



Fosse Green Energy

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

VOLUME

3

**Appendix 6-A: Climate Change
Policy and Legislation**

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Fosse Green Energy Limited

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Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1	Purpose of the Appendix	1
2.	National Legislation, Policy and Guidance	1
2.1	National Legislation	1
2.2	National Policy Statements	3
2.3	National Planning Policy Framework	13
2.4	Other National Policy and Guidance	15
3.	Local Policy and Guidance	16
3.1	Local Planning Policy	16
3.2	Local Guidance	19
4.	References	20

Tables

Table 1: NPS EN-1 Requirements Relevant to Climate Change	4
Table 2: NPS EN-5 Requirements Relevant to Climate Change	12
Table 3: Relevant NPPF Policy for Climate Change	14
Table 4: Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to Climate Change	17

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the 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 Climate Change.
- 1.1.2 Legislation and policy are considered at both national and local levels.
- 1.1.3 This appendix does not assess the Proposed Development against legislation and policy, instead the purpose of considering legislation and policy in the EIA is twofold;
 - a. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the determination of important Climate features (and therefore the significance of effects) and any requirements for mitigation; and
 - b. To identify legislation and policy that could influence the methodology to be used within the PEI Report assessment and/or within the EIA which will be presented in the Environmental Statement. For example, a policy may require the assessment of an impact or the use of a specific methodology.
- 1.1.4 The following sections identify and describe the legislation, policy and supporting guidance considered specifically relevant to the Climate Change assessment (the assessment) as presented in **PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change**.

2. National Legislation, Policy and Guidance

2.1 National Legislation

The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations (2017)

- 2.1.1 Regulation 5 of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2017 (Ref 1) sets out that an EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in light of each individual case, the direct and indirect likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on Climate Change.

The Paris Agreement (2015) and UK Nationally Determined Contribution (2020)

- 2.1.2 The Paris Agreement (2015) (Ref 2) is a legally binding international treaty on Climate Change. Its overarching goal is to hold “the increase in global temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and pursue efforts to “limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels”. Since 2020, countries have been submitting their national climate action plans known as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), each NDC is supposed to reflect an increasing degree of ambition than its predecessor.
- 2.1.3 In December 2020, the United Kingdom (UK) communicated its NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Ref 3) in line with Article 4 of the Paris Agreement. In this NDC, the UK commits to reducing economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions by at least 68% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels.
- 2.1.4 The UK Nationally Determined Contribution (Ref 4) was updated in 2022 and provided the UK’s updated formal submission of the updated NDC to the UNFCCC under the Paris Agreement, in response to the Glasgow Climate Pact.

The Climate Change Act 2008 and Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019

- 2.1.5 The Climate Change Act 2008 (Ref 5) set a legally binding target for the UK to ensure that the net UK carbon amount for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline. This target is supported by legally binding ‘carbon budgets’ that place restriction on the total amount of greenhouse gases the UK can emit over a 5-year period, along with support from the Climate Change Committee (CCC), an independent body to monitor progress.
- 2.1.6 Section 1 of the Climate Change Act 2008 was amended in 2019 through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 (Ref 6) to revise the target of 80% lower emissions than 1990 baseline, to 100%.

Carbon Budgets

- 2.1.7 Under the Carbon Budgets system, every tonne of greenhouse gases emitted up to 2050 will count. Where emissions rise in one sector, the UK will have to achieve corresponding falls in another. The following Carbon Budgets have been published to date:
- The Carbon Budgets Order 2009 (Ref 7) sets the carbon budget totals for the First (2008-2012), Second (2013-2017) and Third (2018-2022) Carbon Budget periods;
 - The Carbon Budget Order 2011 (Ref 8) sets the carbon budget total for the Fourth (2023-2027) Carbon Budget period;
 - The Carbon Budget Order 2016 (Ref 9) sets the carbon budget total for the Fifth (2028-2032) Carbon Budget period; and

- d. The Carbon Budget Order 2021 (Ref 10) sets the carbon budget total for the Sixth (2033-2037) Carbon Budget period.

2.2 National Policy Statements

- 2.2.1 EIA takes account of the following National Policy Statements (NPSs), 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 Energy (EN-1) (Ref 11);
 - b. National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (Ref 12); and
 - c. National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Ref 13).
- 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 for Development Consent Orders (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 requirements for Climate Change are provided in in **Table 1** and **Table 2**, along with an indication of where in the PEI Report this information can be sourced. NPS EN-3 contains a section on Climate Change adaption in Section 2.3, but this is not relevant to the Proposed Development. Therefore, only requirements from NPS EN-1 and NPS EN-5 are considered in **Table 1** and **Table 2**.

