


# South Brooks Solar Farm

## Preliminary Environmental Information

### Volume 2: Appendix 1.2: Key Policy and Legislation

Document Reference: EN0110027  
May 2026  
Blue Planet Solar Limited



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# A1 Key Policy and Legislation

## A1.1 Introduction

A1.1.1 The following appendix summarises the legislation, planning policy and guidance relating to each of the technical disciplines presented in Volume 2 of the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) for the Project.

## A1.2 Biodiversity

### Legislation

- The Environment Act 2021<sup>1</sup>, specifically in relation to biodiversity, Part 6 of the Act, introduced a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) mandatory requirement for new development falling under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990;
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)<sup>2</sup>;
- Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (as amended)<sup>3</sup>;
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (as amended)<sup>4</sup>;
- Hedgerows Regulations 1997<sup>5</sup>;
- Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (as amended)<sup>6</sup>; and
- Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)<sup>7</sup>.

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)<sup>8</sup>. This provides overarching government policy on energy Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs), and the way in which any impacts and mitigation measures would be considered.

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1 The Environment Act 2021 (as amended). Available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>. Accessed 22/10/2025.

2 Habitats Directive. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents>, accessed 22/10/2025

3 NERC Act (2006). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/16/contents>. Accessed 22/10/2025.

4 CROW Act (2000). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/37/contents>. Accessed 22/10/2025.

5 The Hedgerow Regulations 1997. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents>. Accessed 22/10/2025.

6 Protection of Badgers Act 1992. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1992/51/contents>. Accessed 22/10/2025.

7 The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69>. Accessed 22/10/2025.

<sup>8</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage>

## Local Planning Policy

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan (Adopted September 2020)<sup>9</sup>;
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>10</sup>;
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (Adopted March 2025)<sup>11</sup>; and
- Rother Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014)<sup>12</sup>.

## National Guidance

- Planning Practice Guidance – Biodiversity Net Gain<sup>13</sup>; and
- Chartered Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) (2018, updated 2022) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland, CIEEM version 1.2, Winchester<sup>14</sup>.

## Local Guidance

- Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045 (2020)<sup>15</sup>;
- Draft Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2025)<sup>16</sup>;
- East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Habitat Measures) V6.3 (Draft)<sup>17</sup>; and
- Sussex Biodiversity Partnership – Biodiversity Opportunity Areas<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>9</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>10</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at:

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>11</sup> Kent County Council (2025), Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039, available at:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> Rother Local Plan - <https://rdcpublish.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2022/09/Core-Strategy-2014.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Planning Practice Guidance – Biodiversity Net Gain. Available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain>

<sup>14</sup> [Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment \(EcIA\) | CIEEM](https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/)

<https://cieem.net/resource/guidelines-for-ecological-impact-assessment-ecia/>

<sup>15</sup> Kent Nature Partnership Biodiversity Strategy 2020 to 2045. Available at:

<https://kentnature.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Kent-Biodiversity-Strategy-2020.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Draft Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Available at

<https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/nature-recovery>

<sup>17</sup> East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Local Nature Recovery Strategy (Habitat Measures) V6.3 (Draft). Available at:

[https://www.sussexnaturerecovery.org.uk/media/2025/07/Sussex%20LNRS%20Measures\\_v7%20EAST%20SUSSEX.pdf](https://www.sussexnaturerecovery.org.uk/media/2025/07/Sussex%20LNRS%20Measures_v7%20EAST%20SUSSEX.pdf)

<sup>18</sup> [https://sussexinp.org.uk/wp-content/themes/twentytwentyone-child/BOAdocuments/Romney\\_Marsh\\_Area.pdf](https://sussexinp.org.uk/wp-content/themes/twentytwentyone-child/BOAdocuments/Romney_Marsh_Area.pdf)

## A1.3 Hydrology

### Legislation

- The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC<sup>19</sup>;
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017<sup>20</sup>;
- Flood Directive 2007<sup>21</sup>;
- Environmental Protection Act 1990<sup>22</sup>;
- Flood and Water Management Act 2010<sup>23</sup>;
- Water Resources Act 1991 (as amended 2009)<sup>24</sup>;
- Land Drainage Act 1991<sup>25</sup>;
- Environment Act 2021<sup>26</sup>;
- Water Act 2014<sup>27</sup>;
- The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015<sup>28</sup>;
- The Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009<sup>29</sup>;
- The Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000 (note: 2000 version has been revoked, reference has been made to the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999)<sup>30</sup>;
- The Private Water Supplies (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018<sup>31</sup>;
- The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018<sup>32</sup>; and
- The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016<sup>33</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> European Commission, Water Framework Directive. 2000. Available at:

[https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive\\_en](https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive_en)

<sup>20</sup> UK Statutory Instruments, 2017. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2017/407/contents>

<sup>21</sup> European Parliament Flood Directive, 2007. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eudr/2007/60>

<sup>22</sup> UK Public General Act, 1990. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

<sup>23</sup> UK Public General Acts, 2010. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/29/contents>

<sup>24</sup> UK Statutory Instruments, 2009. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2009/3104/contents>

<sup>25</sup> UK Public General Acts, 1991. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/59/contents>

<sup>26</sup> UK Public General Acts, 2021. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>

<sup>27</sup> UK Public General Acts, 2014. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/21/contents>

<sup>28</sup> UK Statutory Instruments. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2015/810/contents>

<sup>29</sup> UK Statutory Instruments, 2009. Available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2009/2902/contents/made>

<sup>30</sup> UK Public General Acts, 1999. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1999/24/contents>

<sup>31</sup> UK Statutory Instruments, 2009. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2018/707/contents/made>

<sup>32</sup> Wales Statutory Instruments, 2018. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2018/647/contents>

<sup>33</sup> UK Statutory Instruments, 2016. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukSI/2016/1154/contents>

## National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) 2025<sup>34</sup> – specific reference to the following:
  - Section 5.6, which relates to Coastal Change;
  - Section 5.8, which relates to Flood Risk;
  - Section 5.16, which relates to Water Quality and Resources;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) 2025<sup>35</sup> – specifically paragraphs 2.4.11 and Section 2.10;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) 2025<sup>36</sup>; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) updated February 2025 – specific reference to Section 14<sup>37</sup>.

