

Project No: 312614

Planning Statement

Prepared for:



Proposed Solar Arrays, Carpenters Factory Glossop

Dinting Lodge Industrial Estate
Glossop, U.K.
SK13 6LE

Contents Amendment Record

This report has been issued and amended as follows:

Revision	Description	Date	Signed
0.1	Draft	July 2023	Beth Thomas
0.2	Draft Issue	July 2023	Susan Bell
0.3	Updated Draft Issue	September 2023	Beth Thomas
0.4	Final	September 2023	Beth Thomas



SAFETY
SCHEMES IN
PROCUREMENT



Mabbett & Associates Ltd, Corporate and Registered Office: 13 Henderson Road, Inverness, UK, IV1 1SN
Registered in Scotland No: SC 163378 info@mabbett.eu www.mabbett.eu

[Belfast](#) | [Cardiff](#) | [Dublin](#) | [Dundee](#) | [Edinburgh](#) | [Glasgow](#) | [Inverness](#) | [Leicester](#) | [Liverpool](#)

© 2023, Mabbett & Associates Ltd. All Rights Reserved. The name Mabbett and the Mabbett logo are Trade Marks licensed to Mabbett & Associates Ltd.

Acknowledgement

This report has been prepared for the sole and exclusive use of Centrica Business Solutions (Centrica) in accordance with the scope of work presented in Mabbett & Associates Ltd (Mabbett) Letter Agreement (312543/ASL/SB Rev 3.0), dated 7th March 2023. This report is based on information and data collected by Mabbett. Should any of the information be incorrect, incomplete or subject to change, Mabbett may wish to revise the report accordingly.

This report has been prepared by the following Mabbett personnel:

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES LTD

Beth Thomas, MSc GradIEMA
Environmental Planning Consultant

This report has been reviewed and approved by the following Mabbett personnel:

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES LTD

Susan Bell, PIEMA REIA MRTPI
Manager, Planning

Table of Contents

Section 1.0: Introduction	5
1.1 The Planning Application	5
1.2 Scope of Planning Statement	5
1.3 Planning Application Submission	5
Section 2.0: Application Site, Surrounding Area & Site Selection	7
2.1 Introduction	7
2.2 Application Site Location and Surrounding Area	7
2.3 Application Site Description	7
2.4 Accessibility	7
2.5 Planning History of Application Site	7
2.6 Site Selection	8
Section 3.0: The Proposed Development	9
3.1 Introduction	9
3.2 Proposed Development	9
3.3 Construction Phase	10
3.4 Operational Phase	10
3.5 Decommissioning Phase	10
Section 4.0: The Development Plan	11
4.1 Introduction	11
4.2 Development Plan	11
4.2.1 High Peak Local Plan	11
4.3 Supplementary Planning Documents	12
Section 5.0: Other Material Considerations	13
5.1 National Planning Policy	13
5.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework (2021)	13
5.1.2 National Planning Practice Guidance	13
5.2 National Climate & Energy Policy	14
5.2.1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2011)	14
5.2.2 National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2011)	15
5.2.3 The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)	15
5.2.4 The Climate Change Act (2008) (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019	15
5.2.5 Climate Change Committee: Progress on Reducing Emissions, 2023 Report to Parliament	15
5.2.6 Climate Change Committee: The Sixth Carbon Budget: The UK's Path to Net Zero	16
5.2.7 Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future (2020)	16
5.2.8 National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)	17
5.2.9 Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)	17
5.2.10 BEIS Outcome Delivery Plan: 2021 – 2022	17
5.2.11 British Energy Security Strategy (2022)	17
5.3 Local Climate & Energy Policy	18
5.3.1 High Peak Borough Council	18

5.3.2	Derbyshire County Council	18
Section 6.0: Planning Policy Assessment		19
6.1	Introduction	19
6.2	Energy	20
6.2.1	Policy Identification	20
6.2.2	Policy Assessment	20
6.2.3	Summary	25
6.3	Location of Proposed Development	25
6.3.1	Policy Identification	25
6.3.2	Policy Assessment	26
6.4	Sustainability	28
6.4.1	Policy Identification	28
6.4.2	Policy Assessment	29
6.5	Flood Risk and Water Management	32
6.5.1	Policy Identification	32
6.5.2	Policy Assessment	32
6.6	Landscape	32
6.6.1	Policy Identification	32
6.6.2	Policy Assessment	32
6.7	Biodiversity and Geodiversity	34
6.7.1	Policy Identification	34
6.7.2	Policy Assessment	34
6.8	Historic Environment	36
6.8.1	Policy Identification	36
6.8.2	Policy Assessment	36
6.9	Contaminated Land	37
6.9.1	Policy Identification	37
6.9.2	Policy Assessment	38
6.10	Economic Growth	38
6.10.1	Policy Identification	38
6.10.2	Policy Assessment	39
6.11	Design	39
6.11.1	Policy Identification	39
6.11.2	Policy Assessment	39
Section 7.0: Need for the Proposed Development		41
7.1	Climate Change	41
7.2	Low Carbon Energy Generation	41
7.3	Energy Security	42
7.4	Economic	42
Section 8.0: Summary and Conclusion		43

Tables

Table 2.1: Planning History of Application Site

Table 3.1: Key Elements of the Proposed Development

Table 4.1: Local Plan Policies

Table 6.1: Planning Policy Topics

Table 6.2: Development Management Policy EQ1 Assessment Criteria

Table 6.3: Renewable & Low Carbon Energy NPPG Assessment Criteria

Table 6.4: Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S5 Assessment Criteria

Table 6.5: Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S1 Assessment Criteria

Table 6.6: Development Management Policy EQ5 Assessment Criteria

Table 6.7: Development Management Policy EQ6 Assessment Criteria

Table 8.1: Summary of Development Plan Compliance

Figures

- Figure 1: Location Plan (Scale 1:2500)
- Figure 2: Location Plan (Scale 1:5000)
- Front & Side Elevations of Array Tables (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4204)
- Location Plan (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4201)
- Existing Site Plan (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4202)
- Proposed Site Plan (Proposed Solar Arrays) (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4203)
- Transformer Elevations and Plan. Proposed Solar Arrays (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4204)
- Section Drawing (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4205)
- Haul Road Cross-Section Drawing (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4206)

Section 1.0: Introduction

1.1 The Planning Application

Centrica Business Solutions (hereinafter referred to as “the Applicant”) intend to apply to High Peak Borough Council (herein referred to as “HPBC”) for the construction and operation of a proposed circa 0.999 MW solar farm development with associated infrastructure on land at Carpenter Ltd, Dinting Lodge Industrial Estate, Glossop, SK13 6LE (hereinafter referred to as the “Proposed Development”).

The description of the Proposed Development is as follows:

“Proposed solar array, supporting energy infrastructure and associated site works incorporating, access, security fencing and landscape planting.”

1.2 Scope of Planning Statement

This Planning Statement has been prepared by Mabbett and Associates Limited (Mabbett) on behalf of the Applicant to assess the extent to which the Proposed Development complies with relevant regional and local planning policies and any other material considerations.

The remainder of this Planning Statement is structured as follows:

- Section 2.0: Application Site, Surrounding Area & Site Selection;
- Section 3.0: The Proposed Development ;
- Section 4.0: The Development Plan;
- Section 5.0: Other Material Considerations;
- Section 6.0: Planning Policy Assessment;
- Section 7.0: Need for the Proposed Development; and
- Section 8.0: Summary and Conclusion;

This Planning Statement is supported by the following Figures:

- Figure 1: Location Plan (Scale 1:2500)
- Figure 2: Location Plan (Scale 1:5000)
- Front & Side Elevations of Array Tables (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4204)
- Location Plan (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4201)
- Existing Site Plan (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4202)
- Proposed Site Plan (Proposed Solar Arrays) (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4203)
- Transformer Elevations and Plan. Proposed Solar Arrays (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4204)
- Section Drawing (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4205)
- Haul Road Cross-Section Drawing (Drawing Number: 48268-CBS-SW-XX-DR-E-4206)

1.3 Planning Application Submission

In addition to the completed planning application forms and certificates, the planning application to HPBC is accompanied by a number of technical and environmental assessment reports, including the following:

- Planning Statement (this report);
- Design and Access Statement;
- Landscape & Visual Appraisal;
- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal;
- Biodiversity Net Gain Report;
- Phase 1 Contamination Risk Assessment Report;
- Coal Mining Risk Assessment (contained as an Appendix in the Phase I Report);
- Geotechnical Desk Study Report;
- Geotechnical Interpretive Report;
- Exploratory Phase II Site Investigation Report;
- Flood Risk & Drainage Assessment;

- Noise Assessment;
- Construction Environmental Management Plan;
- Construction Traffic Management Plan;
- Historic Environment Assessment; and
- Tree Survey Report.

Section 2.0: Application Site, Surrounding Area & Site Selection

2.1 Introduction

For the purposes of this Planning Statement, the term 'Application Site' refers to the red line as illustrated on Figure 1: Location Plan (Scale 1:2500) and Figure 2: Location Plan (Scale 1:5000) submitted to accompany the application.

2.2 Application Site Location and Surrounding Area

The Application Site lies to the southeast of the Carpenter Ltd. facility, towards the east of the Dinting Lodge Industrial Estate. The immediate locality is industrial to the west, with residential areas located approximately 150m to the north of the Application Site. Towards the east and south of the Application Site, the character of the area is predominantly woodland with some agricultural fields. The A57 is located directly to the west Application Site and Dinting Road is located to the east.

2.3 Application Site Description

The identified area for the construction of the Proposed Development lies to the southeast of the Carpenter Ltd. facility. The Application Site covers an area of approximately 2.35-hectares (Ha) of undulating, rough grassland which slopes in a broadly south-easterly direction from elevations ranging from a high of circa 155m above ordnance datum (AOD) towards the southeast boundary to a low of circa 126m near the north-western edge of the site.

2.4 Accessibility

The Carpenter Ltd. facility is accessible from Shaw Lane via the A57 or directly off Dinting Road to the east. The A57 to the west runs through Glossop in an east/west direction. Permanent access to the Application Site for ongoing operations and maintenance will be gained via the existing car park at the Carpenter Ltd. facility. Access will also be gained from the temporary construction access point illustrated in the Proposed Site Plan towards the east of the Application Site.

2.5 Planning History of Application Site

The Application Site lies on land southeast of the Carpenter Ltd. facility, Dinting Lodge Industrial Estate, Glossop. There are several planning applications associated with the operations onsite at this facility. Those which are associated with the Application Site are set out within Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1: Planning History of Application Site

Reference Number	Description of Development	Year Determined	Decision
HPK/2020/0073	Demolition of existing building, partial dismantling of second building, construction of new building elevation, realignment of existing kerbs, formation of new access road and on-site staff car parking facilities, bunded off-load area and extension of existing trailer park hardstanding area.	2020	Approved
HPK/2013/0568	Proposed alteration & extension of existing workshop office facilities including the enclosure of electrical sub-station, re-cladding, erection of new canopy & other external works.	2013	Approved
HPK/2012/0472	Retention of a 2 metre Palisade Fence along the kerb of the site towards the existing entrance barrier.	2013	Approved
HPK/2009/0496	Extension to the NE corner of the main industrial building to provide an additional 12,160 sq metres of	2010	Approved

Reference Number	Description of Development	Year Determined	Decision
	floorspace, associated engineering works, tree removal and landscaping works.		
HPK/2006/0630	Hazardous substance storage.	2006	Approved

2.6 Site Selection

The Application Site has been selected for the following reasons:

- Located within an area of rough grassland of Agricultural Land Classification Grade 4, therefore not suitable for agricultural use;
- The Application Site lies adjacent to the Carpenter Ltd. facility who would utilise the energy generated by the Proposed Development, reducing their reliance on fossil fuels and contributing towards HPBC carbon neutrality. Any excess electricity would be exported to the local electricity distribution network;
- Sufficient distance from potentially sensitive residential receptors;
- Sufficient distance from potentially sensitive environmental receptors;
- The Application Site is largely screened by woodland to the north and industrial features to the north and west; and
- The Proposed Development lies within close proximity of the local highway network, with the A57 sitting adjacent to the west and Dinting Road running along the eastern boundary.

