SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

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Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.1 Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity

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Sunnica Energy Farm

Environmental Statement
Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity

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10 Landscape and Visual Amenity

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 This chapter identifies and proposes measures to address the potential impacts and effects of the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors, via a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA).

10.1.2 The LVIA is undertaken for the construction (winter), year 1 of opening (winter), year 15 post opening (summer), and decommissioning (winter) phases of the Scheme.

10.1.3 Landscape effects relate to changes to the landscape as a resource, including physical changes to the fabric or individual elements of the landscape, its aesthetic or perceptual qualities, and landscape character.

10.1.4 Visual effects relate to changes to existing views of identified visual receptors ('people'), from the loss or addition of features within their view due to the Scheme.

10.1.5 The chapter focuses mainly on an assessment of the potential 'significant' effects of the Scheme, i.e. those effects assessed as major or moderate (adverse or beneficial). However, all effects (significant and not significant) are provided in **Appendices 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, which should be read in combination with this chapter. The effects are based on the parameters for the Scheme as defined and secured by the Works Plans and, taking account of the mitigation set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (OLEMP). Reference is also made in this chapter to the Parameter Plans which illustrate these parameters and mitigation at a high level.

10.1.6 The LVIA has been undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects with extensive experience in LVIA of solar developments.

10.1.7 The LVIA has also been undertaken with reference to **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** and **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.1]**, and **Appendix 10B: Tree Constraints Report** and **Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, which should be read in combination with this chapter.

10.1.8 The following figures accompany this chapter in Volume 3 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]**:

a. Figure 10-1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Study Area
b. Figure 10-2: Topography and Watercourses
c. Figure 10-3: Landscape Designations
d. Figure 10-4: Public Rights of Way and Other Access
e. Figure 10-5: National Character Areas

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s. Figure 10-14f: Landscape Masterplan – Cable Route and Burwell Substation
t. Figures 10-15 to 10-89: Type 1 Annotated Photographs
u. Figures 10-90 to 10-102: Type 4 Verifiable Photomontages

10.1.9 Please note that Figure numbering 10-15 to 10-19 and 10-84 to 10-89 are not used within this chapter.

10.1.10 Abbreviations and capitalised terms are defined in the Glossary, **Chapter 0** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.1]**.

10.2 Legislation and Planning Policy

10.2.1 The relevant national, county, local and neighbourhood planning policies relevant to landscape and visual amenity are summarised in **Appendix 10A** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.3 Assessment Assumptions and Limitations

10.3.1 This is an assessment of the likely landscape and visual impacts and effects arising from the Scheme based on the drawings for determination submitted as part of the DCO Application.

10.3.2 The landscape and visual assessment draws upon landscape and visual surveys undertaken between March 2019 and April 2021.

10.3.3 All fieldwork has been undertaken from publicly accessible locations; with accompanied visits to the Limekilns, Godolphin Stables, and Godolphin Gallops. Professional judgement has been used to assess residents' views, aided by aerial photography and fieldwork observations from the surrounding area.

10.3.4 The LVIA includes a **Tree Constraints Report** in **Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. This includes a

Arboricultural Impact Assessment for Burwell National Grid Substation Extension for Option 1 and 2 where the Scheme and impact is quite defined. For other areas further detailed arboricultural impact assessments will be prepared at detailed design stage when exact routes and Scheme alignments are known to limit abortive work to survey the whole Scheme.

10.3.5 The assessment is based upon the parameters set out on Figure 3-1 Sunnica East Sites A and B Parameter Plan **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** and Figure 3-2 Sunnica West Sites A and B Parameter Plan **[EN010106/APP/6.3]**, including in respect to the location and extent of the different aspects of the Scheme (including offsetting, mitigation measures and access points) and which are secured by the Works Plans and the OLEMP.

10.3.6 Following requests from Landscape Officers from SCC and WSC between January 2020 and March 2020, the following terminology and durations have been used for the landscape and visual assessment:

a. Short term durations are considered to be two years or less;

b. medium term durations are considered to be between two and ten years; and

c. long term durations are considered to be more than ten years.

10.3.7 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) response (17/02/2020) noted these terms and durations were acceptable.

10.3.8 The following assessment years have been considered within this chapter:

a. Scheme construction (winter);

b. Scheme operation year 1 (earliest 2025) (winter);

c. Scheme operation year 15 (earliest 2040), (summer); and

d. Scheme decommissioning (earliest 2065), (summer).

