. This Chapter has derived its definition of ‘seascape’ from the Convention, also used by the UK Marine Policy Statement (2011).	Marine Archaeology

Planning Policy

2.A.3.3 A summary of the planning policies at both a national and local level relevant to the scope of the offshore environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 2.A-5** and **Table 2.A-6**.

Table 2.A-5 National planning policy relevant to the offshore environmental aspect chapters

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (6 January 2025)		
Paragraphs 5.6.9 - 5.6.12	<p><i>‘Where relevant, coastal geomorphological and sediment transfer modelling should be undertaken to predict, understand and mitigate impacts’.</i></p> <p><i>The ES (see Section 4.3) should include an assessment of the effects on the coast, tidal rivers and estuaries. In particular, applicants should assess:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The impact of the proposed project on coastal processes and geomorphology, including by taking account of potential impacts from climate change. If the development will have an impact on coastal processes the applicant must demonstrate how the impacts will be managed to</i> 	Coastal and Marine Physical Processes

minimise adverse impacts on other parts of the coast;”

- *The implications of the proposed project on strategies for managing the coast as set out in Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs)¹⁷⁷ (which are designed to identify the most sustainable approach to managing flood and coastal erosion risks from short to long term and are long term non-statutory plans which set out the agreed high-level objective for coastal flooding and erosion management for each SMP area), any relevant Marine Plans, River Basin Management Plans, and capital programmes for maintaining flood and coastal defences and Coastal Change Management Areas;*
- *The effects of the proposed project on marine ecology, biodiversity, protected sites and heritage assets;*
- *How coastal change could affect flood risk management infrastructure, drainage and flood risk;*
- *The effects of the proposed project on maintaining coastal recreation sites and features;*
- *The vulnerability of the proposed development to coastal change, taking account of climate change, during the project’s operational life and any decommissioning period.*

For any projects involving dredging or deposit of any substance or object into the sea, the applicant should consult the MMO and Historic England or the NRW in Wales. Where a project has the potential to have a major impact in this respect, this is covered in the technology specific NPSs. For example, EN-4 looks further at the environmental impacts of dredging in connection with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) tanker deliveries to LNG import facilities.

The applicant should be particularly careful to identify any effects of physical changes on the integrity and special features of MPAs. These could include MCZs, habitat sites including

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<p><i>Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas with marine features, Ramsar Sites, Sites of Community Importance, and SSSIs with marine features. Applicants should also identify any effects on the special character of Heritage Coasts.”</i></p>	
Sections 4.5 and 5.4	<p>Applicants for a development consent must take account of any relevant ‘Marine Plans’.</p> <p>Details steps Applicants should take to conserve and enhance biodiversity including the adoption of appropriate avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures.</p> <p>In addition, the policy requires that consideration is given to mobile and migratory species, which is of relevance to this ornithology assessment.</p>	Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology Intertidal and Offshore Ornithology
Section 4.5, paragraph 5.4.23	<p>Requires the design of energy NSIP proposals to consider the movement of mobile / migratory fish species such as fish and their potential to interact with infrastructure</p>	Fish and Shellfish
Paragraph 4.5.8.	<p><i>States ‘Applicants for a Development Consent Order must take account of any relevant Marine Plans and are expected to complete a Marine Plan assessment as part of their project development, using this information to support an application for development consent’.</i></p>	Shipping and Navigation Commercial Fisheries
Paragraphs 5.5.36, 5.5.38 and 5.13.4	<p><i>States that ‘new energy infrastructure does not unacceptably impede or compromise the safe and effective use of any defence assets’</i></p> <p><i>States ‘Where the proposed development may affect the performance of civil or military aviation CNS⁷, meteorological radars and/or other defence assets an assessment of potential effects should be set out in the ES’.</i></p> <p><i>States that ‘The applicant’s assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include:</i></p> <p><i>[...]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• effects (positive and negative) on tourism and other users of the area impacted’</i> 	Other Marine Users

⁷ Communication, Navigation or Surveillance (CNS)

