

MORGAN OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT: GENERATION ASSETS

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 4, annex 15.1: Seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment legislation and planning policy context technical report



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FINAL

Image of an offshore wind farm

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Glossary

| Term | Meaning |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Access Land | Land designated as open access as defined in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the CRoW Act) |
| Characteristics | Elements, or combinations of elements, which make a contribution to distinctive landscape character. |
| Designated landscapes | Areas of landscape identified as being of importance at international, national or local levels, either defined by statute or identified in development plans or other documents. |
| Environmental Impact Assessment | A statutory process by which certain planned projects must be assessed before a formal decision to proceed can be made. It involves the collection and consideration of environmental information, which fulfils the assessment requirements of the EIA Directive and EIA Regulations, including the publication of an Environmental Statement. |
| Feature | Prominent elements in the landscape, such as tree clumps, church towers or wooded skylines. |
| Green infrastructure | Networks of green spaces and watercourses and water bodies that connect rural areas, villages, towns and cities. |
| Heritage | The historic environment and especially valued assets and qualities, such as historic buildings and cultural traditions. |
| Key characteristics | Elements which are particularly important to the current character of the landscape and help to give an area its particularly distinctive sense of place. |
| Landform | The shape and form of the land surface which has resulted from combinations of geology, geomorphology, slope, elevation and physical processes. |
| Landscape | An area, as perceived by people, the character of which is a result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors. |
| Landscape character | A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse. |
| Landscape Character Areas | These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type. |
| Landscape Character Assessment | The process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape and using this information to assist in managing change in the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features that make landscape distinctive. The process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment. |
| Seascape | The visual and physical conjunction of land and sea which combines maritime, coast and hinterland character. |
| Special Qualities | A term usually used in relation to National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is given to those qualities for which the area is designated. |
| Townscape | The character and composition of the built environment including the buildings and the relationships between them, the different types of urban open space, including green spaces, and the relationship between buildings and open spaces. |
| Visual amenity | The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy in their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area. |

| Term | Meaning |
|------------------|--|
| Visual receptors | Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal. |

Acronyms

| Acronym | Description |
|---------|---|
| AONB | Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty |
| CEA | Cumulative Effect Assessment |
| EIA | Environmental Impact Assessment |
| ES | Environmental Statement |
| GLVIA | Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment |
| IEMA | Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment |
| LI | Landscape Institute |
| MPA | Marine Policy Statement |
| NCA | National Character Area |
| NE | Natural England |
| NP | National Park |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| NPPG | National Planning Policy Guidance |
| NPS | National Policy Statements |
| PA | Planning Act |
| SCA | Seascape Character Area |
| SLA | Special Landscape Area |
| SLVIA | Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment |
| SPD | Supplementary Planning Document |
| SPG | Supplementary Planning Guidance |

Units

| Unit | Description |
|------|-------------|
| km | Kilometre |
| MW | Megawatt |

1 SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT LEGISLATION AND PLANNING POLICY

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1.1 This technical report annex summarises the legislative and planning environment which the study area of the Morgan Generation Assets includes.

1.2 Study area

1.2.1.1 The seascape, landscape and visual resources study area for the Morgan Offshore Wind Farm: Generation Assets (hereafter Morgan Generation Assets) is illustrated in Figure 1.1. It has been based on the findings of an analysis of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and is described below:

- The area of sea to be temporarily and permanently occupied during construction, operation and maintenance and decommissioning of the Morgan Generation Assets.
- An additional 50km buffer from the outer edge of the Morgan Array Area. The above SLVIA study area extent is formulated in accordance with relevant best practice guidance, in particular Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition, 2013, Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (GLVIA3). The study area has been discussed with the relevant authorities/consultees where possible. The Lake District National Park Authority has not responded to requests for comments on candidate Representative Viewpoints or the proposed study area. Natural England responded at the Morgan Generation Assets scoping stage, on the extent of the study area, and requested a 60km buffer from the outer boundaries of the Morgan Array Area. Neither Natural England, nor the Lake District National Park Authority attended workshops held for the statutory consultees. Other statutory consultees have agreed that a 50km buffer for offshore wind farms is sufficient as a study area and that beyond this distance there is no potential for significant effects to be experienced, even on nationally designated landscapes with mountainous areas, or on visual receptors within such areas. The SLVIA has taken the approach, as set out in the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) paragraph 1.17 – “the emphasis is on the identification of likely significant environmental effects”. It is judged that, due to distance, there is no potential for significant effects beyond 50km, the study area need not extend any further.

1.3 Consultation

1.3.1.1 In line with best practice guidance in GLVIA3 (engaging with stakeholders and the public, page 43, paragraphs 3.40-3.45), the scope and methodology of the SLVIA has been the subject of engagement and consultations with the relevant planning authorities, statutory bodies and other parties, and the public. Details of the consultees and others engaged and consultations undertaken, together with a summary of the

key issues raised by the parties pertinent to seascape, landscape and visual resources, are set out in volume 2, chapter 15: Seascape, landscape and visual resources of the PEIR.

