

Policy CC3

Low Carbon and Renewable Energy

1. Where appropriate, development will be strongly encouraged to incorporate and maximise opportunities to generate and store low carbon and renewable energy on-site, and to consider opportunities for creating and/or connecting to decentralised energy networks, as a fundamental part of the design process.
2. Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy generation and storage, including the life extension and repowering of existing sites, will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:
 - a. The development would not result in unacceptable adverse impacts, both individually and cumulatively, that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated on:
 - The natural and built environments (with very careful consideration required in proposals involving heritage assets or their settings);
 - The landscape and visual amenity (with very careful consideration required in proposals involving a National Landscape or its setting);
 - The amenity of surrounding development (such as from safety issues, noise, odour, shadow flicker/glare and visual impacts); and
 - Highways.
 - b. Where significant development of agricultural land is proposed, areas of poorer quality land have been considered in preference to those of a higher quality, with particular regard to best and most versatile land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a), unless it can be demonstrated that no appropriate land of a lower quality is available and subsequently suitable;
 - c. Where practicable, the land below and/or between the infrastructure is maintained in use for agriculture/grazing and/or biodiversity improvements; and
 - d. Provision is made for the decommissioning of the infrastructure once operation has ceased, with the land left in an appropriate condition.

This policy will be updated to identify broad locations which are the most suitable for solar development once the supporting evidence is available.