

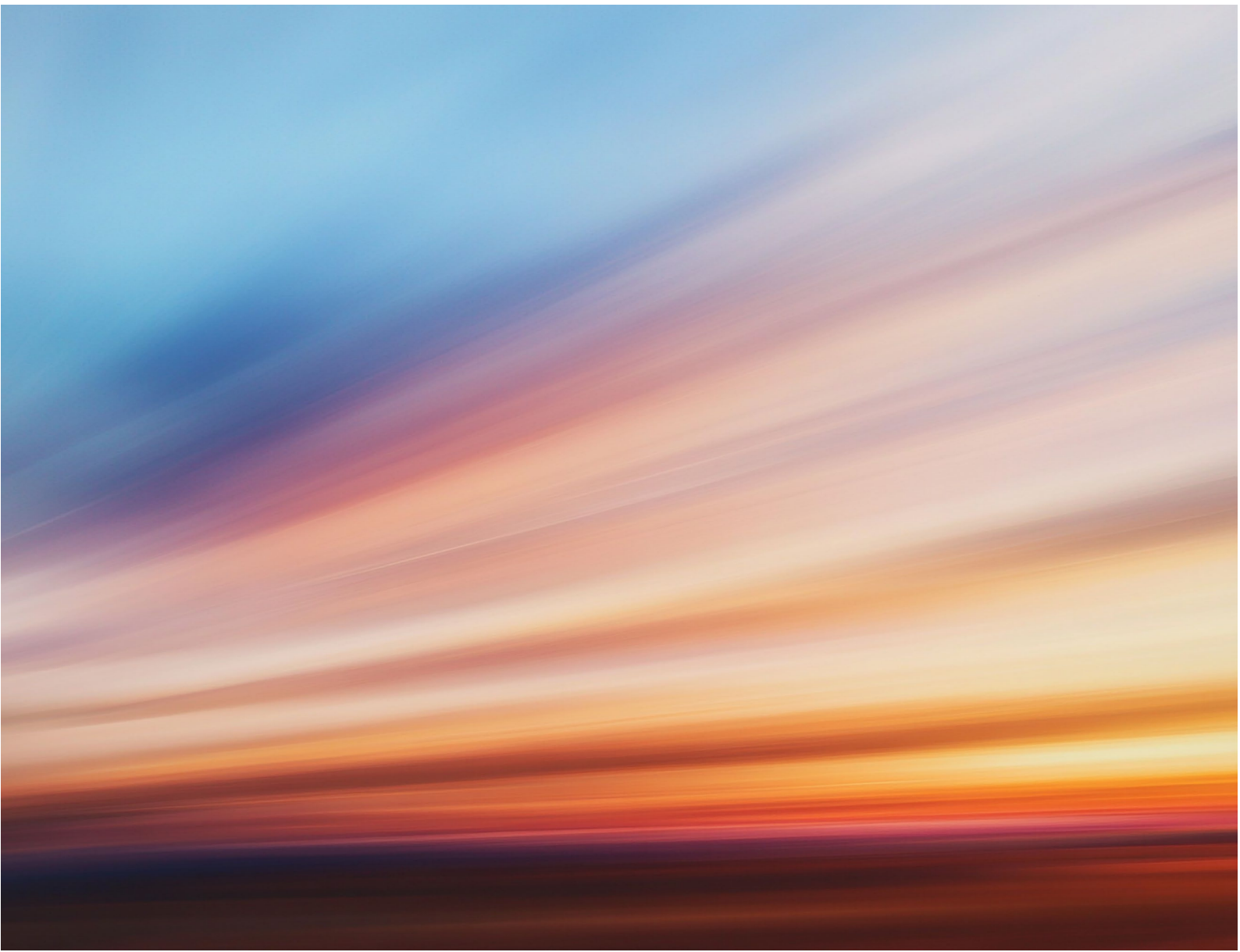
Mysten Leah Solar Farm

Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

Volume 1

Chapter 18: Other Environmental Considerations

April 2026



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18. Other Environmental Considerations

18.1 Introduction

18.1.1 This chapter presents consideration of the following environmental matters that have not been subject to a preliminary assessment and will not be subject to a detailed assessment in the Environmental Statement (ES). Whilst a standalone ES chapter for these environmental matters will not be produced, any effects will be considered, where relevant, in the appropriate chapters of the ES, and they are therefore considered worthy of mention.