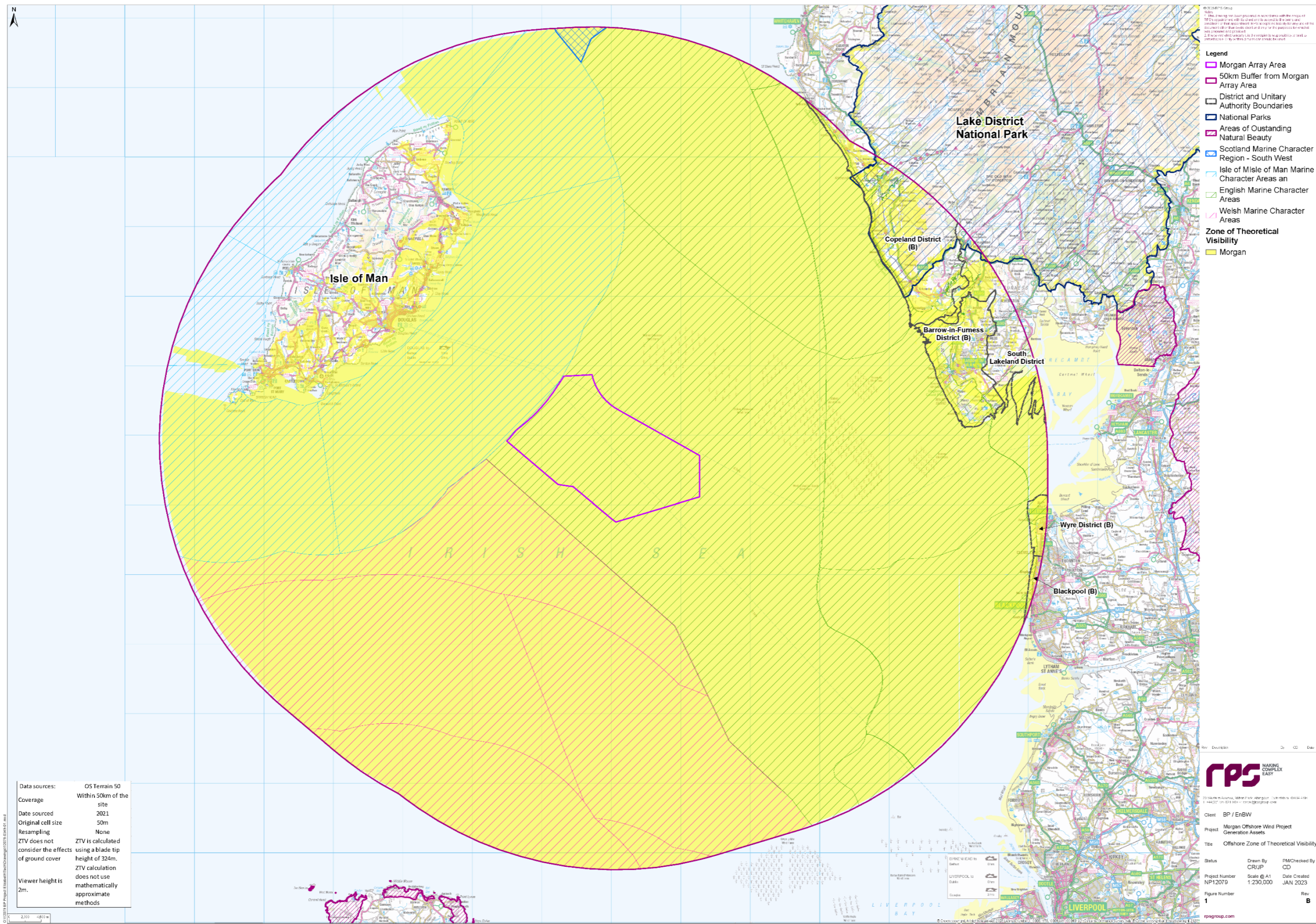


Figure 1.1: Seascape, landscape and visual resources study area for the Morgan Generation Assets

1.4 Overview of seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA) planning policy

1.4.1.1 The seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA) has been undertaken based on the guidance on landscape and visual impact assessment within the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2013) publication; Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Third edition (GLVIA3).

1.4.2 National Planning Policy Framework

National Planning Policy (England) - National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) (NPPF)

1.4.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in July 2021 sets out the Government’s planning policy for England and how it expects that policy to be applied. The NPPF emphasises the importance of achieving sustainable development. The sections of the NPPF that are relevant to SLVIA are set out in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Summary of NPPF policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the NPPF | Summary of NPPF provision |
|---|--|
| Section 2, paragraph 7 | “The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. At a very high level, the objective of sustainable development can be summarised as meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. At a similarly high level, members of the United Nations – including the United Kingdom – have agreed to pursue the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development in the period to 2030. These address social progress, economic well-being and environmental protection.” |
| Section 2: Achieving sustainable development, paragraph 8 | “Achieving sustainable development means that the planning system has three overarching objectives, which are interdependent and need to be pursued in mutually supportive ways (so that opportunities can be taken to secure net gains across each of the different objectives): c) an environmental objective – to protect and enhance our natural, built, and historic environment, including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy”. |
| Section 2, paragraph 9 | “These objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and the application of the policies in this Framework; they are not criteria against which every decision can or should be judged. Planning policies and decisions should play an active role in guiding development towards sustainable solutions, but in doing so should take local circumstances into account, to reflect the character, needs and opportunities of each area.” |
| Section 2, paragraph 10 | “So that sustainable development is pursued in a positive way, at the heart of the Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development.” |

| Section of the NPPF | Summary of NPPF provision |
|---|--|
| Section 2, paragraph 11 | Plans and decisions should apply a presumption in favour of sustainable development. For decision-taking this means d) granting permission unless: “the application of policies in this Framework that protect areas or assets of particular importance provides a clear reason for refusing the development proposed.” Footnote 7 lists those sites of particular importance. For landscape these are: Local Green Space; Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); and National Parks |
| Section 3: Plan-making, Strategic policies, paragraph 20 | “Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale, and design quality of places, and make sufficient provision ¹³ for: d) conservation and enhancement of the natural, built, and historic environment, including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation”. Footnote 13 requires it to be in line with the presumption in favour of sustainable development. |
| Section 3, paragraph 28 | “Non-strategic policies should be used by local planning authorities and communities to set out more detailed policies for specific areas, “This can include allocating sites, the provision of infrastructure and community facilities at a local level, establishing design principles, conserving, and enhancing the natural and historic environment and setting out other development management policies.” |
| Section 3, paragraph 32 | “Significant adverse impacts on these [economic, social, and environmental] objectives should be avoided and wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).” Any form of development will have an impact on character and potentially on views. |
| Section 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change, paragraph 155 | “help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and heat, plans should: provide a positive strategy for energy from these sources, that maximises the potential for suitable development, while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts).” |
| Section 14, paragraph 158 | “When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon development, local planning authorities should: approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.” |
| Section 15, paragraph 174 | “Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: protecting and enhancing valued landscapes” ... “(in a manner commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan); recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside ...and “Maintaining the character of the undeveloped coast...” |
| Section 15, paragraph 175 | “Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework; take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure; and plan for the enhancement of natural capital at a catchment or landscape scale across local authority boundaries.” |

| Section of the NPPF | Summary of NPPF provision |
|---------------------------|--|
| Section 15, paragraph 176 | that “Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in” ... “Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues.” The NPPF adds that the scale and extent of development within such areas should be limited. Other than for developments in the public interest, major development in such areas should be refused (paragraph 177). What constitutes major development is a matter for the decision-maker, “taking into account its nature, scale and setting, and whether it could have a significant adverse impact on the purposes for which the area has been designated or defined” (Footnote 60). |
| Section 15, paragraph 185 | “Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should: “limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation”. |

1.4.3 Overarching National Planning Policy for Energy (EN-1) (July 2011)

1.4.3.1 The Overarching National Planning Policy for Energy (EN-1) as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Summary of EN-1 policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the NPS EN-1 | Summary of NPS EN-1 provision |
|-------------------------|---|
| Paragraph 5.9.5 | The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual assessment and report it in the ES. A number of guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues. The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant’s assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England and local development plans in Wales. |
| Paragraph 5.9.6 | The applicant’s assessment should include the effects during construction of the project and the effects of the completed development and its operation on landscape components and landscape character. |
| Paragraph 5.9.7 | The assessment should include the visibility and conspicuousness of the project during construction and of the presence and operation of the project and potential impacts on views and visual amenity. This should include light pollution effects, including on local amenity, and nature conservation. |
| Paragraph 5.9.8 | Landscape effects depend on the existing character of the local landscape, its current quality, how highly it is valued and its capacity to accommodate change. All of these factors need to be considered in judging the impact of a project on landscape. Virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape. Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate. |
| Paragraph 5.9.12 | The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid compromising the purposes of designation and |

| Section of the NPS EN-1 | Summary of NPS EN-1 provision |
|-------------------------|---|
| | such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints. This should include projects in England which may have impacts on National Scenic Areas in Scotland. |
| Paragraph 5.9.14 | Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally and protected by local designation. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, local landscape designations should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development. |
| Paragraph 5.9.15 | The scale of such projects means that they will often be visible within many miles of the site of the proposed infrastructure. The IPC should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project. |
| Paragraph 5.9.16 | In reaching a judgment, the IPC should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the IPC considers reasonable. |
| Paragraph 5.9.17 | The IPC should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by reasonable mitigation. |
| Paragraph 5.9.18 | All proposed energy infrastructure is likely to have visual effects for many receptors around proposed sites. The IPC will have to judge whether the visual effects on sensitive receptors, such as local residents, and other receptors, such as visitors to the local area, outweigh the benefits of the project. Coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to visual intrusion because of the potential high visibility of development on the foreshore, on the skyline and affecting views along stretches of undeveloped coast. |
| Paragraph 5.9.21 | Reducing the scale of a project can help to mitigate the visual and landscape effects of a proposed project. However, reducing the scale or otherwise amending the design of a proposed energy infrastructure project may result in a significant operational constraint and reduction in function – for example, the electricity generation output. There may, however, be exceptional circumstances, where mitigation could have a very significant benefit and warrant a small reduction in function. In these circumstances, the IPC may decide that the benefits of the mitigation to reduce the landscape and/or visual effects outweigh the marginal loss of function. |
| Paragraph 5.9.22 | Within a defined site, adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within that site, design including colours and materials, and landscaping schemes, depending on the size and type of the proposed project. Materials and designs of buildings should always be given careful consideration. |
| Paragraph 5.9.23 | Depending on the topography of the surrounding terrain and areas of population it may be appropriate to undertake landscaping off site. For example, filling in gaps in existing tree and hedge lines would mitigate the impact when viewed from a more distant vista. |

