

KEADBY II - PLANNING POLICY APPENDIX

Land and Water

1. ES Chapter 6 refers to the assessment of likely significant effects on geology, hydrogeology, land and water quality including groundwater and surface water resources arising from construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. Relevant policies are contained in EN-1, 4.8 (climate change adaptation) and EN-2, 2.3.13/14 (climate change adaptation); EN-1, 4.10 (Pollution control and other environmental regulatory regimes); EN-1 5.7 (Flood risk); EN-1 5.15 (Water quality and resources) and EN-2, 2.2 (Water resources).
2. In addition to energy policy, NPPF policies include section 10 meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change and section 11 conserving and enhancing the natural environment. The NPPF was followed by Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) which includes guidance on climate change; land affected by contamination; flood risk and coastal change; water supply, wastewater and water quality. At a local level, development plan policies relevant to the Application are contained in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (NLLP) development standards policies DS7, DS11, DS13, DS14, DS15, DS16; and the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (NLCS) policies concerning sustainable resource use and climate change (CS18) and flood risk (CS19).
3. EN-1 4.8 (Climate change adaptation) provides advice on how applicants and the relevant authority should take the effects of climate change into account when planning the location, design, build, operation and decommissioning of new energy infrastructure; there should be no features of the design critical to its operation which could be seriously affected by more radical changes to the climate beyond that in the latest set of UK climate projections (NPS EN-1, 4.8.1/5/8). If any adaptation measures give rise to consequential impacts, the relevant authority should consider the impact in relation to the application as a whole and the impacts guidance set out in Part 5 of this NPS (NPS EN-1, 4.8.10). The Government's energy and climate change strategy, including policies for mitigating climate change in EN-1 Part 4, sets out generic considerations to be taken into account to help ensure that fossil fuel generating infrastructure is resilient to climate change, which should be assessed in the ES accompanying an application, as undertaken in this Application (EN-2, 2.3.13/14).
4. EN-1 5.7 (Flood Risk) advises that flood risk from all sources should be taken into account to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and to direct development away from areas of highest risk. Where new energy infrastructure is exceptionally necessary in such

areas, policy aims to make it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible by reducing flood risk overall (EN-1, 5.7.3). Applications for energy projects in Flood Zones 1-3 should be accompanied by a flood risk assessment (FRA) (EN-1, 5.7/4.8), and in determining an application the relevant authority should be satisfied, among various considerations, that the Sequential and Exception Test Requirements have been met (EN-1, 5.7.12); it should not consent development in Flood Zone 3 unless it is satisfied that the Sequential and Exception Test requirements have been met (EN-1, 5.7.12)

5. EN-1 4.10 (Pollution control and other environmental regulatory regimes) emphasises the separate but complementary nature of planning and pollution control and the role of preventing pollution, ensuring that ambient air and water quality meet standards that guard against impacts to the environment or human health, focus on whether the development is an acceptable use of land and the impacts of that use, while working on the assumption that the relevant pollution control regime (including land drainage, water abstraction and biodiversity) will be properly applied and enforced. The relevant authority should be satisfied, before granting consent, that the pollution control authority is also satisfied that potential releases can be adequately regulated under the pollution control framework and that cumulative effects of pollution would not make the development unacceptable (NPS EN-1, 4.10.7). Accordingly, the relevant authority should not refuse consent on the basis of pollution impacts, unless it has good reason to believe that any necessary operational pollution control permits or licences, or other consents will not subsequently be granted (NPS EN-1, 4.10.8).
6. EN-1 5.15 (Water quality and resources) records that infrastructure development can have adverse effects on the water environment including groundwater, leading to increased demand for water discharges and cause adverse ecological effects, along with increased risk of spills and pollutants, leading to adverse impacts on health, protected species and habitats and result in surface waters, groundwater or protected areas failing to meet environmental objectives under the Water Framework Directive (EN-1, 5.15.1). Where the project is likely to have effects, the applicant should undertake an assessment of the existing status and impacts on water quality and resources and physical characteristics as part of the ES (EN-1, 5.15.2/3). In decision making the relevant authority will have regard to the interface between planning and pollution control (Section 4.10) but will generally need to give impacts on the water environment more weight if the development would have an adverse effect on the achievement of the environmental objectives under the Water Framework Directive and should consider the need for planning obligations to mitigate adverse effects on the water environment (EN-1, 5.15.4-7). It is recommended by way of mitigation that a construction

management plan may assist, also through careful design to facilitate adherence to good pollution control practice and by minimising the impact on local water quality through planning and design for the efficient use of water, including recycling (EN-1, 5.15.8-10).