10.3.9 For the construction phase assessment (based on peak activity in 2024 at the earliest), the assumptions are:

a. Construction activity is conservatively assumed to be undertaken across all of the Sites, Burwell Substation Extension and within the cable corridors at the same time and during winter. It is anticipated that the construction phase would occur over an approximate 24 month duration. To account for this, the construction activity being undertaken across all of the Sites, Burwell Substation Extension and within the cable corridors is assessed as being short term. If the construction extends beyond 24 months this would result in medium term effects; however, the significance of effect will not change. As in winter existing deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, a winter assessment thereby represents a worst-case assessment scenario. This is also considered a precautionary approach to the assessment of the construction phase as in reality the construction activity would be over both winter and summer seasons, such that the impacts and effects over the course of

the construction phase would be lower than those predicted in the assessment;

b. The excavation for Grid Connection Route A and Grid Connection Route B has been conservatively assessed that it could be anywhere within the Order limits within those routes =. This is because the precise alignment is not yet known. Where required from an environmental constraint or design requirements (i.e. at watercourses, key vegetation and the Lodes) boring, micro-tunnelling or moling methods of construction will be undertaken, requiring rigs and associated equipment to install the cable beneath these features;

c. The construction phase is assumed to require daily HGV movements to the Order limits, along with dumper trucks and excavators. The excavated material from the Sites will be stored and re-used within the Order limits while excess spoil from the cable route will be removed and disposed of at an appropriate waste facility;

d. The contractor will utilise the construction compounds within the Sites and within either Option 1 or 2 of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension as the primary laydown and storage areas during construction. However, there will be up to 15 temporary construction laydown areas along the cable corridor. Other laydown areas are located throughout the Order limits as illustrated on Figure 3-18a and 3-18b;

e. All construction compound areas will consist of offices, welfare facilities, canteens, storage and waste skips, parking areas and enough space in order to allow the storage, download and turning areas of vehicles. Mobile cranes (i.e. a vehicle with a tall lifting arm) would be required to implement the compounds, i.e. lifting and placing of offices etc. Compounds will store materials as required, with frequent deliveries, rather than stockpiles of materials;

f. The perimeter fence around the Order limits will be implemented early in the construction phase to secure the Order limits and will consist of a 2m high deer proof fencing, secured through the Framework Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which has been submitted to support the Application **Appendix 16C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. This will also prevent construction activity in proximity to retained vegetation and where required specific tree protection measures will be implemented, including fencing or solid hoardings and construction exclusion zones. This tree protection fencing will be rendered in a suitable colour to aid its integration in the landscape, as set out in the OLEMP, and will then be located adjacent to the perimeter fencing where required for tree protection;

g. Ground preparation for areas of solar panels and associated infrastructure will consist of topsoil stripping and storage, localised ground levelling, implementation of foundations for structures and trenching for wiring. This will be undertaken by standard construction equipment, e.g. diggers, excavators and trucks. This will be followed by the construction of the solar module support structures and then the solar panels will be fixed onto these structures, followed by the

construction of the remaining infrastructure, e.g. solar inverters, transformers and switchgears. This activity will require tall lifting equipment, e.g. cranes;

h. Topsoil will be spread back across the area with a new native grass seed mix applied along with the planting of the hedgerows and woodland (the 'Green Infrastructure') as set out in the OLEMP;

i. The implementation of new native grassland above below ground archaeology will be via non-intrusive methods, e.g. hydroseeding, following a shallow rake to remove weeds and stones as set out in the OLEMP;

j. The construction phase will be undertaken in accordance with a CEMP. A Framework CEMP has been submitted to support the Application **Appendix 16C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2],** which sets out the best construction practice measures, including to protect retained vegetation, minimise noise and dust, and ensures compounds and stockpiles are kept in a tidy manner;

k. Given the detail of the Framework CEMP and general location of the works, the construction activity is not considered to be an issue for the effects of noise in the landscape assessment, in so far that it would not notably affect perceptions of character in the landscape during construction; and

l. The visual assessment has assumed PRoW would be accessible during the construction phase, with an assessment of the likely change to people's views from these routes. The exceptions are short sections within the Order Limits, covering PRoW W-257/007/0, W-257/002/0 and W-257/002/X (Sunnica East Site A), PRoW 257/003/0 and U6006 (Sunnica East Site B) and PRoW 49/7, 92/19, 35/10 and 204/1 (Cable Routes), which the assessment has assumed would be closed for a maximum of three weeks during construction.