Section 5.9	<p>The National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) sets out the Government’s planning policy for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in the energy sector, policies for assessment in applications and outlines generic impacts arising from the development of energy infrastructure.</p> <p>Outlines the importance of the management and assessment of the historic environment during application for development consent, in line with current legislation and other policy in England. It also underpins the case for mitigation and the decision-making process in weighing applications with the potential to impact the historic environment.</p>	Marine Archaeology
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National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-5) (6 January 2025)

Paragraph 2.9.26	<p><i>‘In such cases the Secretary of State should only grant development consent for underground or subsea sections of a proposed line over an overhead alternative if they are satisfied that the benefits accruing from the former proposal clearly outweigh any extra economic, social, or environmental impacts that it presents, the mitigation hierarchy has been followed, and that any technical obstacles associated with it are surmountable. In this context it should consider:</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The potentially very disruptive effects of undergrounding on local communities, habitats, archaeological and heritage assets, marine environments, soil (including peat soils), hydrology, geology, and, for a substantial time after construction, landscape and visual amenity. (Undergrounding an overhead line will mean digging a trench along the length of the route, and so such works will often be more disruptive – albeit temporarily – to the receptors listed above than would an overhead line of equivalent rating);</i> • <i>The potentially very disruptive effects of subsea cables on the seabed and the species that live in and on it, including physical damage to and full</i> 	Coastal and Marine Physical Processes
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Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<p><i>loss of seabed habitats. Cable protection can also be required where cables cross each other, or where they cannot be buried deep enough to protect them from becoming exposed. Such protection causes additional impacts that are often greater than those of the cable itself due to the large areas covered. There can also be issues where subsea cables make landfall, as much coastal land is protected habitat with environmental and heritage designations and landfall connections could cause additional disruption to coastal communities and the environment;</i></p>	
Paragraph 2.2.7	<p><i>‘The connection between the initiating and terminating points of a proposed new electricity line will often not be via the most direct route. Siting constraints, such as engineering, environmental or community considerations will be important in determining a feasible route.’</i></p>	Coastal and Marine Physical Processes
Paragraph 2.3.2	<p><i>‘As climate change is likely to increase risks to the resilience of some of this infrastructure, from flooding for example, or in situations where it is located near the coast or an estuary or is underground, applicants should in particular set out to what extent the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable, and, as appropriate, how it has been designed to be resilient to:</i></p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• coastal erosion – for the landfall of offshore transmission cables and their associated substations in the inshore and coastal locations respectively’</i> 	Coastal and Marine Physical Processes
Paragraph 2.9.6	<p><i>‘Particular consideration should be given to feeding and hunting grounds, migration corridors and breeding grounds, where they are functionally linked to sites designated or allocated under the ‘national site network’ provisions of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations and Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations’</i></p>	Marine Mammals and Marine Reptiles
Paragraph 2.13.14	<p><i>‘Co-ordinated transmission proposals, including OHA and other types of offshore transmission (see Glossary), are expected to reduce the overall environmental and community impacts associated</i></p>	Coastal and Marine Physical Processes

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<p><i>with bringing offshore transmission onshore compared to an uncoordinated, radial approach. These reduced impacts could, for example, relate to: fewer landing sites and reduced landfall impacts; reduced overall cable length and impacts; and fewer cable corridors and reduced impacts from these'</i></p>	
Paragraphs 2.13.21 – 2.13.23	<p><i>'The sensitivities of many coastal locations and of the marine environment as well as the potential environmental, community and other impacts in neighbouring onshore areas must be considered in the identification of onshore connection points.</i></p> <p><i>Onshore connection points for offshore transmission bringing power from offshore wind farms must be considered as part of the overall offshore transmission network design and in conjunction with the onshore network by the body responsible for the design</i></p> <p><i>Onshore connection locations for offshore transmission must seek to minimise environmental and other impacts, both onshore and in the marine environment and including to local communities.'</i></p>	Coastal and Marine Physical Processes
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2025)		
N/A	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework (2025) sets out planning policy for England and their application.</p> <p>Sets out measures to be taken to protect and enhance biodiversity when developing plans and proposals.</p> <p>Chapter 16 of the NPPF (2025) explains the importance and application of conservation and enhancement of the historic environment through planning, underpinning the key principles of sustainable development with regard to this resource.</p>	Intertidal and Subtidal Benthic Ecology Marine Archaeology
UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) (2011)		
N/A	<p>The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) was adopted in 2011 and provides a policy framework for the preparation of marine plans and establishes how decisions affecting the marine area should be made.</p> <p>States that '<i>marine plan authorities should seek to minimise and mitigate any geomorphological</i></p>	All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme

changes that an activity or development will have on coastal processes including sediment movement. It also provides an overview of potential adverse impacts which can include changes to the hydrodynamic regime that may alter coastal processes, loss of seabed habitat and heritage assets, impacts on fisheries and secondary impacts to marine life and habitat associated with sediment plumes, disturbance of fish spawning, migration routes, nursery and overwintering areas, over spills from dredging vessels and impacts on geodiversity’.

The policy acknowledges how sensitive fisheries are to changes resulting from the activities of other sea users and how marine developments have the potential to prevent, displace, or encourage fishing activities. There are also potential social, economic, and environmental impacts of displacement of fishing activity caused by other sea uses, particularly if from well-established fishing grounds. In addition to marine fish stocks associated with commercial sea fishing, the coastal environment is important as a corridor for migrating Atlantic salmon and European eel, and in providing the marine feeding ground for sea trout. These important species that support coastal and inland commercial fishing and recreational angling could be vulnerable to a wide range of coastal activities.

The UK Marine Policy Statement notes the relevance of the conservation status of seabirds and that when the Secretary of State makes a decision, they should be satisfied that cumulative and in-combination impacts have been considered.

The UK Marine Policy Statement does not specifically reference marine mammals but reiterates the UK aims to halt, and if possible, reverse, biodiversity loss; and the policy that all relevant public, private and non-governmental policies should accept biodiversity’s essential role in enhancing the quality of life.

The UK Marine Policy Statement expresses support for the fishing sector, and regarding displacement advocates *‘seeking solutions such as co-location of activity wherever possible’*. The process of marine planning should *‘enable the*

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<p><i>coexistence of compatible activities wherever possible</i>.</p> <p>There are several paragraphs within the UK Marine Policy Statement of relevance to the other marine users assessment including paragraphs 3.2.9, 3.3.29 and 3.8.7 which focus on adequate consideration of Ministry of Defence (MoD), other sea users, existing cable and pipeline operators and fishing interests.</p> <p>The UK Marine Policy Statement (2011, updated 2020) sets out high-level objectives for the marine space, including achieving a sustainable marine economy, and identifies a wide range of relevant marine uses. The Policy requires use of the marine environment and its resources to maximise sustainable activity, prosperity and opportunities for all.</p> <p>The Marine Policy Statement (2011) represents one of the key documents underpinning the principle of sustainable development in the UK, informing consideration of marine archaeology in marine development.</p>	

Table 2.A-6 Local planning policy relevant to the offshore environmental aspect chapters

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans 2014 and Northeast Inshore and Offshore Marine Plans 2021	<p>East Inshore and Offshore Marine plans set out the priorities and direction for future planning within the plan area and provide guidance on activities to avoid or promote. A Marine Plan Assessment would be provided with the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Environmental Statement (ES) that outlines how the English Offshore Scheme complies with the policies and objectives of the relevant marine plans.</p>	<p>All aspects assessed for the English Offshore Scheme in Volume 1, Part 3 English Offshore Scheme</p>

2.A.3.4 For the East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans (2014) and Northeast Inshore and Northeast Offshore Marine Plan (2021) please refer to **Volume 2, Part 1 Appendix 2.B Marine Plan Policy Assessment**.

2.A.4 Project Wide Scheme

2.A.4.1 This section identifies the relevant legislation, national and local policy and technical guidance which has informed the scope of the environmental aspect chapters for the Project Wide Scheme.

Legislation

2.A.4.2 A summary of the key legislation considered in, but not limited to, the scope of the environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 2.A-7**.