1.4.4 National Planning Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (July 2011)

1.4.4.1 The National Planning Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.3.

Table 1.3: Summary of EN-3 policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the NPS EN-3 | Summary of NPS EN-3 provision |
|-------------------------|---|
| Paragraph 2.4.2 | Proposals for renewable energy infrastructure should demonstrate good design in respect of landscape and visual amenity, and in the design of the project to mitigate impacts such as noise and effects on ecology. |
| Paragraph 2.5.33 | In sites with nationally recognised designations, consent for renewable energy projects should only be granted where it can be demonstrated that the objectives of designation of the area will not be compromised by the development, and any significant adverse effects on the qualities for which the area has been designated are clearly outweighed by the environmental, social and economic benefits |
| Paragraph 2.6.199 | Seascape is an additional issue for consideration. Seascape is a discrete area within which there is shared inter-visibility between land and sea. In some circumstances it may be necessary to carry out a seascape and visual impact assessment (SVIA) in accordance with the relevant offshore wind farm EIA policy. |
| Paragraph 2.6.200 | The seascape is an important resource and an economic asset. Coastal landscapes are often recognised through statutory landscape designations. |
| Paragraph 2.6.201 | Some applications for offshore wind farms that are submitted to the IPC will be proposed at distances that mean that a project would not be visible from the shore. In these instances, the IPC is likely to be able to conclude that an SVIA will not be required. |
| Paragraph 2.6.202 | Where a proposed offshore wind farm will be visible from the shore, an SVIA should be undertaken which is proportionate to the scale of the potential impacts. Impact on seascape should be addressed in addition to the landscape and visual effects discussed in EN-1. |
| Paragraph 2.6.203 | Where necessary, assessment of the seascape should include an assessment of three principal considerations on the likely effect of offshore wind farms on the coast: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - limit of visual perception from the coast - individual characteristics of the coast which affect its capacity to absorb a development - how people perceive and interact with the seascape. |
| Paragraph 2.6.204 | As part of the SVIA, photomontages are likely to be required. Viewpoints to be used for the SVIA should be selected in consultation with the statutory consultees at the EIA Scoping stage. |
| Paragraph 2.6.205 | Magnitude of change to both the identified seascape receptors (such as seascape units and designated landscapes) and visual receptors (such as viewpoints) should be assessed in accordance with the standard methodology for SVIA' (paragraph 2.6.205). Where appropriate, cumulative SVIA should be undertaken in accordance with section 4.2 of EN-1 (paragraph 2.6.206). |
| Paragraph 2.6.208 | Where a proposed offshore wind farm is within sight of the coast, there may be adverse effects. The IPC should not refuse to grant consent for a development solely on the ground of an adverse effect on the seascape or visual amenity unless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it considers that an alternative layout within the identified site could be reasonably proposed which would minimise any harm, taking into account other constraints that the applicant has faced such as ecological effects, while maintaining safety or economic viability of the application - taking account of the sensitivity of the receptor(s) as set out in EN-1 paragraph 5.9.18, the harmful effects are considered to outweigh the benefits of the proposed scheme. |
| Paragraph 2.6.209 | Where adverse effects are anticipated either during the construction or operational phases, in coming to a judgement, the IPC should take into account the extent to which the effects are temporary or reversible. |

1.4.5 UK Marine Planning Policy

UK Marine Policy Statement (2011)

1.4.5.1 The effects of activities and developments in the marine and coastal area on the landscape, including seascape, will vary on a case-by-case basis according to the type of activity, its location and its setting. There is no legal definition for seascape in the UK but the European Landscape Convention (ELC) defines landscape as “an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors”. In the context of this document, references to seascape should be taken as meaning landscapes with views of the coast or seas, and coasts and the adjacent marine environment with cultural, historical and archaeological links with each other.

1.4.5.2 When developing Marine Plans, marine plan authorities should consider at a strategic level visual, cultural, historical and archaeological impacts not just for those coastal areas that are particularly important for seascape, but for all coastal areas, liaising with terrestrial planning authorities as necessary. In addition, any wider social and economic impacts of a development or activity on coastal landscapes and seascapes should be considered.

1.4.5.3 In considering the impact of an activity or development on seascape, the marine plan authority should take into account existing character and quality, how highly it is valued and its capacity to accommodate change specific to any development. Landscape Character Assessment methodology may be an aid to this process.”

1.4.6 Marine Planning Policy - England

North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan (2021)

1.4.6.1 The objectives of this plan are as follows:

- Achieving a sustainable marine economy
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- Living within environmental limits.

1.4.6.2 The North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.4.

Table 1.4: Summary of North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan | Summary of North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan provision |
|---|--|
| Policy NW-INF-1 | Proposals for appropriate marine infrastructure which facilitates land-based activities, or land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activities (including the diversification or regeneration of sustainable marine industries), should be supported. |

| Section of the North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan | Summary of North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan provision |
|---|---|
| Policy NW-CO-1 | Proposals that optimise the use of space and incorporate opportunities for co-existence and co-operation with existing activities will be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on, or displace, existing activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate adverse impacts so they are no longer significant. If it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals must state the case for proceeding. |
| Policy NW-REN-1 | Proposals that enable the provision of renewable energy technologies and associated supply chains, will be supported. |
| Policy NW-REN-2 | Proposals for new activity within areas held under a lease or an agreement for lease for renewable energy generation should not be authorised, unless it is demonstrated that the proposed development or activity will not reduce the ability to construct, operate or decommission the existing or planned energy generation project. |
| Policy NW-REN-3 | Proposals for the installation of infrastructure to generate offshore renewable energy, inside areas of identified potential and subject to relevant assessments, will be supported. |
| Policy NW-SCP-1 | Proposals should ensure they are compatible with their surroundings and should not have a significant adverse impact on the character and visual resource of the seascape and landscape of the area. The location, scale and design of proposals should take account of the character, quality and distinctiveness of the seascape and landscape. Proposals that may have a significant adverse impact on the seascape and landscape of the area should demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate adverse impacts If it is not possible to mitigate the public benefits for proceeding with the proposal must outweigh significant adverse impacts to the seascape and landscape of the area. Proposals within or relatively close to nationally designated areas should have regard to the specific statutory purposes of the designated area. Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. |
| Policy NW-TR-1 | Proposals that promote or facilitate sustainable tourism and recreation activities, or that create appropriate opportunities to expand or diversify the current use of facilities, should be supported. Proposals that may have significant adverse impacts on tourism and recreation activities must demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a) avoid b) minimise c) mitigate - adverse impacts so they are no longer significant. |

| Section of the North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan | Summary of North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan provision |
|---|---|
| Policy NW-CBC-1 | Proposals must consider cross-border impacts throughout the lifetime of the proposed activity. Proposals that impact upon one or more marine plan areas or terrestrial environments must show evidence of the relevant public authorities (including other countries) being consulted and responses considered. |

1.4.7 Marine Planning Policy - Wales

Welsh National Marine Plan 2015-2021 (2019)

1.4.7.1 The Northwest Inshore and Welsh National Marine Plan 2015-2021 as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.5.