Section 3.0: The Proposed Development

3.1 Introduction

The Proposed Development comprises circa 0.999MW ground-mounted solar array development with supporting energy infrastructure and associated site works, corridor for cable routes, temporary construction access/haul road, permanent access point, security fencing and landscape planting.

The Proposed Development would be temporary, with an operational phase of up to 40-years, after which the Application Site would be returned as close as practicable to its current condition.

The layout of the Proposed Development is illustrated on the Proposed Site Plan submitted to accompany the planning application.

3.2 Proposed Development

The key elements of the Proposed Development are detailed within Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Key Elements of the Proposed Development

Element	Description
Solar PV arrays	The Proposed Development comprises the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules, fixed to a mounting structure (frame) to form arrays across the Application Site. The PV modules would be mounted onto static frames which would be orientated to face the south at an angle of approximately 20° to the horizontal. The minimum spacing between the rows of arrays would be approximately 4.06m and the maximum spacing would be approximately 4.085m depending on location. The maximum height of the arrays would be approximately 2.373m. These frames are strong, robust, and not easily damaged, allowing them to withstand environmental pressures. The metal posts would be pile driven into the ground, and therefore would not require concrete foundations. This construction method limits the footprint associated with the Proposed Development and allows for the remaining land beneath and between the arrays to remain accessible.
Inverter Units	The solar PV modules would be connected to inverter units fixed to metal work beneath to convert the direct current produced by the modules into alternating current, which is compatible with the local electricity distribution network.
Transformer station	Transformer stations are required to control the voltage of the electricity generated by the Proposed Development, prior to reaching the substation. The solar PV modules would be connected to inverter units to convert the direct current produced by the modules into alternating current, which is compatible with the local electricity distribution network. There would be one transformer station associated with the Proposed Development.
Onsite cabling	The electricity produced by the solar arrays would be conducted by new undergrounded cables southwards towards the Trailer area and then onwards to the substations indicated on the Existing Site Plan. More details of the voltages and existing line entries etc for these are provided on the Electricity Northwest plans at pages 61 to 65 of the Preliminary Contamination Risk Assessment (Phase I) Report that accompanies the Application.
Fencing and security measures	The existing perimeter security fencing will be retained and made-good as necessary.

Element	Description
Temporary and permanent access points	A new temporary access point would be constructed from an existing dropped kerb on Dinting Road, located to the east. The temporary construction route would cross a Public Right of Way, which would require a temporary diversion throughout the construction phase. Further details are contained within the accompanying Construction Environment Management Plan and Construction Traffic Management Plan. A permanent access point for ongoing operations and maintenance at the Carpenters facility would be constructed towards the northwest of the Application Site within the land ownership boundary.
Construction Compound	A temporary construction compound would be located within proximity to the temporary access route. The compound would allow for the laydown of materials and vehicle parking throughout the duration of the construction phase. The temporary construction compound does not form part of this planning application and will be dealt with as Permitted Development.

3.3 Construction Phase

The construction phase of the Proposed Development is anticipated to take place over a period of approximately six-months. The type of construction activities that may be required include:

- Site preparation;
- Construction of a temporary construction access track and construction compound;
- Construction of the solar PV arrays and associated infrastructure;
- Solar farm commissioning;
- Site reinstatement, and
- Landscape planting and habitat enhancement measures.

3.4 Operational Phase

Consent is being sought for a period of up to 40-years. During the operational phase, the Proposed Development would be unmanned and monitored externally. Therefore, activity onsite during the operational phase would be limited to vegetation and habitat management, equipment maintenance, servicing of components and any emergency servicing requirements.

3.5 Decommissioning Phase

Following the cessation of electricity generation at the end of the operational phase, the Proposed Development would be decommissioned, and the components removed from the Application Site. The land would then be reinstated as close as practicable to its original condition. The following activities may be associated with the decommissioning of the Proposed Development:

- The components of the solar farm would be dismantled and removed from the site,
- As much material will be recycled or re-used on-site where possible, and
- The land will be restored by infilling holes, backfilling cable trenches and landscaping/re-seeding.

Section 4.0: The Development Plan

4.1 Introduction

Section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990¹ gave statutory force to a plan led system of development control. Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004² requires planning decisions to be made in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

This section of the Planning Statement identifies the Development Plan and policies that are relevant to the Proposed Development.

4.2 Development Plan

The adopted Development Plan for HPBC comprises the following:

- High Peak Local Plan (adopted April 2016)³
- Chapel-en-le-Frith Neighbourhood Plan (2015)⁴ (not applicable to Proposed Development); and
- Derbyshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (DMWDF) (2009)⁵ (not applicable to the Proposed Development).

4.2.1 High Peak Local Plan

The High Peak Local Plan was adopted in April 2016 and sets out the development strategy and planning policies for HPBC. The Local Plan establishes the development strategy for HPBC and sets out the framework that other planning documents will build upon.

HPBC undertook a review of the adopted Local Plan in 2022 to determine if it was up to date. The review concluded that certain policies were out of date and against national policy, however these policies are not relevant to the Proposed Development. The remainder of the policies contained within the Local Plan are up to date. Relevant policies within the Local Plan are detailed in Table 4.1 below.

Table 4.1: Local Plan Policies

Policy Reference	Policy Title
Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies	
S1	Sustainable Development Principles
S2	Settlement Hierarchy
S4	Maintaining and Enhancing an Economic Base
S5	Glossopdale Sub-area Strategy
Development Management Policies	
EQ1	Climate Change
EQ2	Landscape Character
EQ3	Rural Development
EQ5	Biodiversity
EQ6	Design and Place Making
EQ7	Built and Historic Environment
EQ9	Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows
EQ10	Pollution Control and Unstable Land
EQ11	Flood Risk Management
E3	Primary Employment Zones

¹ UK Government (1990) The Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Available online: [Town and Country Planning Act 1990 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/24/section/70)

² UK Government (2004) The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. Available online: [Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/20/section/38)

³ HPBC (2016) Local Plan. Available online: [951570.pdf \(highpeak.gov.uk\)](https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/951570.pdf)

⁴ Chapel-en-le-Frith Neighbourhood Development Plan 2013-2028 (adopted 2015). Available Online: [Layout 1 \(highpeak.gov.uk\)](https://www.highpeak.gov.uk/layout/1)

⁵ Derbyshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework (2009). Available online: [Minerals and Waste Development Scheme \(derbyshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/minerals-and-waste-development-framework)

An assessment of the Proposed Development against the provisions of the Development Plan is contained within Section 6 of this Planning Statement.

4.3 Supplementary Planning Documents

HPBC have published Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) to provide greater guidance and additional information in relation to certain policies contained within the Local Plan.

Parts of the SPD considered relevant to the Proposed Development include:

- Design Guide SPD (adopted February 2018); and
- Landscape Character SPD (adopted March 2006).

Section 5.0: Other Material Considerations

5.1 National Planning Policy

5.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)⁶ was published in March 2012 and subsequently updated with the most recent update in July 2021. The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied.

5.1.1.1 Sustainable Development

Sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF, as the purpose of the planning system is to contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is introduced within Section 2 'Achieving Sustainable Development'. Paragraph 11, Part C outlines that this means *"approving development proposals that accord with an up-to-date development plan without delay..."*

In order to achieve sustainable development, the planning system has three overarching objectives, including economic, social and environmental. Of key importance to the Proposed Development is the protection and enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment, 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.

5.1.1.2 Climate Change & Renewable Energy Developments

Paragraph 152 within Section 14 'Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change' of the NPPF states that *"the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure."*

When determining planning applications for renewable and low carbon energy developments, Paragraph 158 states that Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) should:

"a) not require applicants to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy, and recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and

b) 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."

5.1.2 National Planning Practice Guidance

5.1.2.1 Renewable & Low Carbon Energy

The NPPF is supported by a number of National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) documents. Of relevance to the Proposed Development is the 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy' NPPG⁷, which was published in 2015. This NPPG provides guidance to aid LPAs in developing policies and identifies planning considerations for renewable and low carbon energy, and specifically large scale, ground-mounted solar farm developments, including:

⁶ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021) National Planning Policy Framework. Available online: [National Planning Policy Framework \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/91761/nppf-2021.pdf)

⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2015) Guidance: Renewable and low carbon energy. Available online: [Renewable and low carbon energy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464261/renewable_and_low_carbon_energy.pdf)

- *“encouraging the effective use of land by focussing large scale solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value;*
- *where a proposal involves greenfield land, whether (i) the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and poorer quality land has been used in preference to higher quality land; and (ii) the proposal allows for continued agricultural use where applicable and/or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays.*
- *that solar farms are normally temporary structures and planning conditions can be used to ensure that the installations are removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to its previous use;*
- *the proposal’s visual impact, the effect on landscape of glint and glare and on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety;*
- *the need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing;*
- *great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting;*
- *the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, screening with native hedges, and*
- *the energy generating potential, which can vary for a number of reasons including, latitude and aspect.”*

5.1.2.2 Other Relevant NPPG

Other relevant NPPGs have been addressed within the supporting environmental and technical assessments where relevant, including:

- Flood Risk and Coastal Change (2014)⁸;
- Historic Environment (2019)⁹;
- Land Affected by Contamination (2019)¹⁰; and
- Natural Environment (2019)¹¹.

5.2 National Climate & Energy Policy

5.2.1 Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2011)

The Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (NPS)¹² was published by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) in July 2011 and sets out the national policy for energy infrastructure. Although the primary purpose of the NPS is for the determination of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP), it is set out within the NPS that it may be a material consideration for the determination of applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

The NPS emphasises the need to increase energy generation from renewable sources. Section 3.3.10 of the NPS states that *“as part of the UK’s need to diversify and decarbonise electricity generation, the Government is committed to increasing dramatically the amount of renewable generation capacity...”* Section 3.3.11 goes on to state *“an increase in renewable electricity is essential to enable the UK to meet its commitments under the EU Renewable Energy Directive. It will also help improve our energy security by reducing our dependence on imported fossil fuels, decrease greenhouse gas emissions and provide economic opportunities.”*

Section 3.4.2 states *“large scale deployment of renewables will help the UK to tackle climate change, reducing the UK’s emissions of carbon dioxide by over 750 million tonnes by 2030. It will also deliver up to half a million jobs by 2020 in the renewables sector.”*

⁸ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2022) Guidance: Flood Risk and Coastal Change. Available online: [Flood risk and coastal change - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/flood-risk-and-coastal-change)

⁹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) Guidance: Historic Environment. Available online: [Historic environment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/historic-environment)

¹⁰ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) Guidance: Land Affected by Contamination. Available online: [Land affected by contamination - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/land-affected-by-contamination)

¹¹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) Guidance: Natural Environment. Available online: [Natural environment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/natural-environment)

¹² DECC (2011) Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1). Available online: [1938-overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101111/1938-overarching-nps-for-energy-en1.pdf)

5.2.2 National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2011)

The NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)¹³ was published by DECC in 2011 and sets out the national policy for renewable energy developments. Similarly, with NPS EN-1, NPS EN-3 is primarily focussed on NSIP developments, however it may be a material consideration for the determination of applications that fall under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended).

The 2011 version of EN-3 does not include detail in relation to solar farm developments, however a draft version for consultation was published in 2021¹⁴ which details considerations for solar farm developments. Section 2.47.1 states “*solar farms are one of the most established renewable electricity technologies in the UK and the cheapest form of electricity generation worldwide. Solar farms can be built quickly and, coupled with consistent reductions in the cost of materials and improvements in the efficiency of panels, large-scale solar is now viable in some cases to deploy subsidy-free and at little to no extra cost to the consumer. The government has committed to sustained growth in solar capacity to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions. As such solar is a key part of the government’s strategy for low cost decarbonisation of the energy sector.*”

5.2.3 The Clean Growth Strategy (2017)

The Clean Growth Strategy Policy Paper¹⁵ sets out the “*ambitious blueprint*” for the UK’s low carbon future. The Strategy sets out ambitions for the delivery of clean, smart and flexible power, including the need for a diverse electricity system that supplies homes and businesses with secure, affordable and cheap energy. The Strategy identifies that this requires the development of low carbon sources of electricity.