- **Heat and radiation (Section 18.2);**
- **Electric, magnetic, and electromagnetic fields (Section 18.3);**
- **Major accidents and disasters (Section 18.4);**
- **Human health (Section 18.5);**
- **Material assets and waste (Section 18.6); and**
- **Transboundary effects (Section 18.7).**

18.1.2 **Chapter 5: How have we approached the preliminary assessment?** in **Volume 1** sets out those elements of Mylen Leah Solar Farm for which optionality is present within the current design and sets out the scenario assessed for the purpose of this Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

18.1.3 The preliminary design principles, as outlined in **Chapter 5: How have we approached the preliminary assessment?** in **Volume 1**, and preliminary parameter plans (**Figures 3.1 – 3.4 in Volume 2**) set out the reasonable 'worst case scenario' that has been considered within this chapter.

18.2 What are the heat and radiation considerations?

18.2.1 Due to the scale and nature of Mylen Leah Solar Farm as a solar PV development, it is not anticipated that there would be any significant sources of heat or radiation during construction, operation, or decommissioning and no significant sources of heat or radiation have been identified in this PEIR.

18.2.2 As stated in 3.1.3 of the Scoping Opinion adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 18 February 2025; *"The Inspectorate agrees that this matter [heat and radiation] may be scoped out from further consideration on the basis that the ES clearly signposts any identified sources of heat and radiation and how this has been considered with respect to site selection, site layout and any mitigation measures used in the design of the proposed development."*

18.2.3 The ES will clearly signpost any identified sources of heat and radiation and how this has been considered with respect to site selection, site layout and any mitigation measures used in the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

18.3 What are the electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields (EMF) considerations?

- 18.3.1 Mylen Leah Solar Farm includes electrical infrastructure that, when operational, would produce electric and magnetic fields (EMFs), namely underground cabling. EMFs arise from the generation, transmission, distribution and use of electricity. Electric fields are produced by voltage, which is the pressure behind the flow of electricity and which depends on the operating voltage of the equipment. Magnetic fields are produced by current, which is a measure of the flow of electricity and depends on the electrical current.
- 18.3.2 EMFs can have both direct and indirect effects on human health and ecological receptors. Direct impacts include effects on the central nervous system. As referenced in the National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) (paragraph 2.9.49)¹, to prevent these known effects, the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) published health protection guidelines in 1998².
- 18.3.3 As referenced in NPS EN-5, the 1998 guidelines published by International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection, state that underground cables and overhead power lines at voltages up to and including 132kV are not capable of exceeding the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection exposure guidelines. The operation of Mylen Leah Solar Farm will use up to 400kV underground cables.
- 18.3.4 The Planning Inspectorate's Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development (March 2025)³ states that a separate ES chapter for Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) is not required. However, it does state:
- “where proposed cables are over 132kV, an EMF assessment should be provided in an appendix to the Environmental Statement. This should include the location, routing and voltages of any cables over 132kV and a risk assessment to any human and ecological sensitive receptors within the Zone of Influence (Zoi)”.*
- 18.3.5 It is therefore proposed to exclude electric, magnetic and electromagnetic fields as a stand-alone chapter within the ES and instead produce a stand-alone EMF assessment report, which will be appended to the ES submitted in support of the DCO application. Where relevant, this will be cross referred to within the relevant individual environmental factor assessment chapters in the ES, for example Biodiversity for ecological receptors. It is recognised that there may be potential impacts on fish from EMF where high voltage cables cross under main watercourses and Pocklington Canal in the underground grid connection corridor, and this will be considered in the Biodiversity chapter of the ES.
- 18.3.6 Electrical fields can be blocked by fences, shrubs, and buildings and fields decrease with distance from the source. As set out in each environmental factor chapter of this PEIR (**Chapters 6 to 17 in Volume 1**), the design of Mylen Leah Solar Farm includes embedded mitigation. Some of these embedded mitigation measures would avoid the potential for any EMF effects. Examples would be buffers around sensitive receptors/solar infrastructure and a minimum 10m offset from all public rights of way.

