

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Appendix 5A: Cumulative Effects Assessment detailed Search and Screening Criteria

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5.0 Introduction

5.1 Purpose of this document

5.1.1 The purpose of this document is to set out the temporal, spatial and technical criteria used to identify the other proposed developments within the proximity of the Proposed Development as per the Planning Inspectorate Advice Note 17 (Ref 5A-1). This includes:

- Developments that have started construction up to five years prior to publication of this Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR); and
- Developments that are deemed likely to go ahead or are going ahead up to 13 years after publication of PEIR.

5.2 Temporal, Spatial and Information Criteria

5.2.1 Other developments in proximity to the Proposed Development have been considered in the CEA if they meet the following temporal, spatial and technical criteria.

5.2.2 The temporal criteria are defined as:

- projects that have started construction up to five years prior to publication of PEIR; and
- projects that are deemed likely to go ahead or are going ahead up to 13 years after publication of PEIR.

5.2.3 The spatial criteria are defined as the largest extent of the Study Areas identified by each technical chapter. This takes into consideration the areas and receptors likely to be affected by the activities and facilities relating to the Proposed Development. For the CEA, the search area consists of a 10km buffer around the PEIR Assessment Boundary. Further details are provided in **Chapter 5: Environmental Impact Assessment Methodology**, and the search area defined in **Figure 18-1**. A full cumulative assessment will be provided in the ES.

5.2.4 The technical criteria are defined as Tier 1 or 2 developments under the Planning Inspectorate's 'other existing development and/or approved development', and Tier

3 where sufficient information is available to include in the assessment defined in **Table 5A-3**. Additionally, the following types and sectors of other developments that have been considered within the CEA Study Area include:

- all major applications;
- all energy infrastructure developments;
- developments which require an EIA, that is those which fall under Schedule 1 or 2 of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (REF 5A-2); and
- local plan sites¹.