7. Where water resources are required for cooling, it is acknowledged that developers preferred sites are likely to be coastal, beside estuaries or alongside large rivers, therefore, if sufficient water resources are not available, then an alternative means of cooling such as air-cooled condensers will be required (EN-2, 2.2.7-9); the regulation of water abstraction and discharge is described in EN-1, 5.15).
8. The NPPF in section 10 directs local planning authorities to adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and to adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations (paragraph 94). On the matter of flood risk, there is advice that *“Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere”*; it is noted that NPPF Technical Guidance on Flood Risk sets out how the policy should be implemented (paragraph 100, footnote 19). The NPPF explains that a Sequential Test should first be applied to steer new development to areas with the lowest probability of flooding (paragraph 101); however, if, following application of the Sequential Test it is not possible, consistent with wider sustainability objectives to locate development in zones with a lower probability of flooding, the Exception Test can be applied if appropriate (paragraph 102). It must be demonstrated that the Development provides wider sustainability benefits to the community which outweigh flood risk (informed by the strategic flood risk assessment), and that the development will be safe for its lifetime, taking account of the vulnerability of its user without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible will reduce flood risk overall (paragraph 102).
9. The Technical Guidance to the NPPF was archived and replaced by the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) launched on 6 March 2014. The NPPG on Flood Risk includes Table 2: Flood Risk Vulnerability Classification which defines essential utility infrastructure as that *“which has to be located in a flood risk area for operational reasons, including electricity generating power stations and grid and primary substations”*. Additional Flood Risk Information with various mitigating and monitoring measures is addressed in the 2015 Flood Risk Assessment accompanying the Variation Application. The ES (6.3.12) states that the approach set out in the NPPF is considered in Annex B at B1.3, namely that a sequential test has been applied and the conclusion reached that there are no reasonably available sites

appropriate for the Proposed Development in areas with a lower probability of flooding. Correspondingly as it is not possible, consistent with wider sustainability objectives to locate the Proposed Development within a zone with a lower probability of flooding, “the exception test has been applied and the conclusion reached that it has been passed” (Annex B paragraph 1.3.3).

10. The NPPF in section 11 states that to prevent unacceptable risks from pollution, planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development is appropriately located; LPAs should focus on whether development itself is an acceptable use of the land in question and where a planning decision has been made on a particular development “the planning issues should not be revisited through the permitting regimes” (NPPF paragraphs 120-122). Planning Practice Guidance addresses Climate Change; Land affected by contamination; Flood risk and coastal change; Water supply, wastewater and water quality, which matters have been addressed.
11. Among the North Lincolnshire Local Plan Development Standards the following have been identified as being relevant to the Application namely: DS7 – Contaminated Land; DS11 – Polluting Activities; DS13 – Groundwater Protection; DS14 – Foul Sewage and Surface Water Drainage; DS15 – Water Resources; DS16 – Flood Risk. However, it is recognised that the principles may be of wide relevance and therefore are not repeated under other topics.
12. The Core Strategy policy CS18 Sustainable Resource Use and Climate Change promotes development that utilises natural resources efficiently and sustainably. It raises a number of measures including high water efficiency standards; 2) sustainable urban drainage systems where practicable; 3) supporting necessary improvement of flood defences and preventing development in high risk flood areas where practicable/ possible; 7) supporting waste minimisation, recycling and waste for energy; 11) supporting renewable sources of energy in appropriate locations; 12) supporting new technology and development for carbon capture

Ecology and nature conservation

13. ES Chapter 7 refers to the assessment of the likely significant ecological and nature conservation effects (construction, operation, decommissioning) of the Proposed Development. Relevant policies are contained in NPSs EN-1, 4.3 (Habitats and species regulations); EN-1 5.3 (Biodiversity and geological conservation); EN-2, 2.10 (Water quality and resources). In addition to NPSs for energy, relevant NPPF policies include 11 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment and PPG on Natural environment. Relevant development plan policies in the North Lincolnshire Local Plan (NLLP) on Landscape and

Conservation are LC1, LC2, LC4, LC5, LC6 and in the North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (NLCS) on Biodiversity (CS17).

