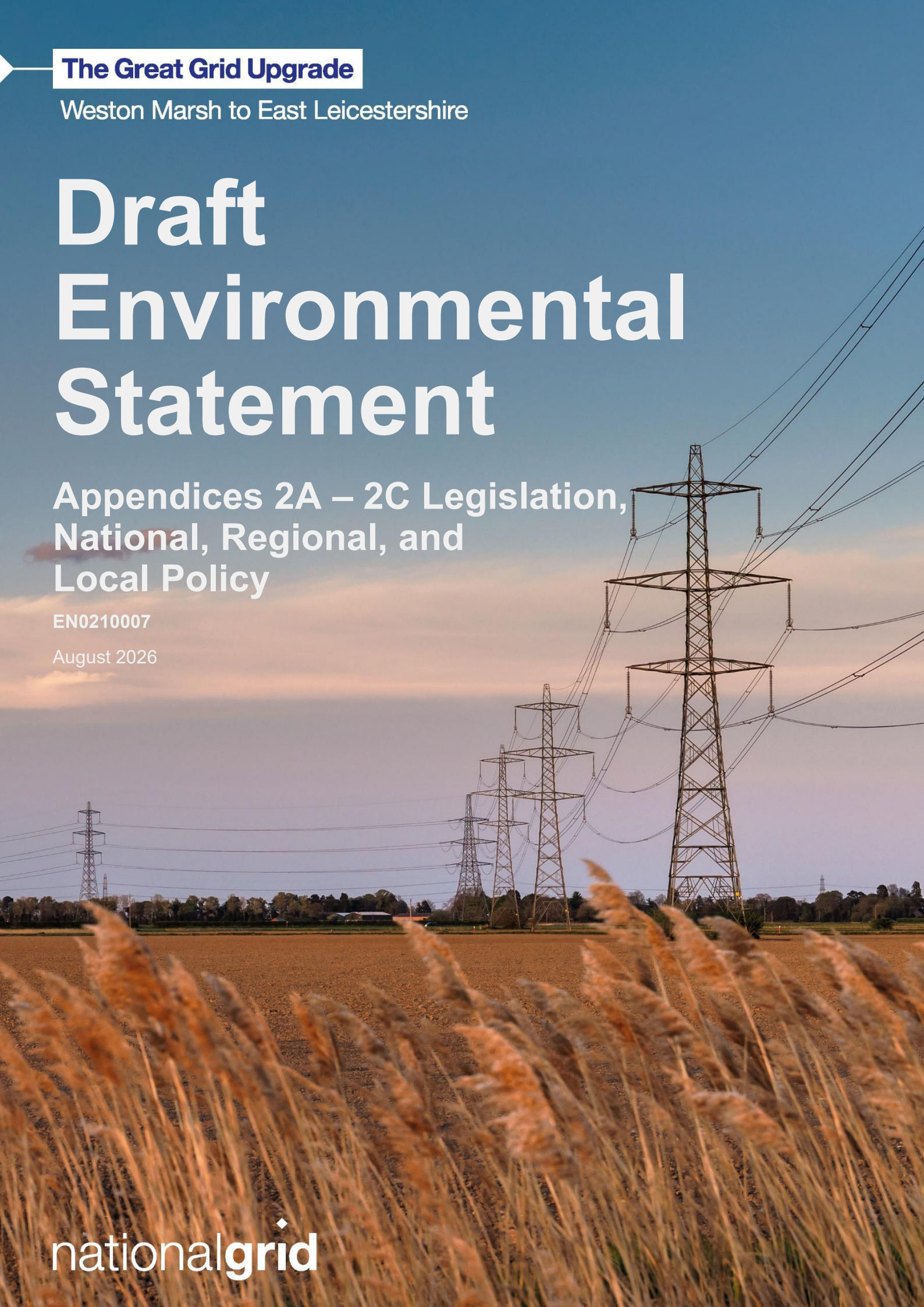




The Great Grid Upgrade

Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire

Draft Environmental Statement

Appendices 2A – 2C Legislation,
National, Regional, and
Local Policy

EN0210007

August 2026

nationalgrid

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2A. Key Legislation

2A. Key Legislation

2A.1 Overview

- 2A.1.1 The non-statutory Draft Environmental Statement (DES) (referred to in this document as “DES” and non-statutory DES”) outlines the key legislation and local and national policy in **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context**. A wider list of potentially relevant environmental legislation is set out in **Table 2A.1**. The list will be updated and amended throughout evolution of the Project design and for the Environmental Statement (ES). Relevant legislation is set out in the same order as environmental topic chapters of the DES.
- 2A.1.2 General legislation, which applies to more than one topic, is listed first, followed by topic-specific legislation. Each technical chapter in the DES references the key legislation relevant to the topic, and key legislation is set out in more detail in **Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context**.
- 2A.1.3 This document presents key legislation only. Relevant policies are presented in **Appendix 2B National and Regional Policy** and **Appendix 2C Local Policy**.

Table 2A.1 Key legislation

Topic Chapter	Name	Reference
All Topics	Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2025/34/enacted
	The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents/made
	Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/contents
	Planning Act 2008	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents
	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents
	Electricity Act 1989	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents
Landscape (Chapter 6) and Visual (Chapter 7)	European Landscape Convention	Available at: https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape/the-european-landscape-convention
	Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents
Ecology and Biodiversity (Chapter 8)	The Biodiversity Gain Requirements (Irreplaceable Habitat) Regulations 2024	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2024/48/contents/made
	Environment Act 2021	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents
	The Invasive Non-native Species (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/223
	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents/made

Topic Chapter	Name	Reference
	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations 2017)	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1012/contents/made
	Regulation (EU) 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species as enacted in England by The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019 (as amended)	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eur/2014/1143/contents
	The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/605/made
	The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/3344/made
	Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (the codified version of Council Directive 79/409/EEC as amended)	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eudr/2009/147
	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents
	Animal Welfare Act 2006	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents
	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents
	The Hedgerows Regulations 1997	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1997/1160/contents/made
	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/3/contents
	Protection of Badgers Act 1992	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents

Topic Chapter	Name	Reference
	Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eudr/1992/43/contents
	Town and Country Planning Act 1990	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents
	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents
	Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1975/51/contents
	Forestry Act 1967	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1967/10/contents
Cultural Heritage (Chapter 9)	The Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/305/contents/made
	Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and the National Heritage Act 2002)	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46/contents Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/47/contents Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/14/contents
	The Hedgerows Regulations 1997	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents/made
	Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents
	Protection of Military Remains Act 1986	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/35/contents
Water Environment (Chapter 10)	Environment Act 2021	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents
	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/407/contents/made

Topic Chapter	Name	Reference
Geology and Hydrogeology (Chapter 11)	The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/1154/contents
	Flood and Water Management Act 2010	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents
	The Flood Risk Regulations 2009	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/3042/contents/made
	Land Drainage Act 1991	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents
	Water Resources Act 1991	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents
	The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2023	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2023/651/contents/made
	Environment Act 2021	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents
	The Floods and Water (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2019/558
	The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/407/contents/made
	The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/1154/contents
	The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/810/contents

Topic Chapter	Name	Reference
	The Water Framework Directive (Standards and Classification) Directions (England and Wales) 2015	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1623/resources
	Water Act 2014	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/21/contents
	The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2010/994/contents/made
	Flood and Water Management Act 2010	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents
	The Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2009/9780111480816/contents
	The Water Resources Act (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2009	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/3104/contents
	The Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006 (which consolidate the provisions of the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2000 and subsequent amendments), as amended by the Contaminated Land (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/1380/contents/made
	The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (Amendment) Regulations 2004	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/3386
	The Anti-Pollution Works Regulations 1999	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/1006/contents/made
	Land Drainage Act 1991	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents
	Water Resources Act 1991	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents

Topic Chapter	Name	Reference
	Environmental Protection Act 1990 – Part 2A	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/part/IIA
Agriculture and Soils (Chapter 12)	Agricultural Land (Removal of Surface Soil) Act 1953	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/10
Traffic and Transport (Chapter 13)	Railways Act 2005	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2005/14/contents
	Transport Act 2000	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/38/contents
Air Quality (Chapter 14)	The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/96/contents/made
	Environment Act 2021	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents
	The Environment (Miscellaneous Amendments) (EU Exit) Regulations 2020	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2020/1313/made
	The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010, as amended in 2016	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/1184/made
	The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2000/928/contents/made
	Environment Act 1995	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents
	Environmental Protection Act 1990	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents
Noise and Vibration (Chapter 15)	Environmental Protection Act 1990	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents
	Control of Pollution Act 1974	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40/contents
Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism (Chapter 16)	Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents

Topic Chapter	Name	Reference
Health and Wellbeing (Chapter 17)	Health and Care Act 2022	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/31/contents
	Care Act 2014	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents
	Health and Social Care Act 2012	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents
Climate Change (Chapter 18)	The Seventh Carbon Budget	Available at: https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/the-seventh-carbon-budget/
	The Carbon Budget Order 2021	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2021/9780348222616
	The Carbon Budget Order 2016	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/785/contents/made
	The Paris Agreement	Available at: https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement
	The Carbon Budget Order 2011	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2011/1603/made
	The Carbon Budgets Order 2009	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/1259/contents/made
	The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654
	Climate Change Act 2008	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents
Cumulative Effects (Chapter 19)	The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017	Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/571/part/4/made

2B. National and Regional Policy

2B. National and Regional Policy

2B.1 Overview

- 2B.1.1 National and regional policies listed below are generally applicable to the assessment principles to be considered by the environmental topics in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). See **Table 2B.1**.

Table 2B.1 Schedule of potentially important and relevant national and regional planning policies

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
All Topics	Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS) (2025) EN-1 (Ref 2B.1)	2 Government policy on energy and energy infrastructure development	
		2.1 Introduction	
		NPS EN-1 sets out the government’s overarching policy regarding the development of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in the energy sector. EN-1 emphasises the need for new energy projects.	Chapter 4 Description of the Project presents a detailed Description of the Project and the need for the Project is discussed in Chapter 1 Introduction .
		Paragraph 2.1.1 suggests that large-scale energy infrastructure is required to ensure the UK can provide a secure, reliable and affordable supply of energy, while also meeting our decarbonisation targets	
		3 The need for new nationally significant energy infrastructure projects	
		3.1 Introduction	
		Section 3 of NPS EN-1 explains why the government sees a need for significant amounts of new large-scale energy infrastructure to meet energy objectives and why the government considers that the need for such infrastructure is urgent	The need for the Project is described in Chapter 1 Introduction .
		3.2 Secretary of State decision making	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		3.2.8 <i>'The Secretary of State should assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by this NPS on the basis that the government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure which is urgent, as described for each of them in this Part.'</i> 3.2.9 <i>'In addition, the Secretary of State has determined that substantial weight should be given to this need when considering applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.'</i>	The need for the Project is discussed in Chapter 1 Introduction .
		3.3 The need for new nationally significant electricity infrastructure	
		Paragraph 3.3.71 of EN-1 recognises that for regions with multiple windfarms or offshore transmission projects it is expected that a coordinated approach will be delivered which is likely to reduce network infrastructure costs as well as the cumulative environmental impacts and impacts on coastal communities by installing a smaller number of larger connections, each taking power from multiple windfarms instead of individual point-to-point connections for each windfarm.	A coordinated approach to the delivery of the Project is expected to be undertaken to reduce network infrastructure costs. In addition, a methodology of cumulative effects is detailed in Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects and a preliminary assessment of effects are provided in Appendix 19B Preliminary Assessment of Cumulative Effects in this DES. An updated description of the likely intra-project cumulative effects will be included within the Environmental Statement (ES).
		Paragraph 3.3.80 acknowledges that the case for a new connection or network reinforcement is demonstrated if the Project represents an efficient and economical means of:	The design evolution of the Project and the alternatives considered are presented within Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered and Chapter 4 Description of the Project .

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>‘Connecting a new generating station or storage facility to the network: Reinforcing the network to accommodate such connections; or Reinforcing the network to ensure that it is sufficiently resilient and capacious (per any performance standards set by Ofgem) to reliably supply present and/or anticipated future levels of demand.’</i> <i>‘In considering the ‘economic and efficient’ approach the network project needs to follow good design, avoidance and mitigation principles (and/ or biodiversity compensation where needed for transmission in the marine environment), as referenced in EN-5’.</i> <i>3.3.85 ‘Given the urgent need for new electricity infrastructure and the time it takes for electricity NSIPs to move from design conception to operation, there is an urgent need for new (and particularly low carbon) electricity NSIPs to be brought forward as soon as possible, given the crucial role of electricity as the UK decarbonises its economy.’</i> 4 Assessment Principles 4.1 General Policies and Considerations <i>4.1.3 ‘Given the level and urgency of need for infrastructure of the types covered by the energy</i>	
			The energy NPSs which are considered relevant in the context of the Project are

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>NPSs set out in Part 3 of this NPS, the Secretary of State will start with a presumption in favour of granting consent to applications for energy NSIPs. That presumption applies unless any more specific and relevant policies set out in the relevant NPSs clearly indicate that consent should be refused.'</i>	discussed in Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context .
		4.2 The critical national priority for low carbon infrastructure	
		Paragraph 4.2.16 states that the government has concluded that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure to meet the Clean Power 2030 Mission and net zero, with paragraph 4.2.17 confirming that this includes electricity grid infrastructure including all power lines in the scope of EN-5 including network reinforcement and upgrade works, and associated infrastructure such as substations.	The energy NPSs which are considered relevant in the context of the Project are discussed in Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context.
		Paragraph 4.2.20 confirms that the CNP policy applies following the normal consideration of the need case, the impacts of the project, and the application of the mitigation hierarchy. As such, it is relevant during Secretary of State (SoS) decision making and specifically in reference to any residual impacts that have been identified. It should therefore also be given consideration by the Examining Authority when it is making its recommendation to the SoS.	A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report will be produced to determine whether the Project is likely to have a significant effect on any European designated site (now included within the national site network), or on any site to which the same protection is applied as a matter of policy, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The HRA Report will inform the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES and will be included as a separate report within the application for development consent. A Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment is provided in Appendix 8A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		Of particular relevance to the EIA process, paragraph 4.2.21 notes that: <i>‘During decision making, the CNP policy will influence how non-HRA and non-Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) residual impacts are considered in the planning balance. The policy will therefore also influence how the Secretary of State considers whether tests requiring clear outweighing of harm, exceptionality, or very special circumstances have been met by a CNP Infrastructure application...’</i>	Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity . The likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) will be assessed and reported as part of the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES.
		4.5 Marine Considerations	
		Section 4.5 of NPS EN-1 provides details of how effects on the marine environment should be considered, noting that individual Marine Plans must be consulted to understand the marine relevant specific considerations, and suggests that the marine licensing regulator (the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in England) are approached during the pre-application stage to understand any need for additional marine licences alongside the development consent order (DCO) application.	The East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan will be considered in the preparation of the application for development consent.
		4.6 Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain	
		Section 4.6 of NPS EN-1 provides details of how environmental and biodiversity net gain should be considered and confirms that this approach to	Environmental and biodiversity net gain detail will be discussed in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity .

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		development aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than beforehand. Projects should therefore not only avoid, mitigate and compensate harms, following the mitigation hierarchy, but also consider whether there are opportunities for enhancements. Paragraph 4.6.15 confirms the ES should include a statement demonstrating how wider environmental net gains have been considered, and where appropriate, incorporated into proposals as part of good design of the Project.	
		4.7 Criteria for good design for Energy Infrastructure	
		Section 4.7 of NPS EN-1 provides details on the criteria for good design for energy infrastructure. Paragraph 4.7.1 states: <i>‘The visual appearance of a building, structure, or piece of infrastructure, and how it relates to the landscape it sits within, is sometimes considered to be the most important factor in good design. But high quality and inclusive design goes far beyond aesthetic considerations. The functionality of an object – be it a building or other type of infrastructure – including fitness for purpose and sustainability, is equally important.’</i>	Design of the Project is discussed in Chapter 6 Landscape and Chapter 7 Visual. The design of the route of the 400 kV overhead line, areas of reconductoring, and the siting of the substations and associated infrastructure is being developed within the underlying principle of good design through the application of the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3). The construction measures proposed are summarised in Chapter 4 Description of the Project and Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered, describes the evolution of the Project.
		4.10 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		Section 4.10 of NPS EN-1 details how the effects of climate change should be taken into account during the design stage to ensure new energy infrastructure is sufficiently resilient against the possible impacts of climate change. Specifically, as new energy infrastructure is typically likely to remain operational over many decades, the direct and indirect impacts of climate change when considering the Project location, design, build, operation and where appropriate decommissioning will need consideration. Paragraph 4.10.9 confirms the ES should set out how the proposal will take account of the projected impacts of climate change using government guidance and industry benchmarks, in accordance with the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017.	Appendix 18A Climate Change Resilience Screening Assessment of the Scoping Report (provided as Appendix 5A EIA Scoping Report) set out a screening assessment describing the potential impacts of current and future climate change on the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project and provided justification for the proposal to scope out a standalone Climate Change Resilience assessment from the EIA based on proposed Design, Control and Management Measures. The Planning Inspectorate agreed that this can be scoped out. Design Principles have been established to inform the development of the Project design for both construction and operation, as described in Chapter 4 Description of the Project. On this basis, no further assessment of the Project's vulnerability to climate change will be presented in the DES or ES.
		5 Generic Impacts	
		Part 5 of NPS EN-1 sets out generic impacts in respect of matters such as air quality and emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, biodiversity and geological conservation, civil and military aviation and defence interests, coastal change, dust and odour, flood risk, historic environment, landscape and visual, land use, noise and vibration,	Impacts on the various issues will be address in the topic-specific chapters (Chapters 6 to 19).

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		socio-economics, traffic and transport, resource and waste management, and water quality and resources.	
	National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information 2.1 Introduction Part 2 provides general assessment principles and technology-specific policies relating to matters including climate change adaptation, consideration of good design, biodiversity and geological conservation, landscape and visual, and noise and vibration. Paragraph 2.1.5 of NPS EN-5 reinforces Section 4.2 of NPS EN-1 which supports the urgent need for new low carbon infrastructure. 2.2 Factors influencing site selection and design Paragraph 2.2.10 of EN-5 reiterates the duties under section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, both in relation to developing and maintaining an economical and efficient network, and in formulating proposals for new electricity network infrastructure. 2.3 Climate change adaptation and resilience Section 2.3 of NPS EN-5 details how electricity network infrastructure should consider climate change adaptation and resilience within the design of new schemes. Paragraph 2.3.2 details that	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date. Chapter 1 Introduction describes the need for the Project. Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date. Appendix 18A Climate Change Resilience Screening Assessment of the Scoping Report (provided as Appendix 5A EIA Scoping Report) set out a screening

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		applicants should set out to what extent the Project is expected to be vulnerable and how it has been designed to be resilient to: flooding, particularly for substations; the effect of wind and storms on overhead lines; higher than average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses; and earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought, for underground cables.	assessment describing the potential impacts of current and future climate change on the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project and provided justification for the proposal to scope out a standalone Climate Change Resilience assessment from the EIA based on proposed Design, Control and Management Measures. The Planning Inspectorate agreed that this can be scoped out. Design Principles have been established to inform the development of the Project design for both construction and operation, as described in Chapter 4 Description of the Project . On this basis, no further assessment of the Project's vulnerability to climate change will be presented in the DES or ES.
	UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) (2020) (Ref 2B.5)	The MPS provides the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment. The objective of Marine Plans is to ensure that marine resources are used in a sustainable way in line with the high level marine objectives and thereby: promote sustainable economic development; enable the UK's move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects; ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage	The Project has limited interaction with the marine environment, although the proposed overhead line route of the Project will necessitate the crossing of one navigable river which falls under the jurisdiction of the MMO: the River Welland. Relevant policies contained in the MPS will be considered as part of the assessment of the Project and compliance with the MPS.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		assets; and contribute to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.	
	National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2024) (Ref 2B.6)	14 Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change Paragraph 161 requires that the planning system should support the transition to net zero by 2050 and take full account of all climate impacts including overheating, water scarcity, storm and flood risks and coastal change. Paragraph 164 requires that new development should be planned for in ways that: a) avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change; and b) can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Appendix 18A Climate Change Resilience Screening Assessment of the Scoping Report (provided as Appendix 5A EIA Scoping Report) set out a screening assessment describing the potential impacts of current and future climate change on the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project and provided justification for the proposal to scope out a standalone Climate Change Resilience assessment from the EIA based on proposed Design, Control and Management Measures. The Planning Inspectorate agreed that this could be scoped out. Design Principles have been established to inform the development of the Project design for both construction and operation, as described in Chapter 4 Description of the Project . On this basis, no further assessment of the Project's vulnerability to climate change will be presented in the DES or ES. With regards to reducing CO ₂ emissions, Chapter 18 Climate Change of this DES document, includes all the embedded

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
			design and mitigation measures taken to reduce construction and operational emissions. This will be updated for the ES.
	East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans (2014) (Ref 2B.16)	Regional Marine Plans are also relevant to the Project. The marine plans are focused on identifying how important navigable waters can be maintained as a vital feature of the marine plan area, as well as providing for changing vessel sizes. Paragraph 344 of the plan identifies that in the east marine plan areas there are increasing levels of activity encroaching on navigable space (for example, offshore wind farms), making it ever more important to indicate the area essential for navigation so that this is considered from the outset by public authorities and applicants.	The East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan will be considered in the preparation of the application for development consent. The construction measures proposed are summarised in Chapter 4 Description of the Project .
	National Infrastructure Planning Guidance (2026) (Ref 2B.15)	There are two parts of the National Infrastructure Planning Guidance that are relevant to the pre-application stage: Introduction to National Infrastructure Planning Guidance (July 2026), which sets out the role and scope of the National Infrastructure Planning Guidance, and Planning Act 2008: Guidance on preparing an application: Part 1 – Pre-application steps (July 2026), which provides guidance on the pre- application stage for NSIPs.	Under section 50 of the Planning Act 2008 applicants must have regard to this guidance in preparing the application for development consent.

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Chapter 6 Landscape	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	4 Assessment Principles	
		4.7 Criteria for good design for Energy Infrastructure	
		4.7.2 <i>‘Applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use, and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area.’</i>	The design of the route of the 400 kV overhead line and the siting of the substations and associated infrastructure is being developed within the underlying principle of good design through the application of the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3).
		4.7.3 <i>‘Good design is also a means by which many policy objectives in the NPSs can be met, for example the impact sections show how good design, in terms of siting and use of appropriate technologies, can help mitigate adverse impacts such as noise. Projects should look to use modern methods of construction and sustainable design practices such as use of sustainable timber and low carbon concrete. Where possible, projects should include the reuse of material.’</i>	The construction measures proposed are summarised in Chapter 4 Description of the Project .
		4.7.6 (part) <i>‘Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing</i>	The design of the route of the 400 kV overhead line and the siting of the substations and associated infrastructure is being developed within the underlying principle of good design through the

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		<i>landscape character, landform, and vegetation. Furthermore, the design and sensitive use of materials in any associated development such as electricity substations will assist in ensuring that such development contributes to the quality of the area.'</i>	application of the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3).
		<i>4.7.7 'Applicants must demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected.'</i>	The draft Order Limits have been developed for this DES. The strategic options and alternatives considered for the Project are summarised in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered .
		<i>4.7.10 'In the light of the above and given the importance which the Planning Act 2008 places on good design and sustainability, the Secretary of State needs to be satisfied that energy infrastructure developments are sustainable and, having regard to regulatory and other constraints, are as attractive, durable, and adaptable (including taking account of natural hazards such as flooding) as they can be.'</i>	The evolution of the design will continue to be informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys as well as consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution will be documented in the alternatives chapter within the ES.
		<i>4.7.11 'In doing so, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the applicant has considered both functionality (including fitness for purpose and sustainability) and aesthetics (including its contribution to the quality of the area in which it would be located, any potential amenity benefits,</i>	

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		<i>and visual impacts on the landscape or seascape) as far as possible.'</i> 4.7.12 <i>'In considering applications, the Secretary of State should take into account the ultimate purpose of the infrastructure and bear in mind the operational, safety and security requirements which the design has to satisfy. Many of the wider impacts of a development, such as landscape and environmental impacts, will be important factors in the design process.'</i>	
		5 Generic Impacts	
		5.10 Landscape and Visual	
		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>	The approach to assessing the likely significant landscape effects of the Project is set out in the assessment methodology in Section 6.5 of Chapter 6 Landscape. An overview of the baseline landscape is provided in Section 6.6 of Chapter 6 Landscape. The assessment will include the identification of any beneficial effects arising from mitigation.
		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</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routing, siting and design in accordance with

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		<i>reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.'</i>	the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology .
		5.10.7 (part) <i>'National Parks, the Broads and National Landscapes 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.'</i>	No above ground construction or operational part of the Project would fall within the boundaries of a National Park or National Landscape (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)). It does not lie within the area put forward in 2020 by North Lincolnshire Council as a proposed extension to the Lincolnshire Wolds.
		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>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.

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		5.10.12 <i>'Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, locally valued landscapes should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development.'</i>	The assessment will consider the effects of the Project on the locally designated landscapes listed in Chapter 6 Landscape .
		5.10.16 <i>'The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.3). Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues.'</i>	The landscape assessment will be reported in the landscape chapter of the ES. The assessment of cumulative effects will be reported in the cumulative effects chapter of the ES.
		5.10.17 <i>'The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development plan documents in England and local development plans in Wales.'</i>	The assessment of landscape effects will be based on the landscape character assessments listed in Chapter 6 Landscape but will be supplemented by baseline information within conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements. The assessment will take account of the local planning policies listed in Chapter 6 Landscape .
		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</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse

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		<i>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 incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme.'</i>	effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.
		<i>5.10.20 'The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character during construction and operation. For projects which may affect a National Park, The Broads or a National Landscape the assessment should include effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of these areas.'</i>	No above ground construction or operational part of the Project would fall within the boundaries of a National Park or National Landscape (formerly AONB) or fall within its setting. It does not lie within the area put forward in 2020 by North Lincolnshire Council as a proposed extension to the Lincolnshire Wolds.
		<i>5.10.22 'The assessment should also address the landscape and visual effects of noise and light pollution, and other emissions (see Section 5.2 and Section 5.7), from construction and operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, how these will be minimised.'</i>	The approach to assessing the likely significant landscape effects of the Project is set out in the assessment methodology in Section 6.5 of Chapter 6 Landscape . An overview of the baseline landscape is provided in Section 6.6 of Chapter 6 Landscape .
		<i>5.10.24 'Applicants should consider how landscapes can be enhanced using landscape management plans, as this will help to enhance environmental assets where they contribute to landscape and townscape quality.'</i>	
		<i>5.10.26 'Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date

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		<i>proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.'</i>	and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.
		5.10.27 <i>'Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within its development site and wider setting. The careful consideration of colours and materials will support the delivery of a well-designed scheme, as will sympathetic landscaping and management of its immediate surroundings.'</i>	
		5.10.28 <i>'Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines may mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.'</i>	The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology .
		5.10.29 <i>'The Secretary of State should take into consideration the level of detailed design which the applicant has provided and is secured in the</i>	The design of the infrastructure will be substantially dictated by the equipment they

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		<i>Development Consent Order, and the extent to which design details are subject to future approvals.'</i>	contain and the function that they need to provide. National Grid will provide sufficient design and layout plans and management plans to avoid the need for further requirements. The detailed designs will be undertaken by a competent contractor with knowledge of designing high voltage transmission lines and will be supported by environmental specialists including landscape architects and ecologists.
		<i>5.10.30 'The Secretary of State should be satisfied that local authorities will have sufficient design content secured to ensure future consenting will meet landscape, visual and good design objectives.'</i>	The design evolution of the Project is an iterative process. National Grid has considered ways to achieve good design through the careful consideration of route corridors and the application of design principles. The different choices made during the design process to date are set out in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered and Chapter 4 Description of the Project . National Grid has also considered alternative design suggestions during consultation feedback from external stakeholders and the design change process will be implemented by National Grid to address relevant design changes. This process allows for each identified change to be effectively assessed by National Grid's specialist teams covering environment, design and construction and

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			land rights. These processes will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. Design considerations take place within the context of meeting National Grid’s duty to be economic and efficient and also within the rigorous health and safety processes that National Grid has in place that govern how it designs and constructs its projects safely. National Grid is already required to ensure that the Project is designed in accordance with standards set out within or overseen by, amongst others, the Electricity Supply, Quality and Continuity Regulations, British Standards, National Grid Technical Guidance Notes (Electricity) and National Grid Technical Reports (Electricity).
		5.10.34 ‘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. The aim should be to avoid harming the purposes of designation or to minimise adverse effects on designated landscape. Such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. The fact that a proposed project will be visible from within a designated area should not in itself be a reason for the Secretary of State to refuse consent.’	Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered and Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on designated landscapes through sensitive routing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. No above ground construction or operational part of the Project would fall within the

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
			boundaries of a National Park or National Landscape (formerly AONB) or fall within its setting. It does not lie within the area put forward in 2020 by North Lincolnshire Council as a proposed extension to the Lincolnshire Wolds.
		5.10.35 <i>‘The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible across a very wide area. The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project.’</i>	The approach to assessing the likely significant landscape effects of the Project is set out in the proposed assessment methodology in Section 6.5 of Chapter 6 Landscape . An overview of the baseline landscape is provided in Section 6.6 of Chapter 6 Landscape .
		5.10.36 <i>‘In reaching a judgement, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable.’</i>	The landscape assessment will consider the intervisibility of the Project with the identified landscape receptors which could indirectly affect the landscape.
		5.10.37 <i>‘The Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation.’</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.

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			The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 4 Description of the Project and in Chapter 6 Landscape .
NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)		2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information 2.2 Factors influencing site selection and design 2.2.8 <i>‘There will usually be a degree of flexibility in the location of the development’s associated substations, and applicants should consider carefully their location, as well as their design.’</i> 2.2.9 <i>‘In particular, the applicant should consider such characteristics as the local topography, the possibilities for screening of the infrastructure and/or other options to mitigate any impacts...’</i> 2.2.10 <i>‘As well as having duties under section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, (in relation to developing and maintaining an economical and efficient network), applicants must take into account Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989, which places a duty on all transmission and distribution licence holders, in formulating proposals for new electricity networks infrastructure, to “have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and ...do what [they] reasonably can to mitigate any</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. An overview of the baseline landscape is provided in Section 6.6 of Chapter 6 Landscape . The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology and Chapter 6 Landscape . The design of the Project has sought to avoid such features through the application of the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3). Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project and how it demonstrates good design in its development to date.