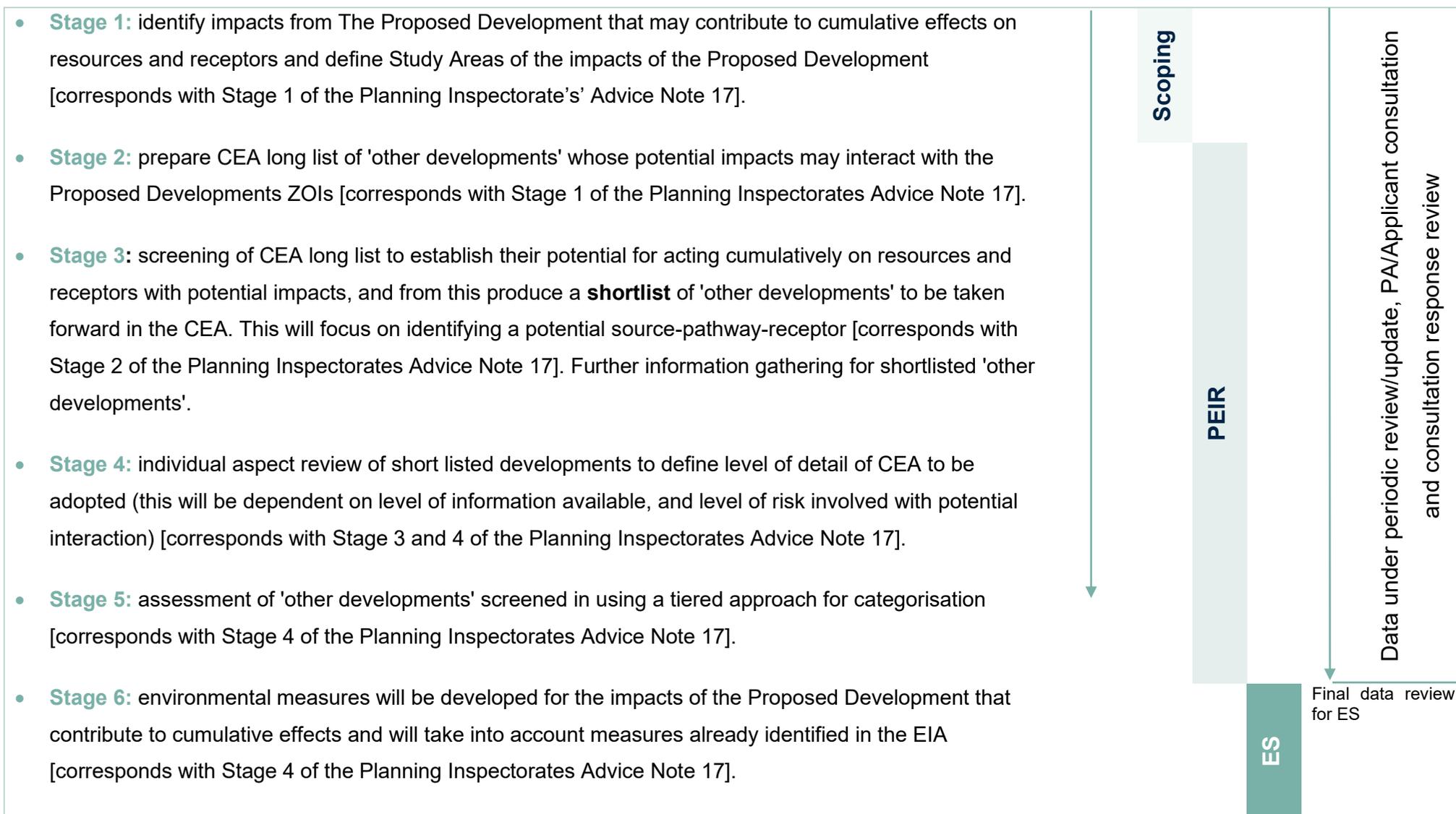
5.3 CEA Approach

CEA Methodology

5.3.1 The CEA has been conducted in the six stages set out in **Plate 5A-1** which correspond to the Planning Inspectorates Advice Note 17 (Ref 5A-1).

¹ Sites identified within Local Plans will generally not be assessed directly due to lack of detailed information, but any planning applications for allocated sites which arise prior to submission of the ES will be included.

Plate 5A-1 CEA Process (Planning Inspectorates Advice Note 17 Ref 5A-1)



Stage 1: Study Area development and 'long list' identification

Approach to the long list

- 5.3.2 The first stage of the CEA produces a 'long list' of other relevant projects, plans and activities ('other developments') happening within a large Study Area around the Proposed Development. The long list is based on publicly available information available at the time of preparation. It considers the scale of the other developments, and the potential for these to produce cumulative effects with the Proposed Development.
- 5.3.3 The main impacts of the Proposed Development that have the potential to contribute to cumulative effects with impacts from other developments will arise during the construction and operation of the substation, construction of the PV Array and the construction of the grid connection corridor.
- 5.3.4 The technical chapters and impacts detailed in **Table 5A-1** have been identified as having the potential to contribute to cumulative effects.

Table 5A-1 Impacts with potential to contribute to cumulative effects

Technical Chapter	Potential impacts and effects
Chapter 6: Greenhouse Gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction and operation of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential effects on the global climate.
Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction and operation of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential effects on historic landscape character.• Construction of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential effects on buried archaeological remains within the construction footprint.• Construction and operation of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential effects on significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets through changes to setting.
Chapter 8: Ecology and Chapter 9:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permanent and temporary habitat loss and degradation of notable habitats with corresponding effects on local flora and fauna

Ornithology	<p>populations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent and temporary fragmentation of the landscape reducing the viability of some local bird populations to access sufficient resources. • Temporary disturbance caused by construction activity resulting in the displacement of local populations.
Chapter 10: Water Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and maintenance activities of the Proposed Development and other developments affecting water quality in reens, rivers and groundwater. • Dewatering activities in construction resulting in effects on groundwater levels. • Construction and maintenance of the Proposed Development and other developments and permanent development resulting in effects on flood risk. • Construction and maintenance activities of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in effects on hydro-morphology.
Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction activities, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development resulting in potential effects on landscape character, elements and characteristics. • Construction activities, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development resulting in potential effects on landscape designations (special landscape qualities and integrity). • Construction activities, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development resulting in potential effects on visual receptors.
Chapter 12: Glint and Glare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and operation of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential effects on route receptors. • Construction and operation of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential effects on dwelling receptors.

