



Fosse Green Energy

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

VOLUME

3

**Appendix 12-A: Socio-Economics
Policy and Legislation**

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Appendix

- 1.1.1 This Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report appendix identifies and describes the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered relevant to the assessment of the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on Socio-Economics.
- 1.1.2 Legislation, policy and guidance are considered at national, regional and local levels.
- 1.1.3 This PEI Report appendix does not assess the Proposed Development against legislation and policy; instead the purpose of considering legislation and policy in the Environmental Impact Assessment is twofold:
 - a. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the determination of important socio-economic features (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
 - b. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the methodology of the EIA and signposting where this is dealt with in the PEI Report. For example, a policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.1.4 The following sections identify and describe the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered specifically relevant to the Socio-Economic assessment (the assessment) as presented in **PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use**.

2. National Legislation, Policy and guidance

2.1 National Legislation

- 2.1.1 There is no legislation of relevance to the assessment of socio-economic effects.

2.2 National Policy Statements

- 2.2.1 The EIA takes account of the following National Policy Statements (NPSs), designated in January 2024, which have effect in relation to the Proposed

Development and provide a framework for decision making by the Secretary of State:

- a. Overarching National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-1) (Ref 1);
- b. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref 2); and
- c. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 3).

2.2.2 The NPSs set out the Government's energy policy infrastructure for delivery of major energy infrastructure, along with the need for new infrastructure and guidance for determining applications DCOs. The NPSs provide specific guidance and criteria that applicants should cover when assessing the effects of their Proposed Development, and how the Secretary of State should consider these impacts and any mitigation measures applied.

2.2.3 The relevant NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-3 requirements for socio-economics are provided in **Table 1** and **Table 2**, along with an indication of where in the PEI Report this information can be sourced. NPS EN-5 does not contain requirements specifically relevant to socio-economics and land use assessment for the Proposed Development.



Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)

Table 1: NPS EN-1 Requirements Relevant to Socio-Economics Assessment

NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
Paragraph 2.1.3	To produce the energy required for the UK and ensure it can be transported to where it is needed, a significant amount of infrastructure is needed at both local and national scale. High quality infrastructure is crucial for economic growth, boosting productivity and competitiveness. Part 3 of this NPS provides further details on the need for, and importance of, energy to economic prosperity and social well-being.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
Paragraph 5.13.2	Where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local or regional levels, the applicant should undertake and include in their application an assessment of these impacts as part of the ES.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
Paragraph 5.13.4	The applicant's assessment should consider all relevant socio-economic impacts, which may include: • 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. • The contribution to the development of low-carbon industries at the local and regional level as well as nationally. • The provision of additional local services and improvements to local infrastructure, including the provision of educational and visitor facilities. • Any indirect beneficial impacts for the region hosting the infrastructure, in particular in relation to use of local support services and supply chains. • Effects (positive and negative) on tourism and other users of the area impacted. • 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,	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio-Economics Section 12.10 of PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio-Economics



NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
	water, transport and waste). There could also be effects on social cohesion depending on how populations and service provision change as a result of the development. Cumulative effects - if development consent were to be granted to 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.	
Paragraph 5.13.7	Applicants should consider developing accommodation strategies where appropriate, especially during construction and decommissioning phases, that would include the need to provide temporary accommodation for construction workers if required.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1 Chapter 12: Socio-Economics

National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)