5.2.4 The Climate Change Act (2008) (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019

The Climate Change Act (2018) is the basis for the UK’s approach to tackling and responding to climate change. This act legally committed the UK to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% in 2050, when compared to the 1990 levels.

In May 2019, the Committee on Climate Change published their ‘Net Zero Technical Report’¹⁶, setting out a new emissions target for the UK of net zero greenhouse bases by 2050. In response to this, the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 came into force on 27 June 2019 and amended the previous legally binding target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 80% to 100%.

In order to track progress, the 2008 Act introduced a system of carbon budgets setting five-year caps on greenhouse gas emissions. The carbon budgets restrict the amount of greenhouse gas the UK can legally emit in a five-year period.

The Act also requires the UK Government:

- To assess regularly the risks to the UK of the current and predicted impact of climate change;
- To set out its climate change adaptation objectives; and
- To set out its proposals and policies for meeting these objectives.

5.2.5 Climate Change Committee: Progress on Reducing Emissions, 2023 Report to Parliament

The 2023 Report to Parliament¹⁷ identified that greenhouse gas emissions rose by 0.8% in 2022. It was reported that emissions from aviation and surface transport rose, however there was a decrease in emissions from homes. In terms of electricity, the UK became a net exporter of electricity in 2022, rather than an importer. This increased gas-fired electricity generation, although increased renewable generation meant that the power sector emissions were stable.

¹³ DECC (2011) National policy Statement for Renewable Energy Generation. Available Online: [1940-nps-renewable-energy-en3.pdf](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/214441/1940-nps-renewable-energy-en3.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))

¹⁴ BEIS (2021) Draft NPS Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3). Available online: [Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure \(EN-3\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1014441/Draft-National-Policy-Statement-for-Renewable-Energy-Infrastructure-EN-3.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))

¹⁵ HM Government (2017) The Clean Growth Strategy. Available online: [Clean Growth Strategy - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614441/Clean-Growth-Strategy.pdf) (www.gov.uk)

¹⁶ Climate Change Committee (2019) Net Zero Technical Report. Available online: <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/net-zero-technical-report/>

¹⁷ The Committee on Climate Change (2023) 2023 Progress Report to Parliament. Available online: [2023 Progress Report to Parliament - Climate Change Committee](https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/2023-progress-report-to-parliament/) ([theccc.org.uk](https://www.theccc.org.uk))

The report states: *“Renewable electricity capacity increased in 2022, but not at the rate required to meet the Government’s stretching targets, particularly for solar deployment. Given short lead-times, rapid deployment of onshore wind and solar could have helped to mitigate dependence on imported gas during the fossil fuel crisis.”*

Urgent action is required in relation to electricity decarbonisation, the report states:

“The Government has committed to decarbonising electricity supply by 2035, subject to ensuring security of supply, together with ambitious targets for building new renewables and nuclear. However, the Government has not yet published an overarching standalone plan or strategy for delivering a decarbonised and reliable electricity system by 2035 that is resilient not only to average weather, but to plausible future extreme weather and demand scenarios. Doing so would facilitate a more coordinated and strategic approach to delivery and improve visibility and confidence for investors. In parallel with this, there is an immediate need for policy to move ahead with ensuring adequate network capacity and connections, bringing forward low-carbon flexibility solutions, and reforming electricity market design.”

It is clear in the report that renewable energy generation capacity increased in 2022, but this was below the rate required to meet Government targets. With regards to solar deployment, 0.7GW of solar was deployed in 2022, which is significantly off track from the annual average deployment rate of 4.3GW required to achieve 70GW of solar by 2035.

5.2.6 Climate Change Committee: The Sixth Carbon Budget: The UK’s Path to Net Zero

The Climate Change Committee advised the UK Government to set its Sixth Carbon Budget to require a reduction in emissions of 78% by 2035, relative to 1990 levels¹⁸. The accompanying document ‘The Sixth Carbon budget: Electricity Generation’¹⁹ contains a summary of content for the electricity generation sector. The Report identifies the *“need to continue to reduce emissions from electricity generation, while meeting new demands from the electrification of heat and transport”*. In order to meet this need, the UK will require a portfolio of renewable energy generation technologies, including variable renewables, such as solar PV.

The Report states that *“variable renewables (i.e., wind and solar) have a key role to play in the decarbonisation of electricity generation, as they can provide zero-carbon electricity generation at low cost.”*

The Report states that the UK has the potential to deploy capacity to generate 145 – 615 GW of solar capacity. Maximising this potential might require an additional 1,500km² of land.

5.2.7 Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future (2020)

The Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future²⁰ was published in December 2020. The White Paper states that the UK energy system is still largely dominated by the use of fossil fuels, which will need to change dramatically by 2050 if the net zero target is to be achieved. Decarbonising the energy system over the next thirty years means replacing - as far as it is possible to do so - fossil fuels with clean energy technologies such as renewables. The UK Government are not planning for any specific technology solution; however, the future generation mix will comprise a low-cost, net zero consistent system, likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar, alongside complementary technologies such as battery storage. The White Paper states *“we will need sustained growth in the capacity of these sectors in the next decade to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions in all demand scenarios.”*

¹⁸ Climate Change Committee (2020) Sixth Carbon Budget. Available online: [Sixth Carbon Budget - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://theccc.org.uk/sixth-carbon-budget/)

¹⁹ Climate Change Committee (2020) The Sixth Carbon budget: Electricity Generation. Available online: [Sector-summary-Electricity-generation.pdf \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://theccc.org.uk/sector-summary-electricity-generation.pdf)

²⁰ UK Government (2020). Powering our Net Zero Future. Available online: [Energy White Paper \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/924211/Powering-our-Net-Zero-Future.pdf)

5.2.8 National Infrastructure Strategy (2020)

The National Infrastructure Strategy (NIS)²¹ was published in November 2020, setting out the Government's plans to deliver a radical improvement in the quality of the UK's infrastructure. Chapter 3: Power of the NIS emphasises the importance of renewable energy deployment as part of the plan, whilst balancing between reducing power sector emissions, maintaining energy security and providing affordable electricity for households and businesses.

To achieve net zero by 2050, the NIS states *"the power system will need to be virtually carbon free and significantly larger to cope with the additional demand from electrification in transport, heating and some industrial processes..."* It is acknowledged that the greatest proportion of this generation will be provided by low-cost renewable technologies. Therefore, the share of generation from renewable energy needs to *"dramatically increase"* with capacity provided by a range of technologies, including solar, onshore wind and offshore wind.

5.2.9 Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021)

The Net Zero Strategy²² was published in October 2021, setting out the policies and proposal for decarbonising all sectors of the UK economy in order to meet the net zero target by 2050. The Net Zero Strategy identifies key policies in relation to the energy sector, those considered relevant to the Proposed Development include:

- *"By 2035 the UK will be powered entirely by clean electricity, subject to security of supply.*
- *40GW of offshore wind by 2030, with more onshore, solar, and other renewables.*
- *Deployment of new flexibility measures including storage to help smooth out future price spikes."*

Paragraph 47 of the Net Zero Strategy highlights the importance of community energy, outlining that communities can come together to reach local and national net zero targets. Community Energy England estimate that the community energy sector could *"contribute up to 5,270MW, power 2.2 million homes, support 8,700 jobs and add £1.8 billion to the economy each year."*

5.2.10 BEIS Outcome Delivery Plan: 2021 – 2022

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) sets out their priority outcomes for the period to 2022 in the Delivery Plan²³. Of relevance to the Proposed Development is Priority Outcome 2: Tackle Climate Change. The aim of this Outcome is to reduce the UK greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Outcome 2 provides background on the carbon emissions reduction journey, stating *"since 1990, the UK has reduced emissions by 44% whilst increasing GDP by 78%, the fastest decarbonisation rate in the G7. In June 2019, the UK became the first major economy to set a legally binding target to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, in recognition of the transformative change needed to tackle global climate change."*

In order to achieve net zero by 2050, the Plan identifies a number of steps, including the targeting of the deployment of low carbon renewable energy technologies.

5.2.11 British Energy Security Strategy (2022)

The British Energy Security Strategy (BESS)²⁴ was published in April 2022 to address energy security across the UK, highlighting our vulnerability to international oil and gas prices and identifying the need to reduce dependence on imported oil and gas. As set out within the BESS, increasing the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources, reduces the exposure of the UK to volatile fuel markets. The BESS identifies the need to be bolder in the *"removing of red tape that holds back new clean energy developments and exploit the potential of all renewable technologies."*

²¹ HM Treasury (2020) National Infrastructure Strategy. Available online: [CP 329 – National Infrastructure Strategy – Fairer, faster, greener – November 2020 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92422/cp329-national-infrastructure-strategy-fairer-faster-greener-november-2020.pdf)

²² HM Government (2021) Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener. Available online: [net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97422/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf)

²³ BEIS (2021) Outcome Delivery Plan: 2021 – 2022. Available online: [BEIS Outcome Delivery Plan: 2021 to 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97422/beis-outcome-delivery-plan-2021-to-2022.pdf)

²⁴ HM Government (2022) British Energy Security Strategy. Available online: [British Energy Security Strategy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/101422/british-energy-security-strategy.pdf)

In relation to solar, the BESS identifies that there is currently circa 14GW of solar capacity in the UK, split across various scales of development, ranging from large scale to smaller scale roof-mounted solar. It is expected that solar development will increase five-fold by 2035, which could potentially result in an additional 70GW of solar generation across the UK.

In order to increase the deployment of solar across the UK, the BESS seeks to consult on *“amending planning rules to strengthen policy in favour of development on non-protected land, while ensuring communities continue to have a say and environmental protections remain in place. We will continue supporting the effective use of land by encouraging large scale projects to locate on previously developed, or lower value land, where possible, and ensure projects are designed to avoid, mitigate, and where necessary, compensate for the impacts of using greenfield sites.”*

5.3 Local Climate & Energy Policy

5.3.1 High Peak Borough Council

HPBC declared a climate emergency in October 2019. HPBC is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming carbon neutral in its internal operations and the services it delivers, by 2030. Through this target, HPBC hopes to work alongside partners to help achieve this target for High Peak as a whole.

5.3.2 Derbyshire County Council

The Vision Derbyshire Climate Change Strategy²⁵ was adopted in April 2022 in order to establish a framework that combines the ambitions and priorities of the Councils across Derbyshire in tackling climate change and emissions. The framework states that Derbyshire Councils will work together and with various stakeholders to *“support the adoption of large-scale and small-scale renewable energy generation in suitable locations”*.

²⁵ Vision Derbyshire: Climate Change Strategy 2022-2025. Available Online: [Vision Derbyshire climate change strategy](#)

Section 6.0: Planning Policy Assessment

6.1 Introduction

While the Development Plan always has to be read as a whole, it follows that the greatest weight should be attributed to both site-specific policies relating to the Application Site and bespoke policies that are designed to address a specific development type or policy area. In this case, the predominant policy is Development Management Policy EQ 1: Climate Change.

Having regard to the Development Plan as a whole, it is possible to identify a number of policy topics which the planning application should be assessed against. The following sections of this Planning Statement consider each of these topics in turn, assessing the Proposed Development against the terms of the Development Plan. Table 6.1 sets out these policy topics and cross refers the relevant Local Plan policies and applicable material considerations.