<p>Chapter 13: Noise and vibration</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concurrent construction from the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential noise and vibration effects on residential and recreational receptors. • Operational noise from the Proposed Development and other developments
<p>Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Tourism and Recreation</p>	<p>Socio-economics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction jobs required for the Proposed Development and other developments affecting the job and labour market; • Construction and operation of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential effects on FTE farming, professional, scientific and technical jobs. • Development resulting in potential permanent loss of agricultural land. <p>Recreation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and operation of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential effects on PRowS <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction and operation of the Proposed Development and other developments resulting in potential effects on tourism assets.
<p>Chapter 15: Transport and Access</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permitted/committed developments within and in the vicinity of the transport Study Area that will result in additional traffic on the road network. To some extent, this will be accounted for within the TEMPro growth factors that will be applied as a 'blanket growth' on the network, however, the highway authorities may require that specific developments are included as the development traffic from these will have localised effects on specific parts of the road network. • Committed transport developments that will affect the transport network, such as junction improvements and new road links.
<p>Chapter 16: Ground Conditions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilisation of contamination (for example through generation of dusts, spillages and leaks etc.) resulting in impacts to human health and controlled waters receptors in combination with

construction activities for other developments.

- Damage to geodiversity sites resulting in effects on geodiversity receptors in combination with construction activities for other developments.
- For ground conditions, UK legislation requires all developments to be suitable for their proposed use in which risks to human health and controlled waters from land contamination and risks from damage to geodiversity sites have been appropriately managed. Therefore, there are not considered to be any impacts from the operational phase of the Proposed Development that have the potential to act cumulatively with impacts from other developments to contribute to cumulative ground conditions effects.

5.3.5 The CEA has been determined through identification of Study Areas defined by each technical topic, taking into consideration the areas and receptors likely to be affected by relating to the Proposed Development. Effects from unplanned but predictable potential effects caused by the Proposed Development that may occur later or at a different location have also been considered. The overall Study Area consists of a 10km buffer around the PEIR Assessment Boundary and is shown in **Figure 5A-1**. Individual aspect Study Areas are shown within each technical chapter and have been summarised in **Table 5A-2**.

Table 5A-2 Study Areas underpinning the extent of the CEA

Technical Chapter	Study Area extent
Chapter 6: Greenhouse Gas	N/A
Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage & Archaeology	The developments which have informed the Ground Conditions cumulative assessment are all located within 5km from the PEIR Assessment Boundary
Chapter 8: Ecology	The developments which have informed the ecological cumulative assessment are all located within 10km from the PEIR Assessment Boundary.
Chapter 9: Ornithology	The developments which have informed the Ornithology cumulative assessment are all located within 10km from the PEIR Assessment

	Boundary,
Chapter 10: Water Environment	The developments which have informed the Water Environment cumulative assessment are all located within 5km from the PEIR Assessment Boundary.
Chapter 11: Landscape and Visual Amenity	The developments which have informed the LVIA cumulative assessment are all located within 1km from the PEIR Assessment Boundary
Chapter 12: Glint & Glare	The developments which have informed the Glint & Glare cumulative assessment are all located within 1km from the PEIR Assessment Boundary
Chapter 13: Noise & Vibration	The developments which have informed the Noise & Vibration cumulative assessment are all located within 1km from the PEIR Assessment Boundary
Chapter 14: Socio-economics, Tourism & Recreation	N/A
Chapter 15: Traffic & Transport	The developments which have informed the Traffic & Transport cumulative assessment are all located within 1km from the PEIR Assessment Boundary. Everything further away with minimal flows potentially passing within our study area would be represented through the application of Temprow growth factors applied to observed traffic flows
Chapter 16: Ground Conditions	The developments which have informed the Ground Conditions cumulative assessment are all located within 250m from the PEIR Assessment Boundary

Tiered Approach

5.3.6 The tiering structure used for screening and assessment of other developments is in accordance with the Planning Inspectorates Advice Note Seventeen (Ref 5A-1) (**Table 5A-3**). The Tiers are listed in descending order of level of detail likely to be available (and certainty of effects arising). Appropriate weight may therefore be given to each scenario (Tier) in the decision-making process when considering the

potential cumulative impacts associated with the Proposed Development. For example, it may be considered that greater weight be attributed to Tier 1 than Tier 2. It is noted in the Planning Inspectorates Advice Note Seventeen (Ref 5A-1) that where other developments are expected to be completed before the construction of the Proposed Development and the effects of those projects are fully determined, effects arising from them should be considered as part of the baseline and may be considered as part of assessment in the construction and operational phase (noting that the assessment should clearly distinguish between other developments forming part of the baseline and those in the CEA).