Table 2.A-7 Legislation relevant to the project wide environmental aspect chapters

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	The UK is a member of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change ('UNFCCC') which drives international action on climate change. The UK has pledged to reduce emissions under the 'Paris Agreement' in 2015, as a part of a joint pledge by members of the EU. This provides an overarching commitment by the UK. In December 2020, the UK communicated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the UNFCCC in line with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. In its NDC, the UK commits to reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.	Greenhouse Gases
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report - Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius 2018	The IPCC has confirmed the need for global carbon emissions to follow a pathway that will prevent global warming exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius. In its global emission pathways, the IPCC outlines the role of carbon capture and storage and how it can contribute to negative emissions, driving reductions in the energy sector. The IPCC's Synthesis Report for the Sixth Assessment (Summary for Policymakers) Report (Ref 12.11) reports that: 'All global modelled pathways that limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius with no or limited overshoot, and those that limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius involve rapid and deep and, in most cases, immediate greenhouse gas emissions reductions in all sectors this decade'. The report further highlights the need for carbon dioxide (CO ₂) removal to stay within the bounds of 1.5 degrees Celsius warming trajectory.	Greenhouse Gases
The Climate Change Act (2008) (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019	Sets UK Government overall targets for GHG reduction and net zero target for 2050.	Greenhouse Gases
Climate Change Committee (CCC): The Sixth Carbon Budget path to Net Zero	As part of the CCC's recommendation for the UK's Sixth Carbon Budget (which will run from 2033 to 2037), it is noted that investments in transmission networks will be key to accommodate higher levels of low carbon generation such as offshore wind. Upgrades in	Greenhouse Gases

Legislation	Legislative context	Environmental aspect
	distribution networks to accommodate electric vehicles and use of heat pumps are also noted as important.	
Infrastructure Carbon Review (2013)	<p>In 2013, the UK government published the Infrastructure Carbon Review, aiming to ‘release the value of lower carbon solutions and to make carbon reduction part of the DNA of infrastructure in the UK’.</p> <p>Major infrastructure owners, operators and developers across the communication, energy, transport, waste and water sectors were invited to endorse it, become signatories and make commitments under the Review. The Review provided increased emphasis on ‘capital carbon’ (GHG emissions associated with raw materials, activities and transport for construction, repairs, replacement, refurbishment and de-construction of infrastructure) while acknowledging that ‘operational carbon’ (associated with energy consumption for the operation and use of infrastructure) will continue to dominate overall emission to 2050 and beyond.</p> <p>The Review highlighted the importance of assessing GHG emissions early in the lifecycle of an infrastructure scheme, when there is the greatest carbon reduction potential. The Review also led to the publication of a Publicly Available Specification (PAS) on Infrastructure Carbon Management (PAS 2080:2016).</p>	Greenhouse Gases
The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	<p>Within this strategy is an ambition to deliver clean, smart, flexible power.</p> <p>It notes the continued need for additional renewable energy generation, including offshore wind, and therefore investment required in infrastructure supporting the transmission and distribution of power.</p>	Greenhouse Gases
The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (2017)	<p>The EIA Regulations cover the process of EIA in the context of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. They apply the amended EU Directive 2014/52/EU. Schedule 4, paragraph 5(e), and Regulation 5(2) (see paragraphs 21.1.3 and 2.1.4 above) are of relevance to cumulative effects.</p>	Cumulative Effects

Planning Policy

2.A.4.3 A summary of the planning policies at both a national and local level relevant to the scope of the environmental aspect effects is outlined in **Table 2.A-8** and **Table 2.A-9**.

Table 2.A-8 National planning policy relevant to the project wide environmental aspect chapters