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		<i>effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.”</i>	The approach to assessing the likely significant landscape effects of the Project is set out in the assessment methodology in Section 6.5 of Chapter 6 Landscape . An overview of the baseline landscape is provided in Section 6.6 of Chapter 6 Landscape .
		2.2.11 ‘Depending on the location of the proposed development, statutory duties under section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, section 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended by section 62 of the Environment Act 1995), and section 17A of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 may be relevant. Applicants should note amendments to each of these provisions contained in section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.’	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project and how it demonstrates good design in its development to date. A Design Development Report will be prepared and submitted with the application for development consent. Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context sets out how the Applicant will respond to the provisions contained in section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.
		2.9 Applicant assessment	
		2.9.7 ‘While the government does not believe that the development of overhead lines is incompatible in principle with applicants’ statutory duty under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989, to have regard to visual and landscape amenity and to reasonably mitigate possible impacts thereon, in practice new overhead lines can give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts.’	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and

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			will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. The main approach to mitigating the landscape effects of tall vertical infrastructure such as towers, is through careful design and routeing.
		2.9.8 <i>‘These impacts depend on the type (for example, whether lines are supported by towers or monopole structures), scale, siting, and degree of screening of the lines, as well as the characteristics of the landscape and local environment through which they are routed.’</i>	The approach to assessing the likely significant landscape effects of the Project is set out in the assessment methodology in Section 6.5 of Chapter 6 Landscape. An overview of the baseline landscape is provided in Section 6.6 of Chapter 6 Landscape.
		2.9.9 <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>	
		2.9.10 <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>	The approach to assessing the likely significant landscape effects of the Project is set out in the assessment methodology in Section 6.5 of Chapter 6 Landscape. Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects details the methodology for how cumulative effects will be assessed and a preliminary assessment is presented in Appendix 19B Preliminary Assessment of Cumulative effects. This

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			assessment will be updated and presented in the ES.
		2.9.11 <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 these cases does not countermand the need for overhead lines.'</i>	The strategic options and alternatives considered for the Project are summarised in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered .
		2.9.12 <i>'In nationally designated landscapes (National Parks, The Broads and National Landscapes) even residual impacts may well make an overhead line proposal unacceptable in planning terms...'</i>	No above ground construction or operational part of the Project would fall within the boundaries of a National Park or National Landscape (formerly AONB) or fall within its setting.
		2.9.13 <i>'Where possible, applicants should ensure that the principles detailed in paragraphs 2.9.16-2.9.19 below are embodied in the design of their proposed overhead line route and its associated infrastructure. Applicants should also offer proposals (for instance those detailed in Section 2.10 below) for additional mitigation.'</i>	The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology and Chapter 6 Landscape .
		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 seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA), the applicant</i>	The strategic options and alternatives considered for the Project are summarised in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered .

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		<i>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 rerouting, underground or subsea cables and the feasibility e.g. in cost, engineering or environmental terms of these. Applicants should note the position on nationally designated landscapes at section 2.9.20 below.'</i>	
		2.9.15 <i>'The ES should set out details of this consideration [reference to clause 2.9.14], including the applicant's rationale for eschewing feasible alternatives to the overhead line, and the mitigation cost-calculation methodology that this rationale may rely upon.'</i>	
		2.9.16 <i>'The Holford Rules (guidelines for the routing of new overhead lines) were originally set out in 1959. These guidelines, intended as a common-sense approach to overhead line route design, were reviewed and updated by the industry in the 1990s, and they should be embodied in the applicants' proposals for new overhead lines.'</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.
		2.9.18 <i>'The Horlock Rules (guidelines for the design and siting of substations) were established by National Grid in 2009 in pursuance of its duties under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989. These principles should be embodied in applicants' proposals for the infrastructure associated with new overhead lines.'</i>	

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		2.9.24 <i>'Additionally [reference to clause 2.9.23], cases will arise where, though no part of the proposed development crosses a designated landscape, a high potential for widespread and significant adverse landscape and/or visual impacts along certain sections of its route may result in recommendations to use undergrounding for relevant segments of the line or alternatively consideration of using a route including subsea cabling.'</i>	Areas of a high potential for widespread and significant adverse landscape effects will be identified and assessed with appropriate consideration given to undergrounding if required in Chapter 6 Landscape .
		2.9.25 <i>'In these cases, and taking account of the fact that the government has not laid down any further rule on the circumstances requiring use of underground or subsea cables, the Secretary of State must weigh the feasibility, cost, and any harm of the undergrounding or subsea option against:</i> <i>• The adverse implications of the overhead line proposal;</i> <i>• The cost and feasibility of re-routing overhead lines or mitigation proposals for the relevant line section; and</i> <i>• The cost and feasibility of their configuration, rationalisation, and/or use of underground or subsea cabling of proximate existing or proposed electricity networks infrastructure.'</i>	The strategic options and alternatives considered for the Project are summarised in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered .
		2.9.26 <i>'In such cases the Secretary of State should only grant development consent for underground or subsea sections of a proposed line over an</i>	The strategic options and alternatives considered for the Project are summarised

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		<i>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> <i>• The landscape and visual baseline characteristics of the setting of the proposed route, in particular, the impact on high sensitivity visual receptors (as defined in the current edition of the Landscape Institute's Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment), residential areas, designated landscapes, valued landscapes, designated heritage assets and Heritage Coasts (including, where relevant, impacts on the setting of designated features and areas), noting the policy in EN-1 sections 5.4.13 – 5.4.14 on regional and local designations;</i> <i>• The additional cost of the proposed underground or sub-sea alternatives, including their significantly higher lifetime cost of repair and later uprating;</i> <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</i>	in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered. Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. The approach to assessing the likely significant landscape effects of the Project is set out in the assessment methodology in Section 6.5 of Chapter 6 Landscape. An overview of the baseline landscape is provided in Chapter 6 Landscape.

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		<i>after construction, landscape and visual amenity...'</i>	
	NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)	15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment 187 ' <i>Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: a) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils (in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan). b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland. (c) maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast, while improving public access to it where appropriate. (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; (e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local</i>	Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered and Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.

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		<i>environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans; and (f) remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate.'</i> 188 (part) <i>'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework.'</i> 189 <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.'</i>	
	UK MPS (2020) (Ref 2B.5)	2 Chapter 2 2.6 Detailed considerations 2.6.5.1 <i>'The effects of activities and developments in the marine and coastal area on the landscape, including seascape, will vary on a case-by-case basis according to the type of activity, its location and its setting. There is no legal definition for seascape in the UK but the European Landscape Convention (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</i>	No above ground construction or operational part of the Project would fall within the boundaries of a National Park or National Landscape (formerly AONB) or fall within its setting. Given the distance of the Project from the coast, the Project would not give rise to significant adverse effects on seascape. An assessment of effects on seascape is scoped out of the EIA.

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		<i>factors”. In the context of this document, references to seascape should be taken as meaning landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other.’</i>	
Chapter 7 Visual	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	4 Assessment Principles 4.7 Criteria for good design for Energy Infrastructure 4.7.2 <i>‘Applying good design to energy projects should produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, including impacts on heritage, efficient in the use of natural resources, including land-use, and energy used in their construction and operation, matched by an appearance that demonstrates good aesthetic as far as possible. It is acknowledged, however that the nature of energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area.’</i> 4.7.3 <i>‘Good design is also a means by which many policy objectives in the NPSs can be met, for example the impact sections show how good design, in terms of siting and use of appropriate technologies, can help mitigate adverse impacts such as noise. Projects should look to use modern methods of construction and sustainable design practices such as use of sustainable timber and low</i>	The Strategic Options Report (SOR) (Ref 2B.7), Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) (Ref 2B.8), Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered , and Chapter 4 Description of the Project describe the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrate that minimising adverse effects on views and visual amenity through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development. The evolution of the Project will continue to be informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys as well as consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution is documented in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered and will be updated for the ES.

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		carbon concrete. Where possible, projects should include the reuse of material.'	The approach to assessing the likely significant visual effects of the Project is set out in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual. This includes the approach to the assessment of visual effects for residential receptors. The approach to assessing likely significant cumulative effects is explained in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual. An overview of the baseline landscape is provided in Section 6.6 of Chapter 6 Landscape and the potential visual receptors are outlined in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 Visual. The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology.
		4.7.6 'Whilst the applicant may not have any or very limited choice in the physical appearance of some energy infrastructure, there may be opportunities for the applicant to demonstrate good design in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, landform, and vegetation. Furthermore, the design and sensitive use of materials in any associated development such as electricity substations will assist in ensuring that such development contributes to the quality of the area. Applicants should also, so far as is possible, seek to embed opportunities for nature inclusive design within the design process.'	
		4.7.7 'Applicants must demonstrate in their application documents how the design process was conducted and how the proposed design evolved. Where a number of different designs were considered, applicants should set out the reasons why the favoured choice has been selected.'	
		4.7.10 'In the light of the above and given the importance which the Planning Act 2008 places on good design and sustainability, the Secretary of State needs to be satisfied that energy infrastructure developments are sustainable and, having regard to regulatory and other constraints, are as attractive, durable, and adaptable (including	

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		<i>taking account of natural hazards such as flooding) as they can be’.</i> 4.7.11 <i>‘In doing so, the Secretary of State should be satisfied that the applicant has considered both functionality (including fitness for purpose and sustainability) and aesthetics (including its contribution to the quality of the area in which it would be located, any potential amenity benefits, and visual impacts on the landscape or seascape) as far as possible.’</i> 4.7.12 <i>‘In considering applications, the Secretary of State should take into account the ultimate purpose of the infrastructure and bear in mind the operational, safety and security requirements which the design has to satisfy. Many of the wider impacts of a development, such as landscape and environmental impacts, will be important factors in the design process.’</i> 5 Generic Impacts 5.10 Landscape and Visual 5.10.13 <i>‘All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites’.</i> 5.10.14 <i>‘The Secretary of State will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such</i>	
			The SOR (Ref 2B.7), CPRSS (Ref 2B.8), Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered, and Chapter 4 Description of the Project describe the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrate that minimising adverse effects on views and visual amenity through

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		<i>as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project.'</i>	sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development.
		<i>5.10.16 'The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects (see Section 4.3). Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues.'</i>	The evolution of the Project will continue to be informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys as well as consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution is documented in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered and will be updated for the ES.
		<i>5.10.19 '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>	The approach to assessing the likely significant visual effects of the Project is set out in the assessment methodology in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual . This includes the approach to the assessment of visual effects for residential receptors and reference to lighting and night-time effects with respect to visual amenity will be made where relevant.
		<i>5.10.21 '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 dark skies, local amenity, and nature conservation.'</i>	The approach to assessing likely significant cumulative effects is explained in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual . An overview of the potential visual receptors is provided in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 Visual .
		<i>5.10.22 'The assessment should also address the landscape and visual effects of light pollution and other emissions (see Section 5.2 and Section 5.7), from construction and operational activities on</i>	The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology .

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		<i>residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, how these will be minimised.'</i> 5.10.25 <i>'In considering visual effects it may be helpful for applicants to draw attention, in the supporting evidence to their applications, to any examples of existing permitted infrastructure they are aware of with a similar magnitude of impact on equally sensitive receptors. This may assist the Secretary of State in judging the weight they should give to the assessed visual impacts of the proposed development.'</i> 5.10.26 <i>'Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the Secretary of State may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function.'</i> 5.10.27 <i>'Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within its development site and wider</i>	

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		<i>setting. The careful consideration of colours and materials will support the delivery of a well-designed scheme, as will sympathetic landscaping and management of its immediate surroundings.'</i> 5.10.28 <i>'Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines may mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista.'</i> 5.10.29 <i>'The Secretary of State should take into consideration the level of detailed design which the applicant has provided and is secured in the Development Consent Order, and the extent to which design details are subject to future approvals.'</i> 5.10.30 <i>'The Secretary of State should be satisfied that local authorities will have sufficient design content secured to ensure future consenting will meet landscape, visual and good design objectives.'</i>	
	NPS EN-5 (2024) (Ref 2B.4)	2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information 2.2 Factors influencing site selection and design 2.2.8 <i>'There will usually be a degree of flexibility in the location of the development's associated infrastructure such as substations, and applicants</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse

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		<i>should consider carefully their location, as well as their design.'</i>	visual effects through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.
		<i>2.2.9 'In particular, the applicant should consider such characteristics as the local topography, the possibilities for screening of the infrastructure and/or other options to mitigate any impacts...'</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse visual effects through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 4 Description of the Project .
		<i>2.2.10 'As well as having duties under section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, (in relation to developing and maintaining an economical and efficient network), applicants must take into account Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989, which places a duty on all transmission and distribution licence holders, in formulating proposals for new electricity networks infrastructure, to "have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of</i>	The design of the Project has sought to avoid such features through the application of the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3). Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project and how it demonstrates good design in its development to date. The approach to assessing the likely significant visual effects of the Project is explained in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7

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		<i>architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and ...do what [they] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.”</i>	Visual. An overview of the baseline visual environment is provided in Section 7.6 of Chapter 7 Visual .
		2.2.11 ‘Depending on the location of the proposed development, statutory duties under section 85 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, section 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended by section 62 of the Environment Act 1995), and section 17A of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Act 1988 may be relevant. Applicants should note amendments to each of these provisions contained in section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.’	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project and how it demonstrates good design in its development to date. Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context sets out how the Applicant will respond to the provisions contained in section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023.
		2.9 Applicant assessment	
		2.9.7 ‘While the government does not believe that the development of overhead lines is incompatible in principle with applicants’ statutory duty under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989, to have regard to visual and landscape amenity and to reasonably mitigate possible impacts thereon, in practice new overhead lines can give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts.’	Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context sets out how the Applicant will respond to the provisions contained in the relevant Acts, including section 245 of the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 and the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025. The SOR (Ref 2B.7), CPRSS (Ref 2B.8), Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered , and Chapter 4 Description of the Project describe the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrate that minimising adverse
		2.9.8 ‘These impacts [reference to clause 2.9.7] depend on the type (for example, whether lines are supported by towers or monopole structures), scale, siting, and degree of screening of the lines, as well	

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		<i>as the characteristics of the landscape and local environment through which they are routed.'</i>	
		2.9.9 '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.'	effects on views and visual amenity through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development. The evolution of the Project will continue to be informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys as well as consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution will be documented in the alternatives chapter within the ES.
		2.9.10 '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.'	The approach to assessing the likely significant visual effects of the Project is explained in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual . This includes the approach to the visual aspects of residential amenity. Reference to night time lighting with respect to residential amenity will be made where relevant. An overview of the baseline visual environment is provided in Chapter 7 Visual . The approach to assessing likely significant cumulative effects is explained in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual . The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology .
		2.9.11 '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 these cases does not countermand the need for overhead lines.'	
		2.9.13 'Applicants should also offer proposals ... for additional mitigation.'	
		2.9.14 'Where the nature or proposed route of an overhead line will likely result in particularly significant landscape and visual impacts, as would	

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		<i>be assessed through seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA), the applicant should demonstrate that they have given due consideration to the costs and benefits of feasible alternatives to the overhead line...</i>	
		<i>2.9.15 ‘The ES should set out details of this consideration [reference to clause 2.9.14], including the applicant’s rationale for eschewing feasible alternatives to the overhead line, and the mitigation cost-calculation methodology that this rationale may rely upon.’</i>	
		<i>2.9.16 ‘The Holford Rules (guidelines for the routing of new overhead lines) were originally set out in 1959. These guidelines, intended as a common-sense approach to overhead line route design, were reviewed and updated by the industry in the 1990s, and they should be embodied in the applicants’ proposals for new overhead lines.’</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.
		<i>2.9.18 ‘The Horlock Rules (guidelines for the design and siting of substations) were established by National Grid in 2009 in pursuance of its duties under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989. These principles should be embodied in applicants’ proposals for the infrastructure associated with new overhead lines.’</i>	
		<i>2.9.24 ‘Additionally [reference to clause 2.9.23], cases will arise where, though no part of the</i>	Areas of a high potential for widespread and significant adverse landscape effects will be

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		<i>proposed development crosses a designated landscape, a high potential for widespread and significant adverse landscape and/or visual impacts along certain sections of its route may result in recommendations to use undergrounding for relevant segments of the line or alternatively consideration of using a route including subsea cabling.'</i>	identified and assessed with appropriate consideration given to undergrounding if required and reported in Chapter 6 Landscape .
		2.9.25 'In these cases, and taking account of the fact that the government has not laid down any further rule on the circumstances requiring use of underground or subsea cables, the Secretary of State must weigh the feasibility, cost, and any harm of the undergrounding or subsea option against: • The adverse implications of the overhead line proposal; • The cost and feasibility of re-routing overhead lines or mitigation proposals for the relevant line section; and • The cost and feasibility of the reconfiguration, rationalisation, and/or use of underground or subsea cabling of proximate existing or proposed electricity networks infrastructure.'	The strategic options and alternatives considered for the Project are summarised in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered .
		2.9.26 '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	The strategic options and alternatives considered for the Project are summarised in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered .

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		<i>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> <i>The landscape and visual baseline characteristics of the setting of the proposed route, in particular, the impact on high sensitivity visual receptors (as defined in the current edition of the Landscape Institute’s Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment), residential areas, designated landscapes, valued landscapes, designated heritage assets and Heritage Coasts (including, where relevant, impacts on the setting of designated features and areas), noting the policy in EN-1 sections 5.4.13 – 5.4.14 on regional and local designations;</i> <i>The additional cost of the proposed underground or sub-sea alternatives, including their significantly higher lifetime cost of repair and later uprating;</i> <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…’</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. The approach to assessing the likely significant landscape effects of the Project is set out in the assessment methodology in Section 6.5 of Chapter 6 Landscape. An overview of the baseline landscape is provided in Chapter 6 Landscape.

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Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	5 Generic Impacts	
		5.4 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	
		5.4.26 <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>	A HRA Screening Assessment has been prepared to identify whether the Project would result in likely significant effects on the qualifying interest features of European Sites (now include within the National Site Network). The HRA Screening Report for the Project can be found in Appendix 8A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening. A HRA Report will be produced to determine whether the Project is likely to have a significant effect on any European designated site, or on any site to which the same protection is applied as a matter of policy, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The HRA Report will inform the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES and will be included as a separate report within the application for development consent.
		5.4.18 <i>‘Where the development is subject to EIA, the applicant should ensure that the ES clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance (including those outside England and Wales), on protected species and on habitats and other species identified as being of</i>	Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within the baseline section of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity (Section 8.6). The preliminary effects on these features (and any additional features identified) will be assessed and reported in Section 8.8 of Chapter 8

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		<i>principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity, including irreplaceable habitats.'</i>	Ecology and Biodiversity. This will be updated for the ES.
		5.4.20 <i>'The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests.'</i>	Section 8.7 in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity documents all the embedded design and mitigation measures taken to ensure the conservation of ecological receptors. This will be updated for the ES. Where the EIA process identifies opportunities to enhance biodiversity, interests will be detailed and reported in the ES and relevant documents such as the Planning Statement submitted with the application for development consent. National Grid has committed to 10% Net Gain in Environmental value including, as a minimum, 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) across all its construction projects. A BNG assessment will be undertaken and presented in a separate BNG report that will be submitted as part of the application for development consent.
		5.4.5 <i>'As a matter of policy, the following should be given the same protection as sites covered by the Habitats Regulations and an HRA will also be required: Potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation; Listed or proposed Ramsar sites; and Sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on Special Protection</i>	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and Appendix 8A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening details the potential for likely significant effects on potential Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites, where relevant. This will be updated for the ES and HRA. Design

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		<i>Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, and any of the other sites covered by this paragraph.'</i>	adjustments may be required as a result of the HRA process, which will be fed into the final ES/application for development consent.
		<i>5.4.7 'Many SSSIs are also designated as sites of international importance and will be protected accordingly. Those that are not, or those features of SSSIs not covered by an international designation, should be given a high degree of protection. Most National Nature Reserves are notified as SSSIs.'</i>	Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves located within the relevant Study Area have been identified within Section 8.6 Baseline Conditions of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity . Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity outlines the mitigation measures where impacts to such sites are unavoidable.
		<i>5.4.17 'Many individual species receive statutory protection under a range of legislative provisions. Other species and habitats have been identified as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England and Wales, as well as for their continued benefit for climate mitigation and adaptation and thereby requiring conservation action.'</i>	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity considers other notable habitats and species (e.g. habitats of principal importance) as part of the assessment. Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity documents all the embedded design and mitigation measures taken to protect such features. This will be updated for the ES.
		<i>5.4.36 'Applicants should include appropriate avoidance, mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures as an integral part of the proposed development. In particular, the applicant should demonstrate that:</i>	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity sets out information on how the development will minimise working areas during construction, follow best practice during construction and operation to avoid or minimise disturbance or damage to species or habitats, restore

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		• <i>during construction, they will seek to ensure that activities will be confined to the minimum areas required for the works;</i> • <i>the timing of construction has been planned to avoid or limit disturbance;</i> • <i>during construction and operation best practice will be followed to ensure that risk of disturbance or damage to species or habitats is minimised, including as a consequence of transport access arrangements;</i> • <i>habitats will, where practicable, be restored after construction works have finished;</i> • <i>opportunities will be taken to enhance existing habitats rather than replace them, and where practicable, create new habitats of value within the site landscaping proposals. Where habitat creation is required as mitigation, compensation, or enhancement, the location and quality will be of key importance. In this regard habitat creation should be focused on areas where the most ecological and ecosystems benefits can be realised; and</i> • <i>mitigations required as a result of legal protection of habitats or species will be complied with.'</i>	habitats following construction/maintenance activities, and where possible identify opportunities to enhance existing habitats and create new biodiverse habitats. This will be updated for the ES. Consultation will be held with relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (SNCBs)/stakeholders throughout the Project to discuss and agree the required mitigation and opportunities for enhancement.
		5.4.14 'National planning policy expects plans to identify and map Local Wildlife sites, and to include policies that not only secure their protection from	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity considers potential impacts on designated sites of ecological importance, including

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		<i>harm or loss but also help to enhance them and their connection to wider ecological networks.'</i>	sites of regional and local biodiversity interest. This will be updated for the ES.
		5.4.16 <i>'Ancient woodland is a valuable biodiversity resource both for its diversity of species and for its longevity as woodland. Keepers of Time, the government's policy for ancient and native trees and woodlands in England sets out the government's commitment to maintain and enhance the existing area of ancient woodland, maintain and enhance the existing resource of known ancient and veteran trees, excluding natural losses from disease and death, and to increase the percentage of ancient woodland in active management. Ancient and veteran trees found outside ancient woodland are also particularly valuable. Other types of irreplaceable habitats include blanket bog, limestone pavement, coastal sand dunes, spartina salt marsh swards, mediterranean saltmarsh scrub, and lowland fen.'</i>	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity has set out mitigation measures to protect ancient woodland, ancient/veteran trees and other types of habitat that are considered irreplaceable as far as reasonably practicable. This will be updated for the ES.
		5.4.22 <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>	As the Project and design evolves, opportunities for inclusive design for nature, both as part of BNG and beyond, will be sought and included. These will be set out within the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES and appropriate appendices.

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		5.4.23 <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>	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity considers the potential impacts on mobile and migratory species as part of the assessment. Mitigation measures will be embedded in the Project design with the aim to enable the continued movement of species, including birds, fish, aquatic and terrestrial mammals. This is detailed in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and within appropriate appendices and will be updated for the ES. Surveys for breeding and migratory/over-wintering birds, and other mobile species as appropriate, will be conducted and will inform the HRA process and the assessments presented in the ES.
		5.4.31 <i>'Applicants should work closely at an early stage in the pre-application process with SNCB and Defra/Welsh Government to develop a compensation plan for all protected sites adversely affected by the development. Applicants should engage with the relevant LPA at an early stage regarding the proposed location of compensatory measures. Applicants should also take account of any strategic plan level compensation plans in developing project level compensation plans.'</i>	Natural England will be consulted on the proposed mitigation measures for protected sites that could be adversely impacted by the Project.
		5.4.35 <i>'Consideration should be given to improvements to, and impacts on, habitats and</i>	As the Project and design evolves, opportunities for inclusive design for nature,

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		<i>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>	both as part of BNG and beyond, have been sought and included. These have been set out within Section 8.7 of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and will be further developed for the ES and appropriate appendices.
	NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information 2.9.5 <i>'The applicant will need to consider whether the proposed line will cause such problems at any point along its length and take this into consideration in the preparation of the ES (see Section 4.3 of EN-1).'</i> 2.9.3, 2.9.5 and 2.9.6 (part) <i>'...Large birds may also be electrocuted when landing or taking off by completing an electric circuit between live and ground wires. Even perching birds can be killed as soon as their wings touch energised parts of the infrastructure...The applicant will need to consider whether the proposed line will cause such problems at any point along its length and take this into consideration in the preparation of the ES (see Section 4.2 of EN-1). Particular consideration should be given to feeding and hunting grounds, migration corridors and breeding grounds, where</i>	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity considers potential impacts on species. Consideration has been given to feeding and hunting grounds, migration corridors and breeding grounds. This will be updated for the ES. Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity considers potential impacts on birds. Particular consideration has been 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 Habitats Regulations 2017. This will be updated for the ES.

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		<i>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>	
		2.10.2 ' <i>Careful siting of a line away from, or parallel to, but not across, known flight paths can reduce the numbers of birds colliding with overhead lines considerably.'</i>	Bird collision risk will be considered in the ES and this will be informed by appropriate surveys and assessment, as set out in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity .
		2.10.3 ' <i>Making lines more visible by methods such as the fitting of bird flappers and diverters to the earth wire, which swivel in the wind, glow in the dark and use of fluorescent colours designed specifically for bird vision can also reduce the risk of bird collisions and number of potential deaths. The design and colour of the diverters will be specific to the conditions – the line and pylon/transmission tower specifications and the species at risk</i> .'	Consultation will be sought with key stakeholders regarding the ongoing baseline surveys, assessment methods and the identification of key risks and acceptable strategies for their avoidance and mitigation.
		2.10.4 ' <i>Electrocution risks can be reduced through the design of lattice steel tower crossarms, insulators and the construction of other parts of high voltage power lines so that birds find no opportunity to perch near energised power lines on which they might electrocute themselves.</i> '	The risk of electrocution will be considered in the ES and any mitigation requirements will be reported. This will be informed by appropriate surveys and assessment, as set out in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity . Consultation will be sought with key stakeholders regarding the ongoing baseline surveys, assessment methods and the

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			identification of key risks and acceptable strategies for their avoidance and mitigation.
	NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)	15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment The NPPF, with particular reference to Section 15 and paragraphs 187, 188, 192–195 and 198, states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by <i>‘minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity’</i>. The NPPF is clear that pursuing sustainable development includes moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieving net gains for nature, and that a core principle for planning is that it should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. The NPPF also specifies the obligations that the local authorities and the UK government have regarding statutory designated sites and protected species under UK and international legislation and how this is to be delivered in the planning system, including those that are potential, possible, listed or proposed sites. It states that: 189 <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 great weight in</i>	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity will consider potential impacts on designated sites of ecological importance, including sites of regional and local biodiversity interest. This will be updated for the ES.

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		<i>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> Protected or notable habitats and species can be a material consideration in planning decisions and may therefore make some sites unsuitable for particular types of development, or if development is permitted, mitigation measures may be required to avoid or minimise impacts on certain habitats and species, or where impact is unavoidable, compensation may be required.	
	Natural Environment National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (2025) (Ref 2B.9)	Natural Environment NPPG The NPPG on the natural environment provides additional guidance to the NPPF. Guidance of particular relevance to biodiversity and the natural environment includes paragraphs 10 to 35 which set out how development plans and planning decisions have the potential to affect biodiversity and how individual development proposals may provide opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and contribute to habitat connectivity in the wider area.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity sets out how opportunities for inclusive design for nature, both as part of BNG and beyond, has been sought and included. This will be updated for the ES and appropriate appendices as the Project and design evolves.
	UK MPS (2020) (Ref 2B.5)	2.6 Detailed considerations Paragraph 2.6.1.1 requires marine plan authorities to ensure, i) a halting and if possible, a reversal of	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity sets out how opportunities for inclusive design for

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		biodiversity loss; and ii) the acceptance of biodiversity's role in enhancing the quality of life.	nature, both as part of BNG and beyond, have been sought and included. This will be updated for the ES and appropriate appendices as the Project and design evolves. Effects on protected habitats and species and groundwaters are assessed in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology respectively.
		2.6.4 Ecological and chemical water quality and resources	
East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plans (2014) (Ref 2B.16)		Policy BIO1 seeks to ensure appropriate weight is attached to biodiversity, reflecting the need to protect biodiversity as a whole in the East marine plans and adjacent areas (marine and terrestrial). Policy BIO2 requests that enhancement of biodiversity and geological interests are incorporated into development. Policy MPA1 requires that any impacts on the overall Marine Protected Area network are taken account of.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity sets out how opportunities for inclusive design for nature, both as part of BNG and beyond, have been sought and included. This will be updated for the ES and appropriate appendices as the Project and design evolves.
		Paragraph 2.6.4.1 identifies that developments and other activities at the coast and at sea can have adverse effects on transitional waters, coastal waters and marine waters. During the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of developments, there can be increased demand for water, discharges to water and adverse ecological	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity sets out how opportunities for inclusive design for nature, both as part of BNG and beyond, have been sought and included. This will be updated for the ES and appropriate appendices as the Project and design evolves.

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		effects resulting from physical modifications to the water environment. There may also be an increased risk of spills and leaks of pollutants into the water environment and the likelihood of transmission of invasive non-native species, for example through construction equipment, and their impacts on ecological water quality need to be considered.	Effects on protected habitats and species and groundwaters are assessed in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology respectively.
Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1Ref 2B.1)	5 Generic Impacts	
		5.9 Historic Environment	
		Paragraphs 5.9.2 to 5.9.9 establish the definitions for the historic environment, designated and non-designated heritage assets, the heritage significance (value) of heritage assets derived from their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest, and the concepts of physical presence and setting. These definitions are aligned with those set out in the NPFF, notably the glossary set out in Annex 2.	A desk-based assessment and Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage will use the terminology and definitions for the historic environment set out in the NPS.
		5.9.11 <i>‘The applicant should undertake an assessment of any likely significant heritage impacts of the proposed development as part of the EIA and describe these along with how the mitigation hierarchy has been applied in the ES (see Section 4.3 [of the NPS]). This should include consideration of heritage assets above, at, and below the surface of the ground. Consideration will</i>	A desk-based assessment will establish the baseline conditions and the ES chapter will provide the assessment of likely significant impacts to the heritage assets and the historic landscape. The methodology for the assessment is set out in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage of this DES.

