

**Byers Gill Solar
EN010139**

6.2.14 Environmental Statement Chapter 14 Summary

Planning Act 2008

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms
and Procedure) Regulations 2009

Volume 6

February 2024

Revision C01



Table of Contents

Page

14.	Summary	1
14.1.	Introduction	1
14.2.	How to find out more	8

Table of Tables

Table 14-1	Summary of significant residual effects during the construction phase	2
Table 14-2	Summary of significant residual effects during the operational phase	4
Table 14-3	Summary of significant residual effects during the decommissioning phase	6

14. Summary

14.1. Introduction

- 14.1.1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) summaries the significant residual effects of the Proposed Development. Residual effects are defined as those effects that remain following the implementation of mitigation measures secured via the Development Consent Order (DCO). Residual effects and mitigation measures for each topic area are outlined in ES Chapters 5 to 12 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.12). Residual effects relating to the assessment of cumulative effects are outlined in ES Chapter 13 Cumulative Effects (Document Reference 6.2.13). ES Chapter 2 (Document References 6.2.2) outlines the embedded mitigation for the Proposed Development.
- 14.1.2. Each technical chapter (ES Chapters 5 to 13 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.13)) contains detailed consideration of both the beneficial and adverse residual effects identified as likely to arise from the Proposed Development during construction, operation and decommissioning. The general criteria applied to define the significance of residual effects are defined within ES Chapter 4 Approach to EIA (Document Reference 6.2.4), with further detail provided within ES Chapters 5 to 13 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.13).
- 14.1.3. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Proposed Development has been undertaken in parallel with the design process. A number of measures have been implemented within the design of the Proposed Development and/or control documents, as agreed with the project team and stakeholders (where necessary), to control residual effects. ES Chapter 2 (Document References 6.2.2) outlines embedded mitigation applied. Details of essential mitigation is provided within each technical chapter ES Chapters 5 to 13 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.13), enhancement measures are also discussed. A Mitigation Route Map (Document Reference 7.8) details the full suite of environmental mitigation to be applied to the Proposed Development and secured via the DCO.
- 14.1.4. The residual effects listed within ES Chapters 5 to 13 (Document References 6.2.5 to 6.2.13) are described with reference to the scale of effect (e.g. moderate or major), the nature of the effect (e.g. adverse, beneficial or negligible) and whether this is significant or not.
- 14.1.5. A summary of the identified significant residual effects for each topic are presented below in Table 14-1 for the construction phase, Table 14-2 for the operational phase and Table 14-3 for the decommissioning phase.
- 14.1.6. Negligible and minor effects (adverse and beneficial) are not included in the following summary tables as these are not considered significant in EIA terms.

Table 14-1 Summary of significant residual effects during the construction phase

Impact	Embedded/Essential Mitigation and how secured	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Climate change - No significant residual effects.				
Biodiversity - No significant residual effects				
Landscape and visual				
Changes to character of Bishopton (on road cable route)	<p>No specific measures are proposed to mitigate the short-term effects on landscape and visual receptors that would arise during construction..</p> <p>During construction the following embedded measures will be applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A pre-commencement survey of vegetation prior to construction should be undertaken to establish the extent to which any vegetation removal may be needed and identify required protection zones. ▪ Protect and retain existing trees and vegetation via construction exclusion zones and tree protective fencing. ▪ Temporary site lighting during construction required to enable safe working during hours of darkness will be designed as far as reasonably practical so as not to cause a nuisance outside of the Proposed Development. Standard best practice measures will be employed to minimise light spill, including glare. 	High/medium	Moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Changes to views from PRoW within 1km – Between A167, Salters Lane, Lea Hall and Little Ketton Farm		High/medium	Moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Changes to views from ProW within 1km – East of Salters Lane between Lea Hall, Newton Ketton, Elstob Lane and Hill House Lane		High/medium	Moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Changes to views from ProW within 1km – East of Elstob Lane and Hill House Lane, between Bleach House Bank, Stoney Flatt Farm and Gillyflatts		High/medium	Moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Changes to views from PRoW within 1km - East of Bleach House Bank between Stillington, Redmarshall and Stoney Flatt Farm		High/medium	Moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant

Impact	Embedded/Essential Mitigation and how secured	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Cultural heritage and archaeology - No significant residual effects				
Land use and socioeconomics				
Loss of land for agricultural production	Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.12)	Low	High	Moderate adverse, significant It is also noted that the cumulative loss of agricultural land, alongside other developments, could be considered significant in EIA terms due to the extent of temporary loss that may happen collectively.
Disturbance of soil resources	Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.12)	High	Low	Moderate adverse, significant
Hydrology and flood risk - No significant residual effects				
Noise and vibration				
Construction activities noise and vibration	A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) would be produced by the PC and agreed with the relevant local planning authorities prior to construction. ES Appendix 2.6 Outline CEMP (Document Reference 6.4.2.6) outlines the mitigation and management measures to be implemented to manage any potential noise and vibration impacts.	Moderate	Low	Moderate adverse, significant
Traffic and transport - No significant residual effects				