14. EN-1 4.3 (Habitats and Species Regulations) points to the fact that prior to granting a consent, the relevant authority must be satisfied that the requirements of the EIA Directive have been adhered to and the question of whether a project may have a significant effect on a European designated site (or on any site to which the same protection is applied as a matter of policy), either alone or in combination with other plans or projects has been considered (EN-1, 4.3.1). The course adopted in this case has been to provide the information required to enable the Secretary of State, as competent authority, to undertake an appropriate assessment.
15. EN-1, 5.3 (Biodiversity and geological conservation) requires that EIA development clearly sets out any effects on internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of ecological or geological conservation importance, on protected species and on habitats and other species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity, and the applicant should show how the project has taken advantage of opportunities to conserve and enhance biodiversity and geological conservation interests (paragraphs 5.3.3/4). As a general principle, development should aim to avoid significant harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests, including through mitigation and consideration of reasonable alternatives (paragraph 5.3.7).
16. EN-2, 2.10 (Water quality and resources) refers to the design of water cooling systems for fossil fuel generating stations having additional impacts on water quality abstraction and discharge and that in such cases the applicant should undertake an assessment to the satisfaction of the relevant authority, demonstrating measures to be put in place to avoid/minimise adverse impacts of abstraction/ discharge of cooling water, including intake/ outfall locations and specifying measures to minimise fish impingement and/or entrainment and excessive heat from discharges to receiving waters (EN-1, 5.15, EN-2, 2.10.1-3).
17. The NPPF 11 (Conserving and enhancing the natural environment) refers to various measures as including “minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government’s commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures”; plan preparation for development should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value and should encourage the re-use of land that has been previously developed (paragraphs 109-111). When determining applications LPAs should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying various principles including avoiding

significant harm through site selection, avoiding any adverse effects on designated sites, incorporating biodiversity, refusing permission for development resulting in loss or deterioration of habitats etc. When determining applications, LPAs should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity, in addition to protecting European sites, the same protection is to be afforded to potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation, listed or proposed Ramsar sites (NPPF, paragraph 118).

18. The PPG on the Natural Environment in part 2 (Biodiversity, eco systems and green infrastructure) advises that where EIA has been undertaken, evidence of ecological effects already provided, whether significant harm to wildlife and habitats can be avoided, or minimised by design or effective mitigation secured by conditions/ planning obligations.
19. NLLP policies Landscape and Conservation policies relevant to the Application address LC1 – Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and Ramsar sites; LC2 – Sites of Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves; LC4 -Development Affecting Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance; LC5 – Species Protection; LC6 – Habitat Creation. The Core Strategy policy CS17: Biodiversity emphasises that the Council will promote effective stewardship of north Lincolnshire’s wildlife, through measures including that development retains, protects and enhances features of biological and geological interest and provides for their appropriate management (item 4) and ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing in wildlife and ensuring any unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated (item 5).

Noise and vibration

20. ES Chapter 8 Noise and vibration refers to the assessment of likely significant noise and vibration effects (construction, operation and decommissioning) of the Proposed Development. Relevant policies are contained in EN-1, 5.11 and EN-2, 2.7 (Noise and vibration). In addition relevant NPPF policy includes II (Conserving and enhancing the natural environment) and PPG on Noise; there is also reference in the NLLP to development standard DS11.
21. EN-1 5.11 (Noise and vibration) refers to the Government’s policy on noise set out in the Noise Policy Statement for England 2010 promoting good health and quality of life through effective noise management; similar considerations apply to vibration; both effects are also applicable to the effects of proposed development on ecological receptors (EN-1, 5.11.1/2). It is expected that a noise assessment will be produced, with the nature and extent of the assessment proportionate to the likely noise impact (EN-1, 5.11.4). Operational noise with

respect to human receptors should be assessed using the principles of the relevant British Standards and other guidance with examples of mitigation strategies (EN-1, 5.11.6). The project should demonstrate good design through selection of the quietest cost-effective plant available, with optimisation of plant layout and the use of bunds or barriers where possible to reduce noise transmission. The relevant authority should not grant consent unless it is satisfied that the proposals will meet specified aims and should consider the inclusion of measurable requirements or specifying mitigation measures to ensure that noise levels do not exceed limits specified in the consent (EN-1, 5.11.10). Mitigation may include engineering, layout and administrative measures and only when these have been exhausted, it may be appropriate to consider mitigation through improved sound insulation to dwellings (EN-1, 5.11.12/13).