## Local Planning Policy

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan, Adopted September 2020<sup>38</sup>, specifically:
  - Policy CC6: Solar Farms Core Strategy Policy
  - Policy SS3: Place-Shaping and Sustainable Settlements Strategy
  - Local Plan Policy NE8: Integrated Coastal Zone Management
  - Local Plan Policy NE9: Development Around The Coast;
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review, Adopted March 2022<sup>39</sup>; specifically:
  - Policy CSD5 Water and Coastal Environmental Management
  - Policy CSD8 New Romney Strategy;
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039, Adopted March 2025<sup>40</sup>, specifically Policy DM10 'Water Environment';

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<sup>34</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2023. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage>

<sup>35</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2025. Available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025)

<sup>36</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025>

<sup>37</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>38</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>39</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>40</sup> Kent County Council, 2025. Available at: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf)

- Rother Local Plan, Core Strategy, September 2014<sup>41</sup>, specifically:
  - Policy EN6: Flood Risk Management
  - Policy EN7: Flood Risk and Development;
- Rother Local Plan 2020 – 2040, Draft (Regulation 18) Version, April 2024<sup>42</sup>, specifically:
  - Policy ENV1: Coastal, Water and Flood Risk Management
  - Policy ENV2: Sustainable Surface Water Drainage;
- Kent County Council, Drainage and Planning Policy Statement, June 2017<sup>43</sup>, specifically chapters 5.2 and 5.3; and
- Kent County Council, Land Drainage Policy, December 2019<sup>44</sup>.

## National Guidance

- Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites: Guidance for Consultants and Contractors C532<sup>45</sup>;
- Environmental Good Practice on Site CIRIA 5th Edition<sup>46</sup>;
- Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects: Technical Guidance C648<sup>47</sup>;
- Guidance on Road Construction and Maintenance (Forests and Water Guidelines 5th Edition, 2011) Forestry Commission<sup>48</sup>;
- National Highways Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB)<sup>49</sup>;
- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) 2024 Flood Risk and Coastal Change (updated 2025)<sup>50</sup>;
- Environment Agency, Flood Risk Assessments applying for planning permission 2025<sup>51</sup>;
- Protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution guidance 2025<sup>52</sup>;

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<sup>41</sup> Rother District Council, 2014. Available at: <https://rdcpublish.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2022/09/Core-Strategy-2014.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> Rother District Council, April 2024. Available at: [https://rdcpublish.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2024/04/New-Local-Plan\\_Reg-18\\_version\\_Final.pdf](https://rdcpublish.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2024/04/New-Local-Plan_Reg-18_version_Final.pdf)

<sup>43</sup> Kent County Council, June 2017. Available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/2242/106-kcc-drainage-and-planning-policy-statement-2017>

<sup>44</sup> Kent County Council, December 2019. Available at: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/205605/Land-drainage-policy.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/205605/Land-drainage-policy.pdf)

<sup>45</sup> CIRIA, 2001. Available at: [https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item\\_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C532](https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C532)

<sup>46</sup> CIRIA, 2023. Available at: <https://www.ciria.org/ItemDetail?iProductCode=C811d&Category=DOWNLOAD>

<sup>47</sup> CIRIA, 2006. Available at: [https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item\\_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C648&Category=BOOK](https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C648&Category=BOOK)

<sup>48</sup> UK Forestry Standard Guidelines, 2011. Available at: [https://cdn.forestryresearch.gov.uk/2006/03/ukfs\\_water\\_fcgl007.pdf](https://cdn.forestryresearch.gov.uk/2006/03/ukfs_water_fcgl007.pdf)

<sup>49</sup> National Highways, 2020. Available at: <https://nationalhighways.co.uk/suppliers/design-standards-and-specifications/design-manual-for-roads-and-bridges-dmrbl/>

<sup>50</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change>

<sup>51</sup> Environment Agency, 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-assessment-for-planning-applications>

<sup>52</sup> Environment Agency, 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protect-groundwater-and-prevent-groundwater-pollution>

- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Water Framework Directive 2025<sup>53</sup>;
- DEFRA Non-statutory technical standards for sustainable drainage systems 2015<sup>54</sup>; and
- Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) Report C753 The SuDS Manual 2015<sup>55</sup>.

## Local Guidance

- Rother District Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), February 2021<sup>56</sup>;
- Shepway District Council (now Folkestone and Hythe District Council), Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), July 2015<sup>57</sup>;
- Kent and Medway Shoreline Pollution Emergency Plan, January 2023<sup>58</sup>; and
- Kent County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy 2024 to 2034, June 2024<sup>59</sup>.

## A1.4 Agricultural Soils

A1.4.1 It should be noted that following the amendments to the NPPF in December 2024, there is no longer a need to consider the availability of agricultural land for food production<sup>60</sup>. The applicable policy tests are therefore whether the use of agricultural land is justified and necessary, and whether the loss of Best and Most Valuable (BMV) land has been minimised through site selection, design layout and component locations.

### Legislation

- The Agricultural Land (Removal of Surface Soil) Act 1953<sup>61</sup>; and
- Environment Act 2021<sup>62</sup>.
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)<sup>63</sup>, specifically Part 5 Section 5.11;

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<sup>53</sup> Planning Inspectorate, 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-advice-on-the-water-framework-directive>

<sup>54</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, July 2025. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-standards-for-sustainable-drainage-systems>

<sup>55</sup> CIRIA, 2015. Available at: [https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item\\_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C753](https://www.ciria.org/CIRIA/CIRIA/Item_Detail.aspx?iProductCode=C753)

<sup>56</sup> Rother District Council, February 2021. Available at: [https://rdcpublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2022/06/Rother\\_District\\_SFRA\\_Level1\\_2021.pdf](https://rdcpublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2022/06/Rother_District_SFRA_Level1_2021.pdf)

<sup>57</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council, July 2015. Available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/download/102/strategic-flood-risk-assessments>

<sup>58</sup> Kent County Council, January 2023. Available at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/economic-regeneration-and-planning-policies/planning-policies/flooding-drainage-and-water-management-policies-and-guidance/kent-and-medway-shoreline-pollution-emergency-plan>

<sup>59</sup> Kent County Council, June 2024. Available at: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/economic-regeneration-and-planning-policies/planning-policies/flooding-drainage-and-water-management-policies-and-guidance/local-flood-risk-management-strategy>

<sup>60</sup> The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2025). National Planning Policy Framework - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

<sup>61</sup> Agricultural Land (Removal of Surface Soil) Act 1953. available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Eliz2/1-2/16>

<sup>62</sup> Environment Act 2021. (c. 30). available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>

<sup>63</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national->

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)<sup>64</sup>, specifically sections 2.10.20 to 2.10.26, and section 2.10.119; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2024, updated February 2025)<sup>65</sup>.