Table 6.1: Planning Policy Topics

Topic	Local Planning Policy	Other Material Considerations
Energy	EQ1: Climate Change	NPPF Section 14: Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change NPPG Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future; Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener; and British Energy Security Strategy (BESS).
Location of Proposed Development	S2: Settlement Hierarchy S5: Glossopdale Sub-area Strategy EQ3: Rural Development	
Sustainability	S1: Sustainable Development Principles	NPPF Section 2: Achieving Sustainable Development
Flood Risk and Water Management	EQ11: Flood Risk Management	NPPF Section 14: Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change, Flooding and Coastal Change NPPG Flood Risk and Coastal Change
Landscape	EQ2: Landscape Character	Landscape Character SPD
Biodiversity and Geodiversity	EQ5: Biodiversity EQ9: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	NPPF Section 15: Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment NPPG Natural Environment
Historic Environment	EQ7: Built and Historic Environment	NPPF Section 16: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment NPPG Historic Environment
Contaminated Land	EQ10: Pollution Control and Unstable Land	NPPF Section 16: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment NPPG Land Affected by Contamination

Topic	Local Planning Policy	Other Material Considerations
Economic Growth	S4: Maintaining and Enhancing an Economic Base E3: Primary Employment Zones	
Design	EQ6: Design and Place Making	Design Guide SPD

6.2 Energy

6.2.1 Policy Identification

Local and national policies and guidance are generally supportive of renewable energy developments. Policy, guidance and other material considerations relevant to the Proposed Development include:

- Local Plan Policy EQ1: Climate Change
- NPPF Section 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change
- NPPG Renewable and Low Carbon Energy
- Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future;
- Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener; and
- British Energy Security Strategy (BESS).

6.2.2 Policy Assessment

6.2.2.1 Local

Strategic Objective SO5 of HPBC Development Management Policies aims:

“To address and mitigate the effects of climate change on people, wildlife and places; promoting the safeguarding and prudent sustainable use of natural resources.”

Strategic Objective SO5 is supported by Development Management Policy EQ1 which is supportive of renewable energy generation, stating that *“the Council intends to meet part of its future energy needs through renewable or low carbon energy sources and will therefore encourage and support the provision of renewable and low carbon technologies, including both stand-alone installations, and micro-renewables integrated within new or existing development.”*

The Policy goes on to identify the way in which a low carbon future for HPBC will be achieved. These assessment criteria and the assessment against them is contained within Table 6.2 below.

Table 6.2: Development Management Policy EQ1 Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Assessment
<i>“Requiring new development to be designed to contribute to achieving national targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by using land-form, layout, building orientation, tree planting, massing and landscaping to reduce likely energy consumption and resilience to increased temperatures.”</i>	The Proposed Development in its nature as a solar array development will contribute to achieving national targets in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The panels would be situated at a southern orientation to help ensure maximum energy gain, along with being located in an unshaded area.
<i>“Ensuring that renewable energy installations do not have an adverse impact on the integrity of any European sites, (including by project-level HRA where appropriate), wildlife sites, protected species or habitats, or the landscape and</i>	A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA), Otter Survey and Great Crested Newt (GCN) eDNA sampling has been undertaken for the Proposed Development. The PEA identified five designated sites within 5km of the site boundary and 10 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)

<i>landscape setting of the Peak District National Park.”</i>	within 2km of the Application Site, including the Dinting Lodge Grassland Local Wildlife Site (LWS) which lies partially within the Application Site boundary. No effects are predicted upon the designated sites, recommendations have been included within the PEA to limit potential disturbance to the Dinting Lodge LWS. In terms of protected species, additional surveys were undertaken to determine the potential impact upon otter and GCN. The otter survey did not identify the presence of otter and the GCN eDNA sampling did not identify the presence of GCN within the ponds sampled. A Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been undertaken for the Proposed Development. The LVA identifies the Peak District National Park as being located over 2km from the Application Site. The LVA concludes that no landscape designations are predicted to be adversely affected by the Proposed Development.
<i>“Supporting opportunities to deliver decentralised energy systems, particularly those which are powered by a renewable or low carbon source.”</i>	The Proposed Development would successfully deliver a decentralised energy system to an existing local business through its renewable source of solar energy.
<i>“Supporting connection to an existing decentralised energy supply system where there is capacity to supply the Proposed Development, or design for a future connection where there is a firm proposal for such a system.”</i>	Not Applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Ensuring that renewable/low carbon energy generation developments and associated infrastructure are supported by requiring Design Statements to include an assessment of how any impacts on the environment and heritage assets, including cumulative landscape, noise and visual impacts, can be avoided and/or mitigated through careful consideration of location, scale, design and other measures.”</i>	This planning application is accompanied by a number of technical and environmental assessment documents, including: ▪ Planning Statement (this report); ▪ Design and Access Statement; ▪ Landscape & Visual Appraisal; ▪ Preliminary Ecological Appraisal; ▪ Biodiversity Net Gain Report; ▪ Phase 1 Contamination Risk Assessment Report; ▪ Coal Mining Risk Assessment (contained as an appendix in the Phase I Report); ▪ Geotechnical Desk Study Report; ▪ Geotechnical Interpretive Report; ▪ Exploratory Phase II Site Investigation Report; ▪ Flood Risk & Drainage Assessment; ▪ Noise Assessment; ▪ Construction Environmental Management Plan; ▪ Construction Traffic Management Plan; ▪ Historic Environment Assessment; and ▪ Tree Survey Report. Concluded from each of these assessments and appraisals is that the Proposed Development will not have a significant impact on the environment and heritage assets, including cumulative landscape, noise and visual impacts.

	Mitigation measures to reduce any potential impact have also been noted and recommended within each of these assessments.
<i>“Applications for new build residential development in the Buxton Sub-area should meet the optional national technical requirement for water efficiency of 110 litres per person per day to minimise the phosphate load to the River Wye via discharges from the Buxton Sewage Treatment Works, unless it can be demonstrated that doing so would adversely impact on a scheme’s viability.”</i>	Not Applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Unless it can be demonstrated that it would not be technically feasible or financially viable, requiring that commercial developments over 1,000m² the Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Method (BREEAM) good standard as a minimum.”</i>	Not Applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Promoting energy efficiency and the use of renewable/low carbon energy in new development and through retrofitting of existing buildings.”</i>	The Proposed Development would promote energy efficiency through the use of solar panels as a renewable energy source. The Proposed Development would provide the Carpenter Ltd Facility with a renewable electricity resource to be utilised during operations, ultimately reducing their reliance on fossil fuels and reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.
<i>“Supporting sustainable waste management by provision of space for recycling and composting.”</i>	Waste would not be generated during the operational phase of the solar farm due to the development being un-manned and monitored remotely. During construction, waste would be generated from soil stripping for the accommodation of new access tracks, earthworks from the excavation of cable trenches and packing waste from panels and the associated infrastructure. The waste generated from packaging would be managed at an appropriate waste management facility. With regard to soil stripping and earthworks, any excavation work would help ensure careful management of soil which would therefore allow for the re-use of soil resources onsite, preventing the need to remove any soil from the Application Site.
<i>“Supporting the use of sustainable design and construction techniques including the use of recycled materials in construction, including where appropriate the local or on-site sourcing of these building materials.”</i>	The use of solar panels supports the need for sustainable design in this policy. Solar panels have a long lifespan and are one of the most sustainable and cleanest sources of energy in the world and the Proposed Development would be situated and designed to help ensure maximum output of energy for use by the Carpenters Facility. Soil management techniques used during construction will help ensure the re-use of soil resources onsite along with any waste from packaging being recycling and managed sustainably.

<i>“Supporting high water efficiency standards and measures to recycle and minimise water consumption.”</i>	Not Applicable to the Proposed Development.
---	---

6.2.2.2 National

The NPPF is supportive of renewable and low carbon energy projects, such as the Proposed Development, assuming potential impacts are, or can be made acceptable. Paragraph 152 within Section 14 of the NPPF ‘Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change’ states *“the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.”*

The Renewable and Low Carbon Energy NPPG which supports the NPPF, sets out considerations for LPAs when determining planning applications for proposed ground-mounted solar developments. Each of these considerations have been identified within Table 6.3 below, followed by an assessment of compliance of the Proposed Development.

Table 6.3: Renewable & Low Carbon Energy NPPG Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Assessment
<i>“Encouraging the effective use of land by focussing large scale solar farms on previously developed and non-agricultural land, provided that it is not of high environmental value”</i>	There are a number of aspects to consider when siting a large-scale solar farm development. The purpose of the Proposed Development is to provide the Carpenter Ltd facility with a renewable source of electricity to be used at their Glossop location. The Application Site was chosen due to its close proximity to the Carpenter facility which would utilise the energy generated from the Proposed Development. According to the Natural England Provisional Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) map²⁶, the land within the Application Site currently comprises rough grassland of Grade 4; considered to be agricultural land of poor quality and not high environmental value. In addition, the Phase I Preliminary Contamination Risk Assessment report identifies the land within the Application Site as previously being used as a landfill for inert, industrial waste.
<i>“Where a proposal involves greenfield land, whether (i) the proposed use of any agricultural land has been shown to be necessary and poorer quality land has been used in preference to higher quality land; and (ii) the proposal allows for continued agricultural use where applicable and/or encourages biodiversity improvements around arrays.”</i>	The Proposed Development would be situated on rough grassland of an Agricultural Land Classification of Grade 4. This is considered poor quality land for agriculture with severe limitations that would significantly restrict the potential range and level of crop yield. In addition, the land within the Application Site has previously been utilised as a landfill for inert industrial waste.
<i>“That solar farms are normally temporary structures and planning</i>	The Proposed Development would be a temporary structure, with an operational phase of up to 40 years. Following the end

²⁶ Natural England, Provisional ALC Map. Available online: <https://naturalengland-defra.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/provisional-agricultural-land-classification-alc-england?geometry=-1.582%2C54.587%2C-1.543%2C54.596>

Criteria	Assessment
<i>conditions can be used to ensure that the installations are removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to its previous use;”</i>	of the operational phase, the Proposed Development would be removed, with the land restored as close as practicable to its current condition, or better.
<i>“The proposal’s visual impact, the effect on landscape of glint and glare and on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety;”</i>	The Landscape and Visual Appraisal has identified that any potentially adverse landscape effects would be primarily limited to the built footprint and immediacy, with minimal to no impact on the wider local landscape character. The Proposed Development has been carefully sited in close proximity to an existing industrial built form. The elevations of the proposed built form are limited, where possible, with care taken to set apart the Proposed Development and the key landscape features near the boundaries of the Application Site such as ponds and woodland cover. The visual screening provided by the surrounding woodland cover also limits the potential for secondary or consequential indirect adverse landscape impact upon the surrounding landscape. It is considered that the landscape can accommodate the Proposed Development, and that the landscape and visual changes attributable to the Proposed Development are thought to be extremely limited and localised.
<i>“The need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing;”</i>	Security measures to be implemented onsite include the installation of security fencing around the perimeter of the Proposed Development.
<i>“great care should be taken to ensure heritage assets are conserved in a manner appropriate to their significance, including the impact of proposals on views important to their setting;”</i>	A Historic Environment Assessment has been undertaken for the Proposed Development. There are no designated heritage assets within or adjacent to the Application Site. The Proposed Development is located within an area of former farmland, potentially once part of the parkland surrounding a former country house known as Dinting Lodge which was demolished and redeveloped in the late 20th century. Nonetheless, the assessment concludes that the Proposed Development is anticipated to result in no harm to the significance of any designated or non-designated heritage assets within or adjacent to the Application Site. Given the predicted neutral effect on the settings of heritage assets, no further mitigation is deemed necessary.
<i>“the potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, screening with native hedges;”</i>	The Proposed Development is provided fluctuating levels of visual screening to the surrounding woodland. The existing industrial built form to the northwest also effectively screens the Proposed Development in this direction.
<i>“The energy generating potential, which can vary for a number of reasons including, latitude and aspect.”</i>	The Proposed Development would have a total installed capacity of 0.999MW. This electricity would be distributed to the Carpenter facility for use in their operations as one of the world’s largest producers of cushioning products.

In addition to national planning policy and guidance, there have been a number of publications in relation to national energy generation, net zero and energy security, including:

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2011);

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3) (2011);
- The Clean Growth Strategy (2017);
- The Climate Change Act (2008) (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019;
- Climate Change Committee: The Sixth Carbon Budget: The UK's Path to Net Zero;
- Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future (2020);
- National Infrastructure Strategy (2020);
- Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener (2021);
- BEIS Outcome Delivery Plan: 2021 – 2022; and
- British Energy Security Strategy (2022).

