
FENWICK SOLAR FARM

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume I Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects and Interactions

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15. Cumulative Effects and Interactions

15.1 Introduction

- 15.1.1 This chapter considers the potential for effect interactions and cumulative effects for the Scheme (as described in **Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) Volume I Chapter 2: The Scheme**).
- 15.1.2 For this assessment, two types of effect are considered:
- a. **Effect Interactions:** the combined effect of individual impacts from the Scheme, which have been identified as part of the assessments reported within **PEIR Volume I Chapter 6 to 14** that are considered likely to result in a new or different likely significant effect, or an effect of greater significance, than any one of the impacts on their own. For example, this can happen during construction if a receptor is subjected to noise, dust, and visual impacts associated with site works; and
 - b. **Cumulative Effects:** where there is the potential for two or more developments that are reasonably foreseeable and/or consented, but not yet forming part of the baseline environment, within close enough proximity to the Scheme to lead to significant cumulative environmental effects on the same receptor. **PEIR Volume I Chapter 6 to 14** assess where there are cumulative effects, and a summary is provided in this chapter. A detailed description of the assessment methodology for cumulative effects is presented in **PEIR Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology**
- 15.1.3 With regard to effect interactions, **PEIR Volume I Chapter 6 to 14** provide preliminary conclusions on likely significant effects. This information has been used to identify the potential for combined effect interactions associated with the Scheme. The assessment of combined effect interactions will be updated and reported in the Environmental Statement (ES) that will be submitted with the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application.
- 15.1.4 Similarly, the Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) will be updated and reported in the ES when environmental effects and cumulative developments have been further confirmed.

15.2 Consultation

- 15.2.1 A scoping exercise was undertaken in the Spring of 2023 to establish the content of the assessment and the approach and methods to be followed. The scoping exercise outcomes were presented in the Scoping Report (**PEIR Volume III Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report**) which was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 1 June 2023.
- 15.2.2 A Scoping Opinion was received from the Planning Inspectorate on 11 July 2023 (**PEIR Volume III Appendix 1-2: EIA Scoping Opinion**).
- 15.2.3 A full review of all comments raised in the Scoping Opinion is provided in **PEIR Volume III Appendix 1-3: EIA Scoping Opinion Responses**. This

also outlines how and where the Scoping Opinion comments have been addressed within this PEIR or will be addressed within the ES.

- 15.2.4 A list of cumulative developments was prepared and shared with City of Doncaster Council, North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council for agreement in preparing this PEIR.

15.3 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

- 15.3.1 Regulation 5(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref 15-1) (EIA Regulations) makes explicit reference to the requirement for an assessment of the effect interactions between types of effect, and states that: “*The EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on the following factors... (e) the interaction between the factors referred to in subparagraphs (a) to (d)*”.
- 15.3.2 No further guidance or requirement beyond the need for an assessment of the interrelationships between types of effects is provided.
- 15.3.3 In terms of cumulative effects, Schedule 4 Paragraph 5 of the EIA Regulations (Ref 15-1) requires an ES to include: “*A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment resulting from, inter alia:... (e) the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources ... The description of the likely significant effects on the factors specified in regulation 5(2) should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development*”.
- 15.3.4 The requirement to consider cumulative effects is also addressed under each of the topic headings within Section 5 of NPS EN-1: Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (November 2023) (Ref 15-4). Paragraph 4.3.3 of NPS EN-1 (November 2023) explains the EIA Regulations “*require an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed project on the environment, covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium, and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects at all stages of the project, and also of the measures envisaged for avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects*”. This paragraph includes footnote 104 which refers to guidance on the assessment of cumulative effects provided in Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17 Cumulative Effects Assessment (August 2019) (Ref 15-2).
- 15.3.5 Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17 Cumulative Effects Assessment (August 2019) (Ref 15-2) sets out a brief description of the legal context and obligations placed on an applicant with respect to cumulative effects under national planning policy and the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations; an overview of the CEA process that applicants may wish to adopt for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs); and advice

regarding a staged approach and the use of consistent template formats for documenting the CEA within an applicant's ES.