### Local Planning Policy

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan (Adopted September 2020)<sup>66</sup>, specifically Policy CC6 'Solar Farms';
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>67</sup>;
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (Adopted March 2025)<sup>68</sup>; and
- Rother Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted September 2014)<sup>69</sup>

### National Guidance

- Natural England (2012) Agricultural Land Classification: Protecting the Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land (TIN049)<sup>70</sup>;
- Natural England (2017) Likelihood of Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land<sup>71</sup>;
- Natural England (2021). Guide to Assessing Development Proposals on Agricultural Land<sup>72</sup>;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988) Agricultural Land Classification for England and Wales: Revised Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land (ALC011)<sup>73</sup>;
- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2022) Guide: A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment<sup>74</sup>;

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[policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage](#)

<sup>64</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](#)

<sup>65</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Revised February 2025), available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>66</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>67</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at:

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>68</sup> Kent County Council (2025), Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039, available at:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf)

<sup>69</sup> Rother District Council (2014), Rother Local Plan Core Strategy, available at:

<https://rdcpublish.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2022/09/Core-Strategy-2014.pdf>

<sup>70</sup> Available online: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35012>

<sup>71</sup> Available online: <https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/5208993007403008>

<sup>72</sup> Natural England (2021). Guide to Assessing Development Proposals on Agricultural Land.

available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/agricultural-land-assessments>

<sup>73</sup> Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (1988). Agricultural Land Classification of England and Wales: Revised Criteria for Grading the Quality of Agricultural Land. available at:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7de96d40f0b603e3f6ba1c/alc-guidelines-1988.pdf>

<sup>74</sup> Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2022). A New Perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment. Available at: [cd-910-iema-land-and-soils-guidance.pdf \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#)

- Institute of Quarrying (2021) Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings<sup>75</sup>;
- Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites (2009)<sup>76</sup>; and
- UK Parliament (2023) A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment<sup>77</sup>.

## A1.5 Cultural Heritage

### Legislation

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979<sup>78</sup>;
- Treasure Act 1996 (as amended)<sup>79</sup>;
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990<sup>80</sup>;
- Burial Act 1857<sup>81</sup>;
- Protection of Military Remains Act 1986<sup>82</sup>;
- The Hedgerows Regulations 1997<sup>83</sup>;
- Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953<sup>84</sup>; and
- National Heritage Act 1980 (as amended)<sup>85</sup>.

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)<sup>86</sup>;

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<sup>75</sup> Institute of Quarrying (2021). Good Practice Guide for Handling Soils in Mineral Workings. available at: <https://www.quarrying.org/soils-guidance>

<sup>76</sup> Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (2009). Construction Code of Practice for the Sustainable Use of Soils on Construction Sites. available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-practice-for-the-sustainable-use-of-soils-on-construction-sites>

<sup>77</sup> UK Parliament (2023). A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment. available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

<sup>78</sup> Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1979/46>

<sup>79</sup> Treasure Act 1996 (amended 2023), available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/24/contents>

<sup>80</sup> Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents>

<sup>81</sup> Burial Act 1857, available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Vict/20-21/81/contents>

<sup>82</sup> Protection of Military Remains Act 1986, available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/35/contents>

<sup>83</sup> The Hedgerows Regulations 1997, available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents>

<sup>84</sup> Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953, available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Elix2/1-2/49/contents>

<sup>85</sup> National Heritage Act 1980 (as amended), available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1983/47/contents>

<sup>86</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage>

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)<sup>87</sup>;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)<sup>88</sup>;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated February 2025)<sup>89</sup>; and
- Planning Practice Guidance – Historic Environment (PPG) (2014, updated 2019)<sup>90</sup>.

### Local Planning Policy

- Rother Local Plan: Core Strategy (Adopted September 2014), specifically Policy EN1 'Landscape Stewardship' and Policy EN2 'Stewardship of the Historic Built Environment'<sup>91</sup>;
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan (Adopted September 2020)<sup>92</sup>, specifically Policy CC6 'Solar Farms', Policy HE1 'Heritage Assets', Policy HE2 'Archaeology' and HE3 'Local List of Heritage Assets';
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>93</sup>; and
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (Adopted March 2025)<sup>94</sup>.

### National Guidance

- Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020)<sup>95</sup>;
- Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2022)<sup>96</sup>;

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<sup>87</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025)

<sup>88</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-5), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025>

<sup>89</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Revised February 2025), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>90</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2014), National Planning Policy Guide, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

<sup>91</sup> Rother District Council (2014), Rother Local Plan: Core Strategy, available at: <https://rdcpb.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2022/09/Core-Strategy-2014.pdf>

<sup>92</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>93</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>94</sup> Kent County Council (2025), Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039, available at: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf)

<sup>95</sup> Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020), Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment, available to view at <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-SandG-DBA-2020.pdf>

<sup>96</sup> Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2022), Code of Conduct: professional ethics in archaeology, available to view at <https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2023-11/CIfA-Code-of-Conduct-2022.pdf>

- The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3 (Historic England, 2017)<sup>97</sup>;
- Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (Historic England Advice Note Twelve, 2019)<sup>98</sup>;
- Commercial renewable energy development and the historic environment (Historic England Advice Note Fifteen, 2021)<sup>99</sup>;
- Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2, 2015)<sup>100</sup>; and
- Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, Institute of Historic Building Conservation and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2021)<sup>101</sup>.

### Local Guidance

- Position Statement on Development: Large Scale Solar Arrays (Kent County Council 2014)<sup>102</sup>;
- Specification for a Standard Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey (Kent County Council, 2016)<sup>103</sup>;
- Specification for a Standard Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey for Areas with Known Palaeolithic Potential (Kent County Council, 2018)<sup>104</sup>;
- Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy (Adopted January 2019)<sup>105</sup>;

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<sup>97</sup> Historic England (2017), The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3, available to view at <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa3-setting-of-heritage-assets/heag180-gpa3-setting-heritage-assets/>

<sup>98</sup> Historic England (2019), Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, available to view at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/statements-heritage-significance-advice-note-12/heag279-statements-heritage-significance/>

<sup>99</sup> Historic England (2021), Commercial renewable energy development and the historic environment, available to view at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/commercial-renewable-energy-development-historic-environment-advice-note-15/heag302-commercial-renewable-energy-development-historic-environment/>

<sup>100</sup> Historic England (2015), Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment (Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning: 2, available to view at <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/gpa2-managing-significance-in-decision-taking/gpa2/>

<sup>101</sup> Institute of Historic Building Conservation and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2021), Principles of Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment in the UK, available to view at [https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2024-11/ClfA-HEMA-Principles-Cultural-Heritage-Impact-UK\\_2021.pdf](https://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/2024-11/ClfA-HEMA-Principles-Cultural-Heritage-Impact-UK_2021.pdf)

<sup>102</sup> Kent County Council (2014), Position Statement on Development: Large Scale Solar Arrays, available at <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s48772/KCC%20Solar%20Policy%20Position%20Statement%20August%202014%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>103</sup> Kent County Council (2016), Manual of Specifications Part B: Specification for a Standard Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey

<sup>104</sup> Kent County Council (2018), Manual of Specifications Part B: Specification for a Standard Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey for Areas with Known Palaeolithic Potential

<sup>105</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2019), Folkestone & Hythe District Heritage Strategy, available at <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/1461/eb-11-10-folkestone-hythe-heritage-strategy-1->

- Sussex Archaeological Standards (Local Planning Authority Archaeological Advisers in Sussex 2019)<sup>106</sup>.