Table 5A-3 Tiers used for screening and assessment of other developments (from the Planning Inspectorates Advice Note Seventeen) (Ref 5A-1)

Tier	Criteria
Tier 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other developments under construction; • permitted application(s), whether under the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 2A-3) or other regimes, but not yet implemented; and • submitted application(s), whether under the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 2A-3) or other regimes, but not yet determined.
Tier 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other developments on the Planning Inspectorate Programme of Projects where a Scoping Report has been submitted.
Tier 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other developments on the Planning Inspectorate’s Programme of Projects where a scoping report has not been submitted; • other developments identified in the relevant Development Plan (and emerging Development Plans - with appropriate weight being given as they move closer to adoption) recognising that there will be limited information available on the relevant proposals; and • identified in other plans and programmes (as appropriate) which set the framework for future development consents/approvals, where such development is reasonably likely to come forward.

5.3.7 In assessing the potential for cumulative effects from the Proposed Development, it is important to bear in mind that other developments, predominantly those ‘proposed’, may or may not be taken forward for development. Therefore, there is a need to build in a consideration of certainty (or uncertainty) with respect to the potential impacts which might arise from such proposals, in line with the approach

set out by the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note 17 (Ref 5A-1). For example, other developments which are already under construction have a higher degree of certainty that these will contribute to cumulative effects than those development applications that are at an early stage.

5.3.8 For these reasons, all of the relevant other developments on the long list are allocated into 'Tiers', reflecting their current status within the planning and development process. This allows the CEA to present several scenarios, reflecting the varying levels of certainty of an activity proceeding and therefore the potential for impacts to arise that might act cumulatively with the impacts arising from the Proposed Development.

Stage 2: Screening of long list

5.3.9 Following creation of the long list, all other developments are screened based on the potential for interaction with the Proposed Development; either temporal, spatial or potential (i.e. identifying a potential source-pathway-receptor); and on the level of detail available (tiered approach). This screening produces EIA aspect-specific short-lists of other developments which are considered further within the CEA in **Chapters 6 to 17** (and will be reviewed again in the ES).

5.3.10 The following criteria have been applied to the screening of the long list for other developments:

- **Screened into the CEA:**
 - other developments which are considered as part of the baseline but the effects of which are not fully determined in the environment (in line with **Section 5.10 of Chapter 5: EIA Methodology**); and/or
 - where there is a potential for a cumulative impact to occur (based upon available information and professional judgement).
- **Screened out of the CEA:**
 - other developments which are considered as part of the baseline environment;
 - where there is low data confidence (therefore a meaningful assessment cannot be undertaken);
 - where no potential impact-receptor pathway exists (see **Table 5A-4**);

- where there is no potential for a spatial effect interaction (see **Table 5A-4**; or
- where there is no potential for a temporal effect interaction (see **Table 5A-4**)

5.3.11 These criteria ensure a clear justification for screening other developments in or out. Further detail on the other development screening criteria is given in **Table 5A-4**.

Table 5A-4 Other development specific screening criteria

Term	Criteria
Potential impact receptor pathway	There is the potential that a pathway exists whereby an impact could have an effect on a receptor. For example, increases to suspended sediment concentration could have an impact on fish receptors, but glint and glare could not have an effect on ecological receptors.
Spatial effect interaction	The impacts on a receptor from the Proposed Development and one or more other plans/projects have a geographical overlap. For example, underwater noise contours from piling at the Proposed Development could overlap with those of another solar farm project, if it is sufficiently close to the Proposed Development. If there is no spatial interaction, there is no potential for a cumulative effect.
Temporal effect interaction	The impacts from the Proposed Development and one or more other plans/projects have the potential to occur at the same time. If there is no temporal interaction, there is no potential for a cumulative effect.

5.3.12 Only where there is the potential for both spatial and temporal interaction between effects arising from the Proposed Development and from one or more of the other developments identified, is a cumulative impact be taken forward for consideration in the CEA.

5.3.13 The screening process for the long list of other developments provides a record of those screened in or out for further consideration within the CEA on the basis of one or more of these criteria.