- 15.3.6 National Policy Statement EN-3 for Renewable Energy (November 2023) (Ref 15-3) Paragraph 2.10.141 states that: *“Where cumulative effects on the local road network or residential amenity are predicted from multiple solar farm developments, it may be appropriate for applicants for various projects to work together to ensure that the number of abnormal loads and deliveries are minimised, and the timings of deliveries are managed and coordinated to ensure that disruption to residents and other highway users is reasonably minimised”*.
- 15.3.7 In terms of Local Policy, Policy 58 (Low Carbon and Renewable Energy (Strategic Policy)) of the Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035 (Ref 15-5), clause B, states that low carbon and renewable energy proposals will be supported when they *“have no unacceptable adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, on the built and natural environment”*.
- 15.3.8 Policy EC5 (Supporting the Energy Sector) of the East Riding Local Plan (2016) (Ref 15-6) and Policy EC5 (Policy EC5: Supporting the renewable and low carbon energy sector) of the East Riding Local Plan Update 2020 – 2039 (Ref 15-7) state that: *“Developments and their associated infrastructure should be acceptable in terms of the cumulative impact of the proposal with other existing and proposed energy sector developments”*.
- 15.3.9 Policy SG10 (Low Carbon and Renewable Energy (Strategic Policy)) of the Selby District Council¹ Local Plan (2022) (Ref 15-8) states that: *“Proposals for low carbon and renewable energy storage and generation will be supported where planning impacts of the development and associated infrastructure, both individually and cumulatively, are, or can be made, acceptable”*.

15.4 Assessment Methodology

Effect Interactions

- 15.4.1 The assessment of effect interactions is based on the methodology described in **PEIR Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology** and considers the potential for several direct or indirect effects arising from the Scheme to give rise to a combined effect on a single receptor. There are no specific, relevant guidelines on how the assessment of effect interactions should be undertaken, and so the assessment will be undertaken on a qualitative basis using the results of the individual assessments, relying on professional judgement.
- 15.4.2 Only adverse or beneficial residual effects classified as minor, moderate, or major in the individual technical topic assessments will be considered in relation to potential effect interactions. Residual effects classified as negligible are excluded from the assessment of the effect interactions as, by virtue of their definition, they are considered to be imperceptible they are unlikely to lead to a likely significant.

¹ Selby District Council was incorporated into North Yorkshire Council on 1 April 2023.

Cumulative Effects

15.4.3 The cumulative effects assessment is based on the methodology described in **PEIR Volume I Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology**. This has been developed in accordance with Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17 (Ref 15-2) on the assessment of cumulative effects. A four-stage approach has been adopted for this assessment, as follows:

- a. Stage 1 – establish the Zol and identify a long list of ‘other developments’;
- b. Stage 2 – identify a shortlist of ‘other developments’ for the cumulative effects assessment;
- c. Stage 3 – information gathering on shortlisted developments; and
- d. Stage 4 – assessment of likely significant cumulative effects.

15.5 Assessment

Effect Interactions

15.5.1 The interaction of two or more predicted environmental effects resulting from the Scheme may collectively cause a greater (or lesser) effect than each effect in isolation. The potential for effect interactions is assessed within this section.

Table 15-1 below summarises the potential effect interactions during the construction and decommissioning phases (which are assumed to have the same impacts).

15.5.2 Table 15-2 summarises the potential effect interactions during the operation and maintenance phase. Effects of negligible significance have not been considered in the assessment, as by their nature it is not considered likely that they would have the potential to interact with other impacts to cause an effect interaction.

Table 15-1: Potential Effect Interactions during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases

Receptor	Description of Potential Effect Interactions	Effect Interaction	Additional Mitigation Proposed
Residential properties, business premises, community facilities, and development land	<p>These receptors are predicted to experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Landscape and visual: minor to moderate adverse landscape and visual amenity effects associated with views of construction activity; b. Transport and access: minor to major adverse transport effects associated with increased construction traffic, severance of communities, non-motorised user amenity, fear and intimidation, and vehicle delay; c. Socio-economics: minor adverse socio-economic effects associated with increased land take, demand on healthcare facilities due to construction employment, and reduced community connectivity; and d. Noise and vibration: noise effects associated with increased noise and vibration from construction activity and construction traffic. 	<p>No significant effect interactions are expected.</p> <p>There is potential for increased loss of amenity where receptors experience multiple impacts, however, these would be temporary during only construction and decommissioning phases.</p> <p>Effect interactions would be slightly lower during decommissioning phase than construction phase due to matured vegetation screening the Scheme.</p>	No additional mitigation is proposed.