## A1.6 Landscape and Visual

### Legislation

- The European Landscape Convention (2022)<sup>107</sup>;
- The Planning Act 2008<sup>108</sup>;
- Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990<sup>109</sup>;
- The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012<sup>110</sup>; and
- The Hedgerow Regulations 1997<sup>111</sup>.

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)<sup>112</sup> with particular regard to Section 5.10 as well as Paragraphs 4.7.1, 5.10.1, and 5.10.6;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)<sup>113</sup> with particular regard to Paragraphs 2.10.96 to 2.10.98;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)<sup>114</sup> with particular regard to Paragraphs 2.9.7 to 2.9.19 and 2.10.5 to 2.10.8; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated February 2025)<sup>115</sup>.

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<sup>106</sup> Local Planning Authority Archaeological Advisers in Sussex (2019), Sussex Archaeological Standards, available at: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/archaeology/heritage-planning>

<sup>107</sup> Council of Europe Landscape Convention as amended by the 2016 Protocol (Council of Europe Treaty Series No. 176) (2022)

<sup>108</sup> Planning Act 2008, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

<sup>109</sup> Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/9/contents>

<sup>110</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605/contents>

<sup>111</sup> The Hedgerow Regulations 1997, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents/made>

<sup>112</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage>

<sup>113</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025)

<sup>114</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Energy Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025>

<sup>115</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Revised February 2025), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

## Local Planning Policy

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan (Adopted September 2020)<sup>116</sup>;
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>117</sup>;
- Rother District Council Core Strategy (Adopted September 2024)<sup>118</sup>;
- Rother District Council Development and Site Allocations Local Plan (Adopted December 2019)<sup>119</sup>; and
- Rother District Council Local Plan 2020 – 2040 Draft (Regulation 18) Version (April 2024)<sup>120</sup>.

## National Guidance

- Planning Practice Guidance: The Natural Environment (2024)<sup>121</sup>;
- Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution (2019)<sup>122</sup>; and
- Planning Practice Guidance: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (2023)<sup>123</sup>.

## Local Guidance

- Guidance Note 01/21: The Reduction of Obtrusive Light<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>117</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>118</sup> Rother District Council (2014) Rother Local Plan Core Strategy, available at: <https://rdcpublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2022/09/Core-Strategy-2014.pdf>

<sup>119</sup> Rother District Council (2019) Development and Site Allocations Local Plan, available at: [https://rdcpublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2020/01/DaSA\\_Adopted\\_December\\_2019\\_Web.pdf](https://rdcpublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2020/01/DaSA_Adopted_December_2019_Web.pdf)

<sup>120</sup> Rother District Council (2024) Rother Local Plan 2020 – 2040 Draft (Regulation 18) Version, available at: [https://rdcpublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2024/04/New-Local-Plan\\_Reg-18\\_version\\_Final.pdf](https://rdcpublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2024/04/New-Local-Plan_Reg-18_version_Final.pdf)

<sup>121</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2016, updated 2025), Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>

<sup>122</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2014), Planning Practice Guidance: Light Pollution, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/light-pollution>

<sup>123</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2023), Planning Practice Guidance: Renewable and low carbon energy, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy>

<sup>124</sup> The Institution of Lighting Professionals (2021), Guidance Note 01/21: The Reduction of Obtrusive Light, available at: <https://theilp.org.uk/publication/guidance-note-1-for-the-reduction-of-obtrusive-light-2021/>

## A1.7 Transport and Access

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)<sup>125</sup> in particular paragraphs 5.14.1 – 5.14.22 that describe the requirements for assessing and providing mitigation to offset potential impacts associated with construction and operational traffic created by new energy projects;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)<sup>126</sup>; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated February 2025)<sup>127</sup>, in particular Section 9.

### Local Planning Policy

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan (Adopted September 2020)<sup>128</sup>;
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>129</sup>;
- Kent County Council Local Transport Plan 5: Striking the Balance<sup>130</sup>; and
- East Sussex County Council Local Transport Plan 4<sup>131</sup>.

### National Guidance

- Design Manual for Roads & Bridges (DMRB)<sup>132</sup>;
- Planning Practice Guidance “Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements”<sup>133</sup>;

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<sup>125</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage>

<sup>126</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025)

<sup>127</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Revised February 2025), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>128</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>129</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>130</sup> Kent County Council (2025), Local Transport Plan 5: Striking the Balance available at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/strategies-and-policies/service-specific-policies/roads-paths-and-transport-policies/striking-the-balance-our-local-transport-plan>

<sup>131</sup> East Sussex County Council (2024), Local Transport Plan 4, available at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/roads-transport/transport-planning/local-transport-plan>

<sup>132</sup> Department for Transport, et al, Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, available at <https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/dmrb>

<sup>133</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2018 to 2021) and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2014), Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements, available at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-plans-transport-assessments-and-statements>

- Institute of Environmental Assessment (IEA), The Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic (1993)<sup>134</sup>; and
- Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (formally the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement (2023)<sup>135</sup>.

### Local Guidance

- Kent County Council Transport Assessment and Travel Plan Guidance<sup>136</sup>;
- East Sussex County Council Transport Assessment, Transport Statements and Transport Reports: Guidance of Development Proposals in East Sussex<sup>137</sup>;
- East Sussex County Council Guidance on Travel Plans for New Development<sup>138</sup>;
- East Sussex County Council Highway Construction Specification for Developers<sup>139</sup>;

## A1.8 Carbon and Climate Change

### International Treaties

- The 2015 Paris Agreement<sup>140</sup>;
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1994<sup>141</sup>; and
- Kyoto Protocol 1997<sup>142</sup>.

### Legislation

- The Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended by the Climate Change Act (2050 Target Amendment Order 2019))<sup>143</sup>; The Carbon Budget Order 2009<sup>144</sup>;

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<sup>134</sup>Institute of Environmental Assessment (1993), The Guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of Road Traffic

<sup>135</sup> Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (formally the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment) (2023), Environmental Assessment of Traffic and Movement available at <https://www.iema.net/media/5mrmquib/iema-report-environmental-assessment-of-traffic-and-movement-rev07-july-2023.pdf>

<sup>136</sup> Kent County Council (2025), Transport Assessment and Travel Plan Guidance available at [https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/216180/Transport-assessment-and-travel-plan-guidance.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/216180/Transport-assessment-and-travel-plan-guidance.pdf)

<sup>137</sup> East Sussex County Council (2009), Transport Assessment, Transport Statements and Transport Reports: Guidance of Development Proposals in East Sussex, available at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/planning/roads/planning-applications/guidance>

<sup>138</sup> East Sussex County Council (2020), Guidance on Travel Plans for New Development, available at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/planning/roads/planning-applications/guidance>

<sup>139</sup> East Sussex County Council (2020), Highway Construction Specification for Developers, available at <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/planning/roads/planning-applications/guidance>

<sup>140</sup> The 2015 Paris Agreement, available at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

<sup>141</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1994, available at: <https://unfccc.int/>

<sup>142</sup> Kyoto Protocol 1997, available at: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/kpeng.pdf>

<sup>143</sup> Climate Change Act 2008 (as amended by the Climate Change Act (2050 Target Amendment Order 2019)). Available online: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111187654>

<sup>144</sup> The Carbon Budget Order 2009, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2009/1259/made>

- The Carbon Budget Order 2011<sup>145</sup>;
- The Carbon Budget Order 2016<sup>146</sup>;
- The Carbon Budget Order 2021<sup>147</sup>; and
- Energy Act 2023<sup>148</sup>.