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (6 January 2025)		
Paragraph 5.3.4	<i>'All proposals for energy infrastructure projects should include a GHG assessment as part of their ES.'</i>	Greenhouse Gases
Paragraph 5.3.5	<i>'A GHG assessment should be used to drive down GHG emissions at every stage of the proposed development and ensure that emissions are minimised as far as possible for the type of technology, taking into account the overall objectives of ensuring our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable and affordable, as we transition to net zero.'</i>	Greenhouse Gases
Paragraph 4.1.5	EN-1 states that, in considering any proposed development, in particular when weighting its adverse impacts against its benefits, the SoS should take into account: <i>'its potential adverse impacts, including on the environment, and including any long-term and cumulative adverse impacts, as well as any measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate or compensate for any adverse impacts, following the mitigation hierarchy'</i>	Cumulative Effects
Paragraph 4.2.25	Notes that applications for critical national priority infrastructure should set out how residual impacts of a proposed development will be compensated for and that cumulative impacts of multiple developments with residual impacts should also be considered.	Cumulative Effects
Paragraph 4.3.3	EN-1 acknowledges the requirements of the EIA Regulations, noting that: <i>'The EIA Regulations require an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, 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'</i>	Cumulative Effects
Sections 4.4, 4.9, 4.11, 4.12, 5.5, 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.13, 5.14, 5.16	The following sections of EN-1 all state a requirement to include cumulative impacts in the assessment of a proposed development and/or that cumulative impacts should be considered as part of the SoS decision making process. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Health 	Cumulative Effects

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon Capture and Storage • Network Connection • Pollution Control and Other Environmental Regulatory Regimes • Civil and Military Aviation and Defence Interests • Flood Risk • Historic Environment • Landscape and Visual • Socio-Economic Impacts • Traffic and Transport • Water Quality and Resources 	
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (6 January 2025)		
Paragraph 2.10.1	The avoidance/minimisation of environmental impacts both onshore and offshore should be addressed at an early stage in the development process.	Greenhouse Gases
Paragraph 2.10.14	The climate-warming potential of Sulphur Hexafluoride ⁸ (SF ₆) is such that applicants should, as a rule, avoid the use of SF ₆ in new developments.	Greenhouse Gases
Paragraph 2.10.15	<i>‘Where no proven SF₆-free alternative is commercially available, and where the cost of procuring a bespoke alternative is grossly disproportionate, the continued use of SF₆ is acceptable, provided that emissions monitoring and control measures compliant with the F-gas Regulation and/or its successors are in place.’</i>	Greenhouse Gases
Paragraph 2.7.1.	Supports EN-1 by providing guidance on new electricity networks infrastructure to ensure it is well designed. It states <i>‘EN-1 explains in Section 4.10 that the Planning Act 2008 aims to create a holistic planning regime, such that the cumulative effects of the same project can be considered together. Co-ordinated applications typically bring economic efficiencies and reduced environmental impact’.</i>	Cumulative Effects
East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan (2014)		

⁸ Sulphur Hexafluoride is a gas used in some designs of electrical switchgear.

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Policy CC2	<i>‘Proposals for development should minimise emissions of greenhouse gases as far as is appropriate. Mitigation measures will also be encouraged where emissions remain following minimising steps. Consideration should also be given to emissions from other activities or users affected by the proposal.’</i>	Greenhouse Gases
Northeast Inshore and Northeast Offshore Marine Plan (2021)		
Policy NE-AIR-1	<i>‘Proposals must assess their direct and indirect impacts upon local air quality and emissions of greenhouse gases. Proposals that are likely to result in increased air pollution or increased emissions of greenhouse gases must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate -air pollution and/or greenhouse gas emissions in line with current national and local air quality objectives and legal requirements.’</i>	Greenhouse Gases
National Planning Policy Framework (2025)		
Paragraph 198	The NPPF sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these should be applied, with the following paragraphs relating to cumulative effects: Paragraph 198: <i>‘Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development’.</i>	Cumulative Effects
UK Marine Policy Statement (2011)		
Paragraph 2.3.2.1	The UK MPS states <i>‘When considering potential benefits and adverse effects, decision makers should also take into account any multiple and cumulative impacts of proposals, in the light of other projects and activities’</i>	Cumulative Effects
Paragraph 2.4.3	Notes that <i>‘The marine plan authority will need to consider the potential cumulative impact of activities and, using best available techniques, whether for example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="424 1906 1225 2011">● The cumulative impact of activities, either by themselves over time or in conjunction with others, outweigh the benefits:	Cumulative Effects

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A series of low impact activities would have a significant cumulative impact which outweighs the benefit • An activity may preclude the use of the same area/resource for another potentially beneficial activity’. 	