Table 1.5: Summary of Welsh National Marine Plan 2015-2021 policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Marine Plan policy | Summary of policy relevant to SLVIA |
|---|--|
| Policy GEN_01: Planning policy | There is a presumption in favour of the sustainable development of the plan area in order to contribute to Wales' well-being goals. |
| Policy GEN_02: Planning policy | Relevant public authorities should take a proportionate, risk-based approach to application of relevant marine planning policies in decision making. |
| Policy ECON_01: Sustainable Economic Growth | Proposals for economically sustainable activities are encouraged, particularly where they contribute to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the sustainable management of natural resources thereby supporting ecosystem resilience a more resilient economy employment opportunities particularly for coastal communities protecting and creating employment at all skill levels maintaining communities with a high-density of Welsh speakers tackling poverty by supporting deprived coastal communities. |
| Policy SOC_06: Designated Landscape | Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on the purposes and special qualities for which National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty have been designated have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: avoid adverse impacts on designated landscapes; and/or minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided; and/or mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance designated landscapes are encouraged. |

| Marine Plan policy | Summary of policy relevant to SLVIA |
|---|--|
| Policy SOC_07: Seascapes | Proposals should demonstrate how potential impacts on seascapes have been taken into consideration and should, in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse impacts on seascapes minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Opportunities to enhance seascapes are encouraged. |
| Policy GOV_01: Cumulative effects | Proposals should demonstrate that they have assessed potential cumulative effects and should, in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse effects minimise effects where they cannot be avoided mitigate effects where they cannot be minimised. If significant adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised or mitigated, proposals must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Proposals that contribute to positive cumulative effects are encouraged. |
| Policy GOV_02: Cross-border and plan compatibility | Relevant public authorities, in making their decisions, should have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> any applicable policy in a relevant marine plan any applicable policy in relevant terrestrial development plans or related documents the Natural Resources Policy any relevant local well-being plan(s) (including the local well-being assessment) evidence in any relevant Area Statement(s) produced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW). |
| Policy ELC_01a: Low carbon energy (supporting) wind | Proposals for offshore wind energy generation will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations. Proposals for wind >350MW will be considered by UK Government in accordance with relevant national policy. In determining an NSIP for a wind proposal, the decision maker will have regard to this plan. Any determination in relation to energy developments of any scale will be taken in accordance with this plan alongside any other relevant considerations. |
| Policy ELC_01b: Low carbon energy (supporting) wind | In order to understand future opportunities for offshore wind development, including floating technologies, this plan supports strategic planning for the sector. Relevant public authorities and the sector are encouraged, in liaison with other interested parties, to collaborate to understand opportunities for the sustainable use of wind energy resources including identification of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> natural resources that provide potential opportunity for future use evidence to de-risk consenting for the sector opportunities to define and, once in place, further develop and refine Strategic Resource Areas for offshore wind energy resource safeguarding in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning. Relevant public authorities should make appropriate evidence available to support planning and decision making in order to support the sustainable development of the sector through marine planning, where it is appropriate to do so. |
| Policy CAB_01: Subsea cabling (supporting) | Proposals that facilitate the growth of digital communications networks and/or the optimal distribution of electricity will be supported where they contribute to the objectives of this plan. Proposals should comply with the relevant general policies and sector safeguarding policies of this plan and any other relevant considerations. |

| Marine Plan policy | Summary of policy relevant to SLVIA |
|---|---|
| Policy SAF_01: Safeguarding existing activity | Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity covered by a formal application or authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for the proposal to progress under exceptional circumstances. Proposals likely to have significant adverse impacts upon an established activity not subject to a formal authorisation must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that activity. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Under SAF 01 a and b, compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding significant adverse impacts on those activities Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised. |
| Policy SAF_02: Safeguarding strategic resources | Proposals which may have significant adverse impacts upon the prospects of any sector covered by this plan to engage in sustainable future strategic resource use (of resources identified by an SRA) must demonstrate how they will address compatibility issues with that potential resource use. Proposals unable to demonstrate adequate compatibility must present a clear and convincing case for proceeding. Compatibility should be demonstrated through, in order of preference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoiding significant adverse impacts on this potential strategic resource use Minimising significant adverse impacts where these cannot be avoided Mitigating significant adverse impacts where they cannot be minimised. |

1.4.8 Local Planning Policy

Barrow in Furness District Council – Saved Barrow Local Plan 1996-2006

1.4.8.1 The relevant parts of the Barrow Local Plan are:

- Part 2: Landscape Conservation
- Part 4: Urban Design and Visual Amenity
- Part 5: Other Environmental Considerations

Blackpool Council – Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027 (Adopted January 2016)

1.4.8.2 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027 as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.6.

Table 1.6: Summary of Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 | Summary of Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 provision |
|---|--|
| Policy CS8: Heritage | <p>Development proposals will be supported which respect and draw inspiration from Blackpool's built, social and cultural heritage, complementing its rich history with new development to widen its appeal to residents and visitors.</p> <p>2. Proposals will be supported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retain, reuse or convert, whilst conserving and enhancing the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets and their setting • Enhance the setting and views of heritage assets through appropriate design and layout of new development and design of public realm • Strengthen the existing townscape character created by historic buildings. <p>3. Developers must demonstrate how any development affecting heritage assets (including conservation areas) will conserve and enhance the asset, its significance and its setting.</p> |
| Policy CS10: Sustainable Design and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy | <p>1. To mitigate the impacts of climate change, minimise carbon emissions and ensure buildings are energy efficient, non-residential developments must follow the principle of the energy hierarchy, which is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Reduce the need for energy by taking all reasonable steps to locate and orientate buildings to incorporate passive environmental design for heating, cooling, ventilation, and natural day-lighting b) Minimise energy use by ensuring appropriate energy efficient measures are integral to development proposals c) Investigate opportunities to include renewable and low carbon energy provision. <p>2. The development of renewable, low carbon, or decentralised energy schemes, excluding wind turbines will be supported where proposals:</p> <p>Are located appropriately and do not cause an unacceptable impact on surrounding uses or the local environment, landscape</p> |

| Section of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 | Summary of Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 provision |
|--|--|
|--|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>character or visual appearance of the area, taking into account the cumulative impact of other energy generation schemes; and Mitigate any potential noise, odour, traffic or other impacts of the development so as not to cause an unacceptable impact on the environment or local amenity.</p> <p>3. For development involving one or more wind turbine, planning permission will only be granted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies DPD • following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing. <p>4. All new non-residential development over 1,000m² will be required to achieve BREEAM 'very good' (or any future national equivalent</p> |
|--|--|

Copeland Borough Council - Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 - Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (Adopted December 2013)

