voltalia

Chapter 17: Summary of Significant Effects

Department: ERM
Project: Bowshiel Solar Farm and BESS
Document Code: 0733784

May 2025

INDEX

17. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

17.1 Introduction

17.1.1.1 This Chapter provides a summary of the predicted environmental effects of the Proposed Development that would be considered Significant under EIA Regulations, as identified through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

17.1.1.2 Each technical chapter (**Chapters 6–15)** of the EIA Report (EIAR) assesses the likely environmental effects arising from the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. This Chapter presents a consolidated overview of those findings.

17.1.1.3 **Table 17.1** below identifies the receptor, the predicted significant effect, and a high level overview of the embedded or additional mitigation associated with the predicted effect.

17.1.1.4 Detailed descriptions of all proposed mitigation measures are provided in **Chapter 18: Schedule of Mitigation**.

17.1.1.5 The level of effects has been determined using the methodology set out in each technical chapter. Unless otherwise stated, effects are categorised as major, moderate, minor, or negligible.

TABLE 17.1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS

CHAPTER	RECEPTOR	PREDICTED EFFECT	MITIGATION	RESIDUAL EFFECT
Construction and Decommissioning Phases				
Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual	No significant residual effects on Landscape Character or designated Landscapes are predicted during the Construction and Dec ommissioning Phases of the Proposed Development.			
	Visual effects on Right of Way BB84 through the Site.	Frequent and close proximity views of construction and decommissioning activity.	Embedded Mitigation • Managing existing hedgerows and panel setbacks • Reinforcement of existing hedgerows and creation of new hedgerows - Existing hedgerows would be 'gapped up' where they are sparse in order to provide more effective visual mitigation (and enhance the landscape fabric). New hedgerows will also be planted around the outer perimeter of most solar panel areas where there is no existing hedgerow. • Seeding and management of panel areas - The landscape fabric of the site would be maintained to ensure it remains suitable for future farming whilst supporting biodiversity during operation. These measures would also permit reinstatement of the present landscape character post-operation.	Major / Moderate adverse
	Visual effects on the Southern Upland Way	Views of the Proposed Development from 0.6 km of the long distance route viewed from the east. Potential for further stretches of visibility if felling occurs in certain areas of woodland passed through by the route.	Embedded Mitigation • Managing existing hedgerows and panel setbacks • Reinforcement of existing hedgerows and creation of new hedgerows - Existing hedgerows would be 'gapped up' where they are sparse in order to provide more effective visual mitigation (and enhance the landscape fabric). New hedgerows will also be planted around the outer perimeter of most solar panel areas where there is no existing hedgerow. • Seeding and management of panel areas - The landscape fabric of the site would be maintained to ensure it remains suitable for future farming whilst supporting biodiversity during operation. These measures would also permit reinstatement of the present landscape character post-operation.	Major / Moderate Adverse
Chapter 7: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	No significant residual effects on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage are predicted during the Construction and Decommissionin g Phases of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation	No significant residual effects on Ecology and Nature Conservation are predicted during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 9: Water Resources and Flood Risk	No significant residual effects on Water Resources and Flood Risk are predicted during the Construction and Decommissioning P hases of the Proposed Development.			

CHAPTER	RECEPTOR	PREDICTED EFFECT	MITIGATION	RESIDUAL EFFECT
Chapter 10: Geology and Soils	No significant residual effects on Geology and Soils are predicted during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 11: Transport Statement	No significant residual effects on Traffic and Transport are predicted during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration	No significant residual effects on Noise and Vibration are predicted during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 13: Socio-economics, land-use, Tourism and Recreation	No significant residual effects on Socio-economics, Land-use, Tourism and Recreation are predicted during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 14: Greenhouse Gas Assessment	No significant residual effects on Greenhouse Gas emissions are predicted during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 15: Other Issues	No significant residual effects on Glint and Glare, Human Health involving Electromagnetic Fields, and Major Accidents and Disasters are predicted during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 16	No significant residual In-Combination effects are predicted during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases of the Proposed Development.			
Operational Phase				
Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual	No significant residual effects on Landscape Character or Designated Landscapes are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			

CHAPTER	RECEPTOR	PREDICTED EFFECT	MITIGATION	RESIDUAL EFFECT
	Visual effects on Right of Way BB84 through the Site.	Frequent and close proximity views of construction and decommissioning activity.	Embedded Mitigation • Managing existing hedgerows and panel setbacks • Reinforcement of existing hedgerows and creation of new hedgerows - Existing hedgerows would be 'gapped up' where they are sparse in order to provide more effective visual mitigation (and enhance the landscape fabric). New hedgerows will also be planted around the outer perimeter of most solar panel areas where there is no existing hedgerow. • Seeding and management of panel areas - The landscape fabric of the site would be maintained to ensure it remains suitable for future farming whilst supporting biodiversity during operation. These measures would also permit reinstatement of the present landscape character post-operation.	Major / Moderate adverse
	Visual effects on the Southern Upland Way	Views of the Proposed Development from 0.6 km of the long distance route viewed from the east. Potential for further stretches of visibility if felling occurs in certain areas of woodland passed through by the route.	Embedded Mitigation • Managing existing hedgerows and panel setbacks • Reinforcement of existing hedgerows and creation of new hedgerows - Existing hedgerows would be 'gapped up' where they are sparse in order to provide more effective visual mitigation (and enhance the landscape fabric). New hedgerows will also be planted around the outer perimeter of most solar panel areas where there is no existing hedgerow. • Seeding and management of panel areas - The landscape fabric of the site would be maintained to ensure it remains suitable for future farming whilst supporting biodiversity during operation. These measures would also permit reinstatement of the present landscape character post-operation.	Major / Moderate Adverse
Chapter 7: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage	No significant residual effects on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation	No significant residual effects on Ecology and Nature Conservation are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 9: Water Resources and Flood Risk	No significant residual effects on Water Resources and Flood Risk are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 10: Geology and Soils	No significant residual effects on Geology and Soils are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			

CHAPTER	RECEPTOR	PREDICTED EFFECT	MITIGATION	RESIDUAL EFFECT
Chapter 11: Transport Statement	No significant residual effects on Traffic and Transport are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration	No significant residual effects on Noise and Vibration are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 13: Socio-economics, land-use, Tourism and Recreation	No significant residual effects on Socio-economics, Land-use, Tourism and Recreation are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 14: Greenhouse Gas	Atmosphere	Over the Proposed Development's 40-year lifetime it will offset around 1,958, 000 tCO_2e of UK grid generation.	N/A	Beneficial
Chapter 15: Other Issues	No significant residual effects on Glint and Glare, Human Health involving Electromagnetic Fields, and Major Accidents and Disasters are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			
Chapter 16	No significant residual In-Combination effects are predicted during the Operational Phase of the Proposed Development.			