Table 2.A-9 Local planning policy relevant to the environmental aspect chapters

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
East Lindsey District Council: East Lindsey Local Plan Core Strategy, (2018)		
Strategic Policy 27 (SP27) Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	<p><i>‘Large-scale renewable and low carbon energy development, development for the transmission and interconnection of electricity, and infrastructure required to support such development, will be supported where their individual or cumulative impact is, when weighed against the benefits, considered to be acceptable in relation to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) residential amenity;</i> <i>b) surrounding landscape, townscape and historic landscape character, and visual qualities;</i> <i>c) the significance (including the setting) of a historic garden, park, battlefield, building, conservation area, archaeological site or other heritage asset;</i> <i>d) sites or features of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, or protected species;</i> <i>e) the local economy;</i> <i>f) highway safety; and</i> <i>g) water environment and water quality’</i> 	Greenhouse Gases
Strategic Policy 28 (SP28) Infrastructure and S106 Obligations	<p>SP28 states <i>‘Infrastructure schemes should be accompanied by an impact assessment that shows how the proposal impacts on the landscape or local setting of the area, including individual and cumulative effects. It should identify what steps have been taken to minimize its effects and the alternative options that have been considered’.</i></p>	Cumulative Effects
Strategic Policy 11 (SP 11) – Historic Environment	<p>SP11 states <i>‘Proposals will be supported where they: Do not have a harmful cumulative impact on heritage assets’.</i></p>	Cumulative Effects

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Strategic Policy 27 (SP27) Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	SP27 states <i>'Large-scale renewable and low carbon energy development, development for the transmission and interconnection of electricity, and infrastructure required to support such development, will be supported where their individual or cumulative impact is, when weighed against the benefits, considered to be acceptable in relation to:</i> a) residential amenity; b) surrounding landscape, townscape and historic landscape character, and visual qualities; c) the significance (including the setting) of a historic garden, park, battlefield, building, conservation area, archaeological site or other heritage asset; d) sites or features of biodiversity or geodiversity importance, or protected species; e) the local economy; f) highway safety; and g) water environment and water quality'.	Cumulative Effects
Lincolnshire County Council	There is a need for the Project to be consistent with the Guiding Principles set out in the Green Masterplan.	Greenhouse Gases
East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan (2014)		
Policy ECO1	ECO1 states <i>'Cumulative impacts affecting the ecosystem of the East marine plans and adjacent areas (marine, terrestrial) should be addressed in decision-making and plan implementation'.</i>	Cumulative Effects
Policy MPA1 Paragraph 227	States that <i>'The importance of the areas for future marine development, in addition to current activities, may present risks to implementing a coherent network, e.g. from potential cumulative effects'.</i>	Cumulative Effects
Policy GOV1 Paragraph 262	States that <i>'Public authorities must assess the potential positive and negative impacts, on both the marine and terrestrial environments, of development proposals in a collective and cumulative manner...'</i>	Cumulative Effects
Policy GOV3 Paragraph 270	States that <i>'The current focus on cumulative effects is on those affecting the environment. However, achievement of sustainable development will require balanced assessment of environmental, social and economic cumulative effects. The assessment of cumulative effects and mitigation measures must be proportionate and achievable on a practical level'.</i>	Cumulative Effects

Policy reference	Policy context	Environmental aspect
Policy PS2 Paragraph 362	States <i>'There is also a need to consider possible cumulative effects that may arise as a result of growing numbers of Offshore Wind Farm projects due to be developed over time'</i> .	Cumulative Effects
Paragraph 378	States <i>'Dredging proposals should be considered in line with any cumulative impacts which may affect the ecosystem of the East marine plan areas.'</i>	Cumulative Effects
Paragraph 413	States <i>'Consideration will need to be given to activities outside of areas where cables are currently laid that may prevent any expansion of cable networks in the future, as well as the cumulative effects of these activities on cabling installation'</i> .	Cumulative Effects
Northeast Inshore and Northeast Offshore Marine Plan (2021)		
NE-CE-1	States <i>'Proposals which may have adverse cumulative effects with other existing, authorised, or reasonably foreseeable proposals must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</i> a) <i>Avoid</i> b) <i>Minimise</i> c) <i>Mitigate</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Adverse cumulative and/or in-combination effects so they are no longer significant'</i>. 	Cumulative Effects

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