1.4.8.3 The Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.7.

Table 1.7: Summary of Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 | Summary of Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 provision |
|--|--|
| Policy ST1 Strategic Development Principles | <p>The Strategic Development Principles that inform and underpin the Borough's planning policies are:</p> <p>A Economic and Social Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Support the development of energy infrastructure, related economic clusters, rural diversification and tourism in appropriate locations ii. Support diversity in jobs, and investment in education and training, especially that which creates and attracts business iii. Ensure development creates a residential offer which meets the needs and aspirations of the Borough's housing markets iv. Support development that provides or contributes to the Borough's social and community infrastructure enabling everyone to have good access to jobs, shops, services and recreational and sports facilities <p>B Environmental Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Encourage development that minimises carbon emissions, maximises energy efficiency and helps us to adapt to the effects of climate change ii. Focus development on sites that are at least risk from flooding and where development in areas of flood risk is unavoidable, ensure that the risk is minimised or mitigated through appropriate design iii. Protect, enhance and encourage the creation of new areas of green infrastructure, recognising the important role that the natural environment and healthy ecosystems have to play in the future social and economic, as well as environmental sustainability of Copeland iv. Reuse existing buildings and previously developed land wherever possible, directing development away from greenfield sites, where this is consistent with wider sustainability objectives v. Ensure that new development minimises waste and maximises opportunities for recycling vi. Minimise the need to travel, support the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure and measures that encourage its use vii. Prioritise development in the main towns where there is previously developed land and infrastructure capacity <p>Planning applications that accord with these principles and relevant Development Management policies, and do not undermine the Spatial Development Strategy, will be approved without unnecessary delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise</p> |
| Policy ER2: Planning for the Renewable Energy Sector | <p>The Council will support new renewable energy generation proposals which best maximise renewable resources and minimise environmental and amenity impacts. The Council in determining applications will have regard to targets agreed with partners, based on up-to date research taking into account local circumstances. Criteria on renewable energy development / generation are set out in Policy DM2. In 2010, Cumbria Vision received a report on The Scope for Renewable E</p> |
| ER3: The support Infrastructure for the energy coast | <p>The Council will support energy sector development and other major infrastructure projects by working with operators and developers to:</p> <p>A Ensure that any new energy transmission infrastructure minimises potential impacts on the Borough's landscape and natural environment, and on the health and amenity of its residents and visitors</p> <p>B Maximise the opportunities from implementing Britain's Energy Coast: A Masterplan for West Cumbria by encouraging investment in training and education at existing facilities, and develop new facilities which encourage people to develop the qualifications and skills which are attractive to the energy sector</p> <p>C Identify potential sites for supply chain operations, worker accommodation, off-site associated development and other uses supporting the construction of additional energy generating capacity and associated infrastructure. The Council will support sites in locations consistent with the Core Strategy, chosen to minimise undesirable impacts and able to be fully restored with uses leaving a beneficial legacy for the Borough.</p> <p>D Agree programmes of measures to mitigate or compensate for negative impacts on the residents, businesses, environment or image of Copeland</p> <p>Infrastructure considerations relating to nuclear energy generation and development are addressed in more detail in Development Management Policy DM1.</p> |
| Policy ENV2: Coastal Management | <p>To reinforce the Coastal Zone's assets and opportunities the Council will:</p> <p>A Promote the developed coast as a destination for leisure, culture and tourism, with strong links to Whitehaven Harbour / town centre in the north and to Millom in the south</p> <p>B Maximise opportunities along the undeveloped coast for tourism and outdoor recreation through support for the North West Coastal Trail and Colourful Coast projects</p> <p>C Support the management of more of the undeveloped coast for biodiversity</p> <p>D Support energy generating developments that require a coastal location along the undeveloped coast, provided that the potential impacts on biodiversity, landscape and heritage assets are carefully assessed against the benefits. Where negative impacts are likely these must be mitigated against and compensated for</p> <p>E Protect the intrinsic qualities of the St Bees Head Heritage Coast in terms of development proposals within or affecting views from the designation. At the same time encourage schemes which assist appropriate access to and interpretation of the Heritage Coast area</p> <p>F Work with partners to manage the risks associated with coastal erosion and flooding and ensure that all new development is located outside areas identified as being at risk either now or in future phases of the Shoreline Management Plan</p> |
| Policy ENV3: Biodiversity and Geodiversity | <p>The Council will contribute to the implementation of the UK and Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan within the plan area by seeking to:</p> <p>A Improve the condition of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites</p> |

| Section of the Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 | Summary of Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 provision |
|--|---|
| | <p>B Ensure that development incorporates measures to protect and enhance any biodiversity interest</p> <p>C Enhance, extend and restore priority habitats and look for opportunities to create new habitat</p> <p>D Protect and strengthen populations of priority or other protected species</p> <p>E Boost the biodiversity value of existing wildlife corridors and create new corridors, and steppingstones that connect them, to develop a functional Ecological Network</p> <p>F Restrict access and usage where appropriate and necessary in order to conserve an area's biodiversity value</p> <p>Policy DM25 supports this policy, setting out the detailed approach towards managing development proposals that are likely to have an effect on nature conservation sites, habitats and protected species.</p> |
| Policy ENV4: Heritage Assets | <p>The Council's policy is to maximise the value of the Borough's heritage assets by:</p> <p>A Protecting listed buildings, conservation areas and other townscape and rural features considered to be of historic, archaeological or cultural value</p> <p>B Supporting proposals for heritage led regeneration, ensuring that any listed buildings or other heritage assets are put to an appropriate, viable and sustainable use</p> <p>C Strengthening the distinctive character of the Borough's settlements, through the application of high quality urban design and architecture that respects this character and enhances the settings of listed buildings</p> <p>Policy DM27 supports this policy, setting out the Council's approach to development which affects built heritage and archaeology.</p> |
| Policy ENV5: Protecting and Enhancing the Borough's Landscapes | <p>The Borough's landscapes will be protected and enhanced by:</p> <p>A Protecting all landscapes from inappropriate change by ensuring that development does not threaten or detract from the distinctive characteristics of that particular area</p> <p>B Where the benefits of the development outweigh the potential harm, ensuring that the impact of the development on the landscape is minimised through adequate mitigation, preferably on-site</p> <p>C Supporting proposals which enhance the value of the Borough's landscapes</p> |

South Lakeland District Council

1.4.8.4 Relevant policy from South Lakeland Council includes:

- Policy DM1 General requirements for all developments
- Policy DM21 Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Energy Development.

Wyre District Council – Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) (Adopted February 2019)

1.4.8.5 The Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.8.

Table 1.8: Summary of Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) | Summary of Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) provision |
|--|--|
| Policy EP12: Renewable Energy | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The development of renewable or sustainable energy schemes, including, but not limited to, district heating, biomass, hydroelectricity, solar, ground source heat, will be supported subject to the Core Development Management Policies, taking into account the cumulative impact of the proposed development along with other planned, committed or completed development. 2. The Council will support in principle the development of a tidal energy scheme across the River Wyre at Fleetwood subject to the Core Development Management Policies. 3. In relation to wind energy proposals, the whole Borough is designated as an area of search suitable for wind energy development. Proposals must meet the requirements of the Core Development Management Policies and demonstrate that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. located within flood zone 2 it has passed the flood risk sequential test and if located within flood zone 3 that it has passed both the flood risk sequential and exceptions tests 5. The development does not create a potential hazard to the public using highways, footpaths, bridleways or other public rights of way 6. The development does not interfere with telecommunication paths or air traffic services including those associated with the military 7. Where necessary, a scheme can be agreed relating to the removal of the wind farm or turbine at the end of its design life and the restoration of the site 8. Following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and therefore the proposal has their backing 9. In relation to solar energy proposals involving agricultural land must meet the requirements of the Core Development Management Policies and demonstrate. <p>That the use of agricultural land is necessary and no alternative previously developed site (including building roofs) is available or suitable. The area of search should be the Fylde Coast45 having regard to a viable connection (in distance) to the National Grid</p> <p>If a) above is satisfied, that there are no alternative sites involving lower grade agricultural land; and</p> <p>That the proposal would allow for continued agricultural use and/ or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays</p> |

- An inspirational example of Sustainable development in action
- A prosperous economy
- World class visitor experience
- Spectacular landscape, wildlife and cultural heritage
- Strategic Objectives cross-cutting themes:
 - Health and wellbeing
 - Connectivity and infrastructure
 - World heritage and local character
 - Climate change and resilience
- Special qualities and outstanding universal value of the Lake District
- Special Qualities are summarised in Table 1 of the Local Plan.
- A world class cultural landscape - Extraordinary beauty and harmony.
- Complex geology and geomorphology - Extraordinary beauty and harmony - Local industries.
- Rich archaeology and historic landscape - Extraordinary beauty and harmony - Local industries - Towns and settlements - (Vernacular buildings).
- Unique farming heritage and concentration of common land - Agro-pastoral system.
- The High Fells - Agro-pastoral system – (commons).
- Wealth of habitats and wildlife - Agro-pastoral system – (semi-natural habitats created and sustained as a result of a continuing agro-pastoral systems).
- Mosaic of lakes, tarns, rivers and coast - Extraordinary beauty and harmony.
- Extensive semi-natural woodlands - Local industries – (management of woodland)
- Distinctive buildings and settlement character - Towns and settlements - Villas, gardens and formal landscapes.
- A source of artistic inspiration - Sites and collections associated with the Picturesque and Romanticism.
- A model for protecting cultural landscapes - Landscape conservation.
- A long tradition of tourism and outdoor activities - Early tourism,
- Opportunities for quiet enjoyment - The ability of people to experience the spirit and feeling of the Lake District.