5.3.14 Information has been gathered where possible on other developments from the following data sources:

- Local authorities' direct requests and planning portals (or appropriate methods) and Local Plans².
- Planning Inspectorate (Ref 2A-4) website including applications and the scoping stage (<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east/>);
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, energy infrastructure portal (Ref 2A-5) for Section 36 and Section 37 Electricity Act applications (Ref 2A-11):
 - Development Consent Orders under the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 2A-3);
 - Material Changes and Non-Material Changes (NMC) to Development
 - Consent Orders under the Planning Act 2008 (Ref 2A-3);
 - applications made under the Transport and Works Act 1992 (Ref 2A-6);
 - overhead line applications under section 37 (s.37) of the Electricity Act 1989 (Ref 2A-7) following a Public Inquiry;
 - Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) for electricity infrastructure;
 - DNS applications under Planning (Wales) Act 2015 (Ref 2A-8) and the subsequent Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016 (Ref 2A-9);
 - EIA screening and scoping opinions under the Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 (Ref 2A-10).
- Requests made to the Transport and Works Act 1992 (Ref 2A-11) Orders Unit at the DfT for Transport and Works Act 1992 applications; and
- Developer and/or project proponent websites, where available.

5.3.15 The following criteria has been applied to the search for other developments:

5.3.16 Spatially, the Study Area is defined by the largest extent of the individual ZOIs identified in **Table 5A-2**. This may be refined as the design develops.

5.3.17 Temporally, the search is limited to the five years preceding the date of this PEIR. Five years is selected as planning permissions typically expire after a period of three

² Sites identified within Local Plans will generally not be assessed directly due to lack of detailed information, but any planning applications for allocated sites which arise prior to submission of the ES will be included.

to five years (unless an application for extension is permitted). Any permissions prior to this will be presumed to have elapsed or have been implemented and therefore form part of the baseline.

Stage 3: Screening of the long list

5.3.18 The initial screening exercise of the other developments collated for the long list is based upon the following:

- the location and proximity to the Proposed Development with respect to the relevant Study Areas for each type of impact;
- Tier 1 or 2 developments under Planning Inspectorate's 'other existing development and/or approved development', and Tier 3 where sufficient information is available to include in the assessment under the themes of (see **Table 5A-3** for definitions of Tiers and **paragraph 5.2.2**):

5.3.19 Professional judgement of the likely impacts based on the nature and scale of the development and information available in the public domain at the time of assessment.

Stage 4: Level of Detail of CEA

5.3.20 Following generation of the screened list Stage 3 it is reviewed by each technical chapter in relation to their Study Area to identify the other developments which have the potential to result in cumulative effects with the Proposed Development. All other developments falling outside the Study Area will be excluded and not carried forward for assessment. The topic specific short lists are set out in **Chapter 6** to **Chapter 17**.

Stage 5: Assessment of other developments

5.3.21 **Chapters 6** to **17** set out the assessment of 'other developments' screened in using a tiered approach for categorisation identified in **Table 5A-3** and **paragraphs 5.3.7** to **5.3.8**.

Stage 6: Environmental Measures

5.3.22 Environmental measures are being developed for the impacts associated with the Proposed Development that contribute to cumulative effects and measures already identified in the EIA will be considered. Where appropriate, additional measures may be identified where practicable to avoid, minimise or reduce the contribution of the

Proposed Developments impacts to significant cumulative effects, these will be embedded into the design. Where appropriate, monitoring may be suggested to deal with uncertainty in conclusions and would be discussed and agreed with consultees and other stakeholders. **Appendix 19A: Commitments Register**, sets out those measures identified at this stage.

5.4 References

- Ref 5A-1 The Planning Inspectorate (2008). *PINS Advice Note 17: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-cumulative-effects-assessment>. [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-2 The UK Government (2018). *The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/572/contents>. [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-3 The UK Government (2008). *The Planning Act 2008*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>. [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-4 Planning Inspectorate Website (2025). Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/south-east> [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-5 Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, energy infrastructure portal (2025). Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/energy-infrastructure-development-applications-decisions> [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-6 The UK Government (2008). *The Transport and Works Act 1992*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/42/contents>. [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-7 The UK Government (1989). *The Electricity Act 1989*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1989/29/contents>. [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-8 The Welsh Government (2015). *The Planning (Wales) Act 2015*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2015/4/contents>. [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-9 The Welsh Government (2016). *Developments of National Significance (Wales) Regulations 2016*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2016/56/contents>. [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-10 The UK Government (2017). *EIA screening and scoping opinions under the Electricity Works (EIA) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017*. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/580/contents>. [Accessed Nov 2025].
- Ref 5A-11 The UK Government (1992). *Transport and Works Act 1992*. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/transport-and-works-act-team>. [Accessed Nov 2025].