Receptor	Description of Potential Effect Interactions	Effect Interaction	Additional Mitigation Proposed
Users of the surrounding road network	<p>These receptors are predicted to experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Landscape and visual: minor adverse landscape and visual amenity effects associated with views of construction activity; b. Transport and access: minor to major adverse transport effects associated with increased construction traffic, community severance, non-motorised user amenity, fear and intimidation, vehicle delay, and road safety; and c. Noise and vibration: noise effects associated with increased noise and vibration from construction activity and construction traffic. 	<p>No significant effect interactions are expected.</p> <p>There is potential for increased loss of amenity where receptors experience multiple impacts, however, these would be temporary during only construction and decommissioning phases.</p> <p>Effect interactions would be slightly lower during decommissioning phase than construction phase due to matured vegetation screening the Scheme.</p>	No additional mitigation is proposed.
Users of Public Rights of Way (PRoW)	<p>These receptors are predicted to experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Landscape and visual: minor to major adverse landscape and visual amenity effects associated with views of construction activity; b. Noise and vibration: noise effects associated with increased noise and vibration from construction activity and construction traffic. 	<p>No significant effect interactions are expected.</p> <p>There is potential for increased loss of amenity where receptors experience multiple impacts, however, these would be temporary during only construction and decommissioning phases. Diversions to PRoW would also be relatively minimal.</p>	No additional mitigation is proposed.

Receptor	Description of Potential Effect Interactions	Effect Interaction	Additional Mitigation Proposed
Heritage assets	<p>These receptors are predicted to experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Cultural heritage: minor to moderate adverse cultural heritage effects associated with physical impacts and changes to the setting of heritage assets; b. Noise and vibration: noise effects associated with increased noise and vibration from construction activity and construction traffic. 	<p>Effect interactions would be slightly lower during decommissioning phase than construction phase due to matured vegetation screening the Scheme</p> <p>No significant effect interactions are expected.</p> <p>It is not expected that any heritage assets will be significantly affected by noise emissions during the construction phase. Where noise does occur at heritage assets, it will be short term, temporary, and during the daytime, and reversible on completion of the construction phase. It is therefore not expected to interact with the change in views and setting at any heritage assets.</p>	No additional mitigation is proposed.

Table 15-2: Potential Effect Interactions during the Operation and Maintenance Phase

Receptor	Description of Potential Effect Interactions	Effect Interaction	Additional Mitigation Proposed
Residential properties, business premises, community facilities, and development land	<p>These receptors are predicted to experience:</p> <p>a. Landscape and visual: minor to moderate adverse landscape and visual amenity effects at year 1 and minor landscape and visual amenity effects at year 15 associated with views of the Scheme;</p> <p>b. Socio-economics: minor socio-economic effects associated with increased demand on healthcare facilities due to operational employment; and</p> <p>c. Noise and vibration: noise effects associated with increased noise and vibration from operation and maintenance activity.</p>	<p>No significant effect interactions are expected.</p> <p>There is potential for increased loss of amenity where receptors experience multiple impacts.</p>	No additional mitigation is proposed.
Users of PRow	<p>These receptors are predicted to experience:</p> <p>a. Landscape and visual: minor to major adverse landscape and visual amenity effects at year 1 and year 15 associated with views of the Scheme;</p>	<p>No significant effect interactions are expected.</p> <p>There is potential for increased loss of amenity where receptors experience multiple impacts. Diversions to PRow would also be relatively minimal.</p>	No additional mitigation is proposed.

Receptor	Description of Potential Effect Interactions	Effect Interaction	Additional Mitigation Proposed
	b. Noise and vibration: noise effects associated with increased noise and vibration from operation and maintenance activity.		

Cumulative Effects

- 15.5.3 The assessment of cumulative effects arising from the Scheme in combination with other proposed schemes (inter-project effects) is based upon a review of current submitted planning and DCO applications as well as a study of planning policy documents.
- 15.5.4 The cumulative assessment is focussed on assessing the impact of the developments which have the potential to generate significant cumulative effects. As discussed in Paragraph 15.4.3, an initial long list and short list of cumulative developments has been prepared and shared with City of Doncaster Council, North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Study Area

- 15.5.5 Table 15-3: sets out the Zones of Influence (Zol) for potential cumulative effects with other developments and has been defined by each technical topic. All the Zol extents, in relation to the Scheme, are shown **PEIR Volume II Figure 15-1: Zol Extents for Assessment of Potential Cumulative Effects**.