1.4.8.7 The Lake District National Park Local Plan 2020-2035 as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.9.

Lake District Authority National Park Authority: Lake District National Park Local Plan 2020-2035 (Adopted May 2021)

1.4.8.6 The Strategic Visions and Objectives of the Lake District National Park are summarised below:

Table 1.9: Summary of Lake District National Park Local Plan 2020-2035 policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the Lake District National Park Local Plan 2020-2035 | Summary of Lake District National Park Local Plan 2020-2035 provision |
|---|--|
| Policy 01: National and International Significance of the Lake District | <p>“The extraordinary harmony and beauty of the Lake District landscape and its Special Qualities, including the attributes of Outstanding Universal Value, will be conserved and enhanced.</p> <p>We will achieve this by supporting development proposals which are consistent with National Park Purposes and Duty. If it appears that there is a conflict between National Park purposes, we shall attach greater weight to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Lake District National Park.</p> <p>All development proposals should protect or enhance the authenticity, integrity and significance of the Lake District.”</p> |
| Policy 05: Protecting the spectacular landscape | <p>“We will conserve and enhance the extraordinary beauty and harmony of the Lake District landscape, its Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value.</p> <p>We will achieve this by supporting development that ensures the highest level of protection is given to the landscape, and where the type, design, scale and level of activity maintains local distinctiveness, sense of place, and where appropriate, tranquillity.</p> <p>Decisions will be guided by the Lake District Landscape Character Assessment recognising the distinctive characteristics identified in the Landscape Character Types and Areas of Distinctive Character, the World Heritage Site Nomination Document and the Historic Landscape Characterisation.</p> <p>We will use development opportunities to reduce or remove existing landscape detractors.”</p> |
| Policy 11: West Distinctive Area | <p>“Development in the West Distinctive Area will reinforce distinctiveness of place, deliver key themes of the Vision and enable local solutions to specific planning issues.”</p> <p>To achieve this we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support infrastructure and service improvements to the Cumbria Coast rail line - support the new coastal path, including pedestrian and cycle crossings of the rivers Irt and the Esk, linking in with the wider network - support improvements to the pedestrian and cycle links from the railway stations and coastal path into the valley heads to enhance the use of sustainable active travel options - support the strengthening of the role of Ravenglass as a transport interchange, providing improved links with Muncaster Castle and to the Ravenglass and Eskdale railway - secure solutions to parking problems in the Wasdale Valley for the benefit of residents and visitors, and to improve the management of the Three Peak Challenge - support appropriate opportunities to strengthen the coastal tourism offer at Silecroft - support appropriate new caravan and camping sites where proposals are consistent with site specific criteria in Policy 18 and other relevant policies - support appropriate development that enhances the role of Bootle and Bootle rail station to act as a sustainable transport hub to serve the wider area |

| Section of the Lake District National Park Local Plan 2020-2035 | Summary of Lake District National Park Local Plan 2020-2035 provision |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consider identifying a Coastal Change Management Area where the rates of shoreline change are significant. |
| Policy 20: Renewable and low carbon energy | <p>“We want to increase the proportion of energy generated by renewable and low carbon sources and encourage energy provision from local scale generation.</p> <p>We will achieve this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supporting district heating, decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy developments, including buildings or infrastructure directly related to the renewable energy proposal - requiring all new housing developments and all new developments for other uses of 100sqm floorspace or more to generate 30 per cent of their operational energy requirements through decentralised, district heating and, renewable and low carbon energy sources - when assessing proposals for decentralised or renewable energy schemes, we will take into account the cumulative impacts both within the Lake District and that which is visible beyond its boundary. <p>Where the requirements of the Policy are deemed to make a development unfeasible or unviable this must be demonstrated by the applicant through an independent viability assessment</p> |
| Policy 26 Major development | <p>“Proposals for major development will be refused except in exceptional circumstances and where it can be demonstrated that they are in the public interest.</p> <p>Whether a proposal constitutes major development will be determined by reason of the proposal’s nature, scale and setting, and whether it has the potential to have a significant adverse impact on the National Park’s statutory purposes.</p> <p>Exceptional circumstances and whether the development is in the public interest will be determined in accordance with the criteria outlined in national policy and guidance for major development.</p> <p>Where these criteria can be satisfied all possible measures should be taken to avoid adverse effects on the Special Qualities and attributes of Outstanding Universal Value of the Lake District. Where adverse impacts cannot be avoided, harm should be minimised through appropriate mitigation measures. Appropriate and practicable compensation will be required for any unavoidable adverse effects which cannot be mitigated.</p> <p>When the activity for which major development is required ceases the land will be required to be appropriately restored or enhanced.”</p> |

1.4.9 Isle of Man Government

Area Plan for the East 2020 (Adopted December 2020)

1.4.9.1 The Area Plan for the East 2020 as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.10.

Table 1.10: Summary of Area Plan for the East 2020 policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the Area Plan for the East 2020 | Summary of Area Plan for the East 2020 provision |
|--|---|
| Landscape Proposal 1 | The broad landscape strategies and key views set out in this Chapter for the Landscape Character Areas, shall be taken to be (in addition to any other Landscape Proposals set out for each Area), the relevant policy statements on matters of landscape in the East. Applications for development must demonstrate consideration has been given to such landscape strategies and key views |
| Landscape Proposal 5 – Laxey | There is a presumption against development that would have an adverse impact on the setting of the landmark Lady Isabella water wheel. Proposals for planning approval which would result in some development being visible from the Lady Isabella water wheel must demonstrate that the design is informed by the setting and has taken into account the effect, if any, on such views and responded to them. Slope and landform must be taken into consideration in any design response – this must demonstrate how a proposal is to become appropriate in the landscape setting, not dominate it |
| Landscape Proposal 6 – Douglas Head | Douglas Headland is exposed and prominent from many viewpoints. This is considered an outstanding natural feature and one which should be conserved. In order to conserve this vista of seascape and coastal views, applications for planning approval for new development in this area will generally not be supported. It is acknowledged that maintenance and need for upkeep may lead some existing development to seek planning approval from time to time, such as the radio transmission/telecoms site at Carnane. In cases where new development is proposed, applications must demonstrate that it can be suitably integrated into the surrounding landscape setting through reasonable mitigation measures and include considering siting, colours, materials, finishes and the general scale. |
| Landscape Proposal 8 - Douglas Bay | The open, expansive headlands of Douglas and Onchan shall be protected from visual intrusion. |
| Landscape Proposal 9 – Clay Head | The open, expansive panoramic views across Douglas Bay and towards Port Groudle appreciated from the Howstrake Camp Electric tramway stop shall be protected from any development that would have a visual intrusion. |

The Island Development Plan – The Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016 – Towards a Sustainable Island (Adopted April 2016)

1.4.9.2 The Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016 as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.11.