18.4 What are the major accidents and disasters considerations?

- 18.4.1 Guidance on the consideration of major accidents and disasters is provided by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)⁴. This focuses on the consideration of low likelihood/high consequence events, which would result in serious harm or damage to environmental receptors, and which could encompass risks exacerbated by climate change. This includes accidents or disasters originating from a proposed development as well as external events (manmade or natural).
- 18.4.2 In considering likely significant effects from the vulnerability of Mylen Leah Solar Farm to risks of accidents and disasters, it is important to note that the UK already has a structured framework of risk management legislation in place. Vulnerability to major accidents and/or disasters for infrastructure and other built environment developments is covered by a wide range of other safety and non-safety-related legislation, as detailed below:
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974⁵;
 - Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015⁶; and
 - Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002⁷.
- 18.4.3 The risk of major accidents and disasters is being considered throughout the design process of Mylen Leah Solar Farm. This includes siting the potentially hazardous equipment, such as the grid infrastructure, at a suitable distance from sensitive receptors.
- 18.4.4 Those major accidents and disasters that are not considered within the scope of the EIA will continue to be reviewed and addressed as part of the design process. The construction, operation and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm is considered to have no risk of major accidents or disasters that could affect existing or future receptors.
- 18.4.5 The embedded mitigation proposed as part of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm design (described in **Chapters 6 to 17 in Volume 1**) would be sufficient to manage vulnerabilities to major accidents and/or disasters without the need for additional mitigation in most circumstances. By implementing recognised and approved safety standards and legislation, no likely significant effects in relation to major accidents and disasters are anticipated during the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.
- 18.4.6 **Table 18.1** presents a list of possible major accidents and disasters relevant to Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

Table 18.1: Possible major accidents and disasters

Major accident and/or disaster	Potential receptor	Comments
Flooding	Properties Local residents	The majority of Mylen Leah Solar Farm is located within Flood Zone 1 and is at low risk of surface water flooding. Therefore, it is not considered to be at significant risk of river flooding or surface water flooding. A Flood Risk Assessment, which will include

Major accident and/or disaster	Potential receptor	Comments
		a drainage strategy, will be submitted in support of the DCO application.
Aircraft disasters	Pilots	The potential for glint and glare to affect aircraft is assessed within Chapter 16: Glint and Glare in Volume 1 .
Plant disease	Habitats and species	New planting may be susceptible to biosecurity issues, such as increased prevalence of pests and disease, due to source of provenance and climate change. An Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (Outline LEMP) will be submitted in support of the DCO application and secured by the DCO. The Outline LEMP will take account of and set out measures to manage biosecurity risks.
High pressure gas pipelines	Properties Local residents Construction workers	High pressure gas mains may be susceptible during construction and decommissioning of Mylen Leah Solar Farm. The Applicant will ensure these are mapped in conjunction with the relevant statutory undertakers, and appropriate standoffs will be used. An Outline CEMP will be submitted in support of the DCO application and secured by the DCO. The Outline CEMP will take account of and set out measures to manage any associated risks.

18.4.7 Fire is not considered a potential major accident and disaster in relation to Mylen Leah Solar Farm and has not been listed in **Table 18.1** above. This is because no Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) are proposed as part of the Mylen Leah Solar Farm design. BESS typically use lithium-ion batteries, which when faults with the batteries occur, can pose a fire risk. As BESS is not present within the Mylen Leah Solar Farm design, the risk of fire is significantly reduced.

18.5 What are the human health considerations?

18.5.1 Human health has not been considered specifically within this PEIR. The consideration of the likely effects for human health as a result of Mylen Leah Solar Farm will not be considered as a standalone chapter in the ES, but will be detailed in relevant environmental factor chapters where appropriate. The ES will consider the likely effects for human health for the following environmental factors:

- Air quality
- Land and groundwater;

- Landscape and visual;
- Noise and vibration
- Transport and access; and
- Population.

18.5.2 It should be noted that following the EIA scoping process, impacts on healthcare providers during construction and operation phases have not been considered within this preliminary assessment and will not be considered within the ES.

18.6 What are the material assets and waste considerations?

18.6.1 Material assets are defined by IEMA (2020) as “*physical resources that are used across the lifecycle of a development*”⁸. Material assets can include ‘material’ (i.e. physical resources that are used across the lifecycle of a development) and ‘excavated arisings’ (i.e. soil, rock, or similar resource generated by excavations).

18.6.2 Waste is defined by the Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC)⁹ as “*any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard*”. The Waste Framework Directive definition includes any substance or object that is discarded for disposal or that has not been subject to acceptable recovery (including reuse and recycling).

18.6.3 The main impacts (changes) and effects (consequences) of materials consumption and waste disposal are presented in **Table 18.2**.

Table 18.2: Material assets (from IEMA (2020))

Matter	Direct impacts	Potential effects	Applicable phase
Materials	Consumption of resources	Depletion of resources, resulting in the temporary or permanent degradation of the natural environment.	Construction and decommissioning Operation (repair and replacement of components).
Waste	Generation and disposal of waste	Reduction in landfill capacity. Unsustainable use or loss of resources to landfill resulting in the temporary or permanent degradation of the natural environment.	Construction, decommissioning

18.6.4 The indirect impacts associated with materials consumption and waste disposal (e.g. release of greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption etc.) are assessed within the following chapters of this PEIR in **Volume 1**:

- **Chapter 8: Climate;** and
- **Chapter 15: Water.**

18.6.5 Similarly, the indirect impacts of any off-site waste management facilities and material production facilities are expected to be assessed (and where

necessary, mitigated) under the planning and permitting regime for those sites and thus do not form part of an EIA for a development that uses such facilities for material supply or waste management.