The White Paper states that the UK energy system is still largely dominated by the use of fossil fuels, which will need to change dramatically by 2050 if the net zero target is to be achieved. Decarbonising the energy system over the next thirty years means replacing - as far as it is possible to do so - fossil fuels with clean energy technologies such as renewables. A large number of the recent publications emphasise the importance of decarbonising the electricity system, with the deployment of low-cost technologies being key, including solar developments.

The BESS specifically addresses solar generation across the UK, stating that there is currently circa 14GW of solar capacity in the UK, split across various scales of development, ranging from large scale to smaller scale roof-mounted solar. It is expected that solar development will increase five-fold by 2035, which could potentially result in an additional 70GW of solar generation across the UK. In order to increase the deployment of solar across the UK, the BESS seeks to consult on *“amending planning rules to strengthen policy in favour of development on non-protected land, while ensuring communities continue to have a say and environmental protections remain in place. We will continue supporting the effective use of land by encouraging large scale projects to locate on previously developed, or lower value land, where possible, and ensure projects are designed to avoid, mitigate, and where necessary, compensate for the impacts of using greenfield sites.”*

In addition, the Climate Change Committee Report to Parliament 2023 identifies solar deployment as falling below targets. The Proposed Development would support the deployment of this technology type, whilst providing benefits to a local employer.

6.2.3 Summary

Local and national planning policy is supportive of renewable energy and solar PV developments, assuming they do not result in unacceptable impacts upon the local environment. As outlined above, a number of environmental and technical assessments have been undertaken for the Proposed Development. These have identified potential effects of the Proposed Development, as well as mitigation measures. Therefore, it is considered that the Proposed Development complies with the provisions of Development Management Policy EQ1.

In relation to national and local climate change and energy policy, there is an overwhelming need to decarbonise the UK energy system, solar PV developments highlighted as one of the technologies to be included within the energy mix. In doing so, the UK will progress towards achieving net zero targets, as well as increasing energy security and reducing dependence upon volatile markets. The Proposed Development has the potential to provide a source of clean electricity to a local employer in the town of Glossop. Therefore, the Proposed Development should be supported based upon the overwhelming need to increase electricity generation and security across the UK.

6.3 Location of Proposed Development

6.3.1 Policy Identification

The Application Site lies on land to the southeast of the Carpenter facility. Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S5: Glossopdale Sub-area Strategy is applicable to this location. In addition, the Application Site lies partially within a built-up area boundary noted in the Interactive Local Plan Map. Therefore, both Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S2: Settlement Hierarchy and Development Management Policy EQ3: Rural Development can be considered relevant to the Proposed Development.

6.3.2 Policy Assessment

Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S5 comprises many settlements within Glossopdale, of which there are rural villages and large residential towns. This policy aims to “*promote the sustainable growth of Glossopdale whilst promoting and maintaining the distinct identity of its settlements, provide an increasing range of employment opportunities, promote the growth of a sustainable tourist economy and meet the housing needs of the local community.*”

Policy S5 sets out assessment criteria, which all development proposals in Glossopdale will be assessed against. These assessment criteria are detailed within Table 6.4 below.

Table 6.4: Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S5 Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria	Assessment of the Proposed Development
<i>“Promoting and maintaining the distinct identity of the settlements which make up Glossopdale by:</i> <i>Protecting and enhancing sites designated for environmental value, including Manor Park, Howard Park and Bankswood Park, public open spaces, playing fields and outdoor sports facilities, local and European wildlife sites, recreation areas and allotments.</i> <i>Protecting the designated Green Belt.</i> <i>Maintaining a strategic gap between Glossop and Hadfield as identified on the Policies Map.</i> <i>Supporting the vitality and viability of Glossop Town Centre through the delivery of the Glossop Design and Place Making Strategy, the refurbishment and enhancement of Glossop Market Hall and Town Hall and traffic management measures for George Street.</i> <i>Supporting the vitality and viability of Hadfield Town Centre.</i> <i>Redeveloping the Woods Mill area for a mixed use regeneration scheme.</i> <i>Protecting and enhancing the historic environment.</i> <i>Ensuring the redevelopment of industrial legacy sites reflects their historic character.</i> <i>Ensuring that development protects and/or enhances landscape character and the setting of the Peak District National Park.”</i>	The Proposed Development is located on rough grassland of poor agricultural quality directly to the southeast of an industrial estate and the Carpenter facility. The Proposed Development would not have a significant impact on any sites designated for environmental value and the Application Site is not situated within the Green Belt. As concluded in the Historic Environment Assessment, the Proposed Development is likely to have a neutral effect on the settings of the heritage assets and no further mitigation is proposed. The Landscape and Visual Appraisal found that the Proposed Development would not have an impact on the setting of the Peak District National Park. Any potential landscape or visual changes due to the Proposed Development are considered to be largely localised and minimal.
<i>“Providing for the housing needs of the community by planning for sustainable housing and mixed-use developments by:</i> <i>Allocating a range of suitable, deliverable housing sites sufficient to meet the requirements of the Glossopdale sub-area, including the delivery of appropriate levels of affordable housing.</i> <i>Supporting the development of new housing on sustainable sites within the built-up area boundary</i> <i>Supporting the development of new housing within the mixed redevelopment of industrial legacy sites</i>	This proposal is not for a housing development and therefore the requirements noted in this assessment criteria are not applicable.

▪ <i>Ensuring that residential development avoids adverse impact on the integrity of the Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area, South Pennine Moors Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Dark Peak Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)."</i>	
<i>"Encouraging the growth of local employment opportunities and supporting the diversification and growth of local business by:</i> ▪ <i>Allocating suitable, deliverable sites for industrial and business use sufficient to meet the economic needs of the area.</i> ▪ <i>Supporting the retention and provision of employment within mixed redevelopment of the industrial legacy sites.</i> ▪ <i>Encouraging the growth of tourism.</i> ▪ <i>Safeguarding existing employment sites for industrial and business use unless specifically allocated for an alternative use."</i>	The Application Site is a suitable location for the Carpenter facility to utilise its energy generation for production onsite. The Proposed Development would meet the economic needs of this area by reducing its reliance on fossil fuels and reducing the energy costs of a local business. This is particularly vital for the business during the current Cost of Living Crisis and important for HPBC in meeting their carbon neutral target.
<i>"Supporting enhancements to key community services and infrastructure and connectivity to meet the needs of the local population and support growth by:</i> ▪ <i>Working with partner organisations to enable improvements to school capacity in the area.</i> ▪ <i>Working with partner organisations and developers to address congestion along the A57 and A628, to improve transport links to surrounding areas and to enable transport improvements and mitigation measures identified the High Peak Transport Study and in the Trans-Pennine Feasibility Study (subject to further consideration). Transport Assessments in support of developments in the Glossopdale area should be scoped with Highways England and the highways authority in order to determine whether the assessment should consider impacts on A57/A628 junction and to identify mitigation measures as appropriate.</i> ▪ <i>Supporting improvements to the range and quality of town centre retail and services in Glossop town centre.</i> ▪ <i>Protecting land for a new railway station at Gamesley as Identified on the Policies Map. This includes land for access and parking.</i> ▪ <i>Supporting the provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities having regard to the Councils Sport and Recreation Strategies."</i>	The Proposed Development is not a community service or infrastructure development. Therefore, this assessment criteria is not applicable.

6.3.2.1 Settlement Hierarchy

Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S2: Settlement Hierarchy states that *"development will be directed towards the most sustainable locations in accordance with the following settlement hierarchy:*

- *Market Towns*

- *Larger Villages*
- *Smaller Villages*
- *Other Rural Areas*
- *Town and Local Centres.*”

The Application Site falls within the Hadfield area which is classed as a ‘Larger Village’. Policy S2 highlights that within ‘Larger Villages, *“a moderate scale of development may be acceptable, consisting with meeting local rural needs and maintaining or enhancing their role, distinctive character or appearance whilst also maintaining existing facilities and services.”* Despite this policy not mentioning developments involving renewable and low-carbon energy, the Proposed Development would serve an important role in supporting the energy needs of the relative facility it is supplying to. In its siting, adjacent to the large Carpenter Facility, the Proposed Development is considered an appropriate scale and fits into the surrounding character of the industrial site location. Following this analysis, it can be considered that the proposal adheres to Policy S2.

6.3.2.2 Rural Development

The Development Management Policy EQ3: Rural Development has also been considered for the Proposed Development due to the Application Site falling partially outside the designated settlement boundaries shown on the Interactive Local Plan Map. Policy EQ3 states that *“outside the settlement boundaries and sites allocated for development as defined on the Policies Map, including the Green Belt, the Council will seek to ensure that new development is strictly controlled in order to protect the landscape’s intrinsic character and distinctiveness, including the character, appearance and integrity of the historic and cultural environment and the setting of the Peak District National Park whilst also facilitating sustainable rural community needs, tourism and economic development.”*

The policy states that this will be achieved by:

- *“Supporting the redevelopment of a previously developed site and/or the conversion of existing buildings for employment use provided it does not have an adverse impact on the character and appearance of the rural area.*
- *Supporting the provision and expansion of tourist and visitor facilities in sustainable locations where identified needs are not met by existing facilities.*
- *Supporting rural employment in the form of home working, commercial enterprises and live-work units where a rural location can be justified.*
- *Supporting equestrian development where it does not have an adverse impact upon the character and appearance of the area.*
- *Supporting development associated with recreational and open space uses in accessible and least environmentally sensitive locations.*
- *Supporting proposals for agriculture and related development which help sustain existing agricultural enterprises, including small scale farm shops selling local produce, complementary farm diversification and new agricultural buildings that maintain the landscape quality and character of the countryside.*
- *Ensuring that all development is of a high-quality design and protects or enhances landscape character and the setting of the Peak District National Park.”*

From this assessment criteria, the Proposed Development does not fall under any of the categories of rural development as renewable and low carbon energy is not discussed. Nonetheless, the Proposed Development would not have a significant impact on the surrounding landscape and the character of the proposal will sit appropriately next to the industrial facility and within the Dinting Lodge Industrial Estate. Only a small section of the Application Site falls under the ‘Rural Development’ designated area. Therefore, it can be considered that this proposal adheres to Policy EQ3.

6.4 Sustainability

6.4.1 Policy Identification

Sustainable development is at the heart of national and local policy considerations. The adopted Development Plan aims to promote sustainability through the provisions of the following relevant policy:

- Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S1: Sustainable Development Principles.

6.4.2 Policy Assessment

6.4.2.1 Sustainable Development Principles

Policy S1: Sustainable Development Principles states that *“the Borough Council will expect that all new development makes a positive contribution towards the sustainability of communities and to protecting, and where possible enhancing, the environment; and mitigating the process of climate change, within the Plan Area.”*

Policy S1 sets out assessment criteria, which all development proposals will be assessed against through achieving particular criteria. These assessment criteria are detailed within Table 6.5 below.

Table 6.5: Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S1 Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria	Assessment of the Proposed Development
<i>“Meeting most development needs within or adjacent to existing communities”</i>	The Proposed Development would meet the energy needs of the adjacent Carpenter facility. Any excess electricity would be exported to the local electricity distribution network. This would aid in adhering to meet the energy development needs of the local communities.
<i>“Making effective use of land (including the remediation of contaminated land and reuse of brownfield land), buildings and existing infrastructure”</i>	The Application Site currently consists of rough grassland lying vacant. The Proposed Development would make effective use of this land that is of poor quality for agricultural use for the purpose of a sustainable development.
<i>“Making efficient use of land by ensuring that the density of proposals is appropriate (and informed by the surrounding built environment)”</i>	The Proposed Development is informed by the industrial character of the Application Site to the north and lies adjacent to the large Carpenter facility. Due to the nature of the Proposed Development, density is not relevant.
<i>“Taking account of the distinct Peak District character, landscape, townscape, roles and setting of different areas and settlements in the High Peak”</i>	As noted in the Landscape and Visual Appraisal, the Proposed Development was found to have an extremely limited and localised effect on the landscape and visual changes occurring due to the Proposed Development
<i>“Protecting and enhancing the natural and historic environment of the High Peak and its surrounding areas including the Peak District National Park”</i>	As noted in the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, the Proposed Development is not anticipated to have a detrimental impact on the natural environment. Good practice and mitigation measures would be implemented in order to adhere to the protection and enhancement of the surrounding environment. The Historic Environment Assessment found that <i>“the predicted significance of effect, when also considering the limited impact of a solar development, is none.”</i>
<i>“Providing for a mix of types and tenures of quality homes to meet the needs and aspirations of</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Development.