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		<i>also need to be given to the possible impacts, including cumulative, on the wider historic environment. The assessment should include reference to any historic landscape or seascape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing impacts relevant to the proposed project.'</i>	
		<i>5.9.12 'As part of the ES the applicant should provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposed development, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the heritage assets and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the applicant should have consulted the relevant Historic Environment Record (HER) (or, where the development is in English or Welsh waters, Historic England or Cadw) and assessed the heritage assets themselves using expertise where necessary according to the proposed development's impact.'</i>	A desk-based assessment will establish the baseline cultural heritage resource and the results of this will be included in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage of the ES. The desk-based assessment will assess the significance of all relevant known heritage assets likely to be impacted by the Project, including any contribution from their setting. It will include a review of data held by the relevant HERs as well as an assessment of the potential for previously unrecorded archaeological remains to be present. Furthermore, it will assess the significance (i.e. sensitivity) of the surrounding historic landscape. ES Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage will assess the potential likely significant effects of the Project on each individual asset.
		<i>5.9.13 '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</i>	A desk-based assessment will be carried out and the results of this included in ES Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage. The approach to undertaking archaeological evaluation and surveys has been set out in the Weston

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		<i>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, representative visualisations may be necessary to explain the impact.'</i>	Marsh to East Leicestershire Heritage Survey Strategy and the scope of appropriate archaeological evaluation including fieldwork will be discussed with consultees and, if required, the results will be included in the ES.
		Paragraphs 5.9.18 to 5.9.22 establish the requirements for the mitigation of impacts arising from infrastructure projects. They establish that retention of heritage assets is preferable to a documentary record and that the ability to record a heritage asset should not be a factor in determining whether its loss should be permitted. Where the loss of a heritage asset (wholly or partially) is justified the Secretary of State will require applicants to record and advance the understanding of the significance of the asset prior to its loss and that the requirements for recording should be proportionate to the asset's importance and significance of the impact. The requirement is also established for applicants to publish the results of any recording undertaken and make publicly assessable through the deposition of reports and the archival material with relevant HERs and museums. As is the means by which Secretary of State should consider securing the required recording, e.g. through requirements imposed through the DCO or by obligations made by applicants.	The desk-based assessment will establish the potential for as yet undiscovered heritage assets with archaeological interest to survive within the draft Order Limits and their likely significance. ES Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage will make provision for proportionate mitigation measures, both those embedded within the Project's design and additional measures. These mitigation measures will be considered during the assessment of significant effects arising from the Project.

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		Finally, these sections make clear provision for the Secretary of State to consider requirements to ensure procedures are in place identifying and dealing with as yet undiscovered heritage assets with archaeological interest encountered during construction.	
		Paragraphs 5.9.23 to 5.9.37 concern decision making by the Secretary of State in relation to heritage assets. They establish that, in determining applications, the Secretary of State should seek to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by the proposed development, including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset (paragraph 5.9.23). In considering the impact of a proposed development on any heritage assets, the NPS Secretary of State should consider the particular nature of the significance of the heritage assets (paragraph 5.9.25), the desirability of sustaining and, where appropriate, enhancing the significance and setting of heritage assets (paragraph 5.9.26), and the desirability for new development to make a positive contribution to the character and local distinctiveness of the historic environment (paragraph 5.9.27). Paragraphs 5.9.28 and 5.9.29 align with the policies of the NPPF establishing that the Secretary of State should give great weight to the conservation of heritage assets, with greater weight given to assets	ES Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage will include an assessment of the significance of all heritage assets, including the contribution setting makes to that significance and will assess the impact of the Project on the significance of affected heritage assets and the potential for any harm or loss to occur.

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		of greater importance, irrespective of the scale of any potential harm. Any harm or loss of significance of a designated heritage asset should require clear and convincing justification. Paragraphs 5.9.30 to 5.9.31 expand on this, establishing the concept that substantial harm to or loss of significance of a Grade II listed building or Grade II Registered Park or Garden should be exceptional and that substantial harm to or loss of significance of assets of the highest significance should be wholly exceptional. Where proposed development will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of the designated heritage asset paragraph 5.9.33 directs that the harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal. With regard to weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets paragraph 5.9.34 calls for a balanced judgement between the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset. Finally, when considering development that affects the setting of a designated heritage asset, paragraph 5.9.37 concludes that Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to the desirability of preserving the setting such assets, weighing them against the wider benefits of the application.	

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Chapter 10 Water Environment	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	5 Generic Impacts	
		5.8 Flood Risk	
		5.8.9 <i>'If, following application of the Sequential Test, it is not possible (taking into account wider sustainable development objectives) for the project to be located in areas of lower flood risk, the Exception Test can be applied as defined in Table 2 of the Flood Risk and Coastal Change Guidance. The test provides a method of allowing necessary development to go ahead in situations where suitable sites at lower risk of flooding are not available.'</i> 5.8.10 <i>'The Exception Test is only appropriate for use where the Sequential Test alone cannot deliver an acceptable site. It would only be appropriate to move onto the Exception Test when the Sequential Test has identified reasonably available, lower risk sites appropriate for the proposed development where, accounting for wider sustainable development objectives, application of relevant policies would provide a clear reason for refusing development in any alternative locations identified. Examples could include alternative site(s) that are subject to national designations such as landscape, heritage and nature conservation designations, for example National Landscapes, SSSIs and World Heritage Sites (WHS) which would not usually be considered appropriate.'</i>	The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA), as described in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, will detail the sequential approach and apply the Sequential Test for areas of the Project to be located in areas of lower flood risk. All applicable sources of flooding to and arising from the Project will be assessed and where applicable, apply the Exception Test. As above, the FRA will detail where the Exception Test is required to assess the acceptability of those aspects of the Project which must be sited in areas of higher flood risk.

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		5.8.13 <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> <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)</i> <i>• where the EA or NRW, Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Board or other body have indicated that there may be drainage problems.’</i>	An overview of baseline flood risk within the draft Order Limits is described in Chapter 10 Water Environment. The application for development consent will be supported by an FRA that will inform the Project design and the findings of the ES.
		5.8.14 <i>‘This assessment should identify and assess the risks of all forms of flooding to and from the project and demonstrate how these flood risks will be managed, taking climate change into account’.</i>	The FRA will assess all applicable sources of flooding to and arising from the Project and identify any mitigation measures required to ensure flood resilience, taking climate change into account, and to prevent any off-site impacts.
		5.8.18 <i>‘Applicants for projects which may be affected by, or may add to, flood risk should arrange pre-application discussions before the</i>	Discussions will be held with the Environment Agency, the Lead Local Flood Authorities and Internal Drainage Boards to

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		<i>official pre-application stage of the NSIP process with the EA or NRW, and, where relevant, other bodies such as Lead Local Flood Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, sewerage undertakers, navigation authorities, highways authorities and reservoir owners and operators.'</i>	agree the FRA scope and to request baseline flood risk data. Engagement will continue throughout the EIA.
		<i>5.8.19 'Such discussions should identify the likelihood and possible extent and nature of the flood risk, help scope the FRA, and identify the information that will be required by the Secretary of State to reach a decision on the application when it is submitted. The Secretary of State should advise applicants to undertake these steps where they appear necessary but have not yet been addressed.'</i>	
		<i>5.8.21 'The Sequential Test ensures that a sequential, risk-based approach is followed to steer new development to areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking all sources of flood risk and climate change into account. Where it is not possible to locate development in low-risk areas, the Sequential Test should go on to compare reasonably available sites with medium risk areas and then, only where there are no reasonably available sites in low and medium risk areas, within high-risk areas.'</i>	Discussions will be held to ensure the substation and overhead line design follows the sequential approach to ensure new development is in areas with the lowest risk of flooding, taking into account all sources of flood risk and climate change.
		<i>5.8.22 'The technology specific NPSs set out some exceptions to the application of the Sequential Test.'</i>	Exceptions to the Sequential Test are available for technology specific NPSs.

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		<i>However, when seeking development consent on a site allocated in a development plan through the application of the Sequential Test, informed by a strategic flood risk assessment, applicants need not apply the Sequential Test, provided the proposed development is consistent with the use for which the site was allocated and there is no new flood risk information that would have affected the outcome of the test.'</i>	These exceptions will be further discussed throughout the EIA process and detailed within the application for development consent.
		5.8.23 <i>'Consideration of alternative sites should take account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.3. All projects should apply the Sequential Test to locating development within the site.'</i>	The FRA will apply the sequential approach to location development in areas at lowest risk of flooding from all sources.
		5.8.29 <i>'The sequential approach should be applied to the layout and design of the project. Vulnerable aspects of the development should be located on parts of the site at lower risk and residual risk of flooding. Applicants should seek opportunities to use open space for multiple purposes such as amenity, wildlife habitat and flood storage uses. Opportunities should be taken to lower flood risk by reducing the built footprint of previously developed sites and using SuDS.'</i>	
		5.16 Water Quality and Resources	
		5.16.1 <i>'Infrastructure development can have adverse effects on the water environment, including</i>	The water environment assessment will consider the potential for likely significant

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		groundwater, inland surface water, transitional waters coastal and marine waters.'	
		5.16.2 'During the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases, development can lead to increased demand for water, involve discharges to water, and cause adverse ecological effects resulting from physical modifications to the water environment. There may also be an increased risk of spills and leaks of pollutants to the water environment. These effects could lead to adverse impacts on health or on protected species and habitats (see Section 4.3) and could result in 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.'	effects on surface water quality, water resources and flood risk receptors during the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project. The assessment methodology is provided in Chapter 10 Water Environment . The assessment will be based on the current and future baseline, accounting for climate change, as presented in this chapter. Effects on protected habitats and species and groundwaters are assessed in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology respectively.
		5.16.3 'Where the project is likely to have effects on the water environment, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the existing status of, and impacts of the proposed project on, water quality, water resources and physical characteristics of the water environment, and how this might change due to the impact of climate change on rainfall patterns and consequently water availability across the water environment, as part of the ES or equivalent (see Section 4.3 and 4.10).'	Current understanding of the existing status of these aspects of the water environment is presented in Chapter 10 Water Environment . The potential for likely significant effects on water quality, water resources and the physical characteristics of the water environment is discussed in Chapter 10 Water Environment .

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		5.16.15 <i>'The Secretary of State should be satisfied that a proposal has regard to current River Basin Management Plans and meets the requirements of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (including regulation 19). The specific objectives for particular river basins are set out in River Basin Management Plans. The Secretary of State must refuse development consent where a project is 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. A project may be approved in the absence of a qualifying Overriding Public. Interest test only if there is sufficient certainty that it will not cause deterioration or compromise the achievement of good status or good potential.'</i>	The Project will prepare a Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment with reference to the relevant River Basin Management Plan. The assessment will appraise the potential for the Project to cause waterbody status deterioration or limit future achievement of good status/potential and will describe measures to avoid or reduce these risks.
		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>	The Section 10.6 Baseline Conditions of Chapter 10 Water Environment presents data from the relevant River Basin Management Plans. A Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment will be prepared to inform the ES, and that will be informed by relevant Water Resource and Humber Estuary Management Plans.
		5.16.17 <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'</i>	Measures to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment are described in Section 10.7 of Chapter 10 Water Environment . These will be further developed throughout

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		<i>requirements should be attached to any development consent and/or planning obligations are necessary.'</i>	the EIA process and secured within the application for development consent.
	NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information 2.3 Climate change adaptation and resilience 2.3.2 <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> <i>• Flooding, particularly for substations that are vital to the network; and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change;</i> <i>• The effects of wind and storms on overhead lines;</i> <i>• Higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses;</i> <i>• Earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables); and</i> <i>• Coastal erosion – for the landfall of offshore transmission cables and their associated</i>	The FRA will assess all applicable sources of flooding to the Project and identify any mitigation measures required to ensure flood resilience, taking climate change into account in accordance with current Environment Agency guidance. In respect of other climate variables, Appendix 18A Climate Change Resilience Screening Assessment of the Scoping Report (provided as Appendix 5A EIA Scoping Report) set out a screening assessment describing the potential impacts of current and future climate change on the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project and provided justification for the proposal to scope out a standalone Climate Change Resilience assessment from the EIA based on proposed Design, Control and Management Measures The Planning Inspectorate agreed this could be scoped out. Design Principles have been established to inform the development of the Project design for both construction and

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		<i>substations in the inshore and coastal locations respectively.'</i>	operation, as described in Chapter 4 Description of the Project . On this basis, no further assessment of the Project's vulnerability to climate change is proposed in the ES.
		<i>2.3.3 'Section 4.10 of EN-1 advises that the resilience of the project to the effects of climate change must be assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) accompanying an application. For example, future increased risk of flooding would be covered in any flood risk assessment (see Section 5.8 in EN-1). Consideration should also be given to coastal change (see sections 5.6 in EN-1).'</i>	As noted above, the FRA prepared for the Project will examine future flood risk over the development lifetime, and identify mitigation measures required to ensure flood resilience, taking climate change into account.
NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)		14 Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	
		The NPPF provides relevant guidance on a range of issues, including the definition of flood zones, development vulnerability classifications, compatibility of development types and flood zones, and guidance on the application of the flood risk Sequential and Exception Tests.	The assessment will be undertaken in accordance with and with reference to the NPPF and its accompanying Flood Risk and Coastal Change; and Water Quality and Supply NPPG. Although the NPSs are the primary source of statutory planning guidance for NSIPs, NPPF guidance may also be material in determining applications for development consent.
Flood Risk and Coastal Change NPPG (2022) (Ref 2B.10)		Flood Risk and Coastal Change and Water Quality and Supply NPPG	
		The NPPG provides relevant guidance on a range of issues, including the definition of flood zones, development vulnerability classifications,	The assessment will be undertaken in accordance with and with reference to the NPPF and its accompanying Flood Risk and

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	and Water Quality and Supply NPPG (2025) (Ref 2B.11)	compatibility of development types and flood zones, and guidance on the application of the flood risk Sequential and Exception Tests.	Coastal Change; and Water Quality and Supply NPPG. Although the NPSs are the primary source of statutory planning guidance for NSIPs, NPPF guidance may also be material in determining applications for development consent.
Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	4 Assessment Principles	
		4.12 Pollution Control and Other Environmental Regulatory Regimes	
		Section 4.12 of NPS EN-1 states that proposals should be considered within the context of existing pollution control regimes.	The interface with other pollution control regimes is covered in Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology .
		5 Generic Impacts	
		5.4 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	
		5.4.7 <i>‘Many SSSIs are also designated as sites of international importance and will be protected accordingly. Those that are not, or those features of SSSIs not covered by an international designation, should be given a high degree of protection. Most National Nature Reserves are notified as SSSIs.’</i>	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology explains the approach in relation to geological conservation.
		5.4.13 <i>‘Sites of regional and local biodiversity and geological interest, which include Regionally Important Geological Sites, Local Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites, are areas of substantive nature conservation value and make an important contribution to ecological networks and nature’s recovery. They can also provide wider benefits</i>	

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		<i>including public access (where agreed), climate mitigation and helping to tackle air pollution.'</i> 5.4.20 <i>'The applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance geological conservation interests.'</i>	
		5.11 Land Use, Including Open Space, Green Infrastructure, and Green Belt	
		5.11.8 <i>'The ES (see Section 4.3) should identify existing and proposed land uses near the project, any effects of replacing an existing development or use of the site with the proposed project or preventing a development or use on a neighbouring site from continuing. Applicants should also assess any effects of precluding a new development or use proposed in the development plan. The assessment should be proportionate to the scale of the preferred scheme and its likely impacts on such receptors. For developments on previously developed land, the applicant should ensure that they have considered the risk posed by land contamination and how it is proposed to address this.'</i>	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology explains the approach in relation to land contamination. Proposed methodology accords with relevant guidance, including Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 109 Geology and soils (Ref 2B.18)
		5.16 Water Quality and Resources	
		Assessments should consider the physical and chemical characteristics of groundwater and its importance as a resource, with reference to abstractions, discharges and drinking water Source	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology covers the aspects of groundwater referred to in this policy.

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		Protection Zones (SPZs). Section 5.16 of NPS EN-1 states that: 5.16.7 <i>‘The ES should in particular describe:</i> <i>... 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;</i> <i>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.’</i>	
	NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information 2.2 Factors influencing site selection and design 2.2.10 <i>‘As well as having duties under Section 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, (in relation to developing and maintaining an economical and efficient network), applicants must take into account Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989, which places a duty on all transmission and distribution licence holders, in formulating proposals for new electricity networks infrastructure, to “have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of</i>	Section 6.5 in Chapter 6 Landscape (Assessment Methodology) explains the approach in relation to landscape protection. Section 7.5 in Chapter 7 Visual (Assessment Methodology) explains the approach in relation to the protection of visual amenity. Section 8.5 in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity (Assessment Methodology) explains the approach in relation to protecting ecological features.

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		<i>architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and ...do what [they] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects.”</i>	Section 9.5 in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage (Assessment Methodology) explains the approach in relation to protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest. Section 11.5 in Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology (Assessment Methodology) explains the approach in relation to geological conservation.
		2.3 Climate change adaptation and resilience	
		Paragraph 2.3.2 of NPS EN-5 specifies, with regards to climate change adaptation and resilience, applicants must detail the extent to which the proposed development is expected to be vulnerable and, where appropriate, how it has been designed to be resilient to flooding, particularly for substations critical to the network, and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change, and earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding for underground cables.	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology explains the approach in relation to groundwater and flooding.
		2.9 Applicant assessment	
		<i>2.9.26 ‘...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</i>	Section 11.5 in Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology (Assessment Methodology) explains the approach in relation to geological conservation.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>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> <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>	
	NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)	15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment 196 <i>'Planning policies and decisions should ensure that:</i> <i>(a) a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination. This includes risks arising from natural hazards or former activities such as mining, and any proposals for mitigation including land remediation (as well as</i>	Section 11.5 in Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology (Assessment Methodology) explains how risks from contamination, remediation and historical mining will be assessed.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>potential impacts on the natural environment arising from that remediation).</i>	
Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	5 Generic Impacts	
		5.11 Land Use, Including Open Space, Green Infrastructure, and Green Belt	
		5.11.12 <i>'Applicants should seek to minimise impacts on the best and most versatile agricultural land (defined as land in grades 1, 2 and 3a of the Agricultural Land Classification) and preferably use land in areas of poorer quality (grades 3b, 4 and 5).'</i>	The extent of Best and Most Versatile (BMV) land within the draft Order Limits will be assessed in the baseline. The Project will have regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of the design.
		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>	A preliminary assessment of the likely impacts on BMV land is provided in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils , with mitigation measures set out to minimise as far as practicable the effects. This will be updated for the ES.
		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>	The mitigation measures will include the requirement for a Soil Management Plan in line with published guidance, which will form part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). A draft Outline Soil Management Plan is provided in Appendix 12A Draft Outline Soil Management Plan . Risks posed by land contamination are assessed in Chapter 11

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
			Geology and Hydrogeology. This will be updated for the ES.
		5.11.34 <i>'The Secretary of State should ensure that applicants do not site their scheme on the best and most versatile agricultural land without justification. Where schemes are to be sited on best and most versatile agricultural land the Secretary of State should take into account the economic and other benefits of that land. Where development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.'</i>	The extent of BMV land within the draft Order Limits will be assessed in the baseline. The likely impacts on BMV land will be assessed as part of Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils of the ES, with mitigation measures set out to minimise as far as practicable the effects.
	NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information	
		2.9 Applicant assessment	
		2.9.26 (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</i>	There is currently no undergrounding proposed across the Project. However, the extent of BMV land within the draft Order Limits will be assessed in the baseline. The Project will have regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised through the evolution of the design. If undergrounding is to occur, the likely impacts on BMV land from undergrounding will be assessed as part of Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils of the ES, with mitigation measures aligned to published guidance to ensure handling methodologies are appropriate to the soil

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>consideration of the Defra Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites’.</i>	type; that, where practicable, double handling is avoided; and where soils are being reinstated the correct profile is recreated which is suitable for the proposed end land use. The mitigation measures will include the requirement for a Soil Management Plan; this has been outlined in Appendix 12A Draft Outline Soil Management Plan.
		<i>2.9.59 ‘There is little evidence that exposure of crops, farm animals or natural ecosystems to transmission line EMFs [electric and magnetic fields] has any agriculturally significant consequences.’</i>	In relation to potential permanent impacts associated with the generation of EMFs, the Project will be designed to comply with existing National Grid standards and the guidelines and policies detailed in NPS-EN5, including the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection guidelines for electric and magnetic fields (Ref 2B.24) and associated precautionary policy. An EMF compliance report will be prepared as part of the Project. This is separate to the EIA process. A summary of the EMF compliance report will be provided in the ES. Where indirect effects to sensitive land uses (such as riding manèges) are identified, additional conductor clearances can be applied as part of the design.
NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)		15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		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 best and most versatile agricultural land [...];</i> <i>[...]</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>	The likely impacts on BMV land will be assessed as part of Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils of the ES. Mitigation measures will be set out to minimise as far as practicable the effects. Potential effects upon sites of geological value will be identified in Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology.
		Footnote of 188 <i>‘Where significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary, areas of poorer quality land should be preferred to those of a higher quality.’</i>	The extent of BMV land within the draft Order Limits will be assessed in the baseline. The Project will have regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of the design.
Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	5 Generic Impacts	
		5.14 Traffic and Transport	
		5.14.4 <i>‘The consideration and mitigation of transport impacts is an essential part of government’s wider</i>	The Project’s transport impacts will be fully assessed and set out within the ES and Transport Assessment (TA).

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>policy objectives for sustainable development as set out in Section 2.5 of this NPS.'</i>	
		5.14.5 <i>'If a project is likely to have significant transport implications, the applicant's ES (see Section 4.3) should include a vision for transport and an assessment of potential transport impacts.'</i> 5.14.6 <i>'The DfT's Transport Analysis Guidance (TAG) and Welsh Governments WeITAG provides guidance on modelling and assessing the impacts of transport schemes.'</i>	A TA will be produced to model and assess the impacts of the Project.
		5.14.7 <i>'National Highways and Highways Authorities are statutory consultees on NSIP applications including energy infrastructure where it is expected to affect the strategic road network and / or have an impact on the local road network. Applicants should consult with National Highways and Highways Authorities as appropriate on the assessment, including any reasonable future tested scenarios, and mitigation to inform the application to be submitted.'</i>	National Highways and Local Highway Authorities will be consulted in developing the TA and ES chapter for the Project.
		5.14.8 <i>'The applicant should prepare a travel plan adopting a vision-led approach to identify demand management and monitoring and fall-back measures that proactively mitigate transport impacts by providing details of proposed measures to improve access by active, public and shared transport to:</i>	A Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) and Construction Worker Travel Plan (CWTP) will be produced. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan in the DES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		• <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>	
		5.14.9 <i>'The assessment should also consider any possible disruption to services and infrastructure (such as road, rail and airports).'</i>	The ES and TA will consider all relevant modes and assess the impacts of the Project.
		5.14.11 <i>'Applicants should discuss with network providers the possibility of co-funding by government for any third-party benefits. Guidance has been issued which explains the circumstances where this may be possible, although the government cannot guarantee in advance that funding will be available for any given uncommitted scheme at any specified time.'</i>	As part of discussions with network operators, any such opportunities will be identified and explored (where merited). Opportunities that are agreed to be incorporated into the Project and set out in the TA and ES.
		5.14.12 <i>'Where mitigation is needed, possible demand management measures must be considered. This could include identifying opportunities to:</i> • <i>Reduce the need to travel by consolidating trips;</i> • <i>Locate development in areas already accessible by active travel and public transport;</i> • <i>Provide opportunities for shared mobility;</i>	Mitigation measures will be set out in the TA, CTMP and CWTP. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan in the DES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		• <i>Re-mode by shifting travel to a sustainable mode that is more beneficial to the network;</i> • <i>Retime travel outside of the known peak times; and</i> • <i>Reroute to use parts of the network that are less busy.'</i>	
		5.14.13 <i>'If feasible and operationally reasonable, such mitigation should be required, before considering requirements for the provision of new inland transport infrastructure to deal with remaining transport impacts. All stages of the project should support and prioritise a modal shift of freight from road to more environmentally sustainable alternatives, such as rail, cargo bike, maritime and inland waterways, as well as making appropriate provision for and infrastructure needed to support the use of alternative fuels including charging for electric vehicles.'</i>	Mitigation measures will be set out in the TA, CTMP and CWTP. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan in the DES.
		5.14.14 <i>'Regard should always be given to the needs of freight at all stages in the construction and operation of the development including the need to provide appropriate facilities for HGV drivers as appropriate.'</i>	The CTMP will set out the relevant information of transport routeing and compound locations. Welfare requirements for drivers fall outside the scope of this study topic. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan in the DES.
		5.14.15 <i>'The Secretary of State may attach requirements to a consent where there is likely to be substantial HGV traffic that:</i>	Controls of timing and routeing of Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) movements as well as parking will be set out within the TA, CTMP

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		- Control numbers of HGV movements to and from the site in a specified period during its construction and possibly on the routing of such movements; - Make sufficient provision for HGV parking, and associated high quality drive facilities either on the site or at dedicated facilities elsewhere, to support driver welfare, avoid ‘overspill’ parking on public roads, prolonged queuing on approach roads and uncontrolled on-street HGV parking in normal operating conditions; and - Ensure satisfactory arrangements for reasonably foreseeable abnormal disruption, in consultation with network providers and the responsible police force.’	and CWTP. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan in the DES.
		5.14.16 ‘The Secretary of State should have regard to the cost-effectiveness of demand management measures compared to new transport infrastructure, as well as the aim to secure more sustainable patterns of transport development when considering mitigation measures.’	Demand management measures, where appropriate, will be considered as part of the transport strategy and set out in the TA.
		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.’	
		5.14.19 ‘A new energy NSIP may give rise to substantial impacts on the surrounding transport infrastructure and the Secretary of State should	Impacts will be assessed and mitigation considered through the ES, TA, CTMP, CWTP, CEMP and Public Rights of Way

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>therefore ensure that the applicant has sought to mitigate these impacts, including during the construction phase of the development and by enhancing active, public and shared transport provision and accessibility.'</i>	Management Plan. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan and a draft Outline ProWMP is provided in Appendix 13E Draft Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan in the DES.
		5.14.22 <i>'The Secretary of State should only consider refusing development on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, residual cumulative impacts on the road network would be severe, or it does not show how consideration has been given to the provision of adequate active public or shared transport access and provision.'</i>	The Project impacts shall be assessed and set out within the ES and TA.
	NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)	9 Promoting sustainable transport	
		109 <i>'Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals, using a vision-led approach to identify transport solutions that deliver well-designed, sustainable and popular places. This should involve: understanding and addressing the potential impacts of development on transport networks; realising opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure, and changing transport technology and usage [...].'</i>	The Project will seek to utilise existing infrastructure where feasible.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		116 <i>'Development should only be prevented or refused on highways grounds if there would be an unacceptable impact on highway safety, or the residual cumulative impacts on the road network, following mitigation, would be severe, taking into account all reasonable future scenarios.'</i>	The Project impact will be fully assessed and set out within the ES and TA.
		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 or Transport Assessment so that the likely impacts of the proposal can be assessed.'</i>	A TA will be prepared and assess impacts. Where required, mitigation measures will be put in place through the CTMP and CWTP to reduce impacts. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan in the DES.
	Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements NPPG (2014) (Ref 2B.12)	Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements NPPG The NPPG includes guidance relating to Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements. This includes the scope and level of detail to be included.	NPPG guidance has been considered in the preparation of the Travel Plans and the TA.
Chapter 14 Air Quality	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	5 Generic Impacts 5.2 Air Quality and Emissions 5.2.9 <i>'The ES should describe:</i> <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,</i>	Should screening of traffic data for any of the Project stages indicate detailed assessment is required, then dispersion modelling will be undertaken as part of the air quality assessment (Chapter 14 Air

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>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>	Quality) to determine the change in pollutant concentrations as a result of the Project at relevant human and ecological receptor locations.
		5.7 Dust, Odour, Artificial Light, Smoke, Steam and Insect Infestation	
		5.7.1 <i>'During the construction, operation and decommissioning of energy infrastructure there is potential for the release of a range of emissions such as odour, dust, steam, smoke, artificial light and infestation of insects. All have the potential to have a detrimental impact on amenity or cause a common law nuisance or statutory nuisance under Part III, Environmental Protection Act 1990. However, they are not regulated by the environmental permitting regime, so mitigation of these impacts will need to be included in the Development Consent Order.'</i>	The air quality assessment will consider the effects and resulting impacts associate with the Project. The approach to mitigation is described in the Design and Control Measures section of Chapter 14 Air Quality.
Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	5 Generic Impacts 5.12 Noise and Vibration	
		5.12.1 <i>'Excessive noise can have wide-ranging impacts on the quality of human life and health such as annoyance, sleep disturbance, cardiovascular</i>	The principles in this section will be followed through the DES and ES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>disease and mental ill- health. It can also have an impact on the environment and the use and enjoyment of areas of value such as quiet places and areas with high landscape quality.'</i>	
		<i>5.12.2 'The Government's policy on noise is set out in the Noise Policy Statement for England. It promotes good health and good quality of life through effective noise management. Similar considerations apply to vibration, which can also cause damage to buildings. In this section, in line with current legislation, references to "noise" below apply equally to the assessment of impacts of vibration'.</i>	
		<i>5.12.4 'Noise resulting from a proposed development can also have adverse impacts on wildlife and biodiversity. Noise effects of the proposed development on ecological receptors should be assessed by the Secretary of State in accordance with the Biodiversity and Geological Conservation section of this NPS at Section 5.4. This should consider underwater noise and vibration especially for marine developments. Underwater noise can be a significant issue in the marine environment, particularly in regard to energy production.'</i>	The effects of noise and vibration on ecological receptors will be considered within Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity .
		<i>5.12.6 'Where noise impacts are likely to arise from the proposed development, the applicant should include the following in the noise assessment:</i>	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration will include a description of the existing noise environment, the potential impacts and

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		<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 infrastructure;</i> <i>at particular times of the day, evening and night (and weekends) as appropriate, and at different times of the 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>	effects of noise and vibration on noise sensitive receptors, and with any control measures identified to mitigate and minimise potential adverse effects on health and quality of life.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>if likely to cause disturbance, an assessment of the effect of the underwater or subterranean noise; and</i> <i>all reasonable steps taken to mitigate and minimise potential adverse effects on health and quality of life.'</i>	
		5.12.7 <i>'The nature and extent of the noise assessment should be proportionate to the likely noise impact.'</i>	
		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>	The assessment will consider construction traffic noise, as described in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of this DES.
		5.12.9 <i>'Operational noise, with respect to human receptors, should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance. Further information on assessment of particular noise sources may be contained in the technology-specific NPSs. In particular for renewables (EN-3) and electricity networks (EN-5) there is assessment guidance for specific features of those technologies. 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>	The assessment will consider appropriate guidance as described in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of this DES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		5.12.10 <i>'Some noise impacts will be controlled through environmental permits and parallel tracking is encouraged where noise impacts determined by an environmental permit interface with planning issues (i.e. physical design and location of development). The applicant should consult the EA and/or the SNCB, and other relevant bodies, such as the MMO or NRW, as necessary, and in particular regarding assessment of noise on protected species or other wildlife. The results of any noise surveys and predictions may inform the ecological assessment. The seasonality of potential affected species in nearby sites may also need to be considered.'</i>	Requirements for permitting will be considered through the application for development consent process. Consultation and engagement with relevant stakeholders will be undertaken as necessary. The effects of noise and vibration on ecological receptors will be considered within Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity .
		5.12.12 <i>'Applicants should submit a detailed impact assessment and mitigation plan as part of any development plan, including the use of noise mitigation and noise abatement technologies during construction and operation.'</i>	A detailed impact assessment and any required control measures required to mitigate and minimise potential adverse effects of noise on health and quality of life will be included in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration .
NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)		2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information	
NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)		2.9 Applicant assessment	
		2.9.27 <i>'All high voltage transmission lines have the potential to generate noise under certain conditions.'</i> 2.9.28 <i>'Line noise is most commonly caused by corona noise when the conductor</i>	It is expected conductors will be designed to operate below the inception level. This will be considered in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration .

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>surface electrical stress exceeds the inception level for corona discharge activity which is released as acoustic energy and radiates into the air as sound. Transmission line conductors are normally designed to operate below this threshold'.</i>	
		2.9.38 'Audible noise effects can also arise from substation equipment such as transformers, quadrature boosters and mechanically switched capacitors.'	The preliminary assessment reported in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of this DES considers operational noise from substation plant. This will be updated for the ES.
		2.9.39 'Transformers are installed at many substations, and generate low frequency hum. Whether the noise can be heard outside a substation depends on a number of factors, including transformer type and the level of noise attenuation present (either engineered intentionally or provided by other structures).'	The preliminary assessment reported in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of this DES considers operational noise from substation plant. This will be updated for the ES. The preliminary assessment reported in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of this DES considers operational noise from overhead lines. This will be updated for the ES.
		2.9.40 'For the assessment of noise from substations, standard methods of assessment and interpretation using the principles of the relevant British Standards are satisfactory.'	The preliminary assessment reported in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of this DES considers operational noise from overhead lines. This will be updated for the ES.
		2.9.41 'For the assessment of noise from overhead lines, the applicant must use an appropriate method to determine the sound level produced by the line in both dry and wet weather conditions, in addition to assessing the impact on noise-sensitive receptors.'	The preliminary assessment reported in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of this DES considers operational noise from overhead lines. This will be updated for the ES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		2.9.42 <i>'For instance, the applicant may use an appropriate noise modelling tool or tools for the prediction of overhead line noise and its propagation over distance, such as an ISO 9613-2 or Technical Report TR(T)94.'</i>	
		2.9.43 <i>'When assessing the impact of noise generated by overhead lines in wet weather relative to existing background sound levels, the applicant should consider the effect of varying background sound levels due to rainfall.'</i>	
		2.10 Mitigation	
		2.10.9 <i>'Applicants must consider the following measures:</i> <i>the positioning of lines to help mitigate noise;</i> <i>ensuring that the appropriately sized conductor arrangement is used to minimise potential noise;</i> <i>quality assurance through manufacturing and transportation to avoid damage to overhead line conductors which can increase potential noise effects;</i> <i>ensuring that conductors are kept clean and free of surface contaminants during stringing/installation; and</i> <i>the selection of quieter cost-effective plants'.</i>	Overhead lines have been routed to avoid noise sensitive receptors as far as reasonably practicable as set out in the Corridor Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study (CPRSS) (Ref 2B.8). This will be further refined as the Project design evolves. The mitigation measures are set out in Section 15.7 of Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of this DES. Further detail based on the evolving design will be provided in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of the ES.
		2.10.10 <i>'In addition, the ES should include information on planned maintenance arrangements.</i>	Any required maintenance measures to ensure for ongoing minimisation of noise

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>Where detail is not included, the Secretary of State should consider stipulating appropriate maintenance arrangements by way of requirements attached to any grant of development consent’.</i>	emission will be set out in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration of this DES. This will be further developed for the ES.
	NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)	15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	
		187 ‘Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: (e) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should, wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans.’	The principles in this section have been followed in this DES and will continue to be followed in the ES.
		198 ‘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: mitigate and reduce to a minimum potential adverse impacts resulting from noise from new development	

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		– and avoid noise giving rise to significant adverse impacts on health and the quality of life; identify and protect tranquil areas which have remained relatively undisturbed by noise and are prized for their recreational and amenity value for this reason.’	
	Noise NPPG (2019) (Ref 2B.13)	Noise NPPG 001 ‘Noise needs to be considered when development may create additional noise or would be sensitive to the prevailing acoustic environment (including any anticipated changes to that environment from activities that are permitted but not yet commenced).’ 002 ‘[...] it is important to look at noise in the context of the wider characteristics of a development proposal, its likely users and its surroundings, as these can have an important effect on whether noise is likely to pose a concern.’ 003 ‘Plan-making and decision making need to take account of the acoustic environment and in doing so consider: Whether or not a significant adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur; whether or not an adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur; and whether or not a good standard of amenity can be achieved.’	The principles in this section have been followed in this DES and will continue to be followed in the ES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		003 <i>'Plan-making and decision making need to take account of the acoustic environment and in doing so consider:</i> <i>• Whether or not a significant adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur;</i> <i>• whether or not an adverse effect is occurring or likely to occur; and</i> <i>• whether or not a good standard of amenity can be achieved.'</i> 004 <i>'What are the observed effect levels?</i> <i>• Significant observed adverse effect level: This is the level of noise exposure above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.</i> <i>• Lowest observed adverse effect level: this is the level of noise exposure above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected.</i> <i>• No observed effect level: this is the level of noise exposure below which no effect at all on health or quality of life can be detected.</i> <i>Although the word 'level' is used here, this does not mean that the effects can only be defined in terms of a single value of noise exposure. In some circumstances adverse effects are defined in terms of a combination of more than one factor such as noise exposure, the number of occurrences of the</i>	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>noise in a given time period, the duration of the noise and the time of day the noise occurs.'</i>	
	Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) (2010) (Ref 2B.16)	1.6 <i>'This Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE) sets out the long term vision of Government noise policy:</i> <i>Noise Policy Vision</i> <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> 1.7 <i>'This long term vision is supported by the following aims:</i> <i>Noise Policy Aims</i> <i>Through the effective management and control of environmental, neighbour and neighbourhood noise within the context of Government policy on sustainable development:</i> <i>• avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life;</i> <i>• mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and</i> <i>• where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life.'</i> 2.24 <i>'The second aim of the NPSE refers to the situation where the impact lies somewhere between LOAEL and SOAEL. It requires that all reasonable</i>	The principles in this section have been followed in this DES and will continue to be followed in the ES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>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...'</i> 2.20 'There are two established concepts from toxicology that are currently being applied to noise impacts, for example, by the World Health Organisation. They are: NOEL – No Observed Effect Level <i>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> LOAEL – Lowest Observed Adverse Effect Level <i>This is the level above which adverse effects on health and quality of life can be detected.'</i> 2.21 'Extending these concepts for the purpose of this NPSE leads to the concept of a significant observed adverse effect level. SOAEL – Significant Observed Adverse Effect Level <i>This is the level above which significant adverse effects on health and quality of life occur.'</i>	
Chapter 16 Socio-	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	4 Assessment Principles 4.3 Environmental Effects/Considerations	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
economics, Recreation and Tourism		4.3.4 <i>‘To consider the potential effects, including benefits, of a proposal for a project, the applicant must set out information on the likely significant environmental, social and economic effects of the development, and show how any likely significant negative effects would be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated for, following the mitigation hierarchy. This information could include matters such as employment, equality, biodiversity net gain, community cohesion, health and well-being.’</i>	The preliminary assessment reported in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism considers the likely significant socio-economic effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project. This will be updated for the ES.
		4.3.5 <i>‘For the purposes of this NPS and the technology- specific NPSs the ES should cover the environmental, social and economic effects arising from pre-construction, construction, operation and decommissioning of the project.’</i>	
		4.3.8 <i>‘In this NPS and the technology specific NPSs, when used in relation to environmental matters the terms ‘effects’, ‘impacts’ or ‘benefits’ should be understood to mean likely significant effects, likely significant impacts, or likely significant benefits.’</i>	
		4.3.15 <i>‘Applicants are obliged to include information about the reasonable alternatives they have studied in their ES. This should include an indication of the main reasons for the applicant’s choice, taking into account the environmental, social and economic</i>	An option appraisal process has been undertaken on the route corridor options (including the preferred corridor) and technologies associated with the Project from an early stage. This is summarised in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered .

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>effects and including, where relevant, technical and commercial feasibility.'</i>	Any further Project design evolutions will be summarised within the ES.
		5 Generic Impacts	
		5.13 Socio-Economic Impacts	
		5.13.4 <i>'The applicant's assessment s should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include:</i> <i>• The creation of jobs and training opportunities. Applicants may wish to provide information on the sustainability of the jobs created, including where they will help to develop the skills needed for the UK's transition to Net Zero;</i> <i>• the provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including the provision of educational and visitor facilities;</i> <i>• effects (positive or negative) on tourism and other users of the area impacted;</i> <i>• The impact of a changing influx of workers during the different construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the energy infrastructure. This could change the local population dynamics and could alter the demand for services and facilities in the settlements nearest to the construction work (including community facilities and physical infrastructure such as energy, water, transport and waste). There could also be effects on</i>	The preliminary assessment reported in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism considers the likely significant socio-economic effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project. This includes assessing the proposed effects detailed in NPS EN-1. This will be updated for the ES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>social cohesion depending on how populations and service provision change as a result of the development; and Cumulative effects - if development consent were to be granted for a number of projects within a region and these were developed in a similar timeframe, there could be some short-term negative effects, for example a potential shortage of construction workers to meet the needs of other industries and major projects within the region.'</i>	
		5.13.5 '<i>Applicants should describe the existing socio- economic conditions in the areas surrounding the proposed development and should also refer to how the development's socio-economic impacts correlate with local planning policies.'</i>	The preliminary assessment includes a baseline section, detailed in Section 16.6 of Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism in this DES. This will be updated for the ES. Chapter 2 Regulatory and Planning Policy Context sets out the legislative and policy context for the application. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
		5.13.6 '<i>Socio-economic impacts may be linked to other impacts, for example the visual impact of a development is considered in Section 5.10 but may also have an impact on tourism and local businesses. Applicants are encouraged, where possible, to demonstrate that local suppliers have been considered in any supply chain.'</i>	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism includes assessing the impact of the Project on tourism and local businesses in the Study Area. Where applicable, the assessment expands on inputs from other assessments reported within this DES

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
			including, but not limited to: air quality, noise and vibration, landscape, visual, traffic and transport and health and wellbeing effects. This will be further developed for the ES.
		1 Introduction	
	NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	1.3 Relationship with EN-1	
	NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	1.3.1. <i>‘This NPS is part of a suite of energy infrastructure NPSSs. It should be read in conjunction with EN-1 and EN-3.’</i>	This NPS is reviewed alongside the guidance and requirements set out in EN-1 for the preparation of this DES and the ES to ensure full compliance within the context of the application for the Project.
		1.3.2. <i>‘This NPS does not seek to repeat the material set out in EN-1 or EN-3. EN-1 applies to all applications covered by this NPS unless stated otherwise. The policy in EN-3 on offshore wind in particular contains details relevant to offshore transmission.’</i>	This NPS is reviewed alongside the guidance and requirements set out in EN-1 for the preparation of this DES and the ES to ensure full compliance within the context of the application for the Project.
		2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information	
		2.5 Environmental and Biodiversity Net Gain	
		2.5.1 <i>‘When planning and evaluating the proposed development’s contribution to environmental and biodiversity net gain, it will be important – for both the applicant and the Secretary of State – to supplement the generic guidance set out in EN-1</i>	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation, and Tourism of this DES considers the likely significant socio-economic effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>(Section 4.6) with recognition that the linear nature of electricity networks infrastructure can allow for excellent opportunities to...connect people to the environment, for instance via footpaths and cycleways constructed in tandem with environmental enhancements.'</i>	the Project. This includes the assessment of the proposed effects detailed in NPS EN-5 (alongside EN-1). This will be updated for the ES.
		2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information	
		2.9 Applicant assessment	
		Section 2.9 of NPS EN-5 refers to applicant assessments pertaining to electricity networks infrastructure that are not directly covered in NPS EN-1. Section 2.9 of NPS EN-5 includes assessments considering the following: • Biodiversity and Geological Conservation; • Landscape and Visual Impact; • Noise and Vibration; • Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs); and • Sulphur Hexafluoride.	N/A – these set out the assessment requirements for other DES and ES topic areas, however, are included in this table for completeness.
		With regard to the Horlock Rules, the applicant should: 2.9.19 <i>'consider environmental issues from the earliest stage to balance the technical benefits and capital cost requirements for new developments against the consequential environmental effects in order to keep adverse effects to a reasonably practicable minimum...seek to avoid altogether</i>	An option appraisal process has been undertaken on the route corridor options (including the preferred corridor) and technologies associated with the Project from an early stage. This is summarised in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered. Any further Project design evolutions will be summarised within the ES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>internationally and nationally designated areas of the highest amenity, cultural or scientific value by the overall planning of the system connections.'</i>	
	NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)	2 Achieving sustainable development Paragraph 8 outlines the economic objective of the planning system <i>'to help build a strong, responsive, and competitive economy by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity'</i> . This is expanded on in Chapter 6 Paragraph 85 of the NPPF which sets out how planning policies and decisions should <i>'help to create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt'</i> . Paragraph 8 also outlines the social objective of the planning system <i>'to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being'</i> .	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation, and Tourism of this DES considers the likely significant socio-economic effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project. This assessment will be updated for the ES.
		8 Promoting healthy and safe communities 98 <i>'to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, decisions should: take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social</i>	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation, and Tourism of this DES considers the likely significant socio-economic effects from the

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>and cultural well-being for all sections of the community.'</i>	construction, maintenance and operation of the Project. This will include potential disruption to community facilities as a result of impacts on amenity. This assessment will be updated for the ES.
		105 'decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way'.	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation, and Tourism of this DES considers the likely significant socio-economic effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project. This will include potential disruption to local users of promoted and recreational routes. This assessment will be updated for the ES.
Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	4 Assessment Principles	
		4.4 Health	
		4.4.1 ' <i>Energy infrastructure has the potential to impact on the health and wellbeing ("health") of the population. Access to energy is clearly beneficial to society and to our health as a whole. However, the construction of energy infrastructure and the production, distribution and use of energy may have negative impacts on some people's health.</i> '	The initial assessment provided in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing of this DES considers the likely significant effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project. This will be updated for the ES. Where adverse impacts are identified, attempts will be made to mitigate the effects for identified receptors.
		4.4.2 ' <i>The direct impacts on health may include</i> increased traffic	Generally, those aspects of energy infrastructure which are most likely to have a significantly detrimental impact on health are

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		• air or water pollution • dust, odour • hazardous waste and substances • noise • exposure to radiation, and • increases in pests.'	subject to separate regulation (for example for air pollution) which will constitute effective mitigation of them. A preliminary health and wellbeing assessment has been undertaken as part of this DES, detailed in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing . This will be updated for the ES.
		4.4.3 <i>'New energy infrastructure may also affect the composition and size of the local population, and in doing so have indirect health impacts, for example if it in some way affects access to key public services, transport or the use of open space for recreation and physical activity'.</i>	The approach to assessing the likely significant health effects of the Project is set out in the assessment methodology in Section 17.5 of Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing . An overview of the social, demographic and health baseline is provided in Section 17.6 and a summary of the preliminary assessment of effects from the Project is provided in Section 17.8 of Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing . This will be updated for the ES.
		4.4.4 <i>'As described in the relevant sections of this NPS and in the technology specific NPSs, where the proposed project has an effect on humans, the ES should assess these effects for each element of the project, identifying any potential adverse health impacts, and identifying measures to avoid, reduce or compensate for these impacts as appropriate.'</i>	A preliminary assessment is provided in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing in this DES and considers the likely significant effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project. This will be updated for the ES. Where adverse impacts are identified, attempts will be made to mitigate the effects for identified receptors.
		4.4.5 <i>'The impacts of more than one development may affect people simultaneously, so the applicant</i>	A preliminary assessment is provided in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing in this

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>should consider the cumulative impact on health in the ES where appropriate.'</i>	DES and considers the likely significant effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project. This will be updated for the ES. A cumulative effects assessment will be undertaken and presented within the ES, the scope of which is outlined within Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects of this DES. Where adverse impacts are identified, attempts will be made to mitigate the effects for identified receptors.
		5 Generic Impacts	
		5.12 Noise and Vibration	
		5.12.17 <i>'The Secretary of State should not grant development consent unless they are satisfied that the proposals will meet the following aims, through the effective management and control of noise:</i> <i>• avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise</i> <i>• mitigate and minimise other adverse impacts on health and quality of life from noise</i> <i>• where possible, contribute to improvements to health and quality of life through the effective management and control of noise.'</i>	A preliminary assessment is provided in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing in this DES and considers the likely significant effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project. This will be updated for the ES. Where adverse impacts are identified, attempts will be made to mitigate the effects for identified receptors.
		5 Generic Impacts	
		5.15 Resource and Waste Management	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		5.15.1 <i>'Government policy on hazardous and non-hazardous waste is intended to protect human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. Where this is not possible and disposal is required as a last resort, waste management regulation ensures that waste is disposed of in a way that is least damaging to the environment and to human health.'</i>	Generally, those aspects of energy infrastructure which are most likely to have a significantly detrimental impact on health are subject to separate regulation (for example for air pollution) which will constitute effective mitigation of them. A preliminary health and wellbeing assessment has been undertaken and is detailed in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing in this DES. This will be updated for the ES.
NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information		
	2.9 Applicant Assessment		
		2.4.4 <i>'Power frequency [Electric Magnetic Fields] EMFs arise from generation, transmission, distribution and use of electricity and will occur around power lines and electric cables and round domestics, office or industrial equipment that uses electricity'.</i>	The Project will be designed to comply with existing National Grid standards and the guidelines and policies detailed in NPS EN-5 including the ICNIRP guidelines for EMFs and associated precautionary policy. An EMF compliance report will be prepared as part of the Project. This is separate to the EIA process. A summary of the EMF compliance report will be provided in the ES.
		2.9.47 <i>'EMFs can have both direct and indirect effects on human health, aquatic and terrestrial organisms.'</i>	The Project will be designed to comply with existing National Grid standards and the guidelines and policies detailed in NPS EN-5 including the ICNIRP guidelines for EMFs and associated precautionary policy. An EMF compliance report will be prepared as
		2.9.49 <i>'to prevent these known effects, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) developed health</i>	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>protection guidelines in 1998 for both public and occupational exposure. These are expressed in terms of induced current density in affected tissues of the body, ‘basic restrictions’, and in terms of measurable ‘reference levels’ of electric field strength (for electric fields), and magnetic flux density (for magnetic fields) The relationship between the (measurable) electric field strength or magnetic flux density and induced current density in body tissues requires complex dosimetric modelling.’</i> 2.9.52 <i>‘The levels of EMFs produced by power lines in normal operation are usually considerably lower than the ICNIRP 1998 reference levels. For electricity substations, the EMFs close to the sites tend to be dictated by the overhead lines and cables entering the installation, not the equipment within the site.’</i>	part of the Project. This is separate to the EIA process. A summary of the EMF compliance report will be provided in the ES.
		2.10 Mitigation 2.10.11 <i>‘The applicant should consider the following factors:</i> <i>• height, position, insulation and protection (electrical or mechanical as appropriate) measures subject to ensuring compliance with the Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002;</i> <i>• that optimal phasing of high voltage overhead power lines is introduced</i>	The Project will be designed to comply with existing National Grid standards and the guidelines and policies detailed in NPS-EN5 including the International Commission on Non Ionizing Radiation Protection guidelines for electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) and associated precautionary policy. An EMF compliance report will be prepared as part of the Project. This is separate to the EIA

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		• <i>wherever possible and practicable in accordance with the Code of Practice to minimise EMFs; and</i> • <i>any new advice emerging from the Department of Health and Social Care relating to government policy for EMF exposure guidelines.'</i>	process. A summary of the EMF compliance report will be provided in the ES.
	NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)	8 Promoting healthy and safe communities The NPPF sets out various policies with respect to the health and wellbeing objectives of the planning system. Section 8 of the NPPF states that policies should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places which: promote social inclusion; are safe and accessible; and enable and support healthy lifestyles. In order to do this, planning policies and decisions should: 98 <i>'(a) Plan positively for the provision of local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;</i> <i>(b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;</i> <i>(c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;</i>	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing in this DES considers the likely significant effects from the construction, maintenance and operation of the Project on health and wellbeing in accord with NPPF guidance. Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing outlines design and control mitigation measures to mitigate the effects on receptors. This will be updated for the ES.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		(d) ensure that established shops, facilities, and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and (e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.’ They should also ‘promote public safety and take into account wider security and defence” in developing planning policy; and “protect and enhance public rights of way and access.’	
Chapter 18 Climate Change	NPS EN-1 (2025) (Ref 2B.1)	2 Government policy on energy and energy infrastructure development 2.2 Net zero by 2050 2.2.3 ‘In June 2019, the UK became the first major economy to legislate for a 2050 net zero Greenhouse Gases (‘GHG’) emissions target through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019.’ 2.2.4 ‘In December 2020, the UK communicated its Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce GHG emissions by at least 68 per cent from 1990 levels by 203016. In April 2021, the government legislated for the sixth carbon budget (CB6), which requires the UK to reduce GHG emissions by 78 per cent by 2035 compared to 1990 levels.’	The Project will directly support the UK’s net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, and facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network. The preliminary assessment in Chapter 18 Climate Change in this DES considers the Project’s greenhouse gas emissions in the context of the legally binding greenhouse gas reduction targets and carbon budgets in line with Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP)

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
			(formally Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) assessment guidance (Ref 2B.14). This assessment will be updated for the ES.
		4 Assessment Principles	
		4.2 The critical national priority for low carbon infrastructure	
		4.2.1 <i>‘Government has committed to the Clean Power 2030 Mission, subject to security of supply, to underpin its 2050 net zero ambitions. More than half of final energy demand in 2050 could be met by electricity, as transport and heating in particular shift from fossil fuel to electrical technology’.</i>	The preliminary GHG assessment within Chapter 18 Climate Change considers if the Project supports the growth of low-carbon and renewable energy in line with government policy to decarbonise the power system. This will be updated for the ES.
		4.2.2 to 4.2.17 <i>‘Ensuring the UK is more energy independent, resilient and secure requires the smooth transition to abundant, low-carbon energy’ ‘Low carbon infrastructure for the purposes of this policy means ... for electricity grid infrastructure, all power lines in scope of EN-5 including network reinforcement and upgrade works, and associated infrastructure such as substations. This is not limited to those associated specifically with a particular generation technology, as all new grid projects will contribute towards greater efficiency in constructing, operating and connecting low carbon infrastructure to the National Electricity Transmission System.’</i>	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		4 Assessment Principles	
		4.7 Criteria for good design for Energy Infrastructure	
		Section 4.7 of NPS EN-1 Sets out the principles for good design that should be applied to all energy infrastructure and notes the importance which the Planning Act 2008 places on good design and sustainability.	The design of the route of the 400 kV overhead line and the siting of the substations and associated infrastructure is being developed within the underlying principle of good design through the application of the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3). Chapter 3 Main Alternative Considered documents the evolution of the design and how it has been informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys, considerations related to GHG emissions, as well as consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution will continue to be documented in the alternatives chapter within the ES.
		5 Generic Impacts	
		Section 5 of NPS EN-1 sets out potential impacts in respect of matters such as air quality and emissions, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, biodiversity and geological conservation, coastal change, dust/odour/light pollution, flood risk, historic environment, landscape and visual, noise, socio-economic impacts, traffic and transport, resource and waste management, and water resources.	The design of the route of the 400 kV overhead line and the siting of the substations and associated infrastructure is being developed within the underlying principle of good design through the application of the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3). Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered documents the evolution of the design and how it has

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
			been informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys, considerations related to GHG emissions, as well as consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution will continue to be documented in the alternatives chapter within the ES.
		5.3 Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
		Section 5.3 of NPS EN-1 covers GHG emissions associated with energy infrastructure development. This stipulates that all applications must include a full whole life GHG assessment (including construction, operational, decommissioning, and land use change impacts).	The preliminary GHG assessment within Chapter 18 Climate Change considers the lifecycle carbon emissions in line with ISEP GHG assessment guidance (Ref 2B.14). This will be updated for the ES. Chapter 18 Climate Change in this DES also documents the steps taken to drive down climate change impacts at each stage to reduce construction and operational carbon emissions as much as possible. This will be updated for the ES.
		5.3.4 <i>'All proposals for energy infrastructure projects should include a GHG assessment as part of their ES (See Section 4.3). This should include:</i> <i>A whole life GHG assessment showing construction, operational and decommissioning GHG impacts, including impacts from change of land use.</i>	The GHG assessment within the climate change chapter of the ES will assess lifecycle carbon emissions in line with ISEP GHG assessment guidance (Ref 2B.14). Chapter 18 Climate Change in this DES also documents the steps taken to drive

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>An explanation of the steps that have been taken to drive down the climate change impacts at each of those stages.</i> <i>Measurement of embodied GHG impact from the construction stage.</i> <i>How reduction in energy demand and consumption during operation has been prioritised in comparison with other measures.</i> <i>How operational emissions have been reduced as much as possible through the application of BATs for that type of technology.</i> <i>Calculation of operational energy consumption and associated carbon emissions.</i> <i>Whether and how any residual GHG emissions will be (voluntarily) offset or removed using a recognised framework.</i> <i>Where there are residual emissions, the level of emissions and the impact of those on national and international efforts to limit climate change, both alone and where relevant in combination with other developments at a regional or national level, or sector level, if sectoral targets are developed.'</i>	down climate change impacts at each stage to reduce construction and operational carbon emissions as much as possible. This will be updated for the ES.
		5.3.5 'a GHG assessment should be used to drive down GHG emissions at every stage of the proposed development and ensure that emissions are minimised as far as possible for the type of technology, taking into account the overall	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>objectives of ensuring our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable and affordable, as we transition to net zero.'</i> Section 5.3 of NPS EN-1 continues that appropriate weight must be given to projects that embed nature-based or technological processes to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning. Paragraph 5.3.11 states that: <i>'operational GHG emissions are a significant adverse impact from some types of energy infrastructure which cannot be totally avoided'</i> and that <i>'operational GHG emissions are not reasons to prohibit the consenting of energy projects or to impose more restrictions on them in the planning policy framework than are set out in the energy NPSs (e.g. the CCR requirements).'</i>	
	NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	2 Assessment and Technology-Specific Information	
	NPS EN-5 (2025) (Ref 2B.4)	2.9 Applicant assessment	
		2.9.60 <i>'Sulphur Hexafluoride (SF6) is an insulating and arc- suppressant gas used in high-voltage switchgear for electricity networks.'</i>	SF6 is a potent greenhouse gas that is used as an insulating and arc- suppressant gas in high voltage switchgear for electricity networks.
		2.9.61 <i>'It is also an extraordinarily potent greenhouse gas, and fugitive emissions from electricity networks infrastructure are an object of</i>	The use of SF6 within switchgear equipment is a potential source of GHG emissions during operation of the Project.