- 18.6.6 A description of the potential streams and volumes of construction materials and waste disposal will be described within the 'Description of the Proposed Development' chapter of the ES, as well as any likely significant effects arising from the transportation and disposal of waste, as set out in the Scoping Opinion adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 18 February 2025. In addition, an Outline Site Waste Management Plan (Outline SWMP) will be submitted in support of the DCO application and secured by the DCO. The Outline SWMP will set out how construction materials and waste would be managed on-site and how opportunities to recycle waste would be explored during the construction phase of Mylen Leah Solar Farm. Where reasonably practicable, development-specific commitments for sustainable resource management will be presented within the ES.
- 18.6.7 The removal of significant quantities of excavated arisings from the Site during construction is not anticipated, particularly as there are currently no demolition works proposed. There may be a need to remove some soils from the Site for treatment or disposal if found to be contaminated and it is not practical to treat this on-site. However, where reasonably practicable, soil arisings would be balanced through a cut and fill exercise to retain volumes on-site, which will be managed through the Outline Soil Management Plan (to be submitted in support of the DCO application and secured by the DCO).
- 18.6.8 For the operational phase, the potential streams and volumes of construction materials and waste disposal will be described within the 'Description of the Proposed Development' chapter of the ES. There would be relatively little waste produced during the operational phase and the requirement for material assets would be limited to maintenance and replacement parts, as required. In addition, an Outline Operational Environment Management Plan (Outline OEMP) will be submitted in support of the DCO application and secured by the DCO. The Outline OEMP will set out how materials and waste would be managed on-site during operation.
- 18.6.9 During decommissioning, any material assets and waste would be recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. If items can be recycled, this will be the first-choice option. An Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (Outline DEMP) will be submitted in support of the DCO application and secured by the DCO. The Outline DEMP will set out how the waste would be managed and detail opportunities for re-use and recycling during the decommissioning phase of Mylen Leah Solar Farm.

18.7 Transboundary effects

- 18.7.1 Regulation 32 of the EIA Regulations¹⁰ requires the consideration of any likely significant effects on the environment of another European Economic Area State. The consideration of transboundary effects is also detailed within the Planning Inspectorate's Advice Note Seven¹¹ and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process¹².

18.7.2 Due to the nature and location of Mylen Leah Solar Farm, it is unlikely that Mylen Leah Solar Farm would lead to any likely significant effects on the environment of another European Economic Area State. This opinion was supported by the Scoping Opinion adopted by the Planning Inspectorate (on behalf of the Secretary of State) on 18 February 2025 by the Planning Inspectorate, which states *“the Inspectorate considers that the likelihood of transboundary effects resulting from the proposed development is so low that it does not warrant the issue of a detailed transboundary screening”*.

¹ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (December 2025, published January 2026) National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5). Available online: [National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure \(EN-5\) – December 2025](#)

² International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (1998) International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection Guidelines: For limiting exposure to time-varying electric, magnetic and electromagnetic field (up to 300GHz), Health Physics 74 (4): 494-522. Available online: [ICNIRPemfgdl.pdf](#)

³ Planning Inspectorate (2024, updated 2025) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development. Available online: [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Technical Advice Page for Scoping Solar Development - GOV.UK](#)

⁴ IEMA (2020a) Major Accidents and Disasters in EIA: An IEMA Primer. Available online: [j27374 iema major accidents disasters final-1.pdf](#)

⁵ Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Available online: [Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974](#)

⁶ Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. Available online: [The Construction \(Design and Management\) Regulations 2015](#)

⁷ Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002. Available online: [The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002](#)

⁸ IEMA (2020) IEMA guide to Materials and Waste in Environmental Impact Assessment. Available online: [iema-materials-and-waste-in-eia-march-2020.pdf](#)

⁹ Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain Directives (Text with EEA relevance). Available online: [Directive - 2008/98 - EN - Waste framework directive - EUR-Lex](#)

¹⁰ The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017. Available online: [The Infrastructure Planning \(Environmental Impact Assessment\) Regulations 2017](#)

¹¹ Planning Inspectorate (2025) Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: Process, Preliminary Environment Information and Environmental Statements. Available online: [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - Advice Note Seven: Environmental Impact Assessment: process, preliminary environmental information and environmental statements - GOV.UK](#)

¹² Planning Inspectorate (2025). Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process. Available online: [Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Transboundary Impacts and Process - GOV.UK](#)