22. EN-2 2.7 (Noise and vibration) refers to specific considerations which apply to fossil fuel generating stations as including gas/ steam turbines and external noise sources such as externally sited air cooled condensers (EN-2, 2.7.1). The ES should include a noise assessment, taking into account the extent to which operational noise will be controlled by the EA; accordingly the relevant authority should not grant consent unless it is satisfied that the proposal will meet the aims of EN-1, 5.11.9 (EN-1, 5.11, EN-2, 2.7.1-4). It is noted that noise from gas turbines should be mitigated by attenuation of exhausts to reduce any risk of low frequency noise transmission (EN-2, 2.7.5).
23. The NPPF 11 (Conserving and enhancing the natural environment) requires that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, by among other considerations, preventing development from contributing to unacceptable levels of noise pollution (paragraph 109). The PP6 on noise, advises that noise needs to be considered when new development may create additional noise. The table which summarises the noise exposure hierarchy based on the likely average response, indicates that no specific measures will be required if noise is not noticeable or noticeable but not intrusive; only where noise is noticeable and intrusive will there be a need to mitigate and to reduce noise to a minimum.
24. The NLLP development standard DS11 – Polluting Activities states that planning permission for development if it can be demonstrated that potentially polluting emissions, including noise. “... do not create adverse environmental conditions likely to affect nearby developments and adjacent areas.”

Air quality

25. ES Chapter 9 Air quality refers to the assessment of likely significant effects (construction, operation and decommissioning) due to emissions to air of the Proposed Development. Relevant policies are contained in EN-1, 5.2 (Air quality and emissions); EN-1, 5.6 (Dust etc); EN-2, 2.5 (Air quality and emissions). In addition relevant NPPF policies include II Conserving and enhancing the natural environment and PPG 6 on Air quality; the NLLP includes development standard DS11.
26. EN-1, 5.2 (Air quality and emissions) noted that infrastructure development can have adverse effects on air quality. It is stated that the impact of CO₂ emissions cannot be totally avoided, even with a full development of CCS technology, however taking into account policies aimed at decarbonising electricity generation it has been determined that CO₂ emissions are not a reason to prohibit the consenting of such projects and that the relevant authority does not need to assess individual applications in terms of carbon emissions (EN-1, 5.2). Reference is made to eutrophication as being capable of affecting plant growth and functioning, impacting for example on biodiversity and ecosystems (EN-1, 5.2). Attention is drawn to the interface between planning and pollution control (EN-1, 4.10). The relevant authority is directed to consider whether mitigation measures are needed both for operations and construction emissions and it is suggested that a construction management plan may be of assistance and may refer to the condition and advice in the Air Quality Strategy or any successor to it (EN-1, 5.2.11/12).
27. EN-1, 5.6 (Dust, odour, artificial light, smoke, steam and insect infestation) refers to potential effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of energy infrastructure that could have a detrimental impact on amenity, or cause a common law or statutory nuisance under Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (paragraph 6). It is noted that mitigation may include engineering, layout and/or administrative measures (paragraph 5.6.11).
28. EN-2, 2.5 (Air quality and emissions) states that generic air emission impacts other than CO₂ are addressed in EN-1; in addition there are specific considerations applicable to fossil fuel generating stations. CO₂ emissions are described as “*a significant adverse impact of fossil fuel generating stations*”, however the relevant authority does not need to assess individual applications in terms of carbon emissions against carbon budgets as the policies in EN-1, 2.2 will apply (EN-2, 2.5.1/2). It is noted that fossil fuel generating stations are likely to emit NO_x and SO_x “although SO_x emissions from gas fired generating stations may be negligible” (paragraph 2.5.3) The applicant should carry out an assessment as required in EN-1 and should

consult with the EA and other statutory authorities and take into account views received from the EA in scoping; the relevant authority should take account of likely impacts resulting from air emissions in the case of SO_x, NO_x and particulates following the advice in EN-1 on interaction with the EA's regulatory process (EN-2, 2.5.5/6). In line with EN-1, 5.2 the relevant authority in consulting with the EA should be satisfied that any adverse impacts of mitigation proposed by the applicant have been described in the ES and taken into account (EN-1, 5.2, EN-2, 2.5.5-8).