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>increasing environmental concern, especially in light of the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.'</i>	
		2.9.62 <i>'Applicants should at the design phase of the process consider carefully whether the proposed development could be reconceived to avoid the use of SF6- reliant assets.'</i>	The Project will seek to avoid, and if not possible, minimise the use of SF6. Evidence will be provided, as required, for alternatives considered and a case why these alternatives are technically infeasible or require bespoke components that are grossly disproportionate in terms of cost.
		2.9.63 <i>'Where the development cannot be so conceived, the applicant must provide evidence of their reasoning on this point. Such evidence will include, for instance, an explanation of the alternatives considered, and a case why these alternatives are technically infeasible or require bespoke components that are grossly disproportionate in terms of cost.'</i>	
		2.9.64 <i>'In particular, an accounting of the cost differential between the SF6-reliant asset and the appropriate SF6-free alternative should be provided.'</i>	
		2.9.65 <i>'Where applicants, having followed the above procedure, do propose to put new SF6-reliant assets onto the electricity system, they should design a plan for the monitoring and control of fugitive SF6 emissions consistent with the Fluorinated gas (F-gas) Regulation and its successors.'</i>	
	NPPF (2024) (Ref 2B.6)	2 Achieving sustainable development	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		Paragraph 8 ‘Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has 3 overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives): • an economic objective – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure; • a social objective – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and • an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate	The Project will support the UK’s net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, and facilitating the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network. Appendix 18A Climate Change Resilience Screening Assessment of the Scoping Report (provided as Appendix 5A EIA Scoping Report) set out a screening assessment describing the potential impacts of current and future climate change on the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project and provided justification for the proposal to scope out a standalone Climate Change Resilience assessment from the EIA based on proposed Design, Control and Management Measures. The Planning Inspectorate agreed this could be scoped out. Design Principles have been established to inform the development of the Project design for both construction and operation, as described in Chapter 4 Description of the Project. On this basis, no further assessment of the Project’s

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>change, including moving to a low carbon economy.'</i>	vulnerability to climate change is proposed in the ES. In relation to reducing CO₂ emissions, the Climate Change chapter of the ES will document all of the embedded design and mitigation measures taken to reduce construction and operational emissions.
		20 'Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and design quality of places, (to ensure outcomes support beauty and placemaking), and make sufficient provision for: • <i>housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development;</i> • <i>infrastructure for transport, telecommunications, security, waste management, water supply, wastewater, flood risk and coastal change management, and the provision of minerals and energy (including heat);</i> • <i>community facilities (such as health, education and cultural infrastructure); and</i> • <i>conservation and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.'</i>	The Project will support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, and facilitating the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network. Appendix 18A Climate Change Resilience Screening Assessment of the Scoping Report (provided as Appendix 5A EIA Scoping Report) set out a screening assessment describing the potential impacts of current and future climate change on the construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project and provided justification for the proposal to scope out a standalone Climate Change Resilience assessment from the EIA based on proposed Design, Control and Management Measures. The Planning

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
			Inspectorate agreed this could be scoped out. Design Principles have been established to inform the development of the Project design for both construction and operation, as described in Chapter 4 Description of the Project. On this basis, no further assessment of the Project's vulnerability to climate change is proposed in the ES. In relation to reducing CO₂ emissions, the Climate Change chapter of the ES will document all of the embedded design and mitigation measures taken to reduce construction and operational emissions.
		14 Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change	
		161 <i>'The planning system should support the transition to net zero by 2050 and take full account of all climate impacts including overheating, water scarcity, storm and flood risks and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.'</i>	As per above response
		164 <i>'New development should be planned for in ways that:</i>	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		(a) avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure; and (b) can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as through its location, orientation and design. Any local requirements for the sustainability of buildings should reflect the government's policy for national technical standards.'	
		163 'When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should: (a) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to significant cutting greenhouse gas emissions; (b) approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas; and	

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
		<i>(c) in the case of applications for the repowering and life- extension of existing renewable sites, give significant weight to the benefits of utilising an established site, and approve the proposal if its impacts are or can be made acceptable.'</i>	
	Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Better (2021)	2 The Journey to Net Zero 3i. Power	Chapter 18 Climate Change sets out how the Project will help the energy sector to decarbonise, identifying targets and UK carbon budgets, and how large-scale electricity infrastructure supports low carbon energy development. Chapter 18 Climate Change also provides the context of how future grid emissions factors are used in operational carbon assessments in line with decarbonisation trajectories.
	UK Energy White Paper: Powering Our Net Zero Future (2020)	2 Power BEIS Modelling (Electricity System Analysis) 3 Energy System	Chapter 18 Climate Change highlights the criticality of a regional electricity distribution and transmission network to support decarbonisation, and the infrastructure required to enable net zero. Assumptions were made based on decarbonising energy systems and demand growth.
	UK's 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) emissions	4 Planning processes	Chapter 18 Climate Change accounts for the UK's Nationally Determined Contribution, in turn aligned with the legally binding sixth carbon budget, to demonstrate

Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	National or Regional Policy	National or Regional Policy Section	Consideration in the EIA
	reduction target under the Paris Agreement		how operational emissions will contribute to decarbonisation over the Project lifecycle.
	UK Infrastructure: A 10 Year Strategy	Chapter 4 – Becoming a Clean Energy Superpower	The Project is an example of expansion of energy infrastructure to support decarbonisation, indicated in the Preliminary Assessment of Effects in Chapter 18 Climate Change in the DES.
	Powering Up Britain: Net Zero Growth Plan	Reducing Emissions Across the Economy — Power Industry	Chapter 18 Climate Change considers indicative emission pathway aligned with the carbon budgets to reach net zero, and expectations of the energy sector. It also considers the carbon benefits of electrification, which has implications for estimating carbon intensity factors.

2B.2 References

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- Ref 2B.11 Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2025) Water supply, wastewater and water quality planning practice guidance [online]. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/water-supply-wastewater-and-water-quality> [Accessed 9 December 2025].
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2C. Local Policy

2C. Local Policy

2C.1 Overview

- 2C.1.1 **Table 2C.1** is provided to outline the potentially relevant local policy. This will be reviewed throughout the evolution of the Project design and assessments.

Table 2C.1 Local policy of relevance to the Project

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
Local Plans				
South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036 (Adopted March 2019) (Ref 2C.1)	Policy 2: Development Management	Policy 2 seeks to ensure sustainable development considerations are met, including the consideration of noise impacts.	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on noise and vibration detailed in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases.
	Policy 3: Design of New Development	The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan contains strategic priority to minimise the loss of South East Lincolnshire's high quality agricultural land. This is reflected in Policy 3 which includes minimising land take to protect best and most versatile soils.	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	The extent of BMV land within the draft Order Limits will be assessed in the baseline. The Project will have regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of the design. A preliminary assessment of the likely impacts on BMV land is provided in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils , with mitigation measures set out to minimise as far as practicable the effects. This will be updated for the ES.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy 4: Approach to Flood Risk	Policy 4 sets out the council's approach to flood risk. Development in Flood Zones 2 and 3 will only be permitted where no safer alternative sites are available.	Chapter 10 Water Environment	The Project design is developing to avoid areas of highest flood risk wherever possible. Where flood risk cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified in the FRA, which will make appropriate allowance for the effects of climate change over the Project lifetime. Drainage systems will incorporate SuDS as far as possible. A preliminary FRA is in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment of this DES.
	Policy 7: Improving South East Lincolnshire's Employment Land Portfolio Policy 8: Prestige Employment Sites	The South East Lincolnshire Local Plan was adopted in March 2019. The Plan includes the following policies of relevance to the socio-economic topics. Policies 7 and 8: Employment Land. Policy 7 relates to 'improving South East Lincolnshire's Employment Land Portfolio' and includes a list of the main employment areas as shown on the Local Plan Policies Map, as well as local employment areas, established employment areas and 'restricted use employment sites' which specifically relate to land associated with port-related activities and power-generation related industries. Policy 8 seeks to protect and support 'prestige	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The socio-economics assessment in Chapter 16 Socioeconomics, Recreation and Tourism in the DES will take into account the policies of the Local Plan when assessing the socio-economic impacts of the Project. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. This will be updated and also considered in the ES. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		employment sites' as shown on the Policies Map for which detailed masterplans would be required.		with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy 9: Promoting a Strong Visitor Economy	Policy 9: Promoting a Strong Visitor Economy supports proposals for tourism and visitor development within settlement boundaries.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	
	Policy 28: The Natural Environment	Policy 28: The Natural Environment supports protecting, managing and enhancing a high quality, comprehensive ecological network of interconnected designated sites, sites of nature conservation importance and wildlife-friendly greenspace.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	Mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of ecological receptors will be reported in the ES. Where the EIA process identifies opportunities to enhance biodiversity interests these will be reported in the Planning Statement submitted with the application for development consent.
	Policy 29: The Historic Environment	The Local Plan recognises the diverse historic nature of the area of South East Lincolnshire. Much of it is drained marsh and fen has resulted in an open and flat landscape, consequently leading to listed buildings and other dominant heritage assets being visible within the countryside e.g. church towers, spires and historic windmills. The Plan states that it is important to protect these heritage assets from inappropriate development. Policy 29 encourages development proposals to conserve and enhance the	Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage	A cultural heritage desk-based assessment has been carried out and is reported in Appendix 9A Historic Environment Baseline and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers to identify all designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project, including those specifically highlighted by Policy 29 Historic Environment, and will assess their significance including any contribution from

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		character and appearance of designated and non-designated heritage assets. Policy 29 provides clear requirements for each class of heritage asset. With respect to development proposals that would affect the significance of a heritage asset (whether designated or non-designated), including any contribution made to its setting, applications should be informed by proportionate historic environment assessments and evaluations such as heritage impact assessments, desk-based appraisals, field evaluation and historic building reports.		setting. A preliminary assessment of the impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation measures is detailed in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9C Heritage Impact Assessment Screening. This desk-based assessment will be further developed for the ES.
	Policy 30: Pollution	Policy 30 outlines that development proposals are not permitted where, taking account of proposed mitigation measures, they would lead to unacceptable adverse impacts upon the environment. Where development is proposed on a site which is known, or has the potential to be affected by contamination, a preliminary risk assessment shall be undertaken as the first stage in assessing the risk. Preliminary risk assessments and any subsequent additional information shall be carried out in accordance with the Yorkshire and Lincolnshire Pollution Advisory Group (YALPAG) Document	Chapter 10 Water Environment Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	The Project design is developing to avoid areas of highest flood risk wherever possible. Where flood risk cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified in the FRA, which will make appropriate allowance for the effects of climate change over the Project lifetime. Drainage systems will incorporate SuDS as far as possible. A preliminary FRA is in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment of this DES.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		‘Development on Land Affected by Contamination’ supported by YALPAG ‘Verification Requirements for Cover Systems’ and YALPAG ‘Verification Requirements for Gas Protections Systems’, or successor local or national guidance. Development proposals will not be permitted where, taking account of any proposed mitigation measures, they would lead to unacceptable adverse impacts upon: 1. health and safety of the public; 2. the amenities of the area; or 3. the natural, historic and built environment; by way of: 4. air quality, including fumes and odour.	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	A draft outline Soil Management Plan is detailed in Appendix 12A Draft Outline Soil Management Plan and has been developed in line with current good practice, including with reference to the Defra Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. An Outline Soil Management Plan will be developed for the ES. The extent of BMV land within the draft Order Limits has been assessed in the baseline in the preliminary assessment in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils. This will be updated for the ES. The Project has had regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of the design. Risks posed by land contamination are assessed in Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology.
			Chapter 14 Air Quality	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Air Quality detailed in Chapter 14 Air Quality has taken into account the policies of the Local

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
		Development proposals will not be permitted where, taking account of any proposed mitigation measures, they would lead to unacceptable adverse impacts from noise and vibration, amongst other considerations.	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project from noise and vibration detailed in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy 31: Climate Change and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	Policy 31 Part A Requires all development proposals to demonstrate how the impacts of current climate change have been addressed, minimised and mitigated through design, the sequential approach and SuDS.	Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered	Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2C.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2C.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology .
		Policy 31 Part B Renewable Energy supports the development of renewable energy facilities, associated infrastructure and the integration of decentralised technologies on existing or proposed structures, provided, individually, or cumulatively, there would be no significant harm to: 1. visual amenity....it is important that proposals assess their impact individually and in combination with other similar developments on: residential amenity.	Chapter 7 Visual	The approach to assessing the likely significant visual effects of the Project is explained in Section 7.5 Chapter 7 Visual and in Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology . This includes the approach to the assessment of visual effects for residential receptors and reference to lighting and night-time effects with respect to visual amenity will be made where relevant. Chapter 7 Visual also details a preliminary visual assessment that provides a

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				description of the visual baseline and an initial evaluation of potential change resulting from the Project, taking account of identified mitigation. This visual assessment will be updated for the ES and will be informed by a series of representative viewpoints which will include key views identified in any conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements as well as the general visual amenity experienced by people living and moving around the area. The approach to assessing likely significant cumulative effects is explained in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual and Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects sets out the methodology for the assessment of cumulative effects in the ES.
		All development proposals are required to demonstrate that the consequences of current climate change have been addressed and mitigated through design, adoption of sequential approach and SuDS schemes.	Chapter 10 Water Environment	The Project design is developing to avoid areas of highest flood risk wherever possible. Where flood risk cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified in the FRA, which will make appropriate

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				allowance for the effects of climate change over the Project lifetime. Drainage systems will incorporate SuDS as far as possible. A preliminary FRA is in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment of this DES.
		Paragraph 7.5.10 discusses amenity impacts of development comprising visual outlook, emit noise, fumes, odour and vibration; produce shadow flicker, sun light reflection and broadcast interference; and traffic issues on highways of unsuitable width and construction. It suggests the importance of assessing the impact individually and in combination with other similar developments. Noting that, <i>‘in addition all proposals use land and so lower quality agricultural land should be used and the natural environment / biodiversity shall be protected and enhanced.’</i>	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	A draft outline Soil Management Plan is detailed in Appendix 12A Draft Outline Soil Management Plan and has been developed in line with current good practice, including with reference to the Defra Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. An Outline Soil Management Plan will be developed for the ES. The extent of BMV land within the draft Order Limits has been assessed in the baseline in the preliminary assessment in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils . This will be updated for the ES. The Project has had regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of the design. Risks posed by land

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				contamination are assessed in Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology .
		The development of renewable energy facilities, associated infrastructure, and the integration of decentralised technologies on existing or proposed structures will be permitted provided, individually, or cumulatively, there would be no significant harm to residential amenity in respect of noise, amongst other considerations.	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on noise and vibration detailed in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases.
		Proposals by a local community for the development of renewable and low carbon sources of energy, in scale with their community's requirements, including supporting infrastructure for renewable energy projects, will be supported and considered in the context of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and meeting the challenge of climate change.	Chapter 18 Climate Change	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Chapter 18 Climate Change takes into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy 32: Community, Health and Well-Being	Policy 32: requires development to contribute to the creation of socially cohesive and inclusive communities; reducing health inequalities; and improving the community's health and well-being. This includes protecting and enhancing PRowS and amenity greenspaces.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The preliminary assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of the Project in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
		Policy 32 highlights that development will not be permitted unless it: • <i>'Protects and enhances existing public rights of way, and creates new links to the rights of way network; and</i> • <i>Creates environments which:</i> • <i>Discourage crime and disorder, and do not create the fear of crime;</i> • <i>Encourage healthy eating and local food growing;</i>	Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing	The impact of the proposed Project on the health and safety of residents has been considered in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing in this DES. This will be updated for the ES.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		• <i>Are accessible to all sections of the community;</i> • <i>Facilitate walking, cycling and public transport use; and Encourage community use.'</i>		
	Policy 33: Delivering a More Sustainable Transport Network	Policy 33 seeks improvements to existing transport infrastructure and services.	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	An ES and Transport Assessment (TA) will be prepared and will assess congestion and seek to minimise impacts on the pedestrian and cycle network.
		Policy 33: encourages the protection of existing footpaths, cycle routes and public rights of way from development.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The preliminary assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of the Project in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
Melton Local Plan 2011-2036	Policy SS1 - Presumption in favour of	Policy SS1 sets out how the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable	Chapter 18 Climate Change	The Project will directly support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
(Adopted October 2018) (Ref 2C.2)	Sustainable Development	development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework.		transmission network in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, and will facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network.
	Policy SS3 – Sustainable Communities (unallocated sites)	In rural settlements outside the main urban area, the Council will seek to protect and enhance existing services and facilities and will support sustainable development proposals in accordance with Policy SS2 above which contribute towards meeting local development needs, contributing towards the vision and strategic priorities of the plan, and improving the sustainability of our rural areas.	Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing	This impact of the Project on the local community has been considered in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing in this DES, taking into account access to receptors that encourage healthy and active lifestyles. This will be updated for the ES.
		The Melton Local Plan includes a vision for the efficient use of land and the location of new development will have ensured that the BMV land can continue to support a strong rural economy. Avoiding the loss of BMV land is incorporated into Policy SS3.	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	The Project will have regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of the design. A preliminary assessment of the likely impacts on BMV land is provided in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils , with mitigation measures set out to

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				minimise as far as practicable the effects. This will be updated for the ES.
	Policy C9 – Healthy Communities	Policy C9 states that proposals should make a positive contribution to the following promoters of health and well-being: • Good quality, accessible green spaces, public realm, sports and recreational facilities close to where people live and work; • Safe, convenient and attractive network of streets, paths and cycleways integrated with public transport; • High quality local food growing spaces, including green roofs, edible landscaping, garden plots, community gardens, allotments and local markets; • ‘Healthy Homes’ that are affordable, easy to warm, have good natural light, decent space (internal and external), exploit views, safe from flooding and overheating; • High quality residential amenity; • Good quality, accessible green spaces, public realm, sports and recreational facilities close to where people live and work;	Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing in this DES considers the impact of the Project on health outcomes. Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing outlines design and control mitigation measures to mitigate the effects on receptors. This will be updated for the ES.

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		Good local air quality, with new development in an air quality management area to be consistent with the aims and objectives of the Air Quality Action Plan, providing an air quality assessment where appropriate.	Chapter 14 Air Quality	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Air Quality detailed in Chapter 14 Air Quality has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
		Contributions will be sought from developers towards the provision of health facilities where their development would impact on the capacity of existing healthcare provision. Proposals for new health care facilities should relate well to public transport services, walking and cycling routes and be accessible to all sectors of the community. Opportunities for the multi-use and co-location of health facilities with other services and facilities should be considered to provide co-ordinated care and a community focus. Health impacts of major development proposals should be considered early in	Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing Chapter 14 Air Quality	The assessment methodology in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing takes this into account and considers the impact of the Project on promoted recreational routes and access to health care and social infrastructure. This will be further developed for the ES. The assessment considers the impact of the Project on health outcomes. Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing identifies design and control mitigation measures.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		the planning process through the submission of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) with a planning application, where the Local Planning Authority requests it.		The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Air Quality detailed in Chapter 14 Air Quality has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy EN1 – Landscape	Policy EN1 – Landscape The character of Melton Borough’s landscape and countryside will be conserved and, where possible, enhanced by: • Ensuring new development is sensitive to its landscape setting and that it seeks, where possible, to enhance the distinctive qualities of the landscape character areas (as defined in the Landscape Character Assessment). • Requiring new developments to respect existing landscape character	Chapter 6 Landscape	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2C.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2C.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		and features. Proposals will be supported where they do not have an unacceptable adverse effect upon important landscape features. In order to mitigate potential harm to the built form at the settlement fringe and its relationship to the landscape, proposals should have due regard to design guidance in the individual assessments of settlement fringe sensitivity in the 'Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study' or any subsequent evidence document. Neighbourhood Plans will be encouraged to use evidence provided in the 'Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study' to inform site allocations and design guidance, to ensure that the Borough's landscape will be conserved and where possible, enhanced.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	5 EIA Approach and Methodology. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy EN2– Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policy EN2 Biodiversity and Geodiversity The Borough Council will seek to achieve net gains for nature and proactively seek habitat creation as part of new development proposals. It will protect and enhance biodiversity, ecological networks and geological conservation interests throughout the Borough and beyond its boundaries.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within the Baseline Conditions section of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity . A preliminary assessment of the likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) is reported in Chapter

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		ecological surveys and an assessment of the impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity.	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	8 Ecology and Biodiversity. This will be updated for the ES. Geodiversity sites will be identified in the Baseline section of Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology and reported in the ES.
	Policy EN3–The Melton Green Infrastructure Network	Policy EN3 sets out a strategic approach to the delivery, protection and enhancement of green infrastructure by the Borough Council working with partners, in order to deliver new assets where deficits have been identified in the green infrastructure strategy and to enhance primary green infrastructure areas.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include retaining habitat corridors such as woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such as new links between existing areas.
	Policy EN5 – Local Green Space	Local Green Space Development proposals will be required to protect designated Local Green Spaces in the Borough. Proposals should not harm the key features, value and functionality of a Local Green Space such that its character is protected.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The preliminary assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of the Project in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		Neighbourhood Plans are encouraged to designate additional Local Green Space as evidenced by the Areas of Separation, Settlement Fringe Sensitivity and Local Green Space Study or other up to date evidence document.		construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy EN6 – Settlement Character	Development proposals will be supported where they do not harm open areas which: • contribute positively to the individual character of a settlement; • contribute to the setting of historic built form and features; • contribute to the key characteristics and features of conservation areas; and • form a key entrance and/or gateway to a settlement. Development proposals will also be supported where they do not harm individual features of a settlement which contribute towards settlement character as identified in a Neighbourhood Plan, including Non designated heritage assets.	Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage Chapter 6 Landscape	The preliminary desk-based assessment in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers identifies designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project, including those specifically highlighted by Policy EN6 Settlement Character and assesses their significance including any contribution from setting. Impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation measures are assessed in the preliminary assessment. This will be further developed for the ES. The preliminary assessment in Chapter 6 Landscape considers landscape character assessments identified through

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				local policies and is supplemented by baseline information within conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements. This will be updated for the ES.
			Chapter 3 Main Alternatives	Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2C.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2C.3) were used as guiding principles during early design development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.
	Policy EN8 – Climate Change	All new development proposals will be required to demonstrate how the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change has been considered, subject to considerations of viability, in terms of: Sustainable design and construction in accordance with Policy EN9 – ensuring energy efficient and low carbon development.	Chapter 18 Climate Change	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Chapter 18 Climate Change takes into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		- Provision of green infrastructure in accordance with Policy EN3 – the Melton Green Infrastructure Network. - Provision of renewable and/or low carbon energy production, including decentralised energy and/or heat networks in accordance with Policy EN10 – energy generation from renewable sources. - Flood risk in accordance with Policy EN11 – minimizing the risk of flooding and policy EN12 – sustainable urban drainage systems. - Providing opportunities for sustainable modes of transport in accordance with Policy IN1 – delivering infrastructure to support new development.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
			Chapter 10 Water Environment	The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include retaining habitat corridors such as woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such as new links between existing areas. This ES Chapter will address the design measures to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding and demonstrate that flood risk to people and property is managed satisfactorily. A FRA will be produced to inform Project design and the ES assessment, and the Project will secure SuDS based drainage design for operational

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				infrastructure. A preliminary FRA is detailed in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .
	Policy EN10 – Energy Generation from Renewable and Low	Energy Generation from Renewable and Low Carbon Sources Renewable and low carbon energy proposals appropriate for Melton, including biomass power generation, combined heat and power (CHP), hydro, wind, solar and micro generation systems, will be supported and considered in the context of sustainable development and climate change. - Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy technology, associated infrastructure and integration of renewable and low carbon technology on existing or proposed structures will be assessed both individually and cumulatively on their merits taking account of the following factors; - Siting, so as to gain maximum effect from wind/solar/water sources; - The surrounding landscape, townscape and heritage assets; - Residential and visual amenity	Chapter 6 Landscape	The approach to assessing the Project is explained in Section 6.5 of Chapter 6 Landscape . The preliminary assessment of effects on landscape receptors in Chapter 6 Landscape is based on the landscape character assessments listed in this chapter and supplemented by baseline information within any conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements. This will be updated for the ES.
		Noise impacts	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on noise and vibration detailed in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES.
		Odour impacts	Chapter 14 Air Quality	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Air Quality detailed in Chapter 14 Air Quality has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
		- Designated nature conservation, geo-diversity or biodiversity considerations, including potential impact on ancient woodland and veteran trees; - Ecology; - Aircraft movements and associated activities, including effects on radar, communications and navigational systems; - Electromagnetic transmissions;	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within the Baseline Conditions sections of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology . The likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) will be assessed and reported as part of the ES. Mitigation measures to

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				ensure the conservation of ecological and geological receptors will be reported in the ES. Where the EIA process identifies opportunities for enhancement these will be reported in the Planning Statement submitted with the application for development consent.
		High quality agricultural land	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	A draft outline Soil Management Plan is detailed in Appendix 12A Draft Outline Soil Management Plan and has been developed in line with current good practice, including with reference to the Defra Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. An Outline Soil Management Plan will be developed for the ES. The extent of BMV land within the draft Order Limits has been assessed in the baseline in the preliminary assessment in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils . This will be updated for the ES. The Project has had regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable

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		- Access for construction, maintenance and de-commissioning. - Not creating demand for bio-energy fuels known to result in net carbon emissions through production methods, transport requirements and/or loss of carbon sinks; - General safety in terms of highways, power lines, icing, visual distraction; and - Transport movements for importation of biomass fuel	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	through the evolution of the design. Risks posed by land contamination are assessed in Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology. The Project will seek to meet the policy requirements which will be set out in the ES and TA. The CTMP and CWTP will set out the construction implications and impact of delivering the Project. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan in the DES.
	Policy EN11 – Minimizing the Risk of Flooding	Minimizing the Risk of Flooding Melton Borough Council will ensure that development proposals do not increase flood risk and will seek to reduce flood risk to others. The Council will do this by working in partnership with the appropriate agencies (the Environment Agency, Leicestershire County Council as Lead Local Flood Authority, Internal Drainage Boards, Severn Trent & Anglian Water and the Canal and River Trust), developers and landowners. The Borough Council will follow a sequential approach	Chapter 10 Water Environment	The Water Environment Chapter in the ES will address the design measures to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding and demonstrate that flood risk to people and property is managed satisfactorily. A FRA will be produced to inform Project design and the ES assessment, and the Project will secure SuDS based drainage design for operational

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		to flood risk management with the aim of locating development on land with the lowest risk of flooding (Zone 1 and outside of surface water flood risk). For development in Flood Zones 2, 3a & 3b, the exception test will be applied in accordance with Table 3 of National Planning Practice Guidance.		infrastructure. A preliminary FRA is detailed in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in this DES.
	Policy EN12 – Sustainable Drainage Systems	For major developments, proposals should demonstrate through a surface water drainage strategy that properties will not be at risk from surface water flooding allowing for climate change effects. Surface water management should be undertaken, wherever practicable through the utilisation of appropriate SuDS techniques which mimic natural drainage patterns, and where appropriate achieve net gains for nature through the creation of ponds and wetlands near watercourses and the introduction of blue green corridors. For sites which lie within or close to groundwater protection zones or aquifers, guidance should be sought from the Lead Local Flood Authority.	Chapter 10 Water Environment	The Project design is developing to avoid areas of highest flood risk wherever possible. Where flood risk cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified in the FRA, which will make appropriate allowance for the effects of climate change over the Project lifetime. A preliminary FRA is outlined in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment in this DES. Drainage systems will incorporate SuDS as far as possible.
	Policy EN13 – Heritage Assets	Policy EN13 outlines the need to assess the effect of a proposal on the significance of an asset and the need for a balanced judgment about the scale of any harm or	Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage	The preliminary desk-based assessment in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers

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		loss and the significance of the heritage asset. Melton Borough has a number of important historic assets. These include Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments (SMs) and non-designated heritage assets (ranging from nationally to locally important heritage features). The Borough of Melton contains heritage assets that are at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. These will be conserved, protected and where possible enhanced.		identifies designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project and assesses their significance including any contribution from setting. Impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation measures are assessed in the preliminary assessment. This will be further developed for the ES.
	Policy EC1 – Employment Growth in Melton Mowbray and EC2 – Employment Growth in the Rural Area	Policy EC1 and EC2 demonstrate that the Local Plan must guide development in a way which ensures that the natural and physical environment (infrastructure) remains attractive and a local workforce can be provided to service business. This means additional employment growth in the villages through a positive approach to the rural economy and rural diversification.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The socio-economics chapter will assess employment effects as a result of the Proposed Development, including leakage which analyses how much of the construction and operational workforce will be locally based.
Melton Local Plan Partial Update to 2036 (Version submitted for Local Plan Examination)	Policy SS1 – Presumption in Favour of 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 National Planning Policy Framework. It will always work proactively with applicants to secure developments that will improve the economic, social and environmental	Chapter 4 Description of the Project	The Project will directly support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, and will facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery

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		conditions of the area. Decision-makers at every level should seek to approve applications for sustainable development where possible. Sustainable development must address the causes and impacts of climate change. Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Local Plan (and, where relevant, with policies in Neighbourhood Plans) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.		storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network.
	Policy C10 – Health Impact Assessment	The following types of development will be required to demonstrate that they have appropriately considered health and wellbeing impacts through the submission of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Screening Statement: a) All major development proposals; b) Development located in an identified Area of Concern in the Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; or c) Other development likely to have a potentially significant health impact in relation to its use and/or location.	Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing	The assessment methodology in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing takes this into account and considers the impact of the Project on promoted recreational routes and access to health care and social infrastructure. This will be further developed for the ES. The assessment considers the impact of the Project on health outcomes. Section 17.6 of Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing identifies design and control mitigation measures. The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Air Quality detailed in Chapter 14 Air Quality has taken into account the policies of the Local

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy EN8 – Climate Change	All development proposals will be required to demonstrate how the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change has been considered and how they support the borough in reaching net zero by no later than 2050, through where relevant: a) Minimising carbon emissions, including by: 1. supporting development that helps to reduce the need to travel and maximises the ability to make trips by sustainable modes of transport; 2. contributing to more walkable and cyclable villages and neighbourhoods that reduce car dependency; 3. supporting the transition to low emission vehicles, including EV chargepoint infrastructure;		The Project will directly support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, and will facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network. The Project will consider a range of measures to reduce energy consumption (and associated emissions) during both construction and operation.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		4. supporting the principles of the energy hierarchy and its focus on reducing energy demand; 5. considering whole life carbon emissions arising not only from the use of a building (its operational emissions) but those that relate to its construction (including materials), building maintenance and end of life decommissioning; 6. supporting appropriate opportunities to increase renewable energy regeneration; and 7. retrofitting existing buildings with measures to reduce their carbon emissions in a manner consistent with their heritage interest. b) Ensuring the appropriate use of land, including by: 1. 1delivering an appropriate density of development; 2. supporting the redevelopment of previously developed 'brownfield' land; 3. protecting existing green and blue infrastructure and supporting the provision of new, appropriate green and blue infrastructure; 4. securing biodiversity net gain as part of development proposals and		

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		supporting the wider provision, or restoration of, habitats that can help to provide a carbon storage function alongside supporting nature recovery; 5. steering new development away from flood risk areas, where possible, and designing new development to reduce the risk of flooding on site and elsewhere; and 6. supporting sustainable agricultural development, to reduce emissions, increase productivity, store carbon and, adapt to climate change whilst protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land to maintain local food production. c) Mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change, including by: 1. ensuring development is adaptable and resilient to climate change across its whole lifetime; 2. supporting a design-led approach which supports the integration of both building level and site wide design approaches to reduce carbon emissions and climate risks, including the integration of sustainable drainage systems; optimising building form, orientation and ventilation; designing with		

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		nature and supporting urban greening and increased tree canopy cover; 3. managing water well, supporting the efficient use of water to help protect future supplies and mitigate against the increased risks of both drought and flooding; 4. minimising and mitigating the impacts of climate change on air pollution and wider health and wellbeing; and 5. supporting development in the local food and drink economy which helps to reduce the climate and environmental impact of food and drink choices of residents and visitors.		
	<u>Policy EN9A – Ensuring Sustainable Development</u>	Development should be designed, constructed and maintained to minimise operational energy use and carbon emissions.	Chapter 18 Climate Change	See response above.
	<u>Policy EN10 – Energy Generation from Renewable and Low Carbon Sources</u>	To support the transition to net zero the council will support appropriately located and designed renewable and low carbon energy schemes, including ancillary development, where the direct, indirect, individual and cumulative impacts on the	Chapter 7 Visual	The approach to assessing the likely significant visual effects of the Project is explained in Section 7.5 Chapter 7 Visual and in Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology . This includes the approach to the assessment of visual effects for