## National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) (2025)<sup>149</sup>;
- British Energy Security Strategy (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, and Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2022)<sup>150</sup>;
- Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future (2020)<sup>151</sup>;
- Powering Up Britain (2023)<sup>152</sup>;
- Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)<sup>153</sup>;
- The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution (2020)<sup>154</sup>;
- The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)<sup>155</sup>;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) (2025)<sup>156</sup>;

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<sup>145</sup> The Carbon Budget Order 2011, available at:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/1603/made>

<sup>146</sup> The Carbon Budget Order 2016, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/785/made>

<sup>147</sup> The Carbon Budget Order 2021, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2021/750/made>

<sup>148</sup> Energy Act 2023, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2023/52>

<sup>149</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage>

<sup>150</sup> British Energy Security Strategy (2022) available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy>

<sup>151</sup> HM Government (2020). Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future, available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fdc61e2d3bf7f3a3bdc8cbf/201216\\_BEIS\\_EWP\\_Command\\_Paper\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5fdc61e2d3bf7f3a3bdc8cbf/201216_BEIS_EWP_Command_Paper_Accessible.pdf)

<sup>152</sup> HM Government (2023). Powering Up Britain, available at:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/642468ff2fa8480013ec0f39/powering-up-britain-joint-overview.pdf>

<sup>153</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2021). Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>

<sup>154</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, The Rt Hon Lord Alok Sharma KCMG and The Rt Hon Boris Johnson (2020). The Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-ten-point-plan-for-a-green-industrial-revolution>

<sup>155</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2017). The Clean Growth Strategy, available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>

<sup>156</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025)

- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) (2025)<sup>157</sup>; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated February 2025)<sup>158</sup>.

### Local Planning Policy

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan (Adopted September 2020)<sup>159</sup>, specifically Policy CC6 'Solar Farms';
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>160</sup>;
- Rother Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014)<sup>161</sup>, specifically Policy SRM1 'Towards a low carbon future';
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (Adopted March 2025)<sup>162</sup>;
- Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (2020)<sup>163</sup>;
- Kent County Council Net Zero Action Plan (2021)<sup>164</sup>; and
- East Sussex County Council Climate Emergency Plan 2025-30 (2019)<sup>165</sup>.

### National Guidance

- Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2022) (2022)<sup>166</sup>,

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<sup>157</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025) National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025>

<sup>158</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Revised February 2025), available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>159</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>160</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at:

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>161</sup> Rother Local Plan - <https://rdcpublish.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2022/09/Core-Strategy-2014.pdf>

<sup>162</sup> Kent County Council (2025), Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039, available at:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf)

<sup>163</sup> Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (2020), available at:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/205448/Kent-and-Medway-Energy-and-Low-Emissions-Strategy.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/205448/Kent-and-Medway-Energy-and-Low-Emissions-Strategy.pdf)

<sup>164</sup> Kent County Council Net Zero Action Plan (2021), available at:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/182263/KCC-Net-Zero-action-Plan.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/182263/KCC-Net-Zero-action-Plan.pdf)

<sup>165</sup> East Sussex County Council Climate Emergency Plan 2025-30 (2019), available at:

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/environment/climate-change-action-in-east-sussex/climate-emergency-plan-2025-30>

<sup>166</sup> Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2022) Assessing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Evaluating their Significance, available at:

[2022\\_iema\\_greenhouse\\_gas\\_guidance\\_eia.pdf](https://www.iema.org.uk/2022/iema-greenhouse-gas-guidance-eia.pdf)

- Assessing Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation ((Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), 2020) (2020))<sup>167</sup>
- Planning Practice Guidance on Climate Change (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2019)<sup>168</sup>,
- A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard (The Greenhouse Gas Protocol, 2004)<sup>169</sup>; and
- Whole Life Carbon Assessment for the Built Environment (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, 2023)<sup>170</sup>.

## A1.9 Noise and Vibration

### Legislation

- Environmental Protection Act, 1990<sup>171</sup>;
- Control of Pollution Act, 1974<sup>172</sup>.

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)<sup>173</sup>;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)<sup>174</sup>;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)<sup>175</sup>
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated February 2025)<sup>176</sup>, in particular paragraph 187 (e) (in relation to preventing unacceptable levels of noise) and paragraph 198 (in relation to

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<sup>167</sup> Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2020) Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation. Available online: <https://www.iema.net/resources/reading-room/2020/06/26/iema-eia-guide-to-climate-change-resilience-and-adaptation-2020>

<sup>168</sup> Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) Planning Practice Guidance on Climate Change, available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change>

<sup>169</sup> The Greenhouse Gas Protocol (2004) A Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard, available at: <https://ghgprotocol.org/corporate-standard>

<sup>170</sup> Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (2023) Whole Life, available at: <https://www.rics.org/profession-standards/rics-standards-and-guidance/sector-standards/construction-standards/whole-life-carbon-assessment>

<sup>171</sup> Environmental Protection Act 1990, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

<sup>172</sup> Control of Pollution Act 1974, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/40>

<sup>173</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage>

<sup>174</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025)

<sup>175</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025>

<sup>176</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Revised February 2025), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

mitigation and minimisation of noise impacts from new developments and protection of tranquil areas);

- The Noise Policy Statement for England, 2010<sup>177</sup>; and
- Planning Practice Guidance: Noise, 2019<sup>178</sup>.

### Local Planning Policy

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan (Adopted September 2020)<sup>179</sup>, specifically Policy CC6 'Solar Farms';
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>180</sup>; and
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (Adopted March 2025)<sup>181</sup>.