Table 1.11: Summary of The Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016 policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the Area Plan for the East 2020 | Summary of Area Plan for the East 2020 provision |
|--|---|
| Environment Policy 2 | The present system of landscape classification of Areas of High Landscape or Coastal Value and Scenic Significance (AHLV's) as shown on the 1982 Development Plan and subsequent Local and Area Plans will be used as a basis for development control until such time as it is superseded by a landscape classification which will introduce different categories of landscape and policies and guidance for control therein. Within these areas the protection of the character of the landscape will be the most important consideration unless it can be shown that: |

| Section of the Area Plan for the East 2020 | Summary of Area Plan for the East 2020 provision |
|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development would not harm the character and quality of the landscape; or the location for the development is essential. |
| Environment Policy 40 | Development will not be permitted which would damage, disturb or detract from an important archaeological site or an Ancient Monument or the setting thereof. |

1.4.10 Emerging Planning Policy

Blackpool Council – Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (Publication Version January 2021) (Proposed to take it to full Council in February 2023)

1.4.10.1 The Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.12.

Table 1.12: Summary of Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 policy on decision making relevant to SLVIA.

| Section of the Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 | Summary of Blackpool Local Plan Part 2 provision |
|--|---|
| Policy DM19: Strategic Views: | <p>1. Development should protect and enhance views of the following buildings and features of strategic importance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackpool Tower – views from the seafront, from the piers and along main transport corridors leading into the Town Centre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – along the seafront and coastline – into and within conservation areas – views of listed and locally listed buildings. • views of buildings which provide a landmark and assist with wayfinding. <p>2. Development that has a detrimental impact on these strategic views will not be permitted</p> |
| Policy DM21: Landscaping | <p>1. Development proposals are expected to contribute towards green and blue infrastructure and where appropriate, planning applications should include details of hard and soft landscaping. Development must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that the design and layout of the site retains and protects the distinguishing landscape features, trees and hedgerows and wherever possible enhances them through increased tree and shrub cover including soft edge and transitional areas of planting, prioritising the use of native species. Where the loss of trees (category A, B or C of BS 5837) is unavoidable, at least two replacement trees of a suitable species and level of maturity will be required for each tree felled, over and above other tree planting requirements. Where replacement trees would be inappropriate on site, a contribution towards the provision of trees off-site will be required • where appropriate, include a landscaped buffer of appropriate depth and length which prioritises native species, unless there are site specific constraints which indicate this requirement cannot be achieved. In such cases, the use of green walls and green roofs will be encouraged • use landscaping to screen and soften the appearance of hard surfaced areas, including surface level car parks and servicing areas • provide appropriate, high quality boundary treatments which encourage and enables the passage of wildlife and consider the inclusion of hedges rather than impenetrable fencing and walls • where appropriate, contribute towards tree planting in the town in accordance with the Greening Blackpool SPD (or any subsequent update) • demonstrate, where appropriate, how the landscaping scheme connects to the wider green infrastructure and ecological networks in Blackpool and the neighbouring Authorities. <p>2. Financial contributions towards creating and enhancing green and blue infrastructure in Blackpool will be sought from all development where adequate onsite provision is not possible, in accordance with the Greening Blackpool SPD (or any subsequent update).</p> <p>3. Proposals involving the hard surfacing of more than 50% of a residential garden will not normally be permitted.</p> <p>4. Proposals for major development and public spaces which will attract large crowds should include well designed Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures which are integrated sensitively and seamlessly into the townscape</p> |
| Policy DM32: Wind Energy | <p>1. The whole Borough is designated as an area of search suitable for small scale wind turbine development comprising up to 20m in height above ground level to blade tip. Proposals for such development must meet the requirements of Core Strategy and Development Management policies and demonstrate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposed scale of the wind turbine(s) is efficient on power output and that this efficiency is not compromised at the proposed location by turbulence at low levels • there is no unacceptable impact on residential and visitor accommodation amenity and other sensitive users in terms of noise, shadow flicker, vibration and visual dominance • the impact on the natural environment including designated sites and the countryside area has been assessed and where necessary appropriate mitigation or enhancement provided • the impact on any heritage asset and their setting, including strategic views; has been assessed • the proposal takes account of the cumulative effect that would result from the proposal in conjunction with permitted and existing renewable energy schemes, including those in neighbouring authorities and there is found to be no significant adverse impact • the local road network can satisfactorily accommodate the development proposed • all impacts on air traffic safety, radar and communications have been assessed and consulted upon with the appropriate bodies • there is support from the local community where required, informed by preapplication consultation to ensure any planning impacts identified by the affected community have been fully addressed. <p>2. Where mitigation measures can be achieved to make any identified impacts acceptable these will be secured through negotiation or the use of conditions or planning obligations.</p> <p>3. Where a proposal is permitted, a condition will be attached to the planning permission that will require the removal of redundant structures and/or equipment and for the restoration of the site should the site become non-operational.</p> <p>4. In assessing wind energy proposals, the Council will give positive weight to community-led initiatives or where there is direct benefit to the community through their involvement.</p> |
| Policy DM33: Coasts and Foreshore | <p>Development proposals will be supported which secure further improvements to bathing water quality or flood protection. Development proposals that would adversely affect the appearance, integrity or environmental quality of the beach and foreshore will be resisted.</p> |

Copeland Borough Council - Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038 Publication Draft (January 2022)

1.4.10.2 The Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038 as relevant to SLVIA is set out in Table 1.13.

Table 1.13: Copeland Local Plan 2021 - 2038.

| Section of Copeland Local Plan | Summary of Local Plan provision |
|--|---|
| Policy DS6PU: Design and Development Standards | <p>The Council will expect all new development to meet high-quality standards of design. This means that developments must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make use of existing buildings on site wherever practicable and deliverable, unless they have a negative impact upon the street scene • Create and enhance locally distinctive places which are sympathetic to the surrounding context of the built, historic and natural environment and local landscape character • Use good quality building materials that reflects local character and vernacular, sourced locally where possible • Contribute towards good health and well-being by incorporating high quality, inclusive and useful open spaces and providing high levels of residential amenity • Create layouts that encourage walking and cycling based on Active Design principles and connect the development to existing walking and cycling routes where possible • Provide safe, accessible and convenient pedestrian routes and allow for the safe access and manoeuvring of refuse and recycling vehicles • Adopt dementia friendly design principles where possible and take the needs of people with disabilities into consideration • Create opportunities that encourage social interaction • Be built to an appropriate density that enables effective use of land, whilst maintaining suitable levels of amenity • Be of flexible and adaptable design • Incorporate measures to design out crime and reduce the fear of crime, taking into consideration secured by design principles • Be laid out in a way that maximises solar gain to internal spaces to promote energy efficiency and sustainable solutions • Uses appropriate levels and types of external lighting that does not create light pollution and helps maintain dark skies • Mitigates noise pollution through good layout, design and appropriate screening • Addresses land contamination and land stability issues with appropriate remediation measures. • Applications for major development proposals should produce and include a Sustainable Construction Management Plan as part of their applications. |
| Strategic Policy N4PU: Marine Planning | <p>Where development has potential to harm (directly or indirectly) the marine environment, full consideration will be given to objectives of the Marine Conservation Zone and the North West Marine Plan. Proposals should accord with relevant policies within the Marine Plan, taking account of economic, environmental and social considerations, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p> |