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		following considerations are, or will be made, acceptable: a) as a result of its scale, siting and design the following impacts are satisfactorily addressed; 1. landscape character; 2. visual amenity; 3. nationally designated landscapes; 4. townscape, heritage assets and their settings; 5. biodiversity and geodiversity; 6. ecology; 7. water quality and flood risk; and 8. highway and rail safety b) the impacts are acceptable on aviation and defence navigation systems/communications; c) the impacts on the amenity of sensitive neighbouring uses, including local residents, are minimised by virtue of matters such as noise, dust, odour, shadow flicker, glare and glint, air quality and traffic; and d) the proposal is consistent with other relevant policies within this plan. Compliance with a) to d) above will require robust evidence of the potential		residential receptors and reference to lighting and night-time effects with respect to visual amenity will be made where relevant. Chapter 7 Visual also details a preliminary visual assessment that provides a description of the visual baseline and an initial evaluation of potential change resulting from the Project, taking account of identified mitigation. This visual assessment will be updated for the ES and will be informed by a series of representative viewpoints which will include key views identified in any conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements as well as the general visual amenity experienced by people living and moving around the area. The approach to assessing likely significant cumulative effects is explained in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual and Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects sets out the methodology for the assessment of cumulative effects in the ES.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		impacts of the proposal. Applications should be supported by appropriate assessments that clearly set out the likely impacts of the proposal and any mitigation measures proposed to minimise any identified harm. The council may commission its own independent assessment of the proposal, to ensure it is satisfied to determine the degree of harm and whether reasonable mitigation opportunities are being taken. Proposals should, appropriate to the scale and impact of the development, demonstrate how community engagement has informed its design. A community engagement plan should be submitted to demonstrate consideration of the need for ongoing community engagement for large scale projects during their construction, operation and decommissioning. As part of the planning balance, significant additional weight in support of the proposal will arise for any proposal which is community led for the benefit of that community.	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on noise and vibration detailed in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES.
	Policy EN11 – Minimising the Risk of Flooding	New development should be located, laid out and designed in accordance with the following flood risk hierarchy. Priority is given to actions at the top of the hierarchy	Chapter 10 Water Environment	This ES Chapter will address the design measures to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding and demonstrate that flood risk to

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		which minimise the need for measures further down: a) avoid development in areas of flood risk from all sources, taking account of the effects of climate change, steering development to the lowest flood risk areas using the sequential and exception tests; b) control the risk of flooding affecting the site; c) mitigate any residual risks to occupants using flood resistance and resilience measures; and d) manage remaining risks including warning procedures and escape routes. Where a Flood Risk Assessment is required this should investigate all potential sources of flooding, including possible failure of the Grantham Canal and investigate measures to reduce flood risk elsewhere. Its recommendations and relevant ones from the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment should be incorporated when implementing the hierarchy. Natural flood management techniques as part of an integrated approach are preferred. Measures, including management arrangements, should be effective for the lifetime of the development taking account of the effects of climate change and must		people and property is managed satisfactorily. A FRA will be produced to inform Project design and the ES assessment, and the Project will secure SuDS based drainage design for operational infrastructure. A preliminary FRA is detailed in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		ensure that development does not lead to increased flood risk elsewhere. Existing watercourses and waterbodies should be retained, and their settings respected, restoring them to a more natural state and providing an, as a minimum, 8 metre buffer from the top of both banks, or other appropriate protection buffer with access for maintenance and management where require		
	Policy EN12 – Sustainable Drainage System	Major development proposals should incorporate a Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) which lowers flood and pollution risk on the site and elsewhere by delaying, reducing and minimising surface water runoff and enhancing water quality in line with current guidance. Greenfield sites should achieve undeveloped greenfield runoff rates or better. SuDS infrastructure must be adopted by an appropriate body which guarantees management and maintenance of the SuDS for the lifetime of the development in accordance with an agreement detailing maintenance boundaries, responsible parties and management arrangements. The form and layout of SuDS should be justified through the preparation of a Surface Water Drainage Strategy which considers the four areas of good SuDS	Chapter 10 Water Environment	See response above.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		design (quantity, quality, beauty and biodiversity) and takes account of: a) the drainage hierarchy, avoiding discharge to a public sewer where possible; b) standards, policy and guidance from the government, Environment Agency and Lead Local Flood Authority; c) the contents of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and any site-specific Flood Risk Assessment; d) the effects of climate change; e) on-site and off-site constraints such as infiltration rates, groundwater protection zones and water-sensitive habitats; and f) the role of SuDS in creating multifunctional benefits including recreation, biodiversity net gain, heritage and beauty by integrating it into the overall layout and design of the development and designing out conflicts with other planning objectives.		
The South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011-2036 (Adopted 2020) (Ref 2C.3)	Policy SD1: The Principles of Sustainable Development in South Kesteven	Policy SD1 sets out that development proposals in South Kesteven will be expected to minimise the impact on climate change and contribute towards creating a strong, stable and more diverse economy.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The preliminary assessment of the socioeconomic impacts of the Project in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy SP1: Spatial Strategy	Policy SP1 references the protection of BMV agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	The Project will have regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of design. A preliminary assessment of the likely impacts on BMV is provided in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils, with mitigation measures set out to minimise as far as practicable the effects. This will be updated for the ES.
	Policy E2 Strategic Employment Sites	Policy E2 sets out sites that are considered to be of strategic employment importance. Proposals will not be supported to cause harm to the strategic employment focus of these sites.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance, and operation phases.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy E3 Employment Areas	Appropriate proposals for new B1, B2 and/or B8 uses and/or redevelopment to B1, B2 and/or B8 uses on employment sites identified on the Policies Map and listed will be supported where proposals: Do not conflict with neighbouring land uses; Scale does not harm the character and/or amenities of the area; and Do no impact unacceptably on the local and/or strategic highway network. Other employment generating uses, outside of the B-use classes may also be appropriate on these sites, and will be considered where the promoter actively engages with the Council and an end-user for the proposal has been positively identified.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance, and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy E4: Protection of Existing Employment Sites	Policy E4 sets out how important employment sites identified on the Policies Map will be protected. Do not conflict with neighbouring land uses; Scale does not harm the character and/or amenities of the area; and Do no impact unacceptably on the local and/or strategic highway network.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance, and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
			Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	The Project will seek to meet the policy requirements which will be set out in the ES and TA. The CTMP and CWTP will set out the construction implications and impact of delivering the Project. A draft outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan.
	Policy E9: Visitor Economy	Policy E9 sets out that proposals for the development of the local visitor economy will be supported: - allow provision for visitors which is appropriate in use and character to South Kesteven's settlements and maintains the quality of the countryside and the natural environment; - enhance existing tourist and visitor facilities; aid the retention and/or enhancement of existing overnight accommodation and the provision of new overnight accommodation; - allow new tourism provision and initiatives where these would also benefit local communities and support the local economy; or allow new tourism development of an appropriate scale and	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		use which utilises existing historic buildings in the countryside whilst respecting their character. In all cases proposals should be of a scale appropriate to the setting of the area and a sequential test should be applied where appropriate.		
	Policy EN1: Landscape Character	Development must be appropriate to the character and significant, natural, historic and cultural attributes and features of the landscape within which it is situated, and contribute to its conservation, enhancement or restoration. In assessing the impact of proposed development on the Landscape, relevant Landscape Character Appraisals should be considered, including those produced to inform the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans. Consideration should also be given to the Capacity and Limits to Growth studies produced for Grantham and Stamford and the points of the Compass Assessments.	Chapter 6 Landscape	The design of the route of the 400 kV overhead line and the siting of the substations and associated infrastructure is being developed within the underlying principle of good design through the application of the Holford Rules (Ref 2C.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2C.3). The aim of the routeing and siting process is to avoid or minimise any adverse landscape effects. The evolution of the design will continue to be informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys as well as consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution will be documented in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered in this DES and will be further developed for the ES.
	Policy EN2: Protecting	Policy EN2 sets out how the council will facilitate the conservation, enhancement	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	Designations, habitats and protected species have been

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	and promotion of biodiversity and geological interests of the natural environment. Proposals that are likely to have a significant impact on sites designated internationally, nationally, or locally for their biodiversity and geodiversity importance, species populations and habitats identified within the Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan, Geodiversity Strategy and the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 will be permitted only in exceptional circumstances.		identified within the Section 8.6 Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity. A preliminary assessment of the likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) has been reported in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology. This will be updated for the ES. Mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of ecological receptors will be reported in the ES. Where the EIA process identifies opportunities to enhance biodiversity interests these will be reported in the Planning Statement submitted with the application for development consent.
	Policy EN3: Green Infrastructure	Policy EN3 sets out the Councils commitment to maintaining and improving the green infrastructure in the district by enhancing, creating and managing green space within and around settlements. Development proposals should ensure that existing and new green infrastructure is considered and integrated into the scheme design.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism considers the policies of the Local Plan when assessing the socioeconomic impacts of the Project. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		Proposals that cause loss or harm to this network will not be permitted unless the need for and benefits of the development demonstrably outweigh any adverse impacts.		operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
			Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within the Baseline Conditions sections of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology . The likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) will be assessed and reported as part of the ES. Mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of ecological and geological receptors will be reported in the ES. Where the EIA process identifies opportunities for enhancement these will be reported in the Planning Statement submitted with the application for development consent.
	Policy EN4: Pollution Control	Development should seek to minimise pollution and where possible contribute to the protection and improvement of the	Chapter 14 Air Quality	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Air Quality detailed in Chapter 14

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		quality of air, land and water. In achieving this: Development should be designed from the outset to improve air, land and water quality and promote environmental benefits. Development that, on its own or cumulatively, would result in significant air, light, noise, land, water or other environmental pollution or harm to amenity, health well-being or safety will not be permitted. New development proposals should not have an adverse impact on existing operations. Development will only be permitted if the potential adverse effects can be mitigated to an acceptable level by other environmental controls, or by measures included in the proposals. Development that would lead to deterioration or may compromise the ability of a water body or underlying groundwater to meet good status standards in the Anglian River Basin Management Plan (required by the Water Framework Directive) will not be permitted. Where development is situated on a site with known or high likelihood of contamination, remediation strategies to	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	Air Quality has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements. Appendix 12A Draft Outline Soil Management Plan has been provided and developed in line with current good practice, including with reference to the Defra Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. An Outline Soil Management Plan will be developed for the ES. The extent of BMV land within the draft Order Limits has been assessed in the baseline in the preliminary assessment in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils. This will be updated for the ES. The Project has had regard to the location of BMV land, and

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		manage this contamination will be required.		the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of the design. Risks posed by land contamination are assessed in Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology .
			Chapter 10 Water Environment Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	The Project design is developing to avoid areas of highest flood risk wherever possible. Where flood risk cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified in the FRA, which will make appropriate allowance for the effects of climate change over the Project lifetime. A preliminary FRA is detailed in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Drainage systems will incorporate SuDS as far as possible. A Water Framework Directive Compliance Assessment will be prepared to inform the ES. A preliminary WER assessment is provided in Appendix 10E Preliminary Water Environment Regulations Assessment in this DES.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy EN5: Water Environment and Flood Risk Management	Policy EN5 sets out the councils approach to flood risk. It states that development should be located in the lowest areas of flood risk, in accordance with the South Kesteven Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).	Chapter 10 Water Environment	This ES Chapter will address the design measures to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding and demonstrate that flood risk to people and property is managed satisfactorily. A FRA will be produced to inform Project design and the ES assessment, and the Project will secure SuDS based drainage design for operational infrastructure. A preliminary FRA is detailed in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.
	Policy EN6: The Historic Environment	The council will seek to protect and enhance heritage assets and their settings in keeping with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework. Development that is likely to cause harm to the significance of a heritage asset or its setting will only be granted where the public benefits of the proposal outweigh the potential harm. Where development affecting archaeological sites is acceptable in principle, the Council will seek to ensure mitigation of impact through preservation remains in situ as a preferred solution.	Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage	The local plan policy EN6 is aligned with the NPPF and NPS-EN1. The preliminary desk-based assessment in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers identifies the designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project and assesses their significance including any contribution from setting. Impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				measures are assessed in the preliminary assessment. This will be updated for the ES.
	Policy DE1: Promoting Good Quality Design	To ensure high quality design is achieved throughout the District, all development proposals will be expected to: • Make a positive contribution to the local distinctiveness, vernacular and character of the area. Proposals should reinforce local identity and not have an adverse impact on the streetscene, settlement pattern or the landscape / townscape character of the surrounding area. Proposals should be of an appropriate scale, density, massing, height and material, given the context of the area; • Ensure there is no adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring users in terms of noise, light pollution, loss of privacy and loss of light and have regard to features that minimise crime and the fear of crime; and • Provide sufficient private amenity space, suitable to the type and amount of development proposed. Development proposals should seek to: • Retain and incorporate important on site features, such as trees and hedgerows and incorporate, where	Chapter 7 Visual	The SOR (Ref 2B.7), CPRSS (Ref 2B.8), Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered, and Chapter 4 Description of the Project describe the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrate that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2C.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2C.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. The evolution of the design will continue to be informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys as well as consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution is documented in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered and will be further developed in the ES. The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		possible, nature conservation and biodiversity enhancement into the development; e. Provide well designed hard and soft landscaping; and - Effectively incorporate onsite infrastructure, such as flood mitigation systems or green infrastructure, as appropriate. All major development (as defined in the Glossary) must demonstrate compliance with: - Neighbourhood Plan policies; Manual for Streets guidance and relevant Lincolnshire County Council guidance - Village design statements, where approved by the Council. - For new residential proposals, development should perform positively against Building for Life 12.	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on noise and vibration detailed in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy CS1: Open Space	Policy CS1 sets out standards to ensure the availability of adequate open space for existing and future needs.	Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing	The assessment methodology in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing considers the effects on employment and access to open space and recreation. This will be updated for the ES.
	Policy RE1: Renewable Energy Generation	Proposals for renewable energy generation will be supported subject to meeting the detailed criteria as set out in the accompanying Renewable Energy Appendix 3 and provided that:	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	The extent of BMV land within the draft Order Limits has been assessed in the baseline in the preliminary assessment in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils . This will be updated for the

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		- The proposal does not negatively impact the District's agricultural land asset. - The proposal can demonstrate the support of affected local communities. - The proposal includes details for the transmission of power produced. - The proposal details that all apparatus related to renewable energy production will be removed from the site when power production ceases: and - That the proposal complies with any other relevant Local Plan policies and national planning policy.		ES. The Project has had regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of the design.
	GR2 Sustainable Transport in Grantham	All major development proposals within the Grantham Transport Strategy area, and additionally proposals for development on site reference GR.SE1 under Policy E1, site reference GR3-H1 under policy GR3 and any other land in proximity to the Grantham Southern Relief Road, should make an appropriate contribution to necessary transport improvements and the delivery of the objectives of the Grantham Transport Strategy, either directly where appropriate (such as the provision of infrastructure or through the contribution of land to directly enable a scheme to occur) or indirectly	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	The Project will seek to meet the policy requirements which will be set out in the ES and TA. The CTMP and CWTP will set out the construction implications and impact of delivering the Project. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan in the DES. The TA will assess impacts in relation to congestion, access/severance, safety and maintain sustainable travel connectivity. Need to understand plans / timescale for delivery of

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		(such as through appropriate developer contributions to an identified scheme).		new link road and identify conflicts.
	Policy ID2: Transport and Strategic Transport Infrastructure	New development will be required to contribute to transport improvements in line with appropriate evidence, including the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule, the Local Transport Plan and local transport strategies. All new developments should demonstrate that they have applied the following principles: • Are located where travel can be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes maximised; • Reduce additional travel demand through the use of measures such as travel planning, safe and convenient public transport, dedicated walking and cycling links and cycle storage/parking links and integration with existing infrastructure; • Seek to generate or support the level of demand required to improve, introduce or maintain public transport services, such as rail and bus services; • Do not severely impact on the safety and movement of traffic on the highway network or that any such impacts can be mitigated through appropriate improvements, including the provision	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	The Project will seek to meet the policy requirements which will be set out in the ES and TA. The CTMP and CWTP will set out the construction implications and impact of delivering the Project. A draft Outline CTMP is provided in Appendix 13D Draft Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan in the DES. The TA will assess impacts in relation to congestion, access/severance, safety and maintain sustainable travel connectivity. Need to understand plans / timescale for delivery of new link road and identify conflicts.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		of new or improved highway infrastructure; and • Ensure that transport is accessible to all, including appropriate provision for vehicle, powered two wheeler and cycle parking is made for residents, visitors, employees, customers, deliveries and for people with impaired mobility. Compliance with the criteria of this policy should be demonstrated through the provision of a transport Statement/Assessment and/or a travel plan as appropriate.		
Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted 2019) (Ref 2C.4)	Policy GD1: Achieving Sustainable Development Policy GD3: Development in the Countryside	Policy GD1 sets out how the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Policy GD3 states that outside Market Harborough, Key Centres, the Principal Urban Area (PUA), Rural Centres and Selected Rural Villages, and land adjoining them, but excluding Green Wedges, development will be permitted where it is required for the following purposes: ... d. renewable energy production	Chapter 4 Description of the Project Chapter 18 Climate Change	The Project will support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire and facilitating the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy GD5 Landscape Character	Policy GD5 outlines how development should be located and designed in such a way that it is sensitive to its landscape setting and landscape character area.	Chapter 6 Landscape	The approach to assessing the likely significant landscape effects of the Project is set out in Appendix 6A Landscape Assessment Methodology . An overview of the baseline landscape and assessment methodology is provided in Chapter 6 Landscape . The scope will include an assessment of how the intervisibility of the Project with individual landscape character areas could indirectly affect the landscape character area.
	Policy GD8 Good design in development	Development will be permitted where it achieves a high standard of design, including meeting the following criteria: • being inspired by, respecting and enhancing both the local character and distinctiveness of the settlement concerned; • where appropriate, being individual and innovative, yet sympathetic to the local vernacular, including in terms of building materials; • in areas with high heritage value (Conservation Areas and in proximity to Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and other heritage assets)	Chapter 6 Landscape	The design of the route of the 400 kV overhead line and the siting of the substations and associated infrastructure is being developed within the underlying principle of good design through the application of the Holford Rules (Ref 2C.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2C.3). The aim of the routeing and siting process is to avoid or minimise any adverse landscape effects. The evolution of the design will continue to be informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys as well as

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		and their settings), reflecting those characteristics that make these places special; • respecting the context and characteristics of the individual site, street scene and the wider local environment to ensure that it is integrated as far as possible into the existing built form; • being designed to minimise impact on the amenity of existing and future residents by: • not having a significant adverse effect on the living conditions of existing and new residents through loss of privacy, overshadowing and overbearing impact, and • not generating a level of activity, noise, vibration, pollution or unpleasant odour emission, which cannot be mitigated to an appropriate standard and so would have an adverse impact on amenity and living conditions; • minimising the amount of water consumption; • minimising pollution from glare or spillage of light from external lighting; • minimising opportunity for crime and maximising natural surveillance;		consultation and stakeholder feedback. This evolution will be documented in Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered and will be further developed for the ES. The preliminary assessment of effects on landscape character in Chapter 6 Landscape in this DES has been based on the landscape character assessments listed in this chapter and has been informed by the local landscape character assessments listed in this Chapter including the North East Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment, Sensitivity and Capacity Study and the Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, and any conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements. The likely landscape effects will be further developed for the ES.
			Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on noise and vibration detailed in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration has taken into account the

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		- protecting and enhancing existing landscape features, wildlife habitats and natural assets (including trees, hedges and watercourses) as an integral part of the development; - enhancing the public realm, including high quality open spaces and links to the wider green infrastructure network to promote healthy lifestyles; - making provision for the needs of specific groups in the community such as the elderly and those with disabilities; - ensuring safe access, adequate parking and servicing areas including for refuse collection in new residential development; - ensuring the safe, efficient and convenient movement of all highway users, including bus passengers, cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders; and where the site has previously been developed: - identifying the need for any decontamination and implementing this to an agreed programme; and - ensuring that any contamination is not relocated elsewhere to a location where it could adversely affect the		policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		water environment or other wildlife habitats.		
	Policy GD9 Minerals Safeguarding Areas	Non-exempt development in Minerals Safeguarding Areas will be permitted where the requirements set out in the minerals safeguarding policies of the Leicestershire County Council Minerals Local Plan have been met.	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	A Minerals Assessment Report will be prepared for the ES. This will identify all safeguarded minerals and provide an appraisal of the effects of the Project against relevant minerals policy. Appendix 11B Mineral Safeguarding Assessment provides a Preliminary Minerals Resource Assessment.
	BE3 Existing Employment Areas	Policy BE3 sets out types of development permitted in Key Employment Areas, General Employment Areas, and development starter homes on industrial and commercial land that is considered under-used or unviable.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism considers the policies of the Local Plan when assessing the socioeconomic impacts of the Project. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy RT4 Tourism and Leisure	Policy RT4 Tourism and leisure outlines how tourism will be maximised and supported. This includes supporting the retention, enhancement and expansion of existing tourism and leisure attractions and tourist accommodation.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism considers the policies of the Local Plan when assessing the socioeconomic impacts of the Project. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy HC1 Built Heritage	Development affecting heritage assets and their settings will: • be appraised in accordance with national policy; and • be permitted where it protects, conserves or enhances the significance, character, appearance and setting of the asset, including where possible better revealing the significance of the asset and enabling its interpretation. Where the proposed development would lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of	Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage	The preliminary desk-based assessment in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers identifies designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project and assesses their significance including any contribution from setting. Impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation measures are assessed in the

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		significance of) a designated heritage asset it will only be permitted under set circumstances.		preliminary assessment. This will be further developed for the ES.
	Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure networks	Development which supports specified green infrastructure assets to contribute to the wider green infrastructure network will be permitted. The green infrastructure assets listed will also be safeguarded and, where possible, enhanced.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include retaining habitat corridors such as woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such as new links between existing areas.
	Policy GI2 Open Space, Sport, and Recreation	The districts open space, sport and recreation facilities and any future additional facilities provided as part of the new development will be safeguarded and enhanced through improvement to their quality and use.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance, and operation phases.
	Policy GI4 Local Green Space	Local Green Spaces are allocated on the Policies Map and will retain their openness permanently. Further Local Green Space may be identified in Neighbourhood Plans providing it meets the relevant criteria in	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include retaining habitat corridors such as

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		relation to scale, beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, or ecological value and it does not conflict with the strategic policies of this Local Plan.		woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such as new links between existing areas.
	Policy GI5 Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policy GI5 sets out how nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites will be safeguarded.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within the Baseline Conditions sections of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity and Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology . The likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) will be assessed and reported as part of the ES. Mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of ecological and geological receptors will be reported in the ES. Where the EIA process identifies opportunities for enhancement these will be reported in the Planning Statement submitted with the application for development consent.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		Policy GI5 seeks to ensure no loss of any best and most versatile agricultural land unless this is demonstrably necessary to facilitate the delivery of sustainable development	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	The Project will have regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of design. A preliminary assessment of the likely impacts on BMV land is provided in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils, with mitigation measures set out to minimise as far as practicable the effects. This will be updated for the ES.
	Policy CC1 Mitigating Climate Change	Major development will be permitted where it demonstrates: - how carbon emissions would be minimised through passive design measures; - the extent to which it meets relevant best practice accreditation schemes to promote the improvement in environmental and energy efficiency performance; - how the development would provide and utilise renewable energy technology; - whether the building(s) would require cooling, and if so how this would be delivered without increasing carbon emissions; - how existing buildings to be retained as part of the development are to be made more energy efficient;	Chapter 18 Climate Change	The Project will directly support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, and will facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network. The Project will consider a range of measures to reduce energy consumption (and associated emissions) during both construction and operation.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		how demolition of existing buildings is justified in terms of optimisation of resources in comparison to their retention and re-use; and how carbon emissions during construction will be minimised. 2. In Strategic Development Areas applicants should demonstrate whether a decentralised energy network is viable and, if so, the arrangements for its delivery and future management.		
	Policy CC2 Renewable Energy Generation	Development for renewable and low carbon energy generation will be permitted where: it is an appropriate technology for the site; it does not create a significant noise intrusion for existing dwellings; it includes measures to mitigate against any adverse impacts on the built and natural environment resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of any equipment/infrastructure; it does not contribute towards an unacceptable cumulative visual impact from renewable energy developments when considered in conjunction with nearby developments and permitted proposals within the District or adjoining local authority areas; and	Chapter 6 Landscape Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 6 Landscape and Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration considers the policies of the Local Plan when assessing the impacts of the Project on landscape and noise and vibration. This will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		adequate conditions are imposed and/or a legal agreement is entered into ensuring that once the use ceases operating permanently, it is fully decommissioned and the site appropriately restored.		
	Policy CC3 Managing Flood Risk	Policy CC3 sets out the Councils approach to managing flood risk. New development should take place in areas of the lowest risk of flooding, including the potential future risk due to climate change.	Chapter 10 Water Environment	This ES Chapter will address the design measures to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding and demonstrate that flood risk to people and property is managed satisfactorily. A FRA will be produced to inform Project design and the ES assessment, and the Project will secure SuDS based drainage design for operational infrastructure. A preliminary FRA is detailed in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.
	Policy CC4 Sustainable Drainage	All major development must incorporate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).	Chapter 10 Water Environment	This ES Chapter will address the design measures to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding and demonstrate that flood risk to people and property is managed satisfactorily. A FRA will be produced to inform Project design and the ES assessment, and the

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				Project will secure SuDS based drainage design for operational infrastructure. A preliminary FRA is detailed in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment .
	Policy IN1 Infrastructure	3. Major development will be permitted where there is, or will be when needed, sufficient infrastructure capacity to support and meet all the requirements arising from it, including those away from the site and its immediate vicinity, whether within Harborough District or outside. 4. Direct provision and/or financial contributions towards meeting all the eligible costs of infrastructure directly required by a major development (or cumulatively with other major developments within Harborough District or outside) will be sought from the scheme promoter whenever this is necessary. Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) will be required taking into account the viability of the development. This will be in addition to the affordable housing requirement as set out in Policy H2.		The Project will support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, and facilitating the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy IN2 Sustainable Transport	Policy IN2 sets out that development proposals should have regard to the transport policies of the Local Transport Authority and where there are impacts on the national road network be aligned with policies of Highways England. Proposals should seek to maximise the use and efficiency of existing transport facilities and where necessary provide mitigating measures to deal with the impacts of development on the transport network.	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	The Project proposals will seek to minimise or avoid impact on transport networks and maintain connectivity.
Harborough Local Plan 2020-2041 (Submitted for Examination) (Ref 2C.5)	Policy DS03: Development Strategy: Tackling Climate Change and Enhancing the Natural Environment	1) Development will be permitted where it: • Prioritises sustainable active travel modes such as walking, cycling, or public transport above use of the private car; • Optimises the use of natural resources, meeting high environmental standards in sustainable design and construction, with particular emphasis on energy and water efficiency and waste prevention and management; • Contributes to the creation, improved connectivity and enhancement of multifunctional green and blue infrastructure, that improves flood resilience and	Chapter 18 Climate Change	The Project will directly support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, and will facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network. The Project will consider a range of measures to reduce energy consumption (and associated emissions) during both construction and operation. Circular economy principles will be considered at the design stage

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		carbon sequestration, including through increasing tree planting; • Contributes to the delivery of the national Nature Recovery Network and Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Nature Recovery Strategy through the delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain in accordance with Policy DM10; and • Where relevant, supports watercourse restoration projects to create wetland habitats and enhance water resilience. 2) Nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites will be protected including: • Sites of Special Scientific Interest; • Local Wildlife Sites; and • Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological Sites. 3) Existing Green and Blue Infrastructure networks must be retained and, where possible, enhanced including: • Grand Union Canal and river corridors, wetlands, and watercourses such as the Welland, Sence, Soar, Swift and Avon River corridors in particular river floodplains along the Burton Brook, Langton Brook and Stonton Brook;		with the intention to implement measures to design out waste and integrate circular economy principles which will include consideration of pre-construction, construction, operation, and end-of life processes and materials will be selected to minimise waste over the whole life cycle of the Project. Where appropriate, the Project will endeavour to use materials with the highest recycled content, where this leads to lower whole life carbon emissions and encourage their use through procurement exercises. The Project will continue to integrate carbon as a weighted element within the design and decision-making process and continue to work with partners across the industry on lower carbon alternatives. These principles along with other control and management measures are included in Appendix 4A Draft Outline Code of Construction Practice.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		- Disused railway lines, traffic-free cycle routes, and long-distance recreational paths and bridleways; and - Woodlands, hedgerows, and semi-natural habitats.		
	Policy DS04: Development Strategy: Preserving and Enhancing our Heritage and Rural Character	- To protect our rural character, landscape and heritage assets, development must: - Recognise the significance of heritage assets as integral components of the district's character and identity; and - Avoid gradual erosion of the historic environment through piecemeal or cumulative development that could compromise the integrity of Conservation Areas and other heritage assets. - To maintain the distinctiveness of settlements and prevent the merging of these, Areas of Separation, as defined on the Policies Map, have been identified. Development in Areas of Separation must avoid coalescence and preserve the existing visual and physical separation between: - Great Bowden and Market Harborough;	Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage	The preliminary desk-based assessment in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers identifies designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project and assesses their significance including any contribution from setting. Impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation measures are assessed in the preliminary assessment. This will be further developed for the ES.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		• Bitteswell, Lutterworth and Magna Park; • Oadby and Great Glen; and • Ullesthorpe and Magna Park 3) The open and undeveloped character and appearance of the Leicester/Scraptoft/Bushby Green Wedge and Thurnby/Leicester/Oadby Green Wedge, as defined on the Policies Map, will be preserved with the aims of: • preventing the merging of settlements; • guiding development form; • providing access from urban areas into green spaces and open countryside; and • providing recreational opportunities.		
	Policy DS05: Development Strategy: Supporting Strategic Infrastructure	1) All new development will be supported by the provision of the necessary infrastructure, services, utilities and facilities identified to meet the needs arising from the new development in a phased and timely manner. Development proposals must: • be supported by robust evidence of the type and timing of infrastructure needed to mitigate impacts and	Additional infrastructure works required to accommodate the project identified to date have been included in the design described in the Chapter 4 Description of the Project and shown in	The Project will support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, and facilitating the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		support sustainable development; and • prioritise and fund the reasonable costs of infrastructure on site, and where appropriate off site, infrastructure needed to mitigate the impacts of the development through the use of Section 106 Legal Agreements or, in the case of highways, Section 278 Legal Agreements; and • provide serviced, accessible, and prepared land, where required and the need is justified, to enable infrastructure to be delivered; and • demonstrate as part of the planning application process that a comprehensive approach to coordinating the provision, phasing and funding of infrastructure has assessed the cumulative and cross boundary impacts arising from the following clusters of sites: – Scraptoft, Thurnby and Bushby, sites S1, S2 and TB1; – Oadby and Great Glen, sites OA1 and GG1 – Market Harborough, sites MH1, MH2 and MH3; and – Magna Park, MP1 and MP2.	Figure 4.1 Proposed Project Design.	Works to existing infrastructure to accommodate the Project identified to date are included in the Project and therefore considered in each aspect chapter of the DES. Engagement with third parties and identifying the potential requirements for mitigation will continue as design and assessment progress and be reported in the ES or other application documents.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		2) The detailed site-specific mitigation schemes included within the site allocation Policies SA01, SA02, SA03 and SA04 are required and expected to be included within development proposals and site development costs. Development proposals should make provision for all the land required to accommodate any additional infrastructure arising from the development on site. 3) Infrastructure required to mitigate the impact of development may be phased either in time or geographically, to ensure necessary infrastructure is delivered in a timely manner through the use of planning conditions, Section 106 Legal Agreements or, in the case of highways, Section 278 Legal Agreements. 4) New development should be supported by, and have good access to infrastructure: ... d) All development proposals should include a strategy for waste management and recycling for both the construction and operation agreed with the District Council and Leicestershire County Council. Developer contributions:		