### National Guidance

- British Standard BS 4142, Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound, 2014 + 2019 Amendments<sup>182</sup>;
- British Standard BS 5228, Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open Sites – Part 1: Noise and Part 2: Vibration, 2009 + 2014 Amendments<sup>183</sup>;
- British Standard BS 7445, Description and measurement of environmental noise, Guide to quantities and procedures, 2003<sup>184</sup>;
- BS 6472, Guide to evaluation of human exposure to vibration in buildings, Part 1, Vibration sources other than blasting, 2008<sup>185</sup>;
- BS 7385, Evaluation and measurement for vibration in buildings – Guide to damage levels from groundborne vibration, 1993<sup>186</sup>;
- British Standard BS 8233, Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings, 2014<sup>187</sup>;

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<sup>177</sup> Noise Policy Statement for England (March 2010), available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/noise-policy-statement-for-england>

<sup>178</sup> Planning Practice Guidance, Noise (2019), available at: [www.gov.uk/guidance/noise--2](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise--2)

<sup>179</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at:

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>180</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at:

<https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>181</sup> Kent County Council (2025), Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039, available at:

[https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf)

<sup>182</sup> British Standard BS 4142, Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound, 2014 + 2019 Amendments

<sup>183</sup> British Standard BS 5228, Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise and Part 2: Vibration, 2009 + 2014 Amendments

<sup>184</sup> British Standard BS 7445, Description and measurement of environmental noise, Guide to quantities and procedures, 2003

<sup>185</sup> BS 6472, Guide to evaluation of human exposure to vibration in buildings, Part 1, Vibration sources other than blasting, 2008

<sup>186</sup> BS 7385, Evaluation and measurement for vibration in buildings – Guide to damage levels from groundborne vibration, 1993

<sup>187</sup> British Standard BS 8233, Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings, 2014

- Calculation of Road Traffic Noise, Department of Transport, Welsh Office, 1988<sup>188</sup>; and
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Sustainability and Environment Appraisal, LA 111, Noise and Vibration, 2020<sup>189</sup>.

## A1.10 Human Health

- Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)<sup>190</sup>;
- The Planning Act 2008<sup>191</sup>;
- The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017<sup>192</sup>;
- Health and Care Act 2022<sup>193</sup>;

### National Planning Policy

- Fit for the future: 10 Year Health Plan for England (Published July 2025)<sup>194</sup>, including a new focus of the NHS in taking an approach of moving from managing sickness to preventing ill health (e.g. through addressing inequalities in environmental conditions and the quality of jobs);
- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)<sup>195</sup> – Section 4.4 sets out the assessment principles for health, other sections that include health considerations are Section 4.12, 5.2, 5.11 and 5.16;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)<sup>196</sup> – Section 2.10 provides the primary basis for decisions on solar photovoltaic DCO applications;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)<sup>197</sup> provides the framework for decisions on nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) related to

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<sup>188</sup> Calculation of Road Traffic Noise, Department of Transport, Welsh Office, 1988

<sup>189</sup> Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Sustainability and Environment Appraisal, LA 111, Noise and Vibration, 2020, available here:

<https://www.standardsforhighways.co.uk/tses/attachments/cc8cfcf7-c235-4052-8d32-d5398796b364?inline=true>

<sup>190</sup> Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), HMSO, Available:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1974/37/contents>

<sup>191</sup> The Planning Act 2008 (2008), HMSO, Available:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/29/contents>

<sup>192</sup> The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (2017), HMSO, Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/572/contents>

<sup>193</sup> Health and Care Act 2022 (2022), HMSO, Available:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/31/contents>

<sup>194</sup> Department of Health and Social Care (2025), 10 Year Health Plan for England: fit for the future – policy paper. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-year-health-plan-for-england-fit-for-the-future>

<sup>195</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage>

<sup>196</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-3), available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025)

<sup>197</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure (EN-5), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025>

electricity networks, with Section 2.9 and 2.10 having relevant considerations in relation to public health and electromagnetic field exposures; and

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2024 publication, revised February 2025)<sup>198</sup>, includes a series of relevant provisions in relation to sustainable development, public health and renewables projects, including at Paragraphs 96 (a-c), 85, 7 and 8.

## Local Planning Policy

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan (adopted September 2020)<sup>199</sup>, specifically Policy CC6 'Solar Farms';
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>200</sup>;
- Rother District's adopted Core Strategy (2014) includes the Overall Spatial Strategy element of "developing the economy, healthy lifestyles and the role of culture, sports, arts, tourism and leisure".
- Rother District emerging Local Plan (Reg 18 consultation version)<sup>201</sup> includes policy HWB1 which states "The design and function of new development must help to create healthy, inclusive and safe places which reduce health inequalities, support and address the health and wellbeing needs in Rother as identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment". It also includes HWB2 requiring a Health Impact Assessment<sup>202</sup> (HIA) of all developments equal to or exceeding a Site boundary of 5 hectares;
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (Adopted March 2025)<sup>203</sup>, including Policy DM 11: Health and Amenity;
- East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Strategy<sup>204</sup> is a rolling strategy, currently covering a period of five years until 2027;

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<sup>198</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (December 2024 publication, revised February 2025), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>199</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>200</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>201</sup> Rother District Reg 18 Local Plan 2020-2040. [https://rdcpublish.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2024/04/New-Local-Plan\\_Reg-18\\_version\\_Final.pdf](https://rdcpublish.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2024/04/New-Local-Plan_Reg-18_version_Final.pdf)

<sup>202</sup> Health impact assessment (HIA) is a process which systematically judges the potential, and sometimes unintended, effects of a project, program, plan, policy, or strategy on the health of a population and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA generates evidence for appropriate actions to avoid or mitigate health risks and promote health opportunities. HIA guides the establishment of a framework for monitoring and evaluating changes in health as part of performance management and sustainable development. Winkler, M.S., Villani, F., Knoblauch, A.M., Cave, B., Divall, M., Ramesh, G., Harris-Roxas, B. and Furu, P. (2021) Health Impact Assessment International Best Practice Principles. Special Publication Series No. 5. Fargo, USA: International Association for Impact Assessment.

<sup>203</sup> Kent County Council (2025), Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039, available at: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf)

<sup>204</sup> East Sussex County Council (n.d) Healthy lives, healthy people: East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board strategy. Available: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/social-care/policies/health-wellbeing-strategy>

- The Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (until 2021)<sup>205</sup> has been replaced by a Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy<sup>206</sup> and shared delivery plan for 2024-2026;
- In January 2025, Kent County Council published a draft of their specific contribution to the Improved Health and Integrated Care Strategy<sup>207</sup>. Within it, the Council have issued proposed priorities and actions to improve health and wellbeing in public health, public health education, communities, human resources and organisational development, procurement, adult social care and growth, environment and transport;
- East Sussex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)<sup>208</sup>; and
- Kent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment JSNA<sup>209</sup>.