10.3.10 For the year 1 operation assessment the assumptions are:

a. The Scheme will be operational across all of the Order limits, which is a precautionary approach to the assessment of all of the new structure within the landscape and people's views. In reality, where the completion of the Scheme is phased, the likely impacts and effects would likely be reduced in comparison to those precited in the assessment:

b. The assessment season is winter, and deciduous vegetation will not be in leaf. This therefore reflects a worst-case and precautionary assessment scenario in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, 2013 (ref 10-19);

c. The solar arrays would be set within an aluminium frame and mounted on a steel rack. The panels would be angled with their highest edge 2.5m above ground level and all panels would be fixed in a south facing orientation and would not rotate to follow the sun;

d. The invertors, switchgear and transformers and the solar stations would be a maximum 3.5m in height;

e. The battery energy storage system ('BESS') would be 6m in height;

f. The electrical compound would include substations which are 10m in height (with Burwell National Grid Substation Extension at 12m) and control buildings which are 6m in height;

g. The proposed landscape design would consist of a native grassland beneath the panels and in areas of ecological enhancement or archaeological mitigation. This grassland would not have fully established at year 1.

h. Proposed new native hedgerows would be between 0.6m and 0.8m in height with tree planting between 1m and 3.5m in height dependant on available plants and natural variation in heights;

i. All new planting (the 'Green Infrastructure') would be implemented and managed in accordance with the Outline Landscape Ecology Management Plan ('OLEMP'), a draft version of which is included within **Appendix 10I** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.3.11 For the year 15 operation assessment the assumptions are:

a. The Scheme is operational across all of the Order limits at the same time. This is a precautionary approach to assess all of the new structures and within the landscape and people's views. Should the Scheme be phased, then in reality the likely impacts and effects would be reduced in comparison to those predicted in the assessment;

b. The assessment season is summer, such that existing vegetation and new planting is in leaf. As set out in the following methodology section, this accords with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, 2013 (Ref 10-19) in assessing the seasonal change and the establishment of the proposed planting;

c. All new planting would have successfully established, due to the implementation of the draft OLEMP, such that there would be a complete native grassland sward across Sunnica East Site A and Site B and Sunnica West Site A and Site B, including beneath the solar panels, and across the ecological and archaeological mitigation areas; and

d. The tree planting would have grown by an assumed 3m in height (equating to 20 centimetres per year) to range between 4m and 6.5m in height. New and existing hedgerows would be managed and maintained between 2m and 3m in height.

10.3.12 For the decommissioning assessment the assumptions are:

a. The Scheme is no longer operational, and the solar panels and associated structures and equipment are removed in a manner similar to the construction phase, requiring machinery and localised excavation. The proposed Green Infrastructure, as illustrated on Figures 3-1 and 3-2 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** would remain, with

hedgerows remaining between 2m and 3m in height and new trees between 7m and 9.5m in height; and

b. The assessment is undertaken for the winter season with the duration of the decommissioning phase being between 12 and 24 months. This represents a precautionary approach to account for a peak decommissioning phase. In reality, if phased, the impacts and effects would be reduced in comparison to those predicted in the assessment; and

c. Cable Routes A and B would remain below ground, in situ and the Burwell National Grid Extension will be left in-situ.

10.3.13 Additional assessments of an alternative second option for the proposed Burwell Substation Extension at Burwell are included in the landscape and visual assessment. The alternative is illustrated on Figure 4-5.

10.4 Assessment Methodology

Study Area

10.4.1 With reference to Figure 10-1, the LVIA study area extends 2 kilometres (km) from the Order limits. Details of the landscape and visual context across this study area are set out in the following baseline sections.

10.4.2 The LVIA study area covers the area which the Scheme may influence in a significant manner. It has been reviewed throughout the design process in response to the iterative design process.

10.4.3 Prior to determining the 2km study area, fieldwork was undertaken across a 5km radius around the Order limits, supported by Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). The analysis of the landscape and visual baseline across this 5km radius has enabled the study area to be refined and reduced to 2km.

10.4.4 This process, termed the ‘Area of Search’, identified that the intervening landform, buildings and vegetation beyond 2km from the Order limits, was such that significant landscape and visual effects would not occur.

10.4.5 The Area of Search identified that from:

a. Land to the north of West Row and Mildenhall, the intervening vegetation and landform meant that the Order limits would not be visible, and any perception of the Scheme would not significantly alter the character of the landscape, particularly in the context of Mildenhall airfield;

b. Land to east of Red Lodge, the Order limits would not be visible due to the extent of coniferous woodland and flat landform, which screen longer distance views and any perception of the Scheme would not significantly alter the landscape character, due to the influence of Red Lodge and associated road networks;

c. Land between Fordham and Isleham, to the west of the B1104, the elevated landform along the alignment of the B1104 would screen

views towards the Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B and that any perception of the Scheme would not significantly alter the landscape character due to the dominance of the large scale open field patterns and flat landform;

d. Land to the south of B1506, to the east of Newmarket, including Kentford and Moulton, the undulating landform and extent of mature woodland would screen Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B. As such, any perception of the Scheme would not significantly alter the landscape character, given this part of the study area is crossed by the A11, A14, and Newmarket to Ipswich railway line and is dominated by the 'stud' landscape;

e. Land to the north of West Fen and Burwell Fen, across Wicken and Soham, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B, including the excavation for the Cable Routes would not be visible. This is due to the intervening landform and vegetation. Any perception of the construction phase of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension and Grid Connection Route A and B would be in the context of the extent of pylons already crossing Burwell Fen and connecting to Burwell substation; and

f. Land to the south of Reach, due to the distance from the Site the Scheme would not be visible and that any perception of the construction phase of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension would be in the context of the existing infrastructure.