<i>existing and future residents in sustainable locations"</i>	
<i>"Supporting the local economy and businesses by providing for a range of economic development that provide employment opportunities suitable for local people in sustainable locations, and generally encourage larger developments to incorporate mixed uses where possible so as to reduce the need to travel"</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>"Minimising the need to travel by promoting development in locations where there is access to a broad range of jobs, services and facilities which are accessible by foot, cycle or public transport with minimal reliance on the private car"</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>"Minimising the risk of damage to areas of importance for nature conservation and/or landscape value, both directly and indirectly and ensuring that there is suitable mitigation for a net gain in biodiversity and the creation of ecological networks"</i>	A Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment was undertaken for the Proposed Development The assessment looked at two scenarios and found that Scenario 2 is the preference as it exceeds the 10% target set out by the 2021 Environment Act. The following 'habitat unit' scores were calculated for Scenario 2 using the Defra Metric 4.0: ▪ On-site baseline = 14.22 Habitat Units ▪ On-site post-intervention = 18.59 Habitat Units ▪ Change in Habitat Units = 4.37 Habitat Units These calculations indicate that the Proposed Development, following Scenario 2, would result in an overall biodiversity net gain with a net change of 30.71% for habitat units. The retention of existing valuable habitats, such as the mature trees, hedgerows and ditches, and the creation of grassland has increased the habitat unit score significantly.
<i>"Minimising carbon or energy impacts associated with development according to the principles of the 'energy hierarchy' by minimising the need for energy through the appropriate siting, orientation and design of new buildings; the use of renewable energy sources and ensuring building construction and other forms of development address the challenge of climate change by meeting high environmental standards with particular regard to energy efficiency, water efficiency, use of sustainable materials, encouraging waste reduction, recycling, including where appropriate the local- or on site-sourcing of building materials"</i>	The Proposed Development is for a solar farm that would provide a renewable energy source to the adjacent Carpenter facility. The siting and orientation of the solar panels would help ensure that maximum solar gain is achieved and any excess electricity from the Proposed Development would be exported to the local electricity distribution network. Any waste generated from packaging onsite during construction would be managed at an appropriate waste management facility. With regard to soil stripping and earthworks, any excavation work will ensure careful management of soil which would therefore allow for the re-use of soil resources onsite, preventing the need to remove any soil from the Application Site.

<i>“Further mitigating the impacts of climate change by seeking reductions in greenhouse gas emissions across the High Peak; in particular through supporting the delivery of renewable and low-carbon forms of energy (either via stand-alone installations, or installations integrated within new/existing developments), where this is considered acceptable against all other Development Plan Policies as a whole”</i>	The Proposed Development would result in a reduction in reliance on fossil fuels from the Carpenter facility and will therefore contribute to the HPBC carbon neutral goal.
<i>“Requiring that all new development addresses flood risk mitigation/adaptation, ensuring for example that sustainable drainage systems are considered at the outset within proposals (and to comply with legislative requirements)”</i>	A Flood Risk Assessment and Drainage Strategy were undertaken Application Site for the Proposed Development and have been submitted alongside this planning statement. This assessment found that the risk of flooding Application Site at the Application Site is considered to be at low to very low risk from all sources.
<i>“Seeking to secure high quality, locally distinctive and inclusive design in all development that can be accessed and used by everyone including disabled people”</i>	Not applicable to the proposed Development.
<i>“Seeking to secure developments provide a high standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings, ensuring communities have a healthy, safe and attractive living and working environment and the risks from potential hazards are minimised”</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Maintaining and where possible enhancing accessibility to a good range of services and facilities, and ensuring existing infrastructure and services have the capacity to support development when required”</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Development.

At a national level, Paragraph 7 of the NPPF, *“the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.”* In order to achieve sustainable development, the planning system has three overarching objectives, including economic, social and environmental. Each of these objectives are independent and need to be *“pursued in mutually supportive ways”*. These objectives include:

- ***“an economic objective*** – to help build a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure;
- ***a social objective*** – to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by fostering well-designed, beautiful and safe places, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities’ health, social and cultural well-being; and
- ***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.”

The NPPF sets out that these objectives should be delivered through the preparation and implementation of plans and policies. Planning policies and decisions on planning applications should play an active role in guiding sustainable development. HPBC state that guiding sustainable development *“means ensuring the managed release of sufficient land to meet assessed needs which can realistically be delivered over the plan period, having regard to landscape and infrastructure capacity constraints across the plan area and making the best use of resources now and in the future.”*

The development of this renewable energy proposal would help ensure that the best use of resources is being adhered to by using sustainable materials and ensuring maximum energy gain from the design, siting and orientation of the Proposed Development. Therefore, the Proposed Development is considered to adhere to Policy S1 and the NPPF on Sustainable Development.

6.5 Flood Risk and Water Management

6.5.1 Policy Identification

The key policy contained within the Local Plan relevant to Flood Risk and the Water Environment is Policy EQ11: Flood Risk Management

6.5.2 Policy Assessment

Development Management Policy EQ11 on Flood Risk Management states that *“the Council will support development proposals that avoid areas of current or future flood risk and which do not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere, where this is viable and compatible with other policies aimed at achieving a sustainable pattern of development.”*

The NPPG on Flood Risk and Coastal Change highlights that for areas at risk of river and sea flooding, this is considered to be *“principally land within Flood Zones 2 and 3 or where a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment shows it will be at risk of flooding in the future”*. The Proposed Development does not lie within an area identified as Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3 according to the Interactive Local Map Plan and therefore complies with this provision of Development Management Policy EQ11 and the relevant NPPG.

Due to the size of the Application Site, the planning application is accompanied by a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) in accordance with the NPPF. The FRA confirms that the Application Site is considered to be at a low to very low risk of flooding from all sources. Potential flood mitigation measures that could be adhered to in order to minimise any potential impacts during a flood event have been noted in the FRA.

A Drainage Strategy has been undertaken alongside the FRA and submitted to HPBC. This report states that it is considered that the solar panels will not increase surface water runoff, with any risk of erosion reduced by having well maintained and established vegetation below the drip line. Nonetheless, it may be beneficial to install a localised SUDS to control any runoff. It is proposed that any surface water runoff arising from the Proposed Development could be discharged to the watercourse, Glossop Brook, to the southwest of the Application Site. The surface water arising from the solar panels and access track would be subject to treatment by way of a swale prior to being discharged to the watercourse. Details of this implementation are noted within the Drainage Strategy.

Therefore, the Proposed Development is considered to comply with Policy EQ11.

6.6 Landscape

6.6.1 Policy Identification

HPBC highlight that any developments brought forward should, at the least, assimilate into the surrounding landscape and avoid any adverse impact on the quality of the landscape. This aim is portrayed through the provisions of the following relevant policy:

- Development Management Policy EQ2: Landscape Character.

In addition to this, a Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document has been adopted by HPBC in order to provide guidance on how measures to ensure protection and enhancement of the landscape should be adhered to in new developments.

6.6.2 Policy Assessment

Development Management Policy EQ2: Landscape Character states that *“the Council will seek to protect, enhance and restore the landscape character of the Plan Area for its own intrinsic beauty and for its benefit of the economic, environmental and social well-being of the Plan Area.”*

The Development Management Policy states that this aim will be achieved by:

- *“Requiring that development has particular regard to maintaining the aesthetic and biodiversity qualities of natural and man-made features within the landscape, such as trees and woodlands, hedgerows, walls, streams, ponds, rivers, ecological networks or other topographical features*
- *Requiring that development proposals are informed by and are sympathetic to the distinctive landscape character areas as identified in the Landscape Character Supplementary Planning Document and also take into account other evidence of historic landscape characterisation, landscape sensitivity, landscape impact and the setting of the Peak District National Park and where appropriate incorporate landscape mitigation measures.*
- *Requiring that development proposals protect and/or enhance the character, appearance and local distinctiveness of the landscape and landscape setting of the Peak District National Park*
- *Resisting development which would harm or be detrimental to the character of the local and wider landscape or the setting of a settlement as identified in the Landscape Impact Assessment.”*

As noted previously, a Landscape and Visual Appraisal (LVA) has been undertaken to identify the key landscape and visual amenity issues of the Application Site. The LVA outlines that the Proposed Development is located in the Settled Valley Pastures Landscape Character Type (LCT). According to the LCA profile published by Derbyshire County Council²⁷, the key characteristics of the host LCT are as follows:

- *“Moderate to steep lower valley slopes dissected by stream valleys*
- *Poorly draining soils over Carboniferous shale and sandstone*
- *Pastoral farming with extensive improved pasture*
- *Bracken in some road verges and rushes associated with damp hollows*
- *Wooded character associated with tree belts along streams and cloughs, scattered hedgerow trees and tree groups around settlement and farmsteads*
- *Small irregular fields enclosed by mixed species hedgerows and occasional dry-stone walls*
- *Network of winding lanes with irregular verges, sometimes sunken on steeper slopes*
- *Settled landscape of small nucleated settlements and scattered stone farmsteads with stone slate roofs*
- *Stone terraced housing on lower slopes associated with historic mills*
- *Enclosed landscape with views filtered by trees.”*

There is representation of most of these characteristics in the 5km study area, although a number of the characteristics are less prevalent within 1km of the Application Site.

The Proposed Development would result in a new land-use on the Application Site. Whilst not strictly a new built industrial development, the Proposed Development is to support the operation of the Client's facility; therefore, it would be in-keeping with the primary surrounding land-use.

Once constructed, the Proposed Development would result in a slight change to the scale, pattern, and influence of built development as experienced in the immediate vicinity; however, the Proposed Development has been carefully designed so that it is most commonly experienced in the sightlines of existing industrial built form or viewed against a wooded backdrop; minimising the possibility of the proposed built form appearing on the skyline.

When seen in the wider context, the Proposed Development would primarily appear as a contextual feature in expansive views where it would be experienced in the context of variant built form including existing settlement, industrial built form, transport infrastructure, landform, and woodland cover. There is therefore limited potential for the Proposed Development to adversely influence or introduce a new landscape characteristic in the wider character of the Settled Valley Pastures LCT.

²⁷ Derbyshire County Council: The Landscape Character of Derbyshire. Available online: [Landscape character - Derbyshire County Council](#)

On balance, associative effects are considered to be direct, long-term, and neutral on local landscape character. Effects on the wider character of the Settled Valley Pastures LCT and on neighbouring character typologies would be minimal due to the level of visual containment provided locally by industrial built form; and by woodlands, shelterbelts, tree lines and hedgerows in vicinity.

To minimise the extent of adverse effects, the Proposed Development has been carefully sited so it is located near existing industrial built form. The development layout has further been designed to work with landform and existing levels, where possible, to minimise ground disturbance. In addition, low impact construction methods are proposed.

The elevations of the proposed built form have also been limited, where possible, with care taken to set proposed built development away from key landscape features near the boundaries of the Application Site such as ponds and established woodland cover. The retention of woodland cover in particular recognises its contribution to existing landscape character. The visual screening provided by surrounding woodland cover also limits the potential for secondary or consequential indirect adverse landscape effects upon the surrounding landscape.

Following construction works, it is considered that the Proposed Development could comfortably settle into its immediate landscape surroundings, with the scale, pattern, and influence of existing built development minimising the perception of change in available views from the vicinity (including any emerging new built development in the Primary Employment Zones at the Dinting Lodge and Brookfield Industrial Estates).

To conclude, the landscape, and visual changes attributable to the Proposed Development are thought to be extremely limited and localised. As a result, it is our professional opinion that the Application Site has the capacity to accommodate the Proposed Development in landscape and visual terms. Therefore, it is considered that the Proposed Development complies with the provisions of Development Management Policy EQ2

6.7 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

6.7.1 Policy Identification

Local and national policies and guidance aim to protect and enhance local biodiversity, including:

- Development Management Policy EQ5: Biodiversity;
- Development Management Policy EQ9: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows;
- NPPF Section 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment;
- NPPG: Natural Environment; and
- Environment Act 2021.