## National Guidance

- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice for Scoping Solar Development<sup>210</sup>
- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) (2024)<sup>211</sup> Healthy and Safe Communities<sup>212</sup>, provides guidance on promoting health and safe communities in relation to the NPPF and mentions health impact assessments as a useful tool to use where there are expected to be significant impacts. Several further PPG guidance notes are relevant indirectly to the health assessment, namely:
  - Air Quality<sup>213</sup>,
  - Climate Change<sup>214</sup>,
  - Environmental Impact Assessment<sup>215</sup>,
  - Flood Risk and Coastal Change<sup>216</sup>,
  - Land affected by Contamination<sup>217</sup>,
  - Natural Environment<sup>218</sup>,

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<sup>205</sup> Kent Council, on behalf of the Kent Health and Wellbeing Board (n.d) Kent Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, outcomes for health. Available: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/1423/eb-10-20-fhdc-the-kent-joint-health-wellbeing-strategy>

<sup>206</sup> Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy (2024), Shared Delivery Plan 2024-2026. Available: <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s125849/Appendix%201%20-%20Kent%20and%20Medway%20Integrated%20Care%20Strategy%20Shared%20Delivery%20Plan.pdf>

<sup>207</sup> Kent County Council (n.d) Improving Health and Wellbeing – Kent County Council Priorities and Actions DRAFT. Available: <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=128985>

<sup>208</sup> East Sussex Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (2025). Available: <https://www.eastsussexjsna.org.uk/>

<sup>209</sup> Kent County Council (2025) Kent Public Health Observatory JSNA. Available: <https://www.kpho.org.uk/joint-strategic-needs-assessment>

<sup>210</sup> Planning Inspectorate (2024). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nationally-significant-infrastructure-projects-technical-advice-page-for-scoping-solar-development>

<sup>211</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, (2024), Planning Practice Guidance <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing>

<sup>212</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing>

<sup>213</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/air-quality--3>

<sup>214</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change>

<sup>215</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/environmental-impact-assessment>

<sup>216</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change>

<sup>217</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/land-affected-by-contamination>

<sup>218</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/natural-environment>

- Noise<sup>219</sup>,
- Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space<sup>220</sup>,
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy<sup>221</sup>, and
- Travel Plans, Transport Assessments and Statements<sup>222</sup>;
- The Institute of Sustainability & Environmental Professionals (ISEP) (formerly the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)) Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)<sup>223</sup>;
- ISEP (formerly IEMA) Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)<sup>224</sup>;
- Institute of Public Health (IPH) Guidance, Standalone Health Impact Assessment and health in environmental assessment (2021)<sup>225</sup>;
- Public Health England, Health Impact Assessment in spatial planning (2020)<sup>226</sup>; and
- Public Health England. Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning (NSIP) Regime (2021)<sup>227</sup>.

### Relevant Supplementary International Guidance

- International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and European Public Health Association. A reference paper on addressing Human Health in EIA (2020)<sup>228</sup> and academic discussion of the same (Cave et al., 2021)<sup>229</sup>;

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<sup>219</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/noise--2>

<sup>220</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/open-space-sports-and-recreation-facilities-public-rights-of-way-and-local-green-space>

<sup>221</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/renewable-and-low-carbon-energy>

<sup>222</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-plans-transport-assessments-and-statements>

<sup>223</sup> Pyper, R., Waples, H., Beard, C., Barratt, T., Hardy, K., Turton, P., Netherton, A., McDonald, J., Buroni, A., Bhatt, A., Phelan, E., Scott, I., Fisher, T., Christian, G., Ekermawi, R., Devine, K., McClenaghan, R., Fenech, B., Dunne, A., Hodgson, G., Purdy, J., Cave, B. (2022) IEMA Guide: Determining Significance for Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment.

<sup>224</sup> Pyper, R., Lamming, M., Beard, C., Waples, H., Birley, M., Buroni, A., Douglas, M., Turton, P., Hardy, K., Netherton, A., McClenaghan, R., Barratt, T., Bhatt, A., Fenech, B., Dunne, A., Hodgson, G., Gibson, G.,

Purdy, J., Cave, B. (2022) IEMA Guide: Effective Scoping of Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment.

<sup>225</sup> [https://www.publichealth.ie/sites/default/files/resources/guidance\\_2.pdf](https://www.publichealth.ie/sites/default/files/resources/guidance_2.pdf)

<sup>226</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-impact-assessment-in-spatial-planning>

<sup>227</sup> PHE, 2021. Advice on the content of Environmental Statements accompanying an application under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Planning Regime, London: Public Health England.

<sup>228</sup> Cave, B., Claßen, T., Fischer-Bonde, B., Humboldt-Dachroeden, S., Martín-Olmedo, P., Mekel, O., Pyper,

R., Silva, F., Viliani, F., Xiao, Y. 2020. Human health: Ensuring a high level of protection. A reference paper

on addressing Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. As per EU Directive 2011/92/EU amended by 2014/52/EU. International Association for Impact Assessment and European Public Health Association.

<sup>229</sup> Cave, B.; Pyper, R.; Fischer-Bonde, B.; Humboldt-Dachroeden, S.; Martín-Olmedo, P. Lessons from an International Initiative to Set and Share Good Practice on Human Health in Environmental Impact Assessment. *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health* 2021, 18, 1392.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18041392>

- International Association for Impact Assessment. Health Impact Assessment International Best Practice Principles, (2021)<sup>230</sup>; and
- World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines on air quality and noise (Berglund et al., 1999; Guski et al., 2017; WHO, 2009; WHO, 2021).

## A1.11 Socioeconomics

### National Planning Policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2025)<sup>231</sup>, specific reference to Section 5.13, which relates to Socio-Economics;
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)<sup>232</sup> – specific reference to section 2.10 on the role of solar PV in meeting net zero targets and the associated impacts that may need to be assessed;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2025)<sup>233</sup> – provides general advice on issues that need consideration (such as noise and landscape and visual impact), and which may indirectly affect socio-economics; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated February 2025)<sup>234</sup> – specific reference to Section 6: Building a strong, competitive economy, Section 12: Achieving well designed places; Section 14 meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change and Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

### Local Planning Policy

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Places and Policies Local Plan (Adopted September 2020)<sup>235</sup>, specifically Policy CC6 'Solar Farms';
- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>236</sup>; and
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (Adopted March 2025)<sup>237</sup>.

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<sup>230</sup> <https://iaia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/BEST-PRACTICE-HIA.pdf>

<sup>231</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-2025-accessible-webpage>

<sup>232</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025)

<sup>233</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-electricity-networks-infrastructure-en-5-2025>

<sup>234</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Revised February 2025), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>235</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

<sup>236</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>237</sup> Kent County Council (2025), Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039, available at: [https://www.kent.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf](https://www.kent.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/215903/Kent-minerals-and-waste-local-plan-2024-to-2039.pdf)

## National Guidance

- Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Practitioners (ISEP) (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK<sup>238</sup>.
- This scoping report has also been prepared with regard to the principles in: HM Treasury (2022) The Green Book: Central Government Guidance on Appraisal and Evaluation<sup>239</sup>; and
- Homes and Communities Agency (2014). The additionality guide, fourth edition<sup>240</sup>.