Table 14-2 Summary of significant residual effects during the operational phase

Impact	Embedded/Essential Mitigation and how secured	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Climate change				
Production of low carbon energy during operation	Not applicable due to nature of effect.	-	-	Beneficial, significant It is also noted, that cumulative effect with other renewable energy production developments are reasonably expected to provide a notable beneficial effect in the UK's journey towards net-zero as this is intrinsic to their need. It is reasonable to assume this could be considered significant in EIA terms due to its potential national influence, although this cannot be quantified at this stage.
Biodiversity - No significant residual effects However, it is noted a notable the cumulative benefit of biodiversity net gain alongside other developments could be considered significant in EIA terms due to its potential influence both locally and more nationally in terms of halting the decline of biodiversity and encouraging its restoration.				
Landscape and visual				
Changes to character of LCA Darlington 6: Great Stainton Farmland	The layout of the Proposed Development has been designed so as to minimise the impact of the solar farm on local views of the landscape. Specific measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reductions to the extent of the Panel Areas to mitigate effects on villages and views from homes – with particular consideration of the	Medium	Substantial	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Changes to character of Great Stainton		High/medium	Moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Changes to character of Bishopton		High/medium	Substantial/moderate (Years 1-10)	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant (Years 1-10)

Impact	Embedded/Essential Mitigation and how secured	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Changes to views at Great Stainton	opportunities provided by topographic and vegetative screening.	High/medium	Substantial/moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Changes to views at Bishopton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planting of tree lines along northern boundaries of the Panel Areas to reduce visibility where this can be achieved without shading panels by tree canopies. 	High/medium	Substantial/moderate (Years 1-10)	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant (Years 1-10)
Changes to views from PRoW within 1km - Between A167, Salters Lane, Lea Hall and Little Ketton Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Re-routing of footpaths that would pass through panel areas, so that routes would only have initially open views of solar panels to one side, and an established field boundary on the other. 	High/medium	Substantial (Years 1-10) Substantial/moderate (Years 10-40)	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant (Years 1-10) Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant (Years 10-40)
Changes to views from PRoW within 1km - East of Salters Lane between Lea Hall, Newton Ketton, Elstob Lane and Hill House Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New hedgerow planting where existing hedgerows are sparse or where the Panel Area edge does not coincide with an existing field boundary. 	High/medium	Substantial/moderate (Years 1-10) Moderate (Years 10-40)	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant (Years 1-10) Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant (Years 10-40)
Changes to views from PRoW within 1km - East of Elstob Lane and Hill House Lane, between Bleach House Bank, Stoney Flatt Farm and Gillyflatts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed community orchard adjacent to Bishopton recreation ground and school to provide both mitigation and a community facility. 	High/medium	Substantial/moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Changes to views from PRoW within 1km - East of Bleach House Bank between Stillington, Redmarshall and Stoney Flatt Farm		High/medium	Moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Cultural heritage and archaeology - No significant residual effects				
Land use and socioeconomics - No significant residual effects				

Impact	Embedded/Essential Mitigation and how secured	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Hydrology and flood risk - No significant residual effects				
Noise and vibration - No significant residual effects				
Traffic and transport - No significant residual effects				

Table 14-3 Summary of significant residual effects during the decommissioning phase

Impact	Embedded/Essential Mitigation and how secured	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Climate change - No significant residual effects				
Biodiversity - No significant residual effects				
Landscape and visual				
Changes to views from PRow within 1km - Between A167, Salters Lane, Lea Hall and Little Ketton Farm	No measures are proposed to mitigate the short-term effects on landscape and visual receptors that would arise during decommissioning.	High/medium	Moderate	Major/moderate, Adverse, Significant
Cultural heritage and archaeology - No significant residual effects				
Land use and socioeconomics				
Improved soil health and return to agricultural production	Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (Document Reference 6.4.2.12) and leaving the land fallow	Low to high	High	Moderate beneficial, significant
Hydrology and flood risk - No significant residual effects				

Impact	Embedded/Essential Mitigation and how secured	Receptor Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Noise and vibration				
Decommissioning activities noise and vibration	A Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) would be produced by the PC and agreed with the relevant local planning authorities prior to decommissioning. ES Appendix 2.7 Outline DEMP (Document Reference 6.4.2.7) outlines the mitigation and management measures to be implemented to manage any potential noise and vibration impacts.	Moderate	Low	Moderate adverse, significant
Traffic and transport - No significant residual effects				

14.2. How to find out more

- 14.2.1. The Environmental Statement and other supporting documents for the DCO can be viewed and downloaded via the project page on the National Infrastructure Planning website, available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/north-east/byers-gill-solar/>.
- 14.2.2. Hard copies of information contained within the ES can be requested free of charge if required from enquiries@byersgillsolar.com.
- 14.2.3. Any comments ('written representation') on the application should be made directly to PINS during the examination stage of the Proposed Development via the project page outlined above.
- 14.2.4. The status of the project through examination and determination will be kept up to date via the project page outlined above.
- 14.2.5. More information regarding the DCO process is available on the National Infrastructure Planning website, available at: https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application_process/the_process.