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		As part of a package or combination of infrastructure delivery measures, it is likely that developer contributions will be required for development proposals to ensure that development is supported by infrastructure. Developers will be expected to either provide direct provision or contribute towards the provision of local and strategic infrastructure to meet the needs from the development alone, or cumulatively with other developments as identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan		
	Policy AP04: Development in the Countryside (Commercial/ Non-Residential)	1. Development in the countryside, excluding in Green Wedges and Areas of Separation, will be permitted for: ... g) renewable energy production; 2. Within Areas of Separation, development will only be permitted where this does not compromise, either alone or in conjunction with other permitted development, the effectiveness of the Area of Separation in protecting the identity and distinctiveness of these settlements and supports the strategic objectives in Policy DS04.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation, and Tourism	This will be considered in relation to construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy AP05: Locating	1. Development for renewable and low-carbon energy generation and	Chapter 7 Visual	The approach to assessing the likely significant visual effects of

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Renewable and Low-Carbon Energy Development	associated infrastructure will be permitted where: a) Measures are included to mitigate any adverse impacts on the built and natural environment resulting from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of any equipment or associated infrastructure; b) The development does not contribute to an unacceptable cumulative visual impact when considered in conjunction with nearby developments and permitted proposals within the District or adjoining local authority areas; and c) Adequate conditions are imposed, and/or a legal agreement is entered into, ensuring that once the use ceases operating permanently, it is fully decommissioned and the site appropriately restored.		the Project is explained in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual and in Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology. This includes the approach to the assessment of visual effects for residential receptors and reference to lighting and night-time effects with respect to visual amenity will be made where relevant. Chapter 7 Visual also details a preliminary visual assessment that provides a description of the visual baseline and an initial evaluation of potential change resulting from the Project, taking account of identified mitigation. This visual assessment will be updated for the ES and will be informed by a series of representative viewpoints which will include key views identified in any conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements as well as the general visual amenity experienced by people living and moving around the area. The approach to assessing likely significant cumulative effects is explained in Section 7.5 of

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				Chapter 7 Visual and Chapter 19 Cumulative Effects sets out the methodology for the assessment of cumulative effects in the ES.
	Policy DM03: Heritage Asset Conservation and Design Standards	1. In areas with high heritage value (Conservation Areas, where affecting Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and other heritage assets and their settings) development will be permitted where it achieves a high standard of design reflecting those characteristics that make these places special. Development affecting heritage assets, and their settings will: a) be appraised in accordance with national policy; and b) be permitted where it protects, conserves or enhances the significance, character, appearance and setting of the asset including, where possible, better revealing the significance of the asset and enabling its interpretation. 2. Where the proposed development would lead to substantial harm to (or total loss of) significance of a designated heritage asset and/or its	Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage	The preliminary desk-based assessment in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers identifies designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project and assesses their significance including any contribution from setting. Impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation measures are assessed in the preliminary assessment. This will be further developed for the ES.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		setting, planning permission will not be granted unless: a) the proposed development demonstrates that the substantial harm or total loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh the harm or loss; or b) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable uses of the site; and c) no viable use of the heritage asset can be found in the medium term through appropriate marketing that will enable its conservation; and d) conservation by grant-funding or some form of charitable or public ownership is demonstrably not possible. 3. Where the proposed development would lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset and/or its setting, this harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use. 4. To determine the significance of a heritage asset, the Council will expect the following assessment to have been carried out:		

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		a) an analysis of the asset to establish its significance, both as a whole, and specific parts affected by the proposal; b) an assessment, where appropriate, of the contribution made by the setting of the asset to its significance; and 128 c) an explanation of how the assessment has informed the proposed development, including how the proposed design (form/layout, scale, massing, proportions, materials and architectural and historical detailing, as applicable) would be appropriate and sympathetic. 5. Development within or affecting the setting of a Conservation Area must preserve or enhance the character or appearance of the Conservation Area. 6. Development affecting the significance of a non-designated heritage asset and/or its setting will be required to justify any harm or loss to the significance of the non-designated heritage asset.		
	Policy DM04: Landscape	1. Development must be located and designed in such a way that it is sensitive to its landscape setting and	Chapter 6 Landscape	The preliminary assessment of effects on landscape character in Chapter 6 Landscape in this DES has been based on the

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Character and Sensitivity	character area and will be permitted where it: - respects and, where possible, enhances local landscape, the landscape setting of settlements and settlement distinctiveness having regard to the Council's latest Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Sensitivity Assessment; - avoids the loss of, or substantial harm to, features of importance within the landscape including heritage assets; - safeguards important public views, skylines and landmarks; and - restores or provides equivalent mitigation for damaged features and/or landscapes that would be damaged or degraded as a result of the development. - The latest landscape evidence must be used to inform the identification of features of landscape importance to avoid detracting from visual and environmental quality.		landscape character assessments listed in this chapter and has been informed by the local landscape character assessments listed in this Chapter including the North East Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment, Sensitivity and Capacity Study and the Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, and any conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements. The likely landscape effects will be further developed for the ES.
	Policy DM05: Green and Blue Infrastructure and Open Space	- All development must: - contribute to creating high-quality multifunctional green and blue infrastructure in accordance with	Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing	The assessment methodology in Chapter 17 Health and Wellbeing considers the effects on employment and access to

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		the Open Spaces Strategy 2021 (or subsequent revisions) and Green and Blue Infrastructure Study (2024), including using trees and other planting where appropriate, to provide access to shade and manage surface water run-off as part of a wider resilience to climate change and, where needed, use noise and pollution barriers/absorption measures; b) create and enhance accessible links for all between new developments and surrounding recreational networks and facilities; and c) enhance access to publicly accessible open space.		open space and recreation. This will be updated for the ES.
	Policy DM06: Transport and Accessibility	1. Development will be permitted, subject to: a) ensuring the safe, connected and convenient movement across the transport network, including bus passengers, cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders; b) providing safe access, servicing and parking arrangements as defined in this policy and having regard to Highway Authority guidance and standards; and	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport Chapter 14 Air Quality	The Project proposals will seek to minimise or avoid impact on transport networks and maintain connectivity. The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Air Quality detailed in Chapter 14 Air Quality has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application

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		c) ensuring that additional traffic movements are not detrimental to highway safety or result in the residual cumulative impact on the road network being severe 2. All major development is required to submit a Transport Assessment which considers the impact of development on the safe, efficient and reliable operation of the transport network. The assessment will also identify the mitigation required to ensure the impact is managed or mitigated effectively. All major development must also: a) incorporate measures to facilitate and encourage safe access by cycle and on foot along with protection of, connection to and extension, where practicable, of existing pedestrian, cycle and equestrian routes; b) provide accessible cycle parking; c) deliver public transport enhancements where feasible to mitigate development impacts, including but not limited to bus routes, information and waiting facilities and measures to encourage public transport use;		for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.

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		d) where appropriate, contribute to provision for the transport needs of specific groups in the community, such as the elderly and those with disabilities; and e) ensure car parking provision sufficient for the location and type of development, and make provision for Car Club spaces and EV charging points; and f) mitigation for any adverse impact on residential amenity and air quality, especially in Air Quality Management Areas.		
	Policy DM07: Managing Flood Risk	1. Wherever possible development should take place within Flood Zone 1, the area of land deemed at least risk of flooding. The Sequential Test and, where necessary, the Exceptions Test should be used to assess the suitability of proposed development. Within Flood Zone 1 a site-specific flood risk assessment will be required for proposals relating to: a) major development; b) land with critical drainage problems; c) land at increased flood risk in the future; 135 d) where a more vulnerable use is proposed on land which may be subject to sources of	Chapter 10 Water Environment	This ES Chapter will address the design measures to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding and demonstrate that flood risk to people and property is managed satisfactorily. A FRA will be produced to inform Project design and the ES assessment, and the Project will secure SuDS based drainage design for operational infrastructure. A preliminary FRA is detailed in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment.

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		flooding other than rivers; or e) catchments that have experienced sewer flooding. 2. Development in Flood Zone 3, unless meeting the Exceptions Test, will only be permitted as follows: a) Flood Zone 3a: 'less vulnerable' uses, including retail and business uses (E and B Use Classes), agriculture and some non-residential institutions (Use Class D1), other than for health services, nurseries and education; and water compatible development. b) Flood Zone 3b: water compatible development where appropriate; this zone will be safeguarded to ensure protection of the functional floodplain. 3. For Development in Flood Zones 2 or 3 a site-specific flood risk assessment must be undertaken and development will only be permitted where: a) the mitigation, flood management, flood resilience measures and design requirements identified are satisfactorily provided; and b) the design incorporates flood resilience measures to allow for increased risk due to climate change.		

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		4. All development in Flood Zones 2, 3a and 3b defined in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, or identified as at risk of flooding from other sources, should contribute positively to actively reducing flood risk through avoidance, reduction, management and mitigation		
	Policy DM08: Sustainable Drainage	1. All development must promote an integrated approach to water management through planting and incorporating rainwater storage for reuse and irrigation. 2. All major development must incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and take account of the drainage hierarchy as follows (in order of priority): a) store rainwater for later use for irrigation or non-potable purposes; b) promote natural infiltration with soakaways or permeable surfaces to recharge groundwater; c) use green roofs, rain gardens, or vegetated systems to hold and slowly release water; d) use engineered systems like underground tanks or ponds to temporarily store and control water flow;	Chapter 10 Water Environment	See response above.

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		e) discharge to nearby rivers or streams where practicable, ensuring that any run-off does not negatively impact on the water quality of a nearby waterbody; f) discharge to surface water sewer; g) discharge to combined sewer only as a last resort in order to prevent overloading the sewer network. 3. The design and layout of the SuDS, should prioritise nature-based solutions and, taking account of the hydrology of the site, must: a) manage surface water close to its source and on the surface where feasible; b) be designed to incorporate surface water management features as green and blue infrastructure wherever possible, maximising multifunctional benefits for biodiversity, amenity, cooling and water quality; c) use features that enhance the site design and sense of place and where it is incorporated in open space, provide a safe naturalised system without the need for fencing or barriers; 137 d) provide for the re-naturalisation of modified water courses where practical; e) be located away from land affected by		

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		contamination that may pose an additional risk to groundwater or other waterbodies; f) demonstrate that the peak rate of run-off over the lifetime of the development, allowing for climate change, is no greater for the developed site than it was for the undeveloped site and reduced wherever possible. Developments are required to achieve a 20% reduction in run-off rates compared to pre-development conditions to account for existing surface water runoff problems; and g) ensure that flooding would not occur to property in and adjacent to the development, in the event of an occurrence of a 1 in 100-year rainfall event (including an allowance for climate change) or in the event of local drainage system failure. 4. Prior to the commencement of development, the responsibilities for management and maintenance in perpetuity of the SuDS must be agreed		
	Policy DM09: Sustainable Construction and Climate Resilience	1. All development must: a) minimise carbon emissions during construction, which may include use of low-carbon construction	Chapter 18 Climate Change	The Project will directly support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire and the East

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		materials, and adopting energy efficient construction practices; b) where relevant, demonstrate that demolition of existing buildings is justified in comparison to their retention and re-use, and where buildings are retained, integrate measures to make these more energy and resource efficient in accordance with criteria 3 and 5 below; c) where demolition of existing buildings is required, demonstrate the reuse of demolition and construction waste; d) demonstrate the integration of passive design measures, including delivering cooling without increasing carbon emissions, such as through optimal building orientation, natural ventilation, solar shading and the use of thermal mass to regulate indoor temperatures; e) be supported by a water efficiency statement that outlines, in priority order, measures to reduce water consumption, reuse water, or offset its use and achieve minimum water efficiency equivalent to 110 litres per person per day for any		Midlands, and will facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network. The Project will consider a range of measures to reduce energy consumption (and associated emissions) during both construction and operation. Circular economy principles will be considered at the design stage with the intention to implement measures to design out waste and integrate circular economy principles which will include consideration of pre-construction, construction, operation, and end-of life processes and materials will be selected to minimise waste over the whole life cycle of the Project. Where appropriate, the Project will endeavour to use materials with the highest recycled content, where this leads to lower whole life carbon emissions and encourage their use through procurement

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		residential use, or non-residential development to achieve at least 3 credits in the Wat01 Measure for water in the BREEAM New Construction standard; and f) Demonstrate how waste will be minimised during construction and during the operation of the development.		exercises. The Project will continue to integrate carbon as a weighted element within the design and decision-making process and continue to work with partners across the industry on lower carbon alternatives. These principles along with other management control measures are included in Appendix 4A Draft Outline Code of Construction Practice.
	Policy DM10: Biodiversity and Geodiversity Protection and Enhancement	1. All qualifying development proposals must deliver at least a 10% measurable biodiversity net gain attributable to the development. The net gain for biodiversity should be calculated using Natural England's Biodiversity Metric. In circumstances where it appears that sites have been subdivided for the purposes of application submission to meet the exempt development threshold, they shall be considered cumulatively to ensure the overall development is in compliance with this requirement. 2. Biodiversity net gain should be provided on-site wherever possible. Off-site measures will only be considered where it can be demonstrated that, after following the	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within the Baseline Conditions in Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity. The likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) will be assessed and reported as part of the ES. Mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of ecological and geological receptors will be reported in the ES. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report will be produced to determine whether the Project is likely to have a significant effect on any

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		mitigation hierarchy, all reasonable opportunities to achieve measurable net gains on-site have been exhausted. 3. Development should avoid adverse impact on existing biodiversity and geodiversity features in line with the mitigation hierarchy. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, they must be adequately and proportionately mitigated. If full mitigation cannot be provided, compensation will be required as a last resort to ensure there is no net-loss or a net gain of priority habitat and priority species. 4. All development must contribute towards protecting and improving biodiversity and geodiversity by: a) protecting and enhancing priority species and their habitats; b) including measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the district's flora and fauna; 141 c) protecting and enhancing green and blue infrastructure assets; d) protecting riparian zones and watercourses by creating and enhancing undeveloped buffer zones alongside watercourses to ensure functional habitat corridors for wildlife;		European designated site (now included within the national site network), or on any site to which the same protection is applied as a matter of policy, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The HRA Report will inform the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES and will be included with the application for development consent. Design adjustments may be required as a result of the HRA process, which will be fed into the ES and application for development consent. A HRA Screening is provided in Appendix 8A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening in this DES. National Grid has committed to 10% Net Gain in environmental value including as a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) across all its construction projects. A BNG assessment will be undertaken and presented in a separate BNG report that will be submitted as part of the application for development consent.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		e) protecting features and areas of geodiversity value and enhancing them to improve connectivity of habitats, amenity use, education and interpretation; and f) include appropriate measures to manage construction impacts by demonstrating how existing wildlife habitats supporting protected or priority species will be retained, safeguarded and managed during construction. 5. Development which impacts on nationally and locally designated biodiversity and geodiversity sites, defined in Policy DS03 and shown on the Policies Map, will be permitted where there is no adverse impact on: a) the conservation of priority species; b) irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and the loss of aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, unless the need for, and benefits of, the development in that location clearly outweigh the loss; and c) opportunities for improving habitats, and if relevant, improving the water quality of local water courses to improve the aquatic habitat are incorporated. Development		

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		proposals that are likely to result in a significant adverse effect, either alone or in combination with other proposals, on internationally designated site, will not be permitted unless a Habitats Regulation Assessment has concluded that the proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of the habitats site.		
	Policy DM11: Managing Impacts on Land and Water Quality	1. Water resources will be protected, and water services provided. Development will be permitted where it does: a) not adversely affect the quality of any water course into which the surface water emanating from new development flows, during both the construction phase and for the lifetime of the development; b) ensure the removal of any contamination from the site and that the development would not result in the migration of any contamination to a location where it could have an adverse effect upon the water environment; and c) have no adverse impact on and, wherever possible, contribute to an enhanced water environment and its associated ecology.	Chapter 10 Water Environment Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	The Project design is developing to avoid areas of highest flood risk wherever possible. Where flood risk cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified in the FRA, which will make appropriate allowance for the effects of climate change over the Project lifetime. A preliminary FRA is outlined in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. Drainage systems will incorporate SuDS as far as possible. Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology of the ES will assess the impact of the development on groundwater quality.

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		2. Where the site has previously been developed, the need for any decontamination and remediation will be identified and implemented to an agreed programme, ensuring that any contamination is not relocated elsewhere to a location where it could adversely affect the environment including water or other wildlife habitats. 3. Development should be focused in the first instance on agricultural land not identified as the best and most versatile (i.e. on Grades 3b, 4 and 5). Development, outside of settlements or identified Site Allocations in Policy SA01, which is on high-quality agricultural land (Grades 1, 2, and 3a) will be permitted where: a) a thorough assessment to evaluate its impact on agricultural productivity has been undertaken; and b) mitigation measures are implemented to minimise adverse effects, such as soil conservation techniques and landscape buffering.		The draft Order Limits will be assessed in the baseline. The Project will have regard to the location of BMV land, and the extent affected will be minimised where practicable through the evolution of the design. A preliminary assessment of the likely impacts on BMV land is provided in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils, with mitigation measures set out to minimise as far as practicable the effects. This will be updated for the ES.
North Northamptonshire Local Plan. (Part 1	Policy 1: Presumption in Favour of	Policy 1 sets out that when considering development proposals the Local Planning Authority will take a positive approach that	Chapter 18 Climate Change	The Project will support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
(2016) and Part 2, Local Plans.) (Ref 2C.6)	Sustainable Development	reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.		Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, and facilitating the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network.
	Policy 2: Historic Environment	Policy 3 sets out how the historic environment will be protected, preserved and, where appropriate, enhanced. Where a development would impact upon a heritage asset and/or its setting: - Proposals should conserve and, where possible, enhance the heritage significance and setting of an asset or group of heritage assets in a manner commensurate to its significance; - Proposals should complement their surrounding historic environment through the form, scale, design and materials; - Proposals should protect and, where possible, enhance key views and vistas of heritage assets, including of the church spires along the Nene Valley and across North Northamptonshire; - Proposals should demonstrate an appreciation and understanding of the	Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage	The preliminary desk-based assessment in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers identifies designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project and assesses their significance including any contribution from setting. Impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation measures are assessed in the preliminary assessment. This will be further developed for the ES.

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		impact of development on heritage assets and their setting in order to minimise harm to these assets and their setting. Where loss of historic features or archaeological remains is unavoidable and justified, provision should be made for recording and the production of a suitable archive and report; Where appropriate, flexible solutions to the re-use of buildings and conservation of other types of heritage assets at risk will be encouraged, especially, where this will result in their removal from the 'at risk' register.		
	Policy 3: Landscape Character	Policy 3 sets out that development should be located and designed in a way that is sensitive to its landscape setting, retaining and, where possible, enhancing the distinctive qualities of the landscape character which it would affect.	Chapter 6 Landscape	The preliminary assessment of effects on landscape character in Chapter 6 Landscape in this DES has been based on the landscape character assessments listed in this chapter and has been informed by the local landscape character assessments listed in this Chapter including the North East Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment, Sensitivity and Capacity Study and the Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, and any conservation

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements. The likely landscape effects will be further developed for the ES.
	Policy 4: Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policy 4 states that a net gain in biodiversity will be protected and enhanced through: • Protecting existing biodiversity and geodiversity assets. • Enhancing ecological networks by managing development and investment. • Supporting through developer contributions or development design, the protection and recovery of priority habitats and species linked to national and local targets. • Developments that are likely to have an adverse impact, either alone or in-combination on the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area or other European Designated Sites must satisfy the requirements of the Habitats Regulations.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within the Baseline Conditions in Section 8.6 of Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity. The likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) will be assessed and reported as part of the ES. Mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of ecological and geological receptors will be reported in the ES. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report will be produced to determine whether the Project is likely to have a significant effect on any European designated site (now included within the national site network), or on any site to which the same protection is applied as a matter of policy, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The HRA Report will

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				inform the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES and will be included with the application for development consent. Design adjustments may be required as a result of the HRA process, which will be fed into the final ES/ application for development consent. A HRA Screening is provided in Appendix 8A Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening in this DES. National Grid has committed to 10% Net Gain in environmental value including as a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) across all its construction projects. A BNG assessment will be undertaken and presented in a separate BNG report that will be submitted as part of the application for development consent.
	Policy 5: Water Environment, Resources and Flood Risk Management	Development should contribute towards reducing the risk of flooding and to the protection and improvement of the quality of the water environment. Development should, wherever possible, be avoided in high and medium flood risk areas.	Chapter 10 Water Environment Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	The Project design is developing to avoid areas of highest flood risk wherever possible. Where flood risk cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified in the FRA, which will make appropriate

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				allowance for the effects of climate change over the Project lifetime. A preliminary FRA is outlined in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment. Drainage systems will incorporate SuDS as far as possible. Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology of the ES will assess the impact of the development on groundwater quality.
	Policy 6: Development on Brownfield Land and Land Affected by Contamination	Where development is situated on a site with known or high likelihood of contamination, remediation strategies to manage this contamination will be required. Subject to the Policies in this Plan, planning permission will be granted for development on land affected by contamination where it can be established by the proposed developer that the site can be safely and viably developed with no significant impact on either future users or on ground and surface waters.	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	This policy will be considered in the ES to take into account of the environmental impacts on human health, buildings, land and groundwater arising as a result of the Project. Should significant effects be identified, these will be assessed through the EIA process and appropriate mitigation measures recommended.
	Policy 7: Community Services and Facilities	Development should support and enhance community services and facilities, where appropriate by:	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will take into account the policies of the Local Plan when assessing the socio-economic impacts of the Project.

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		• Providing on site where necessary or contributing towards accessible, new or enhanced community services and facilities. • Providing accessible greenspace in accordance with Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) and the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard, unless local standards have been adopted; • Safeguarding existing facilities. • Not resulting in the net loss of open space, allotments, sports and recreational buildings and land.		This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy 8: North Northamptonshire Place	Policy 8 requires that soils should be protected from pollution.	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	A draft Outline Soil Management Plan is detailed in Appendix 12A Draft Outline Soil Management Plan and has been developed in line with current good practice, including with reference to Defra Construction Code of Practice for Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. An Outline Soil Management Plan will be developed for the ES.
	Policy 19: The Delivery of Green Infrastructure	Policy 19 sets out how the mixed urban and rural character of North Northamptonshire will be maintained and enhanced by:	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		- Managing development and investment to secure a net gain in green infrastructure through: - Safeguarding identified sub-regional green infrastructure corridors. - Contributing towards the enhancement or ongoing management of local green infrastructure corridors by prioritizing green infrastructure investment areas. - Requiring, where appropriate, project level Habitats Regulations Assessments, to ensure the protection of European designated sites such as the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area and Ramsar Site.		retaining habitat corridors such as woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such as new links between existing areas. A HRA Report will be produced to determine whether the Project is likely to have a significant effect on any European designated site (now included within the national site network), or on any site to which the same protection is applied as a matter of policy, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The HRA Report will inform the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES and will be included with the application for development consent. Design adjustments may be required as a result of the HRA process, which will be fed into the ES and application for development consent.

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	Policy 22 – Delivering Economic Prosperity	Policy 22 sets out the Councils plans to deliver a net increase of jobs, including through prioritising the enhancement of existing employment sites and the regeneration of previously developed land, also safeguarding existing and committed employment sites.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will take into account the policies of the Local Plan when assessing the socio-economic impacts of the Project. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements
	Policy 26: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	Proposals for sensitively located renewable and low carbon energy generation will be supported. • The landscape impact of the development is minimised and mitigated against; • The development links to a specific demand through a decentralised energy network or where this is not possible, the necessary infrastructure is provided to supply power to the National Grid; • The siting of development avoids harm to the significance of a heritage asset and its setting in accordance with the provisions of the NPPF;	Chapter 6 Landscape	Chapter 4 Description of the Project describes the evolution of the Project to date and demonstrates that minimising adverse effects on the landscape through sensitive routeing, siting and design in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2C.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2C.3) was a major consideration during its development and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project. The evolution of the design will continue to be informed by both environmental and technical desk studies and site surveys as well as consultation and stakeholder

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		- The siting of development does not significantly adversely affect the amenity of existing, or proposed, residential dwellings and/or businesses, either in isolation or cumulatively, by reason of noise, odour intrusion, dust, traffic generation, visual impact or shadow flicker; - The development does not result in an adverse impact on the capacity and safety of the highways network and of public rights of way; - The development includes a managed programme of measures to mitigate against any adverse impacts on the built and natural environment resulting from the construction, operation and decommissioning of any equipment/infrastructure; - The development does not create a significant adverse cumulative noise or visual impact when considered in conjunction with other developments planned within North Northamptonshire and adjoining local authority areas; - The development retains and enhances on-site biodiversity and supports the enlargement of, and/or connection to, existing biodiversity	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	feedback. This evolution will be documented in the alternatives chapter within the ES. The assessment of effects on landscape character will be based on the landscape character assessments listed in this chapter but will be informed by the local landscape character assessments listed in this chapter and any conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements. The effects will be assessed and reported as part of the landscape chapter in the ES. The approach to assessing likely significant cumulative effects is explained in Appendix 6A Landscape Assessment Methodology. The approach to mitigation is explained in Chapter 5 EIA Approach and Methodology. The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include retaining habitat corridors such as woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		assets such as wildlife corridors, where possible; Proposals for Solar Photovoltaic farms avoid the best and most versatile agricultural land.	Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration	areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such as new links between existing areas. The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on noise and vibration detailed in Chapter 15 Noise and Vibration has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases.
West Northamptonshire Local Plan (Adopted 2014) (Ref 2C.7)	Policy SA: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	Policy SA outlines how the council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.	Chapter 18 Climate Change	The Project will support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire and Leicestershire, and facilitating the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy S10: Sustainable Development Principles	Policy 10 outlines 10 sustainable development principles that should be adhered to. • Achieve the highest standards of sustainable design incorporating safety and security considerations and a strong sense of place; • Be designed to improve environmental performance, energy efficiency and adapt to changes of use and a changing climate over its lifetime; • Make use of sustainably sourced materials; • Minimise resource demand and the generation of waste and maximise opportunities for reuse and recycling; • Be located where services and facilities can be easily accessed by walking, cycling or public transport; • Maximise use of solar gain, passive heating and cooling, natural light and ventilation using site layout and building design; • Maximise the generation of its energy needs from decentralised and renewable or low carbon sources; • Maximise water efficiency and promote sustainable drainage;	Chapter 18 Climate Change	The Project will directly support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, and will facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network. The Project will consider a range of measures to reduce energy consumption (and associated emissions) during both construction and operation. Circular economy principles will be considered at the design stage with the intention to implement measures to design out waste and integrate circular economy principles which will include consideration of pre-construction, construction, operation, and end-of life processes and materials will be selected to minimise waste over the whole life cycle of the Project. Where appropriate, the Project will endeavour to use

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		• Protect, conserve and enhance the natural and built environment and heritage assets and their settings; • Promote the creation of green infrastructure networks, enhance biodiversity and reduce the fragmentation of habitats; and • Minimise pollution from noise, air and run off.		materials with the highest recycled content, where this leads to lower whole life carbon emissions and encourage their use through procurement exercises. The Project will continue to integrate carbon as a weighted element within the design and decision-making process and continue to work with partners across the industry on lower carbon alternatives. These principles along with other management control measures are included in Appendix 4A Draft Outline Code of Construction Practice.
	Policy S11 Low Carbon and Renewable Energy	Policy S11 states that major development and sustainable urban extensions should contribute to reductions in carbon emissions and adapt to the effect of climate change. Proposals should be sensitively located and designed to minimize potential impacts on people, the natural environment, biodiversity, historic assets and mitigate pollution.	Chapter 18 Climate Change Chapter 6 Landscape	The Project will directly support the UK's net zero target by reinforcing the electricity transmission network in Lincolnshire and the East Midlands, and will facilitate the connection of planned offshore wind generation, battery storage/solar, interconnectors with other countries and subsea links to Scotland, allowing clean energy to be carried on the network.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				The Project will consider a range of measures to reduce energy consumption (and associated emissions) during both construction and operation. Circular economy principles will be considered at the design stage with the intention to implement measures to design out waste and integrate circular economy principles which will include consideration of pre-construction, construction, operation, and end-of life processes and materials will be selected to minimise waste over the whole life cycle of the Project. Where appropriate, the Project will endeavour to use materials with the highest recycled content, where this leads to lower whole life carbon emissions and encourage their use through procurement exercises. The Project will continue to integrate carbon as a weighted element within the design and decision-making process and continue to work with partners

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				across the industry on lower carbon alternatives.
	Policy E1 Existing Employment Areas	Policy E1 outlines that to help support a vibrant, successful and developing local economy existing and allocated employment sites and industrial estates will be retained for classes B1, B2, B8 and appropriate non-B employment generating uses. Changes of use to other uses will be resisted until it can be demonstrated that the site is no longer economically viable.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism considers the policies of the Local Plan when assessing the socioeconomic impacts of the Project. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy BN1 Green Infrastructure Connections	Policy BN1 sets out how green infrastructure corridors of sub-regional and local importance of the joint core strategy will be conserved, managed and enhanced.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include retaining habitat corridors such as woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such

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				as new links between existing areas.
	Policy BN2 – Biodiversity	Development that will maintain and enhance existing designations and assets or deliver a net gain in biodiversity will be supported. Development that has the potential to harm sites of ecological importance will be subject to an ecological assessment and required to demonstrate: - the methods used to conserve biodiversity in its design and construction and operation - how habitat conservation, enhancement and creation can be achieved through linking habitats - how designated sites, protected species and priority habitats will be safeguarded. Development management decisions will reflect the hierarchy of biodiversity and geodiversity designations attaching appropriate weight to the status of the site which would be affected. in cases where it can be shown that there is no reasonable alternative to development that is likely to prejudice the integrity of an existing wildlife site or protected habitat, appropriate mitigation measures including	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	National Grid has committed to 10% Net Gain in environmental value including as a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) across all its construction projects. A BNG assessment will be undertaken and presented in a separate BNG report that will be submitted as part of the application for development consent. Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within the Baseline Conditions in Section 8.6 in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity. A preliminary assessment of the likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) has been reported in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity. This will be further developed for the ES. Mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of ecological and geological receptors will be reported in the ES.