Table 15-3: Zol Extents for Assessment of Potential Cumulative Effects

Technical Topic	Zone of Influence
Climate Change	Not applicable as the global climate is the Zol considered (PEIR Volume I Chapter 6: Climate Change).
Cultural Heritage	Up to 5 km from the Site Boundary (PEIR Volume I Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage).
Ecology	Statutory sites of international nature conservation value within 10 km of the Site Boundary. Statutory designated national nature conservation sites, Ancient Woodland and other notable habitats and records of protected or notable species within 2 km of the Site Boundary (PEIR Volume I Chapter 8: Ecology).
Water Environment	Up to 1 km from the Site Boundary to identify water features that could be reasonably affected by the Scheme and 5.5 km downstream to the east of the Study Area to identify the extent to which the River Don (the ultimate surface water receptor for the area) is considered (PEIR Volume I Chapter 9: Water Environment).
Landscape and Visual Amenity	Up to 2 km from the Site Boundary (PEIR Volume I Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Impact).
Noise and Vibration	Up to 500 m from the Solar PV Site and up to 300 m from the Grid Connection Corridor (PEIR Volume I Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration).

Technical Topic	Zone of Influence
Socio-Economics	For employment effects: 60 minute drive time from site. For agricultural (Best and Most Versatile) land: 5 km radius of site plus any other solar schemes within City of Doncaster boundary. For other receptors: Up to 2 km from the Site Boundary for receptors (PEIR Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use).
Land Use	The Site (PEIR Volume I Chapter 12: Socio-Economics and Land Use).
Transport and Access	Traffic count locations as shown in PEIR Volume II Figure 13-2: Traffic Survey Locations (PEIR Volume I Chapter 13: Transport and Access) .
Air Quality	Up to 350 m for dust and emissions from the Site Boundary or within 50 m of the routes used by construction vehicles on the public highway, and up to 500 m from the Site entrance(s) (PEIR Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics).
Glint and Glare	1 km from the Site Boundary. Taken from PEIR Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics
Ground Conditions	Up to 250 m from the Site Boundary (PEIR Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics).
Major Accidents and Disasters	10 km from the Site Boundary (PEIR Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics).
Telecommunications and Utilities	The Site (PEIR Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics).
Electromagnetic Fields	Includes all areas around the assets where the electromagnetic fields could potentially be significant, such as along the Grid Connection Line Drop (PEIR Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics).
Materials and Waste	The Site (PEIR Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics).

Cumulative Developments

- 15.5.6 A preliminary long list of developments is provided in **PEIR Volume III Appendix 15-1: Initial Long List of Other Developments** which details all potential developments within the maximum Zol. These developments have then been screened to determine their potential to interact with the Scheme in a manner that has the ability to generate cumulative effects. This initial screening takes into account the scale of the development and its potential to generate significant environmental effects, the location of the development, and how the development's programme relates to that of the

Scheme. These developments are shown in **PEIR Volume II Figure 15-2: Location of Long List Schemes.**

- 15.5.7 A preliminary short list of developments is provided in Table 15-4, which details why the development has been selected for further assessment (i.e. those developments progressing to Stages 3 and 4 of the cumulative assessment). These developments are shown in **PEIR Volume II Figure 15-3: Location of Short List Schemes.**
- 15.5.8 The preliminary long list and short list of cumulative developments has been shared with City of Doncaster Council, North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. The lists were issued to each of the authorities on 24 October 2023, with a request for each authority to review the lists and advise whether there are any additional schemes that they consider should be included. No request to consider any additional schemes has been received from any of the authorities up to the time of writing. Continual engagement will take place and the authorities will be provided with an opportunity to review and comment on any updates to the long list and short list at the ES stage.

Table 15-4: Initial Short List of Other Developments

Longlist ID	Application Reference	Applicant	Description	Development Type	Distance from the Scheme (Approximate at Closest Point)	Status	Reason for Selection
2	City of Doncaster Ref. 23/00793/FULM	Thorpe Marsh Green Energy Hub Ltd	Construction and operation of up to 50M W Battery Energy Storage, substation and associated infrastructure on a 1.97 ha site.	Energy	0.1 km	Pending consideration	Due to the scale and nature of development and possible overlap in construction phases.
4	City of Doncaster Ref. 21/02567/FULM	Enso Green Holdings I Limited	Installation of a 49.9M W solar farm and battery storage facility with associated infrastructure on a 133.52 ha site.	Energy	4.4 km	Approved on 15 March 2022	Due to the nature of development and possible overlap in construction phases.
5 and 6	City of Doncaster Ref. 22/01537/LBC City of Doncaster Ref. 22/01536/FUL	Miles	Demolition of Grade II listed 'Lily Hall' and erection of one replacement residential farmworker's dwelling and associated works.	Heritage	0.2 km	Pending consideration	Due to location in conjunction the Scheme and the heritage setting.