6.7.2 Policy Assessment

6.7.2.1 Biodiversity

Development Management Policy EQ5: Biodiversity aims to conserve and where possible enhance biodiversity and geological resources in the Plan Area. Policy EQ 5 sets out a number of assessment criteria to achieve this, these have been detailed in Table 6.6 below:

Table 6.6: Development Management Policy EQ5 Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Assessment
<i>“Conserving and enhancing sites of international, European, and national importance. On these sites the Council will not permit any development proposal that has an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site (or wildlife site given the same protection as European sites under the NPPF) either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.”</i>	The PEA found that no adverse impacts on any sites of international, European or national importance.

<i>“Conserving and enhancing any Sites of Special Scientific Interest. On these sites the Council will not permit any development proposal which would directly or indirectly (either individually or in combination with other developments) have an adverse effect on a Site of Special Scientific Interest.”</i>	The Application Site does not lie within or adjacent to a SSSI. There are no statutory designated sites located within 2km of the Application Site boundary.
<i>“Conserving and enhancing regionally and locally designated sites. On these sites the Council will not permit any development proposal which would directly or indirectly result in significant harm to geological and biodiversity conservation interests, unless it can be demonstrated that:</i> ▪ <i>There is no appropriate alternative site available; and</i> ▪ <i>All statutory and regulatory requirements relating to any such proposal have been satisfied; and</i> ▪ <i>Appropriate conservation and mitigation measures are provided, such mitigation measures should ensure as a minimum no net loss and wherever possible net gain for biodiversity;</i> ▪ <i>Or if it is demonstrated that this is not possible;</i> ▪ <i>The need for, and benefit of, the development is demonstrated to clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the intrinsic nature conservation value of the site and compensatory measures are implemented”</i>	The Dinting Lodge LWS lies partially within the Application Site as noted within the PEA. The PEA identifies mitigation and recommendations for enhancement in order to limit the potential impact upon the LWS. In addition, the application is accompanied by a BNG Report which identified an overall biodiversity net gain with a net change of 30.71% for habitat units. The applicant’s curtilage and wider ownership does not readily lend itself to wind energy nor several other renewable possibilities, so the option of solar generation was evaluated including a roof-mounted system. Unfortunately, due to the internal industrial processes within the factory and fire risk the latter option was not possible on insurance grounds. The alternative that was explored further was a well-sited and designed ground mount solution, as close to the factory as possible.
<i>“Encouraging development to include measures to contribute positively to the overall biodiversity of the Plan Area”</i>	The Proposed Development allows for Biodiversity Net Gain across the site. The Biodiversity Net Gain Report looked at two scenarios and found that Scenario 2 is the preference as it exceeds the 10% target set out by the 2021 Environment Act. The following ‘habitat unit’ scores were calculated for Scenario 2 using the Defra Metric 4.0: ▪ On-site baseline = 14.22 Habitat Units ▪ On-site post-intervention = 18.59 Habitat Units ▪ Change in Habitat Units = 4.37 Habitat Units These calculations indicate that the Proposed Development, following Scenario 2, would result in an overall biodiversity net gain with a net change of 30.71% for habitat units. The retention of existing valuable habitats, such as the mature trees, hedgerows and ditches, and the creation of grassland has increased the habitat unit score significantly. This net increase in biodiversity is in line with Local Plan Policy.

<i>“Working with partners to help meet the objectives and targets in the Peak District Biodiversity Action Plan or its successor”</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Working with partners to protect and enhance watercourses”</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Identifying local ecological networks and supporting their establishment and protection in accordance with Local Plan Policy EQ8, preferentially creating biodiversity sites where they have the potential to develop corridors between habitats (both terrestrial and freshwater)”</i>	Not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Working with partners in the public, private and voluntary sectors to develop and secure the implementation of projects to enhance the landscape and create or restore habitats of nature conservation value, and to secure the more effective management of land in the Plan Area and its surroundings”</i>	The Proposed Development would allow for the enhancement of the landscape and biodiversity value associated with the Application Site.

In addition to the above, the 2021 Environment Act requires all new development in England to demonstrate a Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 10%. As identified in Table 6.6 above, the BNG for the Proposed Development demonstrates an increase in Habitat Units from 14.22 at present, to 18.59 Habitat Units following the development of the proposed solar array. Therefore, the Proposed Development accords and exceeds the requirements of the Environment Act, with a 30.71% increase in Habitat Units.

6.7.2.2 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

Development Management Policy EQ9: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows states that *“the Council will protect existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows, in particular, ancient woodland, veteran trees and ancient or species-rich hedgerows from loss or deterioration.”* HPBC highlight the way in which this aim will be achieved through:

- *“Requiring that existing woodlands, healthy, mature trees and hedgerows are retained and integrated within a proposed development unless the need for, and benefits of, the development clearly outweigh their loss*
- *Requiring new developments where appropriate to provide tree planting and soft landscaping, including where possible the replacement of any trees that are removed at a ratio of 2:1*
- *Resisting development that would directly or indirectly damage existing ancient woodland, veteran trees and ancient or species-rich hedgerows.”*

A Tree Survey has been undertaken to inform the design. The Tree Survey Report accompanies the planning application. Only one minor tree will be lost as a result of the Proposed Development (at the temporary construction site entrance).

The Proposed Development therefore accords with the provisions of Development Management Policy EQ5, Development Management Policy EQ9, the NPPF and the Environment Act.

6.8 Historic Environment

6.8.1 Policy Identification

The Local Plan and national policy identifies a number of policies which aim to protect and conserve the local cultural heritage and archaeological resource, including:

- Development Management Policy EQ7: Built and Historic Environment;
- NPPF Section 16: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment; and
- NPPG: Historic Environment.

6.8.2 Policy Assessment

Policy EQ7 states that *“the Council will conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. This will take into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing their significance and*

will ensure that development proposals contribute positively to the character of the built and historic environment in accordance with sub area strategies S5, S6 and S7.

Particular protection will be given to designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings including:

- *Listed Buildings*
- *Conservation Areas*
- *Historic Parks and Gardens*
- *Scheduled Monuments*
- *Archaeological Sites or heritage features*
- *Heritage trees and woodlands*
- *Locally listed heritage assets.”*

The Historic Environment Assessment concluded that the Application Site is an area of former farmland, potentially once part of the parkland surrounding a former country house called Dinting Lodge, demolished and redeveloped in the late 20th century. The site has been subsequently modified as a result of works to extend the existing adjacent Carpenter industrial complex. Other than Dinting Lodge, no non designated heritage assets are recorded within the development site, although it is close to the former extent of the Dinting Vale Printworks, a large calico printworks dating originally from the early 19th century.

Additionally, there are no designated heritage assets within or adjacent to the Application Site It is at the periphery of the setting of Melandra Roman Fort and non-designated Dinting Railway Viaduct and Dinting Vale Printworks. It makes a negligible contribution to the Roman Fort, having only very limited intervisibility with that asset and being a small aspect of wider views and in an already industrial context. The assessed significance of effect is therefore none.

The construction of the proposed solar farm could have a direct physical impact on any surviving elements of Dinting Lodge and associated park and garden, depicted on historic mapping. However previous disturbance of this asset has occurred during late 20th century and 21st century extensions to the Carpenter industrial complex and the survival of any evidence associated with this asset is expected to be poor or under modern overburden. The predicted significance of effect, when also considering the limited impact of a solar development, is none.

The Proposed Development is therefore considered to be compliant with national and local planning policy.

6.9 Contaminated Land

6.9.1 Policy Identification

Development Management Policy EQ10 on Pollution Control and Unstable Land contained within the HPBC Local Plan aims to protect people and the environment from any potential unsafe, unhealthy and polluted environments.

The Council state that this will be achieved by:

- *“Ensuring developments avoid potential effects and only permitting developments that are deemed (individually or cumulatively) to result in the following types of pollution if any remaining potential adverse effects are mitigated to an acceptable level by other environmental controls or measures included in the proposals. This may be achieved by the imposition of planning conditions or through a planning obligation. The Council will not permit any proposal that has an adverse effect on a European site:*
 - *Air pollution (including odours or particulate emissions);*
 - *Pollution of watercourses (rivers, canals, reservoirs, streams, ditches, ponds and wetland areas) or groundwater;*
 - *Noise or vibration;*
 - *Light intrusion;*
 - *Land contamination; or*
 - *Other nuisance, environmental pollution or harm to amenity, health or safety*

- *Ensuring that all new developments have regard to the actions and objectives of the Humber and North West River Basin Management Plans in striving to protect and improve the quality of water bodies in and adjacent to the Borough, including the Rivers Etherow, Sett, Goyt and Wye, Glossop, Black and Randal Carr Brooks and their tributaries*
- *Ensuring that sites are suitable for their proposed use taking account of ground conditions and land instability, including from natural hazards such as radon gas, former activities such as mining, or pollution arising from previous uses”.*

6.9.2 Policy Assessment

A Phase I Preliminary Contamination Risk Assessment alongside a Phase II Site Investigation were undertaken at the Application Site. The Phase I assessment concluded that the Application Site and surrounding area has an extensive industrial history, with a print works, associated reservoirs and historic landfills within proximity and encroaching within the development area's boundaries. It was therefore anticipated that significant made ground comprising landfill materials may be present across the Application Site. A review of historically available site investigation data indicates that such deposits may be in excess of 4.80m.

In consideration of the Application Site's topography, it is possible that the local groundwater may move in a southerly direction. As such, it is considered unlikely that receptors located to the north (up-gradient) will not be impacted by contaminants sourced from the Application Site. However, sensitive receptors located either cross-gradient and/ or down-gradient of the Application Site may be impacted from on-Site conditions and therefore further consideration is warranted.

Due to the Application Site's historical usage and various off-Site land uses it is considered that there may be potential risks to human health and the wider environment from the current condition of the Application Site. Sensitive receptors of concern include on-Site and off-Site site users, controlled waters, and on-Site and off-Site property.

Based on the information collated from the preliminary investigations to date the Phase I Report recommended a Phase II Site Investigation which has been undertaken and submitted alongside the planning application.

The Phase II Report concluded that, regarding human health, investigations identified asbestos in one samples which is considered to pose a moderate risk to future site users (maintenance workers) and off-site users potentially through dust migration and deposition or direct exposure. Furthermore, when investigating the controlled waters, concentrations of contaminants above EQS and a number of SVOCs above LoD in the groundwater sample were identified. These are considered to pose a moderate risk to surface water receptors and a low to moderate risk to shallow groundwater. In addition to this, the investigations identified the presence of hydrocarbons within soils and groundwater on-site, which may pose a risk to below-ground concrete structures.

Therefore, suitable recommendations were made in the Phase II Report in order to refine the risk to human health, controlled water and property. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) was also included as a recommendation from the Phase II Report and has been submitted alongside the planning application.

Therefore, the Proposed Development complies with the provisions of Development Management Policy EQ10: Pollution Control and Unstable Land.

6.10 Economic Growth

6.10.1 Policy Identification

Economic development policies considered to be relevant to the Proposed Development include:

- Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policy S4: Maintaining and Enhancing an Economic Base; and
- Development Management Policy E3: Primary Employment Zones.

6.10.2 Policy Assessment

Although the Proposed Development does not involve the loss of employment land and is not directly employment generating development, it partially falls under the Primary Employment Zone designated on the Interactive Local Plan Map and therefore will be considered under Policy S4 and Policy E3.

Policy S4 states that *“the Council will maintain and where possible, enhance the economic base of the Plan Area.”*

Carpenter Ltd. are one of the world’s largest producers in comfort cushioning products. The facility at Glossop produces a wide range of products including bedding and mattresses, block and bonded foam and carpet underlay. The construction and operation of a solar farm on site will help ensure that Carpenter Ltd would reduce their greenhouse gas emissions as the user of the energy captured by the proposed solar array.