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		compensation will be expected in proportion to the asset that will be lost.		
	Policy BN3 – Woodland Enhancement and Creation	Policy BN3 states that measures to enhance and manage existing woodlands and create new woodlands in West Northamptonshire will be supported. The protection of aged and veteran trees outside ancient woodlands will also be supported. Any development that would lead to further fragmentation or result in a loss of ancient woodland, aged or veteran trees will not be permitted unless the need for, and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss.	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include retaining habitat corridors such as woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such as new links between existing areas.
	Policy BN5 The Historic Environment and Landscape	Designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings and landscapes will be conserved and enhanced in recognition of their individual and cumulative significance and contribution to local distinctiveness and sense of place.	Chapter 9 Historic Environment	The preliminary desk-based assessment in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers identifies designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project and assesses their significance including any contribution from setting. Impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation measures are assessed in the

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				preliminary assessment. This will be further developed for the ES.
	Policy BN7 Flood Risk	Policy BN7 outlines the councils approach to flood risk, and how development proposals will comply with flood risk assessment and management requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance, and the West Northamptonshire Strategic Flood Risk Assessments.	Chapter 10 Water Environment	The Project design is developing to avoid areas of highest flood risk wherever possible. Where flood risk cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified in the FRA, which will make appropriate allowance for the effects of climate change over the Project lifetime. A preliminary FRA is outlined in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment . Drainage systems will incorporate SuDS as far as possible.
	Policy BN9 Planning for Pollution Control	Proposals for new development which are likely to cause pollution or likely to result in exposure to sources of pollution or risks to safety will need to demonstrate that they provide opportunities to minimise and where possible reduce pollution issues that are a barrier to achieving sustainable development and healthy communities including: a) maintaining and improving air quality, particularly in poor air quality areas, in accordance with national air quality standards and best practice;	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	Pollution risks on groundwater quality (b) and contaminated land (d) will be assessed and minimised.

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		b) protecting and improving surface and groundwater water quality; c) minimising light pollution; d) ensuring remediation of contaminated land so as not to pose a risk to health and the environment; and e) reducing the adverse impacts of noise.		
	Policy BN10 Ground Instability	Development will be permitted on sites of unstable or potentially unstable land provided that: - the nature of the ground stability of the site has been assessed to the satisfaction of the determining planning authority and a ground stability report has been provided and agreed before the application is determined; - the development does not add to the instability of the site or surrounding land; - any required remedial works are implemented prior to occupation of development; and - the development of any required stabilisation measures are environmentally acceptable to the satisfaction of the determining authority.	Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered	Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered describes the Project Design Approach including the development of design principles to set desirable design outcomes which the Project should endeavour to achieve, as far as is reasonably practicable, and facilitate an integrated design approach which draws together engineering, environment, sustainability and social value design considerations. Sensitive routeing, siting and design (including land use impacts) is in accordance with the Holford Rules (Ref 2B.2) and Horlock Rules (Ref 2B.3) and will continue in the future design evolution of the Project.
	Policy INF1 Approach to	New development will be supported by, and provide good access to, infrastructure,	Chapter 16 Socio-economics,	The preliminary assessment in Chapter 16 Socio-economics,

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	Infrastructure Delivery	including physical, green, and social elements. Paragraph 11.10 states that ensuring all new development proposals address their impact appropriately and deliver solutions that allow West Northamptonshire to grow in a sustainable manner.	Recreation and Tourism	Recreation and Tourism considers the policies of the Local Plan when assessing the socioeconomic impacts of the Project. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.
	Policy R2 Rural Economy	Policy R2 seeks proposals which sustain and enhance the rural economy by creating or safeguarding jobs and businesses will be supported where they are of an appropriate scale for their location, respect the environmental quality and character of the rural area and protect BMV land.	Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils	A preliminary assessment of the likely impacts on land holdings is provided in Chapter 12 Agriculture and Soils with mitigation measures set out to minimise as far as practicable the effects. This will be updated for the ES.
Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adopted 2019) (Ref 2C.10)	Policy M11: Safeguarding of Mineral Resources	Policy M11 highlights that applications for non-minerals development in a minerals safeguarding areas must be accompanied by a Minerals Assessment.	Chapter 4 Description of the Project	A Minerals Assessment Report will be prepared for the ES. This will identify all safeguarded minerals and provide an appraisal of the effects of the Project against relevant minerals policy. Appendix 11B Mineral
	Policy M12: Safeguarding of Existing Mineral	Policy M12 states that significant infrastructure associated with the supply of minerals will be safeguarded against	Chapter 4 Description of the Project	

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	Sites and Associated Minerals Infrastructure	development that would impact operations at an existing mineral site or limit the use of associated mineral infrastructure by the introduction of incompatible land uses nearby.		Safeguarding Assessment provides a Preliminary Minerals Resource Assessment.
	M15: Borrow Pits	Policy M15 set out that planning permission will be granted for borrow pits to supply materials for major construction projects under set circumstances.	Chapter 4 Description of the Project	
Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan -Core Strategy and Development Management Policies (Adopted June 2016) (Ref 2C.8)	Policy M11: Safeguarding of Mineral Resources	Policy M11 sets out how Minerals Safeguarding Areas will be protected from permanent sterilisation by other development. Planning applications for non-mineral development within a Mineral Safeguarding Area should be accompanied by a Mineral Assessment.	Chapter 4 Description of the Project	A Minerals Assessment Report will be prepared for the ES. This will identify all safeguarded minerals and provide an appraisal of the effects of the Project against relevant minerals policy. Appendix 11B Mineral Safeguarding Assessment provides a Preliminary Minerals Resource Assessment.
	Policy M12: Safeguarding of Existing Mineral Sites and Associated Minerals Infrastructure	Mineral sites (excluding dormant sites) and associated infrastructure that supports the supply of minerals in the County will be safeguarded against development that would unnecessarily sterilise the sites and infrastructure or prejudice or jeopardise their use by creating incompatible land uses nearby.	Chapter 4 Description of the Project	
Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan	Policy 18 Addressing the impact of proposed minerals	Policy 18 sets out how minerals and waste development must demonstrate that the following matters have been considered and addressed.	Chapter 4 Description of the Project	A Minerals Assessment Report will be prepared for the ES. This will identify all safeguarded minerals and provide an appraisal

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Update (2017) (Ref 2C.11)	and waste development	- protecting Northamptonshire's natural resources and key environmental designations (including heritage assets), - avoiding and / or minimising potentially adverse impacts to an acceptable level, specifically addressing air emissions (including dust), odour, bioaerosols, noise and vibration, slope stability, vermin and pests, birdstrike, litter, land use conflict and cumulative impact, - impacts on flood risk as well as the flow and quantity of surface and groundwater, - ensuring built development is of a design and layout that has regard to its visual appearance in the context of the defining characteristics of the local area, - ensuring access is sustainable, safe and environmentally acceptable, and - ensuring local amenity is protected. Where applicable a site-specific management plan should be developed to ensure the implementation and maintenance of mitigation measures throughout construction, operation, decommissioning and restoration works.		of the effects of the Project against relevant minerals policy. Appendix 11B Mineral Safeguarding Assessment provides a Preliminary Minerals Resource Assessment.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy 28 Minerals Safeguarding Areas	Policy 28 explains the economic importance of safeguarding minerals from sterilisation by non-mineral development. <i>‘Development of a non-material nature within the Mineral Safeguarding Areas which is compatible with the safeguarding of minerals should not process unless:</i> <i>• It can be clearly demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Mineral Planning Authority that the mineral concerned is no longer of any value, or potential value, or that substantial (economically viable) deposits of a similar quality exist elsewhere in the country, or</i> <i>• The mineral can be extracted, where practicable, prior to the development taking place or</i> <i>• The incompatible development is of temporary nature and can be completed with the site restored to a condition that does not inhibit extraction within the timescale that the mineral is likely to be needed, or</i> <i>• The development is of a minor nature which would not inhibit extraction of the mineral resource, or</i> <i>• There is an overriding need for the development.’</i>	Chapter 4 Description of the Project	A Minerals Assessment Report will be prepared for the ES. This will identify all safeguarded minerals and provide an appraisal of the effects of the Project against relevant minerals policy. Appendix 11B Mineral Safeguarding Assessment provides a Preliminary Minerals Resource Assessment.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
	Policy 29 Safeguarding minerals and waste related development from alternative uses	Policy 29 safeguards allocated sites for mineral processing use from non-minerals related development use unless: ‘<i>alternative provision in the vicinity can be made, or if it can be clearly demonstrated that there is no longer a need for waste management, or minerals processing facility, at that location</i>’.	Chapter 4 Description of the Project	A Minerals Assessment Report will be prepared for the ES. This will identify all safeguarded minerals and provide an appraisal of the effects of the Project against relevant minerals policy. Appendix 11B Mineral Safeguarding Assessment provides a Preliminary Minerals Resource Assessment.
North Northamptonshire Contaminated Land Strategy (2023) (Ref 2C.25)		The North Northamptonshire Contaminated Land Strategy is based on Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (2012), which require local authorities to identify and manage contaminated land using a risk-based approach focused on protecting human health and the environment. It adopts the “suitable for use” principle and relies on establishing pollutant linkages to determine whether land is contaminated. The strategy operates alongside other regulatory regimes, including the planning system, with Part 2A used only where no appropriate alternative exists. It emphasises prioritisation of sites for inspection and remediation, encourages voluntary remediation and brownfield reuse, and seeks to minimise burdens on individuals and businesses.	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology	Chapter 11 Geology and Hydrogeology explains the approach in relation to land contamination. For land contamination, the reports in Appendix 11A Phase 1 Geotechnical and Geo-environmental Desktop Studies identified potential source-pathway-receptor linkages to inform a risk-based assessment. In the ES, an initial contamination screening assessment will be completed for each identified contamination source to determine the risk and potential for contamination.

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Charnwood Local Plan 2021-37 (adopted January 2026) (Ref 2C.26)	Policy CC1 Flood Risk Management	Policy CC1 directs development to areas of lowest flood risk through the Sequential and Exception Tests where required. It requires site-specific flood assessments, appropriate mitigation measures, sustainable drainage, surface water runoff management, consideration of cumulative flood risk impacts, and the use of flood resilience measures. Supports integrated water management and natural flood management approaches to avoid increasing and, where possible, reduce flood risk.	Chapter 10 Water Environment	The Project design is developing to avoid areas of highest flood risk wherever possible. Where flood risk cannot be avoided, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified in the FRA, which will make appropriate allowance for the effects of climate change over the Project lifetime. A preliminary FRA is outlined in Appendix 10D Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment . Drainage systems will incorporate SuDS as far as possible.
	Policy CC2 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)	Policy CC2 sets out how development can appropriately manage flood risk in an integrated way that benefits communities and the environment. It supports major development that: • <i>‘provides, where appropriate, Sustainable Drainage Systems that are integrated into development proposals having been considered as part the masterplanning of the site;</i> • <i>prioritises Sustainable Drainage Systems where the development is in an area at risk of flooding, in accordance with the criteria set out in Policy CC1;</i>	Chapter 10 Water Environment	See response above.

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		- ensures, where Sustainable Drainage Systems are used, surface water is directed to sustainable outfalls in accordance with the drainage hierarchy; - ensures that the design, construction and ongoing maintenance of Sustainable Drainage Systems is carefully and clearly defined for the lifetime of the development; and - ensures Sustainable Drainage Systems provide multifunctional benefits for amenity, recreation and wildlife, that utilise natural features, where possible. The policy also expects “non-major and minor developments to incorporate sustainable drainage systems, where there is potential for a cumulative impact”.		
	Policy EV1 Landscape	Policy EV1 sets out the careful management of development too protect and enhance the borough’s landscape. It requires new development to: “protect landscape character and to reinforce sense of place and local distinctiveness; and - to maintain the separate identities of towns and villages”	Chapter 6 Landscape Chapter 7 Visual	The preliminary assessment of effects on landscape character in Chapter 6 Landscape in this DES has been based on the landscape character assessments listed in this chapter and has been informed by the local landscape character assessments listed in this Chapter including the North East Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment,

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				Sensitivity and Capacity Study and the Lincolnshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, and any conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements. The likely landscape effects will be further developed for the ES. The approach to assessing the likely significant visual effects of the Project is explained in Section 7.5 of Chapter 7 Visual and in Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology. This includes the approach to the assessment of visual effects for residential receptors and reference to lighting and night-time effects with respect to visual amenity will be made where relevant. Chapter 7 Visual also details a preliminary visual assessment that provides a description of the visual baseline and an initial evaluation of potential change resulting from the Project, taking account of identified mitigation. This visual assessment will be updated for the ES and will be informed by a

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
				series of representative viewpoints which will include key views identified in any conservation area appraisals, neighbourhood plans or village design statements as well as the general visual amenity experienced by people living and moving around the area.
	Policy EV6 Conserving and Enhancing Biodiversity and Geodiversity	Policy EV6 sets out the approach to conserving, restoring and enhancing biodiversity, ecological networks and geodiversity interests. It seeks 10% biodiversity net gain from development, and supports development that: • <i>“protects and enhances national and local priority habitats and species;</i> • <i>protects and enhances irreplaceable habitats including trees, veteran trees</i> • <i>and ancient woodland;</i> • <i>protects and enhances biodiversity networks, including strategically</i> • <i>important links in the wildlife network between our most valuable habitats;</i> • <i>supports nature recovery particularly in areas which have protected species and priority habitats;</i> • <i>protects features of geodiversity value and enhances their interpretation;</i>	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	National Grid has committed to 10% Net Gain in environmental value including as a minimum 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) across all its construction projects. A BNG assessment will be undertaken and presented in a separate BNG report that will be submitted as part of the application for development consent. Designations, habitats and protected species have been identified within the Baseline Conditions in Section 8.6 in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity. A preliminary assessment of the likely effects on these features (and any additional features identified) has been reported in Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity. This

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		• <i>ensures biodiversity and geodiversity are maintained during construction; and</i> • <i>improves the water quality of any water body as required by the Water Framework Directive”</i> It states that where exceptional circumstances are demonstrated, there will be a requirement for adequate mitigation measures, relocation or as a last resort compensatory measures providing a 10% net gain in biodiversity value above the habitat lost.		will be further developed for the ES. Mitigation measures to ensure the conservation of ecological and geological receptors will be reported in the ES. A HRA Report will be produced to determine whether the Project is likely to have a significant effect on any European designated site (now included within the national site network), or on any site to which the same protection is applied as a matter of policy, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The HRA Report will inform the Ecology and Biodiversity chapter of the ES and will be included with the application for development consent. Design adjustments may be required as a result of the HRA process, which will be fed into the ES and application for development consent. The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include retaining habitat corridors such as

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				woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such as new links between existing areas.
	Policy EV8 Heritage	Policy EV8 seeks to conserve and enhance the historic environment. It supports development that: • <i>“protects and enhances heritage assets, including non-designated heritage assets, and prevents harm to their significance and setting;</i> • <i>incorporates Charnwood’s distinctive local building materials and architectural details to make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the area;</i> • <i>has been informed by our Conservation Area Character Appraisals, Landscape Character Appraisals, Village Design Statements and neighbourhood plans;</i> • <i>supports the sympathetic reuse of buildings of architectural or historic importance, to ensure they continue to make a positive contribution to the historic environment, and which</i>	Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage	The preliminary desk-based assessment in Chapter 9 Cultural Heritage and Appendix 9B Heritage Asset Gazetteers identifies designated and non-designated assets with a potential to be impacted by the Project and assesses their significance including any contribution from setting. Impacts on the significance including the setting of assets arising from the Project and appropriate mitigation measures are assessed in the preliminary assessment. This will be further developed for the ES.

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		<i>reinforce local distinctiveness and sense of place;</i> <i>conserves, protects and enhances heritage assets at risk through neglect, decay or other threats; and</i> <i>sensitively retrofits energy efficient measures and micro-renewables to historic buildings and in conservation areas, whilst protecting heritage assets and their setting for the future in accordance with DS4 High Quality Design and CC4 Sustainable Construction.”</i>		
	Policy EV7 Tree planting and retention	Policy EV7 seeks to increase the number of trees in Charnwood as a part of the approach to protecting and enhancing the natural environment. It supports development that: <i>“retains existing trees where appropriate;</i> <i>provides new tree planting on site, including replacing any removed non woodland tree with at least three new trees; and</i> <i>applies the latest National Forest Planting Guidelines for development proposals within the area of the National Forest and Charnwood Forest Regional Park.”</i>	Chapter 8 Ecology and Biodiversity	The Project will aim to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure features wherever possible. This would include retaining habitat corridors such as woodlands, hedgerows and tree lines to maintain links between areas of habitat, particularly those which are designated. Opportunities would be sought to create new, or enhance existing, areas of green infrastructure such as new links between existing areas.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		It requires that new trees planted should be suitable for the location and of native species. Where planting is not possible due to the size of the site, its characteristics or the impact on biodiversity, planting is encouraged at a suitable location outside of the site.		
	Policy EV11 Air Quality	Policy EV11 sets the expectation for new development to support the aim of improving air quality in the borough. It supports development that air quality in the borough. It supports development that: • <i>“does not lead to a significant impact upon, and deterioration of, local air quality resulting in unacceptable effects on human health, local amenity or the natural environment;</i> • <i>does not impede the achievement of any air quality objective(s), particularly in locations currently or historically declared as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs);</i> • <i>does not introduce a significant new source of any air pollutant;</i> • <i>does not expose its users or occupiers to concentrations in excess of air quality objectives;</i> • <i>is designed to minimise the potential for air pollution to become trapped close to the ground; and</i>	Chapter 14 Air Quality	The preliminary assessment of the impacts of the Project on Air Quality detailed in Chapter 14 Air Quality has taken into account the policies of the Local Plan. This assessment will be updated for the ES. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance and operation phases. The application for development consent will be supported by a Planning Statement, which will detail how the Project complies with all relevant national and local policy requirements.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		is supported by an air quality assessment, where appropriate.”		
Transport Strategies				
Lincolnshire Local Transport Plan 5 (Consultation Draft) (Ref 2C.12)		This transportation plan focusses on the five-year short and ten-year medium-term aspirations for the county. The key themes and strategic objectives for the plan are: - Theme 1 – Supporting economic growth - Theme 2 – Future ready, green transport - Theme 3 – Promote thriving environments - Theme 4 – Supporting safety, security and a healthy lifestyle - Theme 5 – Promoting high aspirations - Theme 6 – Improve quality of life	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	The Project proposals will seek to minimise or avoid impact on transport networks and maintain connectivity.
Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (Adopted March 2012) (Ref 2C.13)		This transportation plan describes six overarching objectives: - Fit for the Future. - Fit for the Community. - Fit to Choose. - Fit for Economic Growth. - Fit for the Environment. - Fit for Best Value.	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	The Project proposals will seek to minimise or avoid impact on transport networks and maintain connectivity.

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West Northamptonshire Council Local Transport Plan (Adopted March 2025) (Ref 2C.14)		The Local Transport Plan sets out West Northamptonshire’s priorities for the next five years and beyond: • Objective 1: Improve the accessibility of the public transport, walking and cycling networks, to promote a system that is fair and provides attractive travel alternatives to key destinations. • Objective 2: Create thriving communities through local investment in a more resilient transport network, services and the public realm in urban and rural towns and villages across West Northamptonshire • Objective 3: Improve road safety and reducing pollution, while expanding active travel networks and supporting infrastructure that facilitates improved public health outcomes. • Objective 4: Enhance local environments and further reduce carbon emissions from transport by investing in low carbon and electric modes, mindful of local heritage. • Objective 5: Reduce inequalities through better transport connections to key employment and education opportunities, to support local socio-economic growth.	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	The Project proposals will seek to minimise or avoid impact on transport networks and maintain connectivity.

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		Objective 6: Maximise the benefits to communities and businesses through use of technology and innovation.		
Interim Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy: Engagement Draft (Ref. 2C.14)		The Interim Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy sets in place an interim strategy to deliver several key proposals identified as early priorities for, and developed ahead of, the Melton Mowbray Transport Strategy. These priorities includes the Melton Mowbray Distributor Road (MMDR) and to provide a framework to develop other measures to be put in place after the MMDR has opened.	Chapter 13 Traffic and Transport	The Project proposals will seek to minimise or avoid impact on transport networks and maintain connectivity.
Local Economic Policy				
Greater Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy (Ref 2C.16)		Local Industrial Strategies are long-term plans that aim to build on local economic strengths and opportunities and promote the coordination of local economic policy and national funding streams. The GLLEP Local Industrial Strategy sets the economic priorities for Lincolnshire to 2030 and beyond and has been developed in partnership with public and private sector stakeholders. The Strategy recognises renewable energy and associated infrastructure as a priority sector for the regional economy and outlines the potential wider economic benefits for Lincolnshire from the planned	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project in the ES.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		investments in offshore wind capacity for sites off the Lincolnshire coastline. A key aim of the Strategy is to enhance supply chain links to facilitate the transition to low carbon and low cost flexible grid systems. The agri-food industry is also outlined as a priority sector, and the Strategy outlines a plan to enhance the international competitiveness of the sector through resource efficiency. The main concentrations of the food industry are in North East Lincolnshire and the South Holland and Boston areas of Lincolnshire. A further focus of the Strategy is the visitor economy and the contribution of tourism to the regional economy. The Strategy outlines the vision to create a Tourism Zone, which is a key initiative of the UK Tourism Sector Deal to increase off-season visits and the productivity of the tourism sector through digital skills training and apprenticeships. Key statistics of the contribution of the key regional sector presented in the Strategy are summarised below. The energy industry supports approximately 5,900 jobs in Greater Lincolnshire, and 210 local businesses operate within this sector. The agri-food industry supports approximately 75,000 jobs and contributes £3.7 billion to regional		

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		Gross Value Added (GVA). This represents 18% of Lincolnshire's GVA, compared to 3% nationally.		
Greater Lincolnshire LEP Employment and Skills Advisory Panel Local Skills Report (Ref 2C.17)		The Local Skills Report sets out the local skills strengths and needs across Greater Lincolnshire. High skill opportunities in growth sectors, including decarbonisation and offshore wind, are identified as a regional strength. However, the Report recognises that a higher level of technical skill is needed among the resident population to benefit from these opportunities. The greatest job vacancies in the offshore wind industry are in project management and electrical engineering professions.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment in the ES will take into account the priorities outlined in the GLLEP Local Skills Report in the assessment of potential employment and training benefits within the local and regional labour market. This will be considered during the construction and maintenance phases.
Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Management Plan 2023-2027 (Ref 2C.18)		The Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Management Plan provides a strategic focus to the development of the visitor economy in the Lincolnshire Wolds and outlines a delivery framework for the public and private sectors. The priorities and key actions of the Plan are summarised below. Priorities Maintaining and improving rights of way within the Wolds is a key priority, and the visitor economy links to broader AONB agendas such as conservation, rewilding, and recreation.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment in the ES will take into account the priorities outlined in the Lincolnshire Wolds Destination Management Plan in the assessment of socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project. This will be considered during the construction, maintenance, and operation phases.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		The tourism economy in the Wolds is still recovering from the pandemic, however the 'staycation' effect is identified as a potential opportunity for the Wolds over the short and medium term. The Plan identifies several potential specialist focus areas for the market towns in the Wolds: • Louth: Food and drink, and/or retail and market; • Spilsby: Walking and heritage; • Alford: The Manor House and Windmill; • Horncastle: Antiques and the arts; • Market Rasen: Events and performance (linked to racecourse). Actions Continue to develop pipeline and opportunities to enhance the visitor offer in the Wolds, such as small-scale accommodation development and nature viewing points. Seek to expand the walking and cycling offer. Secure potential funding opportunities such as from the Levelling Up Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Strengthen tourism delivery across a range of public sector organisations and the Love Lincolnshire Wolds Tourism Partnership. Economic impact This section provides data from economic impact modelling of the tourism economy		

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		in the Lincolnshire Wolds presented in the Plan. All data is from 2022. Annually, approximately 3.7 million tourists visit the Wolds, contributing £200m to the local economy and supporting over 2,100 Full-Time Equivalents.		
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 (Ref 2C.19)		The overarching vision of the AONB Management Plan is to sustainably manage development within the Wolds whilst maintaining its unique sense of place and its natural and cultural heritage. Policies within the AONB Management Plan are ordered by five key themes: • Theme 1: Protecting the Lincolnshire Wolds. • Theme 2: Living and Working in the Wolds. • Theme 3: Discovering the Wolds. • Theme 4: Developing the Wolds. • Theme 5: Partnerships in the Wolds. Key policies that ought to be considered in the design of the project include Policy PP5 which seeks to promote awareness and encourage consideration of the impact of adjacent development on the views to and from the AONB. Policy PP9 which states that, to ensure that where larger scale development must proceed within or adjacent to the AONB, because of other national interests, the highest regard is	Chapter 6 Landscape Chapter 7 Visual	This document is a Management Plan which does not form part of the Local Development Plan in terms of planning policy, although has been prepared and endorsed by the LPAs affected by the AONB designation (East and West Lindsey and North East Lincolnshire Councils). As such the management plan is a material consideration for the Project. No above ground infrastructure would fall within the boundaries of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (formerly AONB). An assessment of likely significant indirect effects on the natural beauty and special qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape (formerly AONB) set out in Table 1 of the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB Management Plan 2018-2023 will be informed by a setting study prepared for the designated

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		placed on minimising any impacts upon the primary purpose of the designation – the area’s natural beauty.		area and reported as part of the landscape chapter in the ES. Effects on key views to and from the AONB will be assessed and reported in the visual chapter of the ES. The approach to assessing likely significant effects is explained in Appendix 6A Landscape Assessment Methodology and Appendix 7A Visual Assessment Methodology .
South Holland District Council Economic Action Plan (Adopted 2019) (Ref 2C.20)		The plan outlines the vision for South Holland as a place of prosperity, wellbeing, and opportunity. It focuses on sustainable growth, business support, skills development and inward investment. Key challenges identified within the plan include low wages, skill shortages and infrastructure constraints, with initiatives to improve digital and transport infrastructure.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project in the ES.
South Kesteven Economic Development Strategy (Adopted 2024) (Ref 2C.21)		The plan outlines a vision for a thriving, innovative, and inclusive local economy. It prioritises business growth, high-quality job creation, skills development, regeneration, inward investment, and boosting the visitor economy. Key aims include raising productivity and wages above the national average, with a	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project in the ES.

Local Policy	Policy Ref	Policy Context	Relevant to EIA DES Chapter	How It Will Be Considered
		strong focus on collaboration and long-term economic resilience.		
Draft Harborough District Economic Development Strategy (Ref 2C.22)		The strategy sets out a vision for Harborough to become a distinctive economic hub in Leicestershire and the Midlands, focusing on four key themes: • Thriving People; • Places; • Enterprise; and • Environment	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project in the ES.
North Northamptonshire Council Economic Growth Strategy (Adopted 2025) (Ref 2C.23)		The strategy emphasises three pillars as key focus areas for the next five years: Business; People; and Place. The strategy aims to support sustainable business growth, develop a skilled and inclusive workforce, and enhance the area's appeal for investment, residents, and visitors.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project in the ES.
One West Northamptonshire Plan (Ref 2C.24)		The strategy focuses on seven key priorities: productive, exclusive and enterprising; accessible and connected; thriving towns and neighbourhoods; more and better quality homes; best place to grow up; best place to live and age well; and an efficient and enabling council.	Chapter 16 Socio-economics, Recreation and Tourism	The assessment will consider the local economic priorities when assessing the socio-economic, tourism, and recreation impacts of the Project in the ES.

2C.2 References

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- Ref 2C.2 Melton Borough Council (2018) Melton Local Plan 2011-2036 (Adopted October 2018). [online] Available at: <https://www.meltonplan.co.uk/adoptedplan> [Accessed 9 December 2025].
- Ref 2C.3 South Kesteven District Council (2020) South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011-2036 (Adopted January 2020). [online] Available at: <https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning-policy-local-plans/south-kesteven-local-plan> [Accessed 7 August 2025].
- Ref 2C.4 Harborough District Council (2019) Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019). [online] Available at: https://www.harborough.gov.uk/info/20004/planning_strategy/220/harborough_local_plan_2011-2031 [Accessed 9 December 2025].
- Ref 2C.5 Harborough District Council (2026) New Local Plan [online]. Available at: https://www.harborough.gov.uk/info/20004/planning_strategy/528/new_local_plan [Accessed 30 July 2026].
- Ref 2C.6 North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2016 & 2021) North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategies 2011-2031 (Adopted July 2016) and Part 2 Local Plans. [online] Available at: <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/planning-strategies-and-plans/north-northamptonshire-local-plan> [Accessed 9 December 2025].
- Ref 2C.7 West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit (2014) West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Adopted December 2014). [online] Available at: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/west-northamptonshire-joint-core-strategy/west-northamptonshire-joint-core-strategy-local-plan-part> [Accessed 9 December 2025].
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- Ref 2C.11 Northamptonshire County Council (2017) Northamptonshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Adopted July 2017). [online] Available

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- Ref 2C.13 Northamptonshire County Council (2012) Northamptonshire Transportation Plan (Adopted March 2012). [online] Available at: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-04/Northamptonshire-Transportation-Plan.pdf> [Accessed 9 December 2025].
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- Ref 2C.16 Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (2021) Greater Lincolnshire Local Industrial Strategy. [online] Available at: https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/documents/GLLEP_Local_Industrial_Strategy_%282021%29.pdf [Accessed 9 December 2025].
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