Longlist ID	Application Reference	Applicant	Description	Development Type	Distance from the Scheme (Approximate at Closest Point)	Status	Reason for Selection
7	City of Doncaster Ref. 23/01746/FULM	Nel Nicholson	Installation of a 180M W battery energy facility and associated works on a 3.70ha site.	Energy	0.5 km	Pending consideration	Due to the nature of development and possible overlap in construction phases.
8	City of Doncaster Ref. 19/03034/FULM	Carbon Action Ltd/Pilkington UK Ltd	Excavation of approximately 4 million tonnes of by-product material comprising mostly silica sand and also soda lime glass and iron oxides (also known as burgy) from previous glass manufacturing and the reinstatement of the flood plain, creating new habitats.	Industrial	0.6 km	Pending consideration	Due to the scale and nature of development and possible overlap in construction phases.
10	City of Doncaster Ref. 20/01774/TIPA	BH Energy Gap (Doncaster) Ltd	The construction of an energy recovery facility involving the thermal treatment of residual waste and	Energy	1.7 km	Approved on 16 August 2022	Due to the scale and nature of development and possible overlap in construction phases.

Longlist ID	Application Reference	Applicant	Description	Development Type	Distance from the Scheme (Approximate at Closest Point)	Status	Reason for Selection
			associated infrastructure including engineering, access, landscape, ground and landscaping works.				
12	City of Doncaster Ref.23/01082/SC RE	Novus Renewable Services Limited	Request for a screening opinion in relation to a joint solar farm and energy storage development on approximately 61.7h a located off The Balk, Almholme, Doncaster.	Energy	1.7 km	Screening Opinion provided on 04 July 2023	Due to the potential scale and nature of development and possible overlap in construction phases should a planning application be submitted and approved.
42	City of Doncaster Ref. 22/02088/FULM	P and H Maxwell	The installation of a 2.5M W solar PV array, 0.9M W green hydrogen plant and associated landscaping	Energy	3.9 km	Approved on 11 May 2023	Due to the nature of development and possible overlap in construction phases.

Preliminary Assessment

- 15.5.9 An assessment of the cumulative effects of the Scheme along with these other developments is presented in each technical chapter (**PEIR Volume I Chapter 6 to 13**) and throughout **PEIR Volume I Chapter 14: Other Environmental Topics**. Within the majority of technical chapters, no likely significant effects have been identified through the cumulative effects assessment where they were not already predicted for the Scheme in isolation. Nor are any significant effects associated with the Scheme made greater (e.g. Moderate to Major) when considering these other developments alongside the Scheme. Therefore, it is considered that there will not be any new likely significant effects associated with cumulative effects that are not already accounted for by the assessment of the Scheme.
- 15.5.10 A full description of cumulative effects is presented in the technical chapters, as mentioned above.

Next Steps

- 15.5.11 The preliminary long list and short list (Stages 1 and 2 of Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17 (Ref 15-2)) will be finalised, aided by further consultation with the City of Doncaster Council, North Yorkshire Council and East Riding of Yorkshire Council, to ensure that all developments with the potential to result in likely significant cumulative effects when considered together with the Scheme are considered by each of the environmental topic assessments.
- 15.5.12 Stage 3 of the cumulative assessment will involve a review of information relating to the final short listed developments that will be included at ES Stage, including their design and location, programme for construction, operation, and decommissioning, and any environmental assessments carried out.
- 15.5.13 Stage 4 will involve verification of the preliminary assessment undertaken and confirmation of potentially significant cumulative effects in combination with the Scheme.
- 15.5.14 The ES will report the results of the assessment with particular consideration given to any significant cumulative effects that are identified, and the need for mitigation. These effects will be reported within individual technical topic chapters as relevant with full details of Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17 Stages 1 to 4, including the final other development lists, reported within an appendix in the ES and summarised within a cumulative effects and interactions chapter.

15.6 References

- Ref 15-1 His Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) (2017). The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/572>. [Accessed 13 March 2024].
- Ref 15-2 The Planning Inspectorate (2019). Advice Note 17: Cumulative effects assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects (version 2). Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-17/>. [Accessed 13 March 2024].
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- Ref 15-5 City of Doncaster Council (2021). Doncaster Local Plan 2015-2035 (adopted September 2021). Available at: <https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/services/planning/local-plan>. [Accessed 13 March 2024].
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