Table 2: NPS EN-3 Requirements Relevant to Socio-Economics Assessment

NPS EN-3 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
Paragraphs 2.10.40 to 2.10.42	Proposals should consider effects on provision of local footpaths and public rights of way (PRoW) which may need to be temporarily closed or diverted due to construction or operation. It should also be the applicant's intention to keep all PRoW open where practicable and safe to do so, and put in place measures to protect users where a PRoW crosses or borders a site. Applicants are encouraged to do so through design of the layout and appearance of the site to ensure continued recreation use of PRoW, particularly during operation of the site.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
Paragraph 2.10.69	Applicants should set out what would be decommissioned and removed from the site at the end of the operational life of the generating station, considering instances where [...] there may be socio-economic benefits in retaining site infrastructure after the operational life, such as retaining pathways through the site or a site substation.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref 4) sets out the Governments planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Paragraph 5 outlines that while the NPPF does not contain specific policies for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), the NPPF is still relevant when considering the determination of DCOs. As a result, the EIA is taking the NPPF into account.
- 2.3.2 Paragraph 8 defines three overarching objectives within the NPPF, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways:
- a. **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;
 - b. **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 a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - c. **An environmental objective:** to contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, helping to improve biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.
- 2.3.3 Relevant NPPF requirements relating to socio-economic and land use, along with an indication of where this information is located within the PEI Report to address these requirements, are provided in **Table 3**.



Table 3: Relevant NPPF Paragraph Reference

Relevant NPPF Paragraph Reference	Relevant policies	Location of information provided to address this policy
Paragraph 85	Sets out guidance in relation to building a strong, competitive economy. It states that <i>“significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development”</i> . This approach is taken to allow areas to grow their strengths and address challenges of the future.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use Section 12.10 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
Paragraph 104	Relates to promoting healthy and safe communities and states that <i>“planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users”</i> .	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
Paragraph 180	Addresses conserving and enhancing the natural environment and notes that decisions should recognise that <i>“planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users “intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland”</i> .	

2.4 National Guidance

National Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.4.1 National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) (Ref 5) was published on the 24 June 2014 and revised in 2019, and provides more in-depth guidance to the NPPF. The NPPG on 'Renewable and Low Carbon energy' outlines particular factors that need considering when planning for large scale ground-mounted solar photovoltaic farms. These factors include:
- a. *"encouraging the effective use of land by focussing large scale solar farms on previously developed and non agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value;*
 - b. *where a proposal involves greenfield land, whether (i) the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and poorer quality land has been used in preference to higher quality land; and (ii) the proposal allows for continued agricultural use where applicable and/or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays"*
- 2.4.2 This guidance also emphasises the need for local planning authorities to incorporate the existing and potential future needs of the population into their planning and economic strategy, in terms of economic development, jobs and employment opportunities.

3. Local Policy and Guidance

3.1 Local Planning Policy

- 3.1.1 Local planning policy documents concerning Socio-economics and Land Use that are relevant to the Proposed Development, have been outline below and policy relevant to these documents further considered within **Table 3**.

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)

- 3.1.2 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Ref 6) was adopted in April 2023 and is a revision of the previous Central Lincolnshire Plan that was adopted in 2017. The Local Plan was revised to ensure it remains current and consistent with latest national guidelines and local circumstances. The Local Plan contains planning policies and allocations for the growth and regeneration of Central Lincolnshire over the next 20 years.

Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.1.3 Basingham Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036 (Ref 8), adopted on 23 November 2017, provides a relevant policy and guidance on socio-economics. This can be found in **Table 4**.



Table 4: Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to Socio-Economics

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of Information provided to address this policy
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)	Policy S5: Development in the Countryside states that proposals for non-residential developments will be supported provided that: the rural location of the enterprise is justifiable by means of enhancing the local economy or proximity to existing features; the location is suitable in terms of accessibility; the location would not result in conflict with neighbouring uses and the development is of a size and scale commensurate with the proposed use and character of the location.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
	Policy S14: Renewable Energy discusses the transition to net zero carbon and states that <i>“proposals for renewable energy schemes, including ancillary development, will be supported where the direct, indirect, individual and cumulative impacts on the following considerations are or will be made, acceptable”</i> . Impacts assessed should include those on the amenity of sensitive neighbouring uses (including local residents) by virtue of matters such as noise, dust, odour, air quality and traffic.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use Section 12.10 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
	Policy S42: Sustainable Urban Tourism sets out that development proposals which result in the loss of facilities or attractions that support the visitor economy, including hostels and guesthouses, will not be permitted except in specific circumstances where there are overriding benefits from the proposal and the existing use is demonstrated to be unviable.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
	Policy S48: Walking and Cycling Infrastructure states that proposals should: Protect, maintain and improve existing infrastructure; Provide high quality attractive routes that are safe, direct, legible and pleasant and are integrated into the wider network; Ensure the provision of appropriate information, including signposting and way-finding to encourage the safe use of the network; Encourage the use of supporting facilities, especially along principal cycle routes;	



Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of Information provided to address this policy
	Make provision for secure cycle parking facilities in new developments and in areas with high visit numbers across Central Lincolnshire; and Consider the needs of all users through inclusive design	
	Policy S50: Community Facilities highlights the importance of community facilities in achieving and maintaining sustainable, well-integrated and inclusive places. As such, the policy sets out that, where possible, the loss of community facilities due to developments will not be supported.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use
	Policy S59: Green and Blue Infrastructure outlines that green and blue infrastructure in Central Lincolnshire will be safeguarded. Development proposals should ensure the safeguarding of existing and new green and blue infrastructure.	
	Policy S65: Important Open Space sets out that important open spaces, including churchyards, cemeteries, recreation grounds and local authority owned allotments will be safeguarded from development	
	Policy S67: Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land sets out that “proposals should protect the best and most versatile agricultural land so as to protect opportunities for food production and the continuance of the agricultural economy”. Development resulting in the loss of best and most versatile agricultural land will be supported in specific circumstances, including if: The need for the proposed development has been clearly established and there is insufficient lower grade land available; The benefits and/or sustainability considerations outweigh the need to protect such land when taking into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. The impacts of the proposal upon ongoing agricultural operations have been minimised through the use of appropriate design solutions; and Where feasible, once any development which is supported has ceased its useful life the land will be restored to its former use.	



Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of Information provided to address this policy
Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036	CL1: Protection of Locally Valued Key Facilities states any proposal requiring a planning application for change of use or redevelopment which would either result in the loss of, or a significant adverse impact on, any Locally Valued Key Facilities identified in Table 1 and the Key Diagram will not be permitted unless: It can be demonstrated that the harm is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm; The proposal is accompanied by a clear and proportionate demonstration of community support; or Suitable alternative replacement facilities are to be provided. Any proposal that would result in the loss of any of the Locally Valued Key Facilities should be accompanied by a demonstration that the continuing operation of the facility is not feasible or viable and how suitable alternative facilities will be provided.	Section 12.7 of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use

3.2 Local Guidance

Protecting, Progressing, Prospering: Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Plan for Growth (2021)

- 3.2.1 The Greater Lincolnshire LEP Plan for Growth (Ref 7) was adopted in 2021 as a strategy to help guide the Greater Lincolnshire area out of the Covid-19 pandemic and to help support all parts of the region to thrive.
- 3.2.2 This strategy builds upon local industrial strategy frameworks, with 'Energy' being a priority area for growth. The Strategy states that Greater Lincolnshire aims to "Pioneer industrial decarbonisation, creating a template for other areas. We will be a test bed for technologies in clean energy generation, storage and distribution".

4. References

- Ref 1 Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) (2023) National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1). Available at: [EN-1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-energy/national-policy-statement-for-energy-2023/national-policy-statement-for-energy-2023-1)
- Ref 2 DESNZ (2023). National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\) \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-2023/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-2023-3)
- Ref 3 DESNZ (2023). National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN5). Available at: [Electricity Networks National Policy Statement - EN-5 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-2023/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-2023-5)
- Ref 4 Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) (2023) National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65819679fc07f3000d8d4495/NPPF December 2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65819679fc07f3000d8d4495/NPPF_December_2023.pdf)
- Ref 5 DLUHC (2021) National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG). Available at: [Planning practice guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-practice-guidance).
- Ref 6 Central Lincolnshire (2023). Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023). Available at: <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/Local%20Plan%20for%20adoption%20Approved%20by%20Committee.pdf>
- Ref 7 Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) (2021) Plan for Growth.
- Ref 8 Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036 (2017) Available at: https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/bassingham_neighbourhood_plan.pdf