| Section of Copeland Local Plan | Summary of Local Plan provision |
|--|---|
| Strategic Policy N6PU: Landscape Protection | <p>The borough's landscapes will be protected and enhanced by:</p> <p>Supporting proposals which enhance the value of the borough's landscapes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting all landscapes from inappropriate change by ensuring that development conserves and enhances the distinctive characteristics of that particular area in a manner commensurate with their statutory status and value • Ensuring development proposals demonstrate that their location, scale, design and materials will conserve and where possible enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Lake District National Park and Heritage Coast where proposals could impact on its setting and views into and from the National Park or Heritage Coast • Requiring a Landscape Appraisal, and where appropriate a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, to be submitted where development has the potential to impact upon landscape character or a protected landscape. Where harm is identified the development will only be permitted where the benefits of the development outweigh any potential harm and mitigation and compensation measures must be provided. <p>Proposals will be assessed according to whether the proposed structures and associated landscaping relates well in terms of visual impact, scale, character, amenity value and local distinctiveness and the cumulative impact of developments will be taken into account as part of this assessment.</p> <p>Consideration must be given to the Council's Landscape Character Assessment, Settlement Landscape Character Assessment and the Cumbria Landscape Character Guidance and Toolkit at the earliest stage.</p> |
| Strategic Policy N7PU: St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast | <p>New development within the vicinity of the Heritage Coast must conserve, protect and enhance the Heritage coast and its setting and take opportunities to encourage the public to enjoy and understand the area by improving public access and interpretation where possible. Developers should demonstrate that they have taken into consideration the features that contribute to the special character of the area and the importance of its conservation.</p> <p>Inappropriate development includes that which affects views within or towards/from the Heritage Coast.</p> <p>Major development within the Heritage Coast is unlikely to be appropriate unless it is compatible with its special character and will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.</p> |
| Strategic Policy N8PU: The Undeveloped Coast | <p>The Council will ensure that the landscape character of the undeveloped coast is maintained by conserving the intrinsic qualities, natural beauty and open character of the undeveloped coast from inappropriate development. Inappropriate development includes that which affects views within or towards/from the St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast.</p> <p>The following types of development will however be supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development which supports the management of the undeveloped coast for biodiversity • Development which provides or improves safe access to and interpretation of the undeveloped coast for residents and visitors such as appropriate fencing, signage and interpretation boards • Energy generating developments that that require a coastal location along the undeveloped coast, provided that the potential impacts on biodiversity, landscape and heritage assets are carefully assessed against the benefits. Where negative impacts are likely these must be mitigated against and compensated for. |

1.5 Guidance and data sources

1.5.1 Guidance

1.5.1.1 As well as relevant planning policy and guidance detailed in Appendix A to this Annex the SLVIA has regard to relevant guidance and requirements contained in published documents, including in the following:

- Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011a), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)
- Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011b), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3)
- Department of Energy and Climate Change (2011c), National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)
- Department of Energy and Climate Change, (2016), Offshore Energy Strategic Environment Assessment 3
- Department of Trade and Industry, (2005), Guidance on the Assessment of the Impact of Offshore Wind Farms: Seascape and Visual Impact Report
- Department of Trade and Industry, BMT Cordah (2003), Offshore Wind Energy Generation: Phase 1 Proposals and Environment Report
- Government of the United Kingdom (2022) British Energy Security Strategy.

1.5.2 Data sources

1.5.2.1 The data sources that have been collected and used to inform this SLVIA are summarised in Appendix A, Table A. 1.

1.6 References

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MORGAN OFFSHORE WIND PROJECT

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Appendix A: Legislation and Planning Context Policies

Table A. 1: Planning Policy Documents within a 50km radius of the Morgan Generation Assets.

Planning Policy Documents within a 50km radius of the Morgan Generation Assets

Relevant Landscape Policy: England

National (England)

| | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| National Planning Policy Framework | National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) (NPPF) | Various sections |
| Overarching National Planning Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) | Overarching National Planning Policy for Energy (EN-1) (July 2011) | Various sections |
| National Planning Policy for Renewable Energy (EN-3) | National Planning Policy for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (July 2011) | Various sections |
| British Energy Security Strategy | British Energy Security Strategy (April 2022) | Various sections |

Marine UK-wide

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Marine Management Organisation | UK Marine Policy Statement (2011) | Section 2.6.5 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|

Marine (England)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Marine Management Organisation | North West Inshore and North West Offshore Marine Plan (2021) | Various sections |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------|

Marine (Wales)

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| Welsh Government | Welsh National Marine Plan 2015-2021 (2019) | <p>Under the Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA), the Welsh Government must produce a Marine Plan. Welsh Ministers are the planning authority for the Welsh:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inshore region (out to 12 nautical miles) • offshore region (12 to 200 nautical miles) <p>The Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) contains contain plans and policies which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support the vision for clean, healthy, safe and diverse seas • guide future sustainable development • support the growth of marine space and natural resources ('blue growth') <p>Policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GEN_01: Planning policy • GEN_02: Planning policy • ECON_01: Sustainable economic growth • SOC_06: Designated landscapes • SOC_07: Seascapes • SOC_08: Resilience to coastal change and flooding • SOC_09: Effects on coastal change and flooding |
|------------------|---|--|

Planning Policy Documents within a 50km radius of the Morgan Generation Assets

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GOV_01: Cumulative effects • GOV_02: Cross-border and plan compatibility • ELC_01a: Low carbon energy (supporting) wind • ELC_01b: Low carbon energy (supporting) wind • CAB_01: Subsea cabling (supporting) • T&R_01a: Tourism and recreation (supporting) • T&R_01b: Tourism and recreation (supporting) • SAF_01: Safeguarding existing activity • SAF_02: Safeguarding strategic resources |
| Local (England) | | |
| Borough of Barrow in Furness Council | Saved Barrow Local Plan 1996-2006 | Part 2: Landscape Conservation Part 4: Urban Design and Visual Amenity Part 5: Other Environmental Considerations |
| | Barrow Local Plan 2016-2031 (submitted for examination February 2018, not yet published) | |
| Blackpool Council | Blackpool Local Plan Part 1: Core Strategy 2012-2027 (Adopted January 2016) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLP Part 1: • Policy CS8: Heritage • CS10: Sustainable Design and Renewable and Low Carbon Energy |
| | Blackpool Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (Publication Version January 2021) (Proposed to take it to full Council in February 2023) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BLP Part 2: • Policy DM19: Strategic Views • Policy DM21: Landscaping • Policy DM32: Wind Energy • Policy DM33: Coast and Foreshore |
| Copeland Borough Council | Copeland Local Plan 2013-2028 - Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD (Adopted December 2013) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy ST1 – Strategic Development Principles • Policy ST2 – Spatial Development Strategy • Policy ER2 – Planning for the Renewable Energy Sector • Policy ER3 – The Support Infrastructure for the Energy Coast • Policy ENV2 – Coastal Management • Policy ENV5 – Protecting and Enhancing the Borough’s Landscapes |
| | Copeland Local Plan 2021-2038 Publication Draft (January 2022) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy DS6PU: Design and Development Standards • Policy CC2PU: Wind Energy Developments • Strategic Policy N4PU: Marine Planning • Strategic Policy N6PU: Landscape Protection • Strategic Policy N7PU: St Bees and Whitehaven Heritage Coast • Strategic Policy N8PU: The Undeveloped Coast |
| South Lakeland District Council | South Lakeland Local Plan – Development Management Policies (adopted 2019) (for South Lakeland District outside the national parks) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM1 General requirements for all developments • DM21 Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Energy Development |
| Wyre Council | Wyre Local Plan (2011-2031) (Adopted February 2019) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EP12 - Renewable Energy |

Planning Policy Documents within a 50km radius of the Morgan Generation Assets

| National Parks | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Lake District National Park Authority | Living Lakes - Your Local Plan - Lake District National Park Local Plan 2020-2035 (adopted May 2021) | Vision and strategic objectives: Special Qualities. Planning policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy 01: National and International Significance of the Lake District Policy 05: Protecting the spectacular landscape Policy 11: West Distinctive Area Policy 20: Renewable and low carbon energy Policy 26 Major development |
| Isle of Man Government | | |
| Isle of Man Government | Area Plan for the East 2020 (Adopted December 2020) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Proposal 1 Landscape Proposal 5 – Laxey Landscape Proposal 6 – Douglas Head Landscape Proposal 8 - Douglas Bay Landscape Proposal 9 – Clay Head |
| | Area Plan for the South 2013 (Adopted March 2013) | No relevant policies |
| | The Island Development Plan – The Isle of Man Strategic Plan 2016 – Towards a Sustainable Island (Adopted April 2016) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Policy 2 Environment Policy 40 |
| | Note: Future Area Plan for the North & West (emerging document) | |