The rationale for the Proposed Development is of key importance in relation to economic development as it would support a significant local employer on a number of levels, including securing a large proportion of their electricity needs from a renewable source, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with operations and reducing their costs associated with electricity usage. The Proposed Development would also aid in contributing towards Carpenter Ltd. commitment to a sustainable environment and HPBC aim for carbon neutrality.

Therefore, the wider economic benefits would support the operations at the Carpenter Ltd facility at Glossop, contributing towards economic development.

Development Management Policy E3 on Primary Employment Zones states that *“planning permission will be granted for employment developments within Primary Employment Zones, including proposals within use classes B1b, B1c, B2 and B8 and other economic development as appropriate.”*

Despite the Proposed Development not falling within any of the above-mentioned classes, as previously discussed, the Proposed Development can be considered a key aspect in the economic development of the Carpenter Facility located in the Dinting Lodge Industrial Estate. The Proposed Development is also only partially situated within a Primary Employment Zone at the northwest and northeast of the Application Site. Therefore, it can be considered that the Proposed Development would not have a significant impact on the existing Primary Employment Zone and the proposal complies with both Policy S4 and Policy E3.

6.11 Design

6.11.1 Policy Identification

The key design policy set out within the Local Plan is Development Management Policy EQ6: Design and Place Making. Alongside this, the Design Guide SPD can be considered relevant to the Proposed Development.

6.11.2 Policy Assessment

Policy EQ 6: Design and Place Making identifies a number of design requirements for development within HPBC. Table 6.7 below identifies how the Proposed Development will achieve the local distinctiveness and sense of place:

Table 6.7: Development Management Policy EQ6 Design Requirements

Design Requirements	Assessment
<i>“Requiring development to be well designed to respect the character, identity and context of High Peak’s townscapes and landscapes.”</i>	As concluded from the LVA, the Proposed Development’s impact on the landscape will be extremely limited and localised and therefore will respect the character, identity and context of High Peak.
<i>“Requiring that development on the edge of settlement is of high quality design that protects,</i>	The Proposed Development will sit on and at the edge of the Hadfield settlement area. As previously

<i>enhances and/or restores the landscape character, particularly in relation to the setting and character of the Peak District National Park.”</i>	discussed, the limited impact on the landscape and setting of the proposal will ensure that the character is protected.
<i>“Requiring that development contributes positively to an area’s character, history and identity in terms of scale, height, density, layout, appearance, materials, and the relationship to adjoining buildings and landscape features.”</i>	As highlighted in the LVA, in order to minimise the extent of any adverse effects, the Proposed Development has been carefully sited so it is located near existing industrial built form. The elevations of the proposed built form have also been limited, where possible, with care taken to set proposed built development away from key landscape features near any boundaries of the Application Site such as ponds and established woodland cover. Additionally, the visual screening that has been provided by surrounding woodland cover also limits the potential for secondary or consequential indirect adverse landscape effects upon the surrounding landscape.
<i>“Requiring that development achieves a satisfactory relationship to adjacent development and does not cause unacceptable effects by reason of visual intrusion, overlooking, shadowing, overbearing effect, noise, light pollution or other adverse impacts on local character and amenity.”</i>	As concluded from the Noise Assessment, noise effects are estimated to not result in significant impact upon the closest noise sensitive receptors during construction activities. Once operational, the proposal will not emit significant noise or vibration.
<i>“Requiring that developments are easy to move through and around, incorporating well integrated car parking, pedestrian routes and, where appropriate, cycle routes and facilities.”</i>	This requirement is not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Requiring that developments are designed to minimise opportunities for anti-social or criminal behaviour and promote safe living environments.”</i>	This requirement is not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Requiring the inclusive design of development, including buildings and the surrounding spaces, to ensure development can be accessed and used by everyone, including disabled people.”</i>	This requirement is not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Requiring new homes in residential developments meet environmental performance standards in accordance with Local Plan Policy EQ1.”</i>	This requirement is not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Requiring that commercial developments, meet environmental performance standards in accordance with Local Plan Policy EQ1.”</i>	This requirement is not applicable to the Proposed Development.
<i>“Ensuring that development takes account of national design guidance and Supplementary Planning Documents.”</i>	The Proposed Development has been considered alongside national design guidance and the Design Guide SPD from HPBC.

The design and layout of the Proposed Development has been driven by the need for a sustainable development. The design has considered a number of factors onsite, including the local character, heritage, environmental and landscape assets. The potential impact upon these has been assessed through environmental assessment process, with the outcome resulting in the recommendation of mitigation measures where appropriate.

Therefore, it is considered that the Proposed Development accords with the relevant provisions of Development Management Policy EQ6.

Section 7.0: Need for the Proposed Development

7.1 Climate Change

Climate change is the greatest challenge facing our society. Planning plays a key role in contributing to both mitigation and adaptation to climate change, through decision making on the location, scale and character of development²⁸. This is further emphasised within paragraph 8 of the NPPF, which makes it clear that ‘mitigating and adapting to climate change’ is a core planning objective.

In May 2019, the UK Parliament passed a non-binding motion declaring a climate emergency. The definition of which is “a situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it.”²⁹

In response to the Climate Change Committee ‘Net Zero Technical Report’³⁰ the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order came into force on 27 June 2019. This amended the previous legally binding target to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions from 80% to 100% by 2050, based upon 1990 levels.

At a local level, HPBC declared a climate emergency in October 2019. HPBC have stated that they are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and becoming carbon neutral in their internal operations and the services they deliver, by 2030. Through this target, HPBC hopes to work alongside partners to help achieve this target for High Peak as a whole. Therefore, in order to support these aims, renewable energy generation to support a local employer is considered to be a key action.

7.2 Low Carbon Energy Generation

Increasing the amount of energy produced from renewable and low carbon technologies will reduce the dependence on fossil fuels. It will also help to make sure the UK has a secure energy supply and reduce greenhouse gas emissions which will slow down climate change, which is a key Government priority.

The Energy White Paper: Powering our Net Zero Future³¹ was published in December 2020. The White Paper states that the UK energy system is still largely dominated by the use of fossil fuels, which will need to change dramatically by 2050 if the net zero target is to be achieved. Decarbonising the energy system over the next thirty years means replacing - as far as it is possible to do so - fossil fuels with clean energy technologies such as renewables. The UK Government are not planning for any specific technology solution; however, the future generation mix will comprise a low-cost, net zero consistent system, likely to be composed predominantly of wind and solar, alongside complementary technologies such as battery storage. The White Paper states “we will need sustained growth in the capacity of these sectors in the next decade to ensure that we are on a pathway that allows us to meet net zero emissions in all demand scenarios.”

The purpose of the Proposed Development is to provide the Carpenter Ltd. facility with a source of renewable energy in order to significantly reduce their reliance upon energy generated from fossil fuels.

In addition to the benefits at a company-wide scale, the Proposed Development would also contribute towards national targets. Increasing the amount of energy produced from renewable and low carbon technologies would reduce the dependence on fossil fuels. It would also help to make sure the UK has a secure energy supply and reduce greenhouse gas emissions which will slow down climate change, which is a key Government priority.

²⁸ Town and Country Planning Association & RTPI (2018) Rising to the Climate Crisis – A guide for Local Authorities on Planning for Climate Change. Available online: <https://www.rtpi.org.uk/media/3152143/Rising%20to%20the%20Climate%20Crisis.pdf>

²⁹ [climate-emergency noun - Definition, pictures, pronunciation and usage notes | Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com](https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/climate-emergency)

³⁰ Climate Change Committee (2019) Net Zero Technical Report. Available online: [Net Zero - Technical Report - Climate Change Committee \(theccc.org.uk\)](https://www.theccc.org.uk/publications/net-zero-technical-report/)

³¹ UK Government (2020). Powering our Net Zero Future. Available online: [Energy White Paper \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/90211/Powering-our-Net-Zero-Future.pdf)

7.3 Energy Security

The British Energy Security Strategy (BESS)³² was published in April 2022 to address energy security across the UK, highlighting our vulnerability to international oil and gas prices and identifying the need to reduce dependence on imported oil and gas. As set out within the BESS, increasing the proportion of electricity generated from renewable sources, reduces the exposure of the UK to volatile fuel markets. The BESS identifies the need to be bolder in the *“removing of red tape that holds back new clean energy developments and exploit the potential of all renewable technologies.”*

In relation to solar, the BESS identifies that there is currently circa 14GW of solar capacity in the UK, split across various scales of development, ranging from large scale to smaller scale roof-mounted solar. It is expected that solar development will increase five-fold by 2035, which could potentially result in an additional 70GW of solar generation across the UK.

In order to increase the deployment of solar across the UK, the BESS seeks to consult on *“amending planning rules to strengthen policy in favour of development on non-protected land, while ensuring communities continue to have a say and environmental protections remain in place. We will continue supporting the effective use of land by encouraging large scale projects to locate on previously developed, or lower value land, where possible, and ensure projects are designed to avoid, mitigate, and where necessary, compensate for the impacts of using greenfield sites.”*

The most recent Committee on Climate Change Report to Parliament 2023 identifies solar deployment as falling below targets needed to secure 70GW solar generation.

7.4 Economic

The Applicant would also seek to maximise benefits to the local economy throughout the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development. A skilled workforce would be required throughout these phases, drawing on a broad spectrum of the construction sector as well as electrical work, ground works, plant hire, security, and landscaping.

In addition, analysis undertaken by CEBR³³ in 2014 highlighted the role of ground-mounted solar farms and potential benefits to the local economy by 2030. The analysis concluded that ground-mounted solar farms have the potential to:

- Contribute £25.5bn in GVA to the UK economy;
- Put £425m back into consumers' pockets through reduced energy costs;
- Contribute more UK value than other technologies including offshore wind and nuclear; and
- Do all this using just 0.2% of the UK's land area (less than golf courses at 2%).

³² HM Government (2022) British Energy Security Strategy. Available online: [British Energy Security Strategy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/102444/bess.pdf)

³³ CEBR (2014) Solar powered growth in the UK. Available online: [Solar powered growth in the UK - CEBR](https://www.cebr.co.uk/publications/solar-powered-growth-in-the-uk)

Section 8.0: Summary and Conclusion

There are a number of key points in favour of the Proposed Development which are required to be considered when reaching a decision on this planning application, including:

- Generation of a sustainable renewable source of electricity to be utilised by Carpenter Ltd. to assist them in their commitment to a sustainable environment and aid HPBC in aiming for carbon neutrality.
- Provision of a renewable energy resource which would also contribute towards national and local net zero ambitions.
- Increase energy security through the generation of a clean, renewable source of electricity.
- Limited likely effects upon the local environment.
- Reversible form of development allowing the land to be restored to its original condition following the operational phase.
- Opportunity to introduce biodiversity enhancement measures onsite.

As identified throughout this Planning Statement, decisions on planning applications require to be made in accordance with the provisions of the Development Plan, unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The Proposed Development has been assessed against the relevant policies of the adopted Development Plan. It has been found that the Proposed Development complies with the provisions of these policies and no material considerations have been identified which indicate that the Proposed Development should not proceed.

Table 8.1 below summarises the findings of the assessment of compliance with the adopted Development Plan.

Table 8.1: Summary of Development Plan Compliance

Policy Reference	Policy Title	Compliance with Policy?
Spatial Strategy and Strategic Policies		
S 1	Sustainable Development Principles	Yes
S 2	Settlement Hierarchy	Yes
S 4	Maintaining and Enhancing an Economic Base	Yes
S 5	Glossopdale Sub-area Strategy	Yes
Development Management Policies		
EQ1	Climate Change	Yes
EQ2	Landscape Character	Yes
EQ3	Rural Development	Yes
EQ5	Biodiversity	Yes
EQ6	Design and Place Making	Yes
EQ7	Built and Historic Environment	Yes
EQ9	Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows	Yes
EQ10	Pollution Control and Unstable Land	Yes
EQ11	Flood Risk Management	Yes
E3	Primary Employment Zones	Yes

It is considered that this Planning Statement demonstrates that the Application Site is a suitable location for the Proposed Development and accords with both national and local policy and guidance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Proposed Development be granted planning permission.