29. NPPF 11 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment paragraph 109 requires the planning system to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by, among others, preventing development from contributing to unacceptable levels of air pollution. Paragraph 124 requires planning policies to comply with and contribute towards EU limit values or national objectives for pollutants, taking into account the presence of air quality management areas (AQMA) and cumulative impacts on Air Quality from individual sites in local areas; any planning decisions should ensure that new development in AQMAs is consistent with the local air quality action plan. Separately, the PPG on air quality (part 5) explains that concerns could arise if the development is likely to generate an air quality impact in an area where air quality is known to be poor, also where development is likely to impact on the implementation of air quality strategies and action plans and/ or in particular, lead to a breach of the EU legislation.
30. The NLLP DS11 (Polluting Activities) states that planning permission for development, including extensions to existing premises will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the levels of potentially polluting emissions "do not... create adverse environmental conditions likely to affect nearby developments and adjacent areas." Policy CS18 (Sustainable Resource Use and Climate Change) advises that the Council will actively promote development that utilises natural reserves efficiently and sustainably, including meeting high water efficiency standards, requiring the use of SUDS where practicable, supporting the necessary improvement of flood defences and surface water infrastructure required against the action of climate change and preventing development in high flood risk areas, wherever practicable and possible and meeting reduction of predicted CO₂ emissions.

Cultural heritage

31. ES chapter 10 Cultural Heritage refers to the assessment of the likely significant effects on cultural heritage (construction, operation decommissioning) of the Proposed Development. Relevant policies are contained in NPS EN-1, 5.8 (Historic environment); In addition relevant NPPF policy includes 12 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment which is also

addressed in PPG. Relevant NLLP policies address the Historic environment (policies HE5, HE8, HE9 and Landscape and conservation (policies LC14) and in the NLCS policy C56 (Historic Environment).

32. EN-1 5.8 (Historic environment) states that as part of the ES the applicant should provide a description of the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposed development and the contribution of their setting to that significance; the level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the assets significance (5.8.8). The relevant authority should take into account the desirability of sustaining, and where appropriate enhancing the significance of heritage assets, the contribution of that setting and the positive contribution they can make to sustainable communities and economic vitality (5.8.13)
33. The NPPF 12 Conserving and enhancing the historic environment requires that the LPAs should adopt a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, taking into account the significance of heritage assets and the wider benefits of conservation etc, requiring applicants to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, while the level of detail required should be “proportionate to the asset’s importance” (paragraphs 126/128)
34. LPAs are required to “identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise” (Core Strategy 129). It is explained that “Substantial harm or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance... should be wholly exceptional” (paragraph 132). “Where a development proposal will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal...” (paragraph 134).
35. The PPG on Conserving and enhancing the historic environment, in Part 3 Decision taking: historic environment and how to assess if there is substantial harm states that “Substantial harm is a high test, so it may not arise in many cases.”
36. NLLP policies concerning the Historic Environment comprise HE5 (Development affecting Listed Buildings) revisits development which damages the setting of Listed buildings: HE8 on (Ancient Monuments) – proposals that would result in an adverse effect on Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important monuments/ settings will not be permitted; HE9 – (Archaeological Evaluation) – will be required where development proposals affect sites of known/ suspected archaeological importance and such sites will be protected. Landscape and conservation policies Interest) requires the character/features of parks and gardens of historic

or landscape interest will be preserved/ enhanced; LC14 (Area of Special Historic Interest) refers to the Isle of Axholme being designated as an area of Special Historic Landscape Interest within which development will not be permitted which would adversely affect the character, appearance or setting of the historic landscape, or any of its features. The Core Strategy Policy CS6 (Historic Environment) states the Council will promote the effective management of north Lincolnshire's historic assets, seek to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment and provide archaeological assessment where appropriate.