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) November 2023

Table 1: NPS EN-1 Requirements Relevant to Climate Change

NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
Paragraph 2.1.6	This energy NPS considers the large-scale infrastructure which will be required to ensure the UK can provide a secure, reliable, and affordable supply of energy, while also meeting our decarbonisation targets	The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change provides an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on the UK's net zero pathway and its potential impact on fossil fuels.
Paragraph 2.2.1	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. In December 2020, the UK communicated its Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce GHG emissions by at least 68 per cent from 1990 levels by 2030. 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 Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change provides an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on the UK's net zero pathway and its potential impact on fossil fuels. Legislation, planning policy and guidance related to the assessment are summarised in Legislation and Planning Policy (Section 6.2) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
Paragraph 4.10.5	In certain circumstances, measures implemented to ensure a scheme can adapt to climate change may give rise to additional impacts, for example as a result of protecting against flood risk, there may be consequential impacts on coastal change. In preparing measures to support climate change adaptation applicants should take reasonable steps to maximise the use of nature-based solutions alongside other conventional techniques.	Embedded Mitigation Measures (Section 6.6) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change outlines embedded adaptation measures to ensure the Proposed Development is resilient to climate change. The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change provides an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on climate taking into account embedded measures that are incorporated into the design from the outset or identified through the assessment process.

NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
Paragraph 4.10.8	New energy infrastructure will typically need to remain operational over many decades, in the face of a changing climate. Consequently, applicants must consider the direct (e.g. site flooding, limited water availability, storms, heatwave and wildfire threats to infrastructure and operations) and indirect (e.g. access roads or other critical dependencies impacted by flooding, storms, heatwaves or wildfires) impacts of climate change when planning the location, design, build, operation and, where appropriate, decommissioning of new energy infrastructure.	Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change summarises the climate change risk assessment and outlines the assessment outputs.
Paragraph 4.10.9	The ES should set out how the proposal will take account of the projected impacts of climate change, using government guidance and industry standard benchmarks such as the Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments, Climate Impacts Tool, and British Standards for climate change adaptation, in accordance with the EIA Regulations.	The UKCP18 projections were used in the Climate Change risk assessment to take account of the projected impacts of climate change. The Assessment Methodology (Section 6.4) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change sets out the methodology and the applicable government guidance and industry standards adopted for the preliminary assessment.
Paragraph 4.10.10	Applicants should assess the impacts on and from their proposed energy project across a range of climate change scenarios, in line with appropriate expert advice and guidance available at the time.	The 10%, 50% and 90% percentiles of the UKCP 18 probabilistic projections and the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 scenario, are considered for climate parameters as outlined in the Baseline Conditions (Section 6.5) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
Paragraph 4.10.11	Applicants should demonstrate that proposals have a high level of climate resilience built-in from the outset and should also demonstrate how proposals can be adapted over their predicted lifetimes to remain resilient to a credible maximum climate change scenario. These results should	The UKCP18 projections were used in the Climate Change risk assessment as detailed in the Assessment Method (Section 6.4) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change . Embedded Mitigation Measures (Section 6.6) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change outlines embedded adaptation

NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
	be considered alongside relevant research which is based on the climate change projections.	measures to ensure the Proposed Development is resilient to climate change.
Paragraph 4.10.12	Where energy infrastructure has safety critical elements, the applicant should apply a credible maximum climate change scenario. It is appropriate to take a risk-averse approach with elements of infrastructure which are critical to the safety of its operation.	As a precautionary approach, the UKCP18 RCP 8.5 (high emissions) scenario was chosen as outlined in the Baseline Conditions (Section 6.5) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
Paragraph 4.10.13	The Secretary of State should be satisfied that applicants for new energy infrastructure have taken into account the potential impacts of climate change using the latest UK Climate Projections and associated research and expert guidance (such as the EA's Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments or the Welsh Government's Climate change allowances and flood consequence assessments) available at the time the ES was prepared to ensure they have identified appropriate mitigation or adaptation measures. This should cover the estimated lifetime of the new infrastructure, including any decommissioning period.	The latest guidance and climate projections have been used as detailed in the Assessment Methodology (Section 6.4) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
Paragraph 4.10.16	If any adaptation measures give rise to consequential impacts (for example on flooding, water resources or coastal change) the Secretary of State should consider the impact of the latter in relation to the application as a whole and the impacts guidance set out in Part 5 of this NPS.	The In-Combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) assessment considers potential consequential impacts from the combined impact of the Proposed Development and Climate Change as detailed in the Assessment Methodology (Section 6.4) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change . ICCI assessment will be undertaken alongside the further development of the Proposed Development design as it progresses, and the outputs will be presented in the ES.

NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
Paragraph 4.10.17	Any adaptation measures should be based on the latest set of UK Climate Projections, the government's latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, when available, and in consultation with the EA's Climate Change Allowances for Flood Risk Assessments or the Welsh Government's Climate change allowances and flood consequence assessments	The latest guidance and climate projections have been used as detailed in the Assessment Methodology (Section 6.4) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change , which has informed the development of the embedded adaptation measures to ensure the Proposed Development is resilient to Climate Change as outlined in Embedded Measures (Section 6.6) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
Paragraph 4.10.19	Adaptation measures can be required to be implemented at the time of construction where necessary and appropriate to do so. However, where they are necessary to deal with the impact of climate change, and that measure would have an adverse effect on other aspects of the project and/or surrounding environment (for example coastal processes), the Secretary of State may consider requiring the applicant to ensure that the adaptation measure could be implemented should the need arise, rather than at the outset of the development (for example increasing height of existing, or requiring new, sea walls).	Embedded Measures (Section 6.6) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change outlines embedded adaptation measures to ensure the Proposed Development is resilient to Climate Change.
Paragraph 5.3.4	All proposals for energy infrastructure projects should include a GHG assessment as part of their ES (See Section 4.3). This should include: • A whole life GHG assessment showing construction, operational and decommissioning GHG impacts, including impacts from change of land use. • An explanation of the steps that have been taken to drive down the climate change impacts at each of those stages.	The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change presents a whole-life carbon assessment. It also summarises the Climate Change risk assessment and outlines the assessment outputs. Embodied carbon during the construction stage is also measured in the Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change, which also discusses energy consumption.

NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
	• Measurement of embodied GHG impact from the construction stage. • How reduction in energy demand and consumption during operation has been prioritised in comparison with other measures. • How operational emissions have been reduced as much as possible through the application of best available techniques for that type of technology. • Calculation of operational energy consumption and associated carbon emissions. • Whether and how any residual GHG emissions will be (voluntarily) offset or removed using a recognised framework. • 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.	Embedded Mitigation Measures (Section 6.6) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change discusses operational emissions mitigation measures. The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change discusses operational emissions. Residual emissions are discussed in The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change.
Paragraph 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 objectives of ensuring our supply of energy always remains secure, reliable and affordable, as we transition to net zero.	The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change presents a whole-life carbon assessment. GHG mitigation measures are outlined in the Embedded Mitigation Measures (Section 6.6) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change.
Paragraph 5.3.6	Applicants should look for opportunities within the proposed development to embed nature-based or technological	GHG mitigation measures are outlined in the Embedded Mitigation Measures (Section 6.6) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change.

NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
	solutions to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning.	
Paragraph 5.3.7	Steps taken to minimise and offset emissions should be set out in a GHG Reduction Strategy, secured under the Development Consent Order. The GHG Reduction Strategy should consider the creation and preservation of carbon stores and sinks including through woodland creation, hedgerow creation and restoration, peatland restoration and through other natural habitats.	GHG mitigation measures are outlined in the Embedded Mitigation Measures (Section 6.6) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .
Paragraph 5.3.8	The Secretary of State must be satisfied that the applicant has as far as possible assessed the GHG emissions of all stages of the development.	The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change presents a whole-life carbon assessment.
Paragraph 5.3.9	The Secretary of State should be content that the applicant has taken all reasonable steps to reduce the GHG emissions of the construction and decommissioning stage of the development.	The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change presents a whole-life carbon assessment.
Paragraph 5.3.10	The Secretary of State should give appropriate weight to projects that embed nature-based or technological processes to mitigate or offset the emissions of construction and decommissioning within the proposed development. However, in light of the vital role energy infrastructure plays in the process of economy wide decarbonisation, the Secretary of State must accept that there are likely to be some residual emissions from construction and decommissioning of energy infrastructure.	GHG mitigation measures are outlined in the Embedded Mitigation Measures (Section 6.6) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change .

NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
Paragraph 5.3.12	Operational emissions will be addressed in a managed, economy-wide manner, to ensure consistency with carbon budgets, net zero and our international climate commitments. The Secretary of State does not, therefore need to assess individual applications for planning consent against operational carbon emissions and their contribution to carbon budgets, net zero and our international climate commitments.	The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change provides an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on the UK's net zero pathway.
Paragraph 5.16.7	The ES should in particular describe: • The existing quality of waters affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water quality, noting any relevant existing discharges, proposed new discharges and proposed changes to discharges • Existing water resources affected by the proposed project and the impacts of the proposed project on water resources, noting any relevant existing abstraction rates, proposed new abstraction rates and proposed changes to abstraction rates (including any impact on or use of mains supplies and reference to Abstraction Licensing Strategies) and also demonstrate how proposals minimise the use of water resources and water consumption in the first instance • Existing physical characteristics of the water environment (including quantity and dynamics of flow) affected by the proposed project and any impact of physical modifications to these characteristics. • Any impacts of the proposed project on water bodies or protected areas (including shellfish protected areas)	Mitigation measures are covered in PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment. ICCI assessment considers potential consequential impacts from the combined impact of the Proposed Development and Climate Change as detailed in the Assessment Methodology (Section 6.4) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change. ICCI assessment will be undertaken alongside the further development of the Proposed Development's design as it progresses, and the outputs will be presented in the ES.

NPS EN-1 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
	under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and source protection zones (SPZs) around potable groundwater abstractions. • How climate change could impact any of the above in the future • Any cumulative effects	

National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-5), November 2023

Table 2: NPS EN-5 Requirements Relevant to Climate Change

NPS EN-5 paragraph	Requirement	Where this is addressed in the PEI Report
Paragraph 2.3.2	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 flooding, particularly for substations that are vital to the network; and especially in light of changes to groundwater levels resulting from climate change; • effects of wind and storms on overhead lines; • higher average temperatures leading to increased transmission losses; and earth movement or subsidence caused by flooding or drought (for underground cables).	Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change sets out the Climate Change hazards considered for the assessment in alignment with the Government's energy and climate strategy and policies.
Paragraph 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 Sections 5.8 in EN-1). Consideration should also be given to coastal change (see sections 5.6 in EN1).	Other chapters, such as PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 9: Water Environment consider Climate Change impacts such as flooding.

2.3 National Planning Policy Framework

- 2.3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2023) (Ref 15) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Paragraph 5 outlines that while the Framework 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 Section 14 of the NPPF explains how local planning authorities should determine planning applications with regard to Climate Change, and the national planning policy associated with meeting the challenge of Climate Change, flooding and coastal change. Relevant NPPF requirements relating to Climate Change, 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 Policy for Climate Change

Relevant NPPF Paragraph Reference	Requirement of the NPPF	Location of information provided to address this
Paragraph 157	The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk 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.	The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change summarises the Proposed Development's impact on the net-zero trajectory and the Climate Change risk assessment and outlines the assessment outputs
Paragraph 159	New development should be planned for in ways that: 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 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.	The Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change assesses the Proposed Development's vulnerability to Climate Change and the Proposed Development's impact on the National Carbon Budgets and existing policy.

2.4 Other National Policy and Guidance

UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (2022)

- 2.4.1 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (Ref 16) outlines the UK Government and devolved administrations' position on the key Climate Change risks and opportunities that the UK faces today.
- 2.4.2 As required by the Climate Change Act 2008, the UK Government undertook this Risk Assessment to outline the position on key risks posed by Climate Change, and the opportunities that the UK faces today.

National Planning Practice Guidance

- 2.4.3 Planning Practice Guidance, Climate Change (Ref 26) guidance describes how to identify suitable mitigation and climate adaptation measures to incorporate into the planning process, stating that: *“Effective spatial planning is an important part of a successful response to climate change as it can influence the emission of greenhouse gases... Planning can also help increase resilience to climate change impact through the location, mix and design of development.”*

Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)

- 2.4.4 The Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (Ref 17) sets out policies and proposals for decarbonizing all sectors of the UK economy to meet our net zero target by 2050. This strategy sets out policies and proposals for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy to meet a net zero target by 2050. One of the key policies is for the UK to be entirely powered by clean energy sources (predominantly solar and wind), by 2035.

Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future (2020)

- 2.4.5 The Energy White Paper (Ref 18) sets out how the UK will clean up its energy system and reach net zero emissions by 2050. The white paper emphasises that achieving net zero and combatting Climate Change is of the highest priority in order to successfully meet the challenge of becoming the first net zero major economy.

Powering up Britain (2023)

- 2.4.6 Powering Up Britain (Ref 19) was published in 2023 and sets out how the UK Government will enhance our country's energy security, seize the economic opportunities of the transition, and deliver on net zero commitments. To meet this ambition, the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero will deliver energy security, consumer security, climate security and economic security.

National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)

- 2.4.7 The National Infrastructure Strategy (Ref 20) was published in 2020 and sets out plans to transform UK infrastructure in order to level up the country,

strengthen the Union and achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Within this it states *“The government wants to deliver an infrastructure revolution: a radical improvement in the quality of the UK’s infrastructure to help level up the country, strengthen the Union, and put the UK on the path to net zero emissions by 2050”*.

Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)

- 2.4.8 Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their *Significance* (Ref. 26) provides the latest guidance on addressing GHG emissions assessment and mitigation in EIA.
- 2.4.9 IEMA Environmental Impact Assessment Guide to: Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation (Ref. 27) provides a framework for the consideration of Climate Change resilience and adaptation in EIA and includes case studies of emerging good practice.

3. Local Policy and Guidance

3.1 Local Planning Policy

- 3.1.1 Local planning policy documents concerning climate that are relevant to the Proposed Development, have been outlined below and policy relevant to these documents are further considered within **Table 4**.

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)

- 3.1.2 The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Ref 21) 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 Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036 (Ref 25) was made on 23 November 2017 and contains a policy specific to renewable energy schemes. This can be found within **Table 4**.

Table 4: Relevant Local Policy and Guidance with respect to Climate Change

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2023)	Policy S11: Embodied Carbon states that from the 1st of January 2025, there will be a requirement for all major development proposals to demonstrate how the design and building materials to be used have been informed by a consideration of the embodied carbon, and any reasonable opportunities to minimize this. Policy S14: Renewable Energy states that <i>“The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee is committed to supporting the transition to a net zero carbon future and will seek to maximise appropriately located renewable energy generated in Central Lincolnshire”</i>, with solar explicitly earmarked as likely development. Policy S16: Wider Energy Infrastructure outlines that the Joint Committee are committed to supporting the transition to net zero and supports, in principle, the need for investment in new energy infrastructure. This policy states <i>“support will be given to proposals which are necessary for, or form part of, the transition to a net zero carbon sub-region, which could: energy storage facilities; upgraded or new electricity facilities; or other electricity infrastructure.”</i>	Embodied carbon during the construction stage is measured in the Preliminary Assessment of Effects (Section 6.7) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change. This section also provides an assessment of the Proposed Development's impact on the UK's net zero pathway and its potential impact on fossil fuels.
Bassingham Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036	ES5: Renewable Energy Schemes Any proposal requiring a planning application for energy generating schemes and infrastructure using renewable energy sources, and new Renewal Energy Scheme development will be supported in the Neighbourhood Plan Area provided that: On householder/domestic schemes, and any other schemes located within the Settlement Boundary, the energy generating infrastructure is located as close as practicable and is proportionate to the scale of the existing buildings and proposed development it is intended to serve.	The In-Combination Climate Change Impact (ICCI) assessment considers potential consequential impacts from the combined impact of the Proposed Development and climate change as detailed in the Assessment Methodology (Section 6.4) of PEI Report Volume 1, Chapter 6: Climate Change. The ICCI assessment will be undertaken alongside the further development of the Proposed Development's design as it progresses,

Relevant Document	Relevant Policies	Location of information provided to address this
	The siting, scale and design of any energy generating infrastructure does not compromise public safety, allows continued safe use of public rights of way, and does not adversely affect existing amenities. Any technologies and infrastructure used to generate energy should not detract from the rural, visual and historic character of the village and the surrounding landscape setting and environment. Adjoining land uses are not adversely impacted in terms of noise, vibration, or electromagnetic interference. Where appropriate the energy generating infrastructure, and its installation complies with the Microgeneration Certification Scheme.	and the outputs will be presented in the ES.

3.2 Local Guidance

Lincolnshire County Council Green Masterplan 2020-2025

- 3.2.1 Lincolnshire County Council's Green Masterplan (Ref 22) sets out the guiding principles of how the County will achieve 'net zero carbon' by 2050, in response to climate change. The three guiding principles are "don't waste anything, consider wider opportunities and take responsibility and pride", and these help to bring focus to the Council's work and planning for reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the changing climate.
- 3.2.2 The Green Masterplan is supported by the Initial Action Plan 2020-2025 (Ref 23) which led to the development of initial projects to support in achieving national carbon reduction targets.

Lincolnshire County Council Carbon Management Plan 2019

- 3.2.3 The Carbon Management Plan (Ref 24) considers the importance of carbon management and drivers for tackling Climate Change. It identifies carbon management projects and the importance of prioritising opportunities for carbon emissions savings across the County.

North Kesteven District Council Climate emergency strategy and action plan 2023

- 3.2.4 The Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan (Ref 26) sets out the approaches the Council will take, and the actions needed to achieve net zero. This will include reducing CO₂ emissions from energy to net zero, monitoring emissions and removals of CO₂ from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry and reducing non-CO₂ emissions.

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