## A1.12 Air Quality

### Legislation

- The Environmental Protection Act 1990<sup>241</sup>;
- Part IV of the Environment Act 1995<sup>242</sup>;
- The Clean Air Act 1993<sup>243</sup>;
- The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000<sup>244</sup>;
- The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002<sup>245</sup>;
- The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010<sup>246</sup>;
- The Environment Act 2021 2021<sup>247</sup>; and
- The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023<sup>248</sup>.

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<sup>238</sup> Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Practitioners (ISEP) (2025) Social Impact Assessment in Environmental Impact Assessment in the UK.

<https://www.isepglobal.org/resources/blogs/2025/october/isep-launches-new-guide-on-social-impact-assessment/>

<sup>239</sup> HM Treasury (2022) The Green Book: Central Government Guidance on Appraisal and Evaluation <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-green-book-appraisal-and-evaluation-in-central-government/the-green-book-2020>

<sup>240</sup> Homes and Communities Agency (2014) the additionality Guide, fourth edition [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7ec4b9e5274a2e87db1c92/additionality\\_guide\\_2\\_014\\_full.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7ec4b9e5274a2e87db1c92/additionality_guide_2_014_full.pdf)

<sup>241</sup> Environmental Protection Act 1990 (1990), Available: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/43/contents>

<sup>242</sup> Environment Act (1995), HMSO, Available: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1995/25/contents>

<sup>243</sup> Clean Air Act 1993 (1993), HMSO, Available: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1993/11/contents>

<sup>244</sup> The Air Quality (England) Regulations 2000 Statutory Instrument 928 (2000), HMSO, Available: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2000/928/contents/made>

<sup>245</sup> The Air Quality (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002, Statutory Instrument 3043 (2002), HMSO, Available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2002/3043/contents/made>

<sup>246</sup> The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010 Statutory Instrument 1001 (2010), HMSO, Available: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1001/pdfs/uksi\\_20101001\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/1001/pdfs/uksi_20101001_en.pdf)

<sup>247</sup> Environment Act 2021 (2021).

<sup>248</sup> The Environmental Targets (Fine Particulate Matter) (England) Regulations 2023, Statutory Instrument 96 (2023), available: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2023/96/contents/made>

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- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)<sup>250</sup>;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated February 2025)<sup>251</sup>;
- Environmental Improvement Plan (2023)<sup>252</sup>;
- Clean Air Strategy (2019)<sup>253</sup>;
- Air Quality Strategy (2007)<sup>254</sup>;
- Air Quality Strategy (2023)<sup>255</sup>;
- Reducing Emissions from Road Transport: Road to Zero Strategy (2018)<sup>256</sup>;
- National Air Quality Plan (2017) and Supplement (2018)<sup>257</sup>; and
- PM<sub>2.5</sub> Targets: Interim Planning Guidance (2024)<sup>258</sup>.

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<sup>250</sup> Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (2025), National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), available at: [National Policy Statement for renewable energy infrastructure \(EN-3\), 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-2025)

<sup>251</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2025), National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Revised February 2025), available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>

<sup>252</sup> Defra (2023) Environmental Improvement Plan 2023, [Online], Available: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1133967/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1133967/environmental-improvement-plan-2023.pdf)

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<sup>259</sup> Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2020), Places and Policies Local Plan, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3598/places-and-policies-local-plan>

- Folkestone and Hythe District Council Core Strategy Review (Adopted March 2022)<sup>260</sup>;
- Rother District Council Local Plan Core Strategy (Adopted September 2014)<sup>261</sup>;
- Rother District Council Draft Local Plan (2024)<sup>262</sup>; and
- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (Adopted March 2025)<sup>263</sup>.

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- Planning Practice Guidance (2023)<sup>264</sup>, Air Quality (2019)<sup>265</sup>;
- Environmental Protection UK (EPUK) & Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM) Guidance: Land-Use Planning & Development Control: Planning for Air Quality (2017)<sup>266</sup>;
- IAQM Guidance on the Assessment of Dust from Demolition and Construction (2024)<sup>267</sup>; and
- Defra Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM.TG(22) (2025)<sup>268</sup>.

### Local Guidance

- Air quality and emissions mitigation guidance for Sussex (2021)<sup>269</sup>.

## A1.13 Land and Groundwater

### Legislation

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- Environment Act 2021<sup>271</sup>;
- Water Resources Act 1991<sup>272</sup>;

<sup>260</sup>Folkestone and Hythe District Council (2022), Core Strategy Review, available at: <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/downloads/file/3593/core-strategy-review-2022>

<sup>261</sup> Rother District Council (2014) Local Plan Core Strategy. Available at: <https://rdcpbublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2022/09/Core-Strategy-2014.pdf>

<sup>262</sup> Rother District Council (2024) Rother Local Plan 2020 – 2040: Draft (Regulation 18) Version. Available: [https://rdcpbublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2024/04/New-Local-Plan\\_Reg-18\\_version\\_Final.pdf](https://rdcpbublic.blob.core.windows.net/website-uploads/2024/04/New-Local-Plan_Reg-18_version_Final.pdf)

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<sup>264</sup> DLUHC (2023) 'Planning Newsletter'.

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<sup>269</sup> Sussex Air Quality Partnership (2021) Air quality and emissions guidance for Sussex, [Online], Available: <https://sussex-air.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Sussex-AQ-Guidance-V.1.2-2021.pdf>

<sup>270</sup> Environmental Protection Act 1990, available at:

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<sup>271</sup> Environment Act 2021, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/contents>

<sup>272</sup> Water Resources Act 1991, available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/57/contents>

- Water Act 2003<sup>273</sup>;
- The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017<sup>274</sup>;
- The Groundwater (Water Framework Directive) (England) Direction 2016<sup>275</sup>;
- The Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009<sup>276</sup>;
- Control of Pollution Act 1974<sup>277</sup>;
- The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016<sup>278</sup>;
- The Anti-Pollution Works Regulations 1999<sup>279</sup>;
- The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001<sup>280</sup>; and
- The Hazardous Waste (England and Wales) Regulations 2005<sup>281</sup>.

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- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2025)<sup>283</sup>;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) (2025)<sup>284</sup>;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated February 2025)<sup>285</sup>; and

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- Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2024-2039 (Adopted March 2025)<sup>289</sup>;
- East Sussex County Council, Council Plan 2025/2026<sup>290</sup>; and
- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Local Plan (2013)<sup>291</sup> with revised policies map (2022).

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- Planning Practice Guidance (2023) – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Guidance<sup>292</sup>;
- Land Contamination Risk Management (Environment Agency, 2025)<sup>293</sup>;
- Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) Guide: A New perspective on Land and Soil in Environmental Impact Assessment (2022)<sup>294</sup>;
- Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) LA 109: Geology and Soils, Revision 0 (2019)<sup>295</sup>;
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- The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection, Version 1.2 (2018)<sup>299</sup>;
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- Construction Industry Research and Information Association (CIRIA) report: Contaminated Land Risk Assessment (A guide to good practice) C552 (2001)<sup>301</sup>; and
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