Traffic and transport

37. ES chapter 11 Traffic and Transport refers to the assessment of the likely significant effects due to traffic and transport (construction, operation and decommissioning) of the Proposed Development. Relevant policies are contained in NPS EN-1, 5.13(Traffic and transport) and in EN-2, 2.2 (factors influencing site selection). Relevant NPPF policies include 4 Promoting sustainable transport and PPG on Travel plans, transport assessment and statements in decision making. The NLLP policies address a range of transportation policies T1 Location of development; T2 Access to development; T6 Pedestrian routes and footpaths; T8 Cyclists and development; T14 The North Lincolnshire strategic road network; T19 Car parking provision and standards; T24 Road Freight.
38. EN-1, 5.13 (Traffic and transport) refers to the potential for transportation impacts, particularly noise and emissions and that the applicant may require a transport assessment, which should include consideration of measures to mitigate transport impacts and provide details of measures including public transport, walking and cycling (EN-1, 5.13.1/4).
39. EN-2, 2.2 addresses factors influencing site selection by applicants for fossil fuel NSIPs; these are not statements of Government policy but provide background information on criteria applicants consider when choosing a site (EN-2, 2.2.1). From a transport infrastructure perspective, generating stations require accessibility. Government encourages multi-modal transport where possible, while noting that fossil fuel generating stations should be located in the vicinity of existing transport routes where possible and should incorporate suitable access leading off from the main highway network.
40. The NPPF 4 Promoting sustainable transport states that transport plans have an important role in facilitating sustainable development but also recognise that different policies will be required in different circumstances (NPPF paragraph 29). All developments generating significant movements should take account of whether A) opportunities for sustainable transport modes have been taken up depending on the nature and location of the sites, to

reduce the need for major need transport infrastructure; B) save and sustainable access to the site for all people; C) improvements can be undertaken within the transport network that cost-effectively effectively limit the significance of the development; D) a development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of the development are severe (NPPF paragraph 32).

41. The NLCS also emphasises the importance of sustainable transport, Policy CS25 *“Promoting Sustainable Transport”* states that the Council will *“support and promote a sustainable transport system in North Lincolnshire that offers a choice of transport modes and reduces the need to travel”*. Transport demand management includes a requirement that *“transport provision is integrated into the design of all development from the start of any development project.”*

Socio economic characteristics

42. EN-1, 5.12 (Socio-economic) in considering socio-economic impacts draws attention to the positive impacts of job creation. It states that where the project is likely to have socio-economic impacts at local and regional levels, the applicant should provide an assessment as part of the ES, which may include the creation of jobs/training opportunities; the provision of local services, infrastructure and educational/visitor facilities; effects on tourism and local businesses; the impact of a changing influx of workers; cumulative effects if other major projects were occurring in a similar timeframe and how these correlate with local policies (EN-1, 5.12.2-5). The relevant authority should consider any [relevant] positive provisions for example through planning obligations and by mitigating any adverse impacts for example through high quality design (EN-1, 5.12.8/9).
43. Economic development is strongly encouraged by policies in the NPPF, including the achievement of sustainable economic development to deliver infrastructure as one of the core planning principles (paragraph 17). The Government aims to do everything it can to support sustainable economic growth, to create jobs and not to impede growth and in achieving this, LPAs should attach significant weight to meeting the development needs of business and priority areas for economic regeneration, infrastructure provision and environmental enhancement which will be delivered by the Proposed Development (NPPF paragraphs 18-21).
44. The Core Strategy 9 Delivering Greater Economic Success in north Lincolnshire, although focused on strategic employment sites, in policy CS11 (Provision and distribution of employment land) states that *“the Council will support the continued expansion and improvement of north Lincolnshire’s economy in order to create a step change in the area’s*

role regionally and nationally”. Additionally policy CS13: Lifelong Learning and Skills emphasises that “the Council will support improvements in education provision...”. In the related area of chapter 11 (Environment and resources) reference is made to Sustainable Resource Use and Climate Change. It is stated that “existing energy generation sites such as Keadby power station are supported” and it is expected that “existing power stations in north Lincolnshire will continue to be a major contributor to north Lincolnshire’s power generation supply to the national grid”.

Landscape and visual

45. Section 5.9 of EN-1 (Landscape and visual) states that the landscape and visual effects of energy projects will vary according to the type of development, its location and landscape setting. Attention is drawn to the potential for plumes in the case of thermal generating stations and that direct cooling and hybrid cooling systems will generally not exhibit visible steam plumes except in exceptional circumstances (EN-1, 5.9.2/3). Apart from the applicant undertaking a landscape and visual impact assessment, it is stated that virtually all nationally significant infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape i.e. National Parks, the Brooks and AONB (EN-1, 5.9.9). Developments in other areas with policies based on landscape character assessment should be paid particular attention. In considering potential impact the relevant authority should consider whether the Project has been carefully designed taking account of environmental effects on the landscape (EN-1, 5.9.14/17). When considering visual impact the relevant authority will have to judge whether effects on sensitive receptors e.g. local residents, other receptors, visitors to the area outweigh the benefits of the Project and it is suggested that attention is drawn to similar projects, taking into account landscape and visual impacts of visible plumes (5.9, 18-20). It is suggested in the policy that apart from reducing the scale consideration is given where appropriate to colours, materials and landscaping (EN-1, 5.9.21-23).
46. Section 4.5 (Criteria for ‘good design’ for energy infrastructure) states that in considering criteria (NPS EN-1, 4.5), the relevant authority needs to be satisfied that the development will produce sustainable infrastructure sensitive to place, efficient in the use of natural resources and energy, matched by appearance that demonstrates good aesthetics as far as possible, although “the nature of much energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area” (NPS EN-1, 4.5.1). Good design is also a means by which policy objectives can be met, for example good design in terms of siting and technologies can help mitigate adverse impacts such as noise (EN-1, 4.5.2). Other considerations are whether the development is as “attractive, durable and adaptable” as it can be and that “the applicant has taken into account both functionality including fitness for purpose, sustainability and aesthetics” (NPS EN-1, 4.5.3).
47. EN-2 states that section 10(3)(b) of the Planning Act 2008 requires the Secretary of State in designating an NPS to have regard to the desirability of good design in all energy infrastructure; applicants should demonstrate good design particularly in respect of landscape and visual amenity and in design, to

mitigate impacts such as noise, vibration, transport and emissions to air (EN-2, 2.3.15/16 (Consideration of “good design” for energy infrastructure)).

48. Section 2.6 (Landscape and visual) states that generic landscape and visual impacts are covered in EN-1, 5.9 but that specific considerations apply to fossil fuel generating stations (EN-2, 2.6.1). The applicant should include a landscape and visual impact assessment as part of the ES (EN-1, 4.2) and should consider the design of the plant including the materials to be used and the visual impact of the stack in the context of local landscape (EN-1, 5.9). It is recognised that it is not possible to eliminate visual impacts and that mitigations is to reduce visual intrusion of the “buildings” through design “*with the aim of providing the best fit with the existing local landscape*” (EN-2 2.6.5-7). The relevant authority needs to be aware of the statutory and technical requirements that inform plant design; if the location is appropriate for the project and it has been designed sensitively, “the visibility of a fossil fuel generating station should be given limited weight (EN-2, 2.6.9/10).
49. The Government attaches great importance to the design of the built environment and good design is a key aspect of sustainable development (paragraph 56), however it is also the case that LPAs “should not refuse planning permission for buildings or infrastructure which promote high levels of sustainability because of concerns about incompatibility with an existing townscape” (paragraph 65).
50. The NLLP emphasises that landscape is an intrinsic part of the structure of North Lincolnshire; also described as a dynamic commodity, which may enhance the value of this important asset. Relevant policies include: LC7 (Landscape Protection), LC11 (Areas of amenity importance), LC12 (Protection of trees woodland and hedgerows).
51. The NLCS also reflects a commitment to preserving the area’s landscape, Policy CS5 refers to “*Delivering Quality Design in North Lincolnshire*” and requires all new development to be well designed and appropriate for its context, contributing to creating a sense of place. The Council will encourage contemporary design providing it is appropriate for its location and is informed by its surrounding context. In addition Policy CS16 (North Lincolnshire’s Landscape, Greenspace and Waterscape states that the Council) seeks to “*protect, enhance and support a diverse and multi-functional network of landscape, greenspace and waterscape*” which “*will be secured by a range of measures, including... developer contributions to create, improve and maintain green infrastructure assets where appropriate*”.