10.4.6 With these areas between 2km to 5km scoped out, the study area for likely significant effects is considered to be representative and propionate in focusing on a 2km area from the boundary of the Order limits.

Sources of Information

Desktop Research

10.4.7 The following section summarise the publications which have been considered in the desktop research:

a. Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs), aerial photography, historic mapping and OS Explorer Ely and Newmarket no.226;

b. Relevant national energy policies, planning policy and planning practice guidance, and relevant Suffolk and Cambridgeshire landscape and visual amenity related policies;

c. Natural England, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire published landscape character assessments; and

d. Local village design guides, the Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan landscape and key views assessments and conservation area statements.

Surveys

10.4.8 As noted, fieldwork has been undertaken between March 2019 and June 2021. These surveys have reviewed the desktop analysis, verified the

statements within the published landscape character assessments, analysed the landscape character and ascertained the likely visibility of the Scheme by identifying visual receptors.

LVIA Impact Assessment Methodology

10.4.9 The landscape and visual assessment methodology is set out in full in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, along with the methodology for the ZTVs and the verifiable views (photomontages).

10.4.10 The landscape and visual assessment methodology is derived from the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3), 2013 (Ref 10-19). The landscape and visual assessment methodology has been discussed with and reviewed by SCC and WSC Landscape Officers.

10.4.11 The photomontage methodology is derived from the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, 2019 (Ref 10-20).

10.4.12 The landscape and visual assessment has been undertaken for each of the individual site areas, e.g. Sunnica East Site A, followed by an assessment of the DCO Scheme as a whole, i.e. a combined assessment of Sunnica East Site A and Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Site B and the cable routes.

10.4.13 The difference between the individual and combined assessments are that the individual assessment assesses the impact and effect of only the one site/cable corridor route on a landscape character area or a person's view (visual receptor), whereas the combined assessment is assessing the impact and effects of all aspects of the DCO Scheme on a landscape character area or a person's view.

10.4.14 Both the individual and combined assessments are based on the same landscape and visual receptors and follow the same assessment methodology as set out below.

10.4.15 In accordance with GLVIA 3, the landscape assessment identifies the existing physical fabric or individual features of the landscape, including patterns of land use, land cover and aesthetic and perceptual qualities. The landscape assessment identifies published landscape receptors and where necessary identifies local landscape character areas to add further detail to the published studies. These landscape receptors are then assessed in terms of their landscape value and susceptibility to change (based on the criteria presented in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**), to determine their sensitivity to the Scheme. Landscape receptor sensitivity is defined as either high, medium, low or very low, based on the combination of the landscape value and landscape susceptibility, as set out in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.4.16 In accordance with GLVIA 3, the visual assessment relates to the potential changes to existing views from identified visual receptors e.g. residents, public rights of way users or motorists, as a result of the addition or loss of features to their existing view. The visual receptors are identified via fieldwork and similarly assessed in terms of the value of their view and their susceptibility to change (as set out in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**), to determine their sensitivity to the Scheme. Visual receptor sensitivity is defined as either high, medium, low or very low, based on the combination of value and susceptibility, as set out in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.4.17 Notwithstanding that landscape and visual effects are assessed separately, one of the considerations of landscape value and therefore landscape impacts and effects is the perception of the landscape. This is mirrored in the European Landscape Convention's definition of landscape, which is that "landscape is an area, as perceived by people…" and is set out in GLVIA3 2.2. Perception is therefore about the senses, including sight and sound. Therefore, when perception is considered in landscape terms it is not about the landscape receptor 'seeing' the Scheme but how people perceive or experience the landscape.

10.4.18 Due to this, the perception of the Scheme may be localised, which in combination with other features, e.g. screening from vegetation or proposed planting results in an effect which is not significant.

10.4.19 In contrast, a person's view (visual receptor) is assessed as from a specific place and orientation in the landscape. Therefore, visual effects may be significant due to the change in the composition of the view, whereas the landscape effects are not significant, even though they include the consideration of perception and experience of the landscape and the Scheme.

10.4.20 With the landscape and visual receptors established, the magnitude of impact (change) resulting from the Scheme is assessed in relation to each receptor for the assessment phases (i.e. construction, operation year 1 and year 15 and decommissioning). The magnitude of impact considers the size and scale, duration and reversibility of the Scheme and is determined upon a scale of high, medium, low, very low and none, as set out in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. In addition, consideration is also given to the conclusions of the **Glint and Glare Assessment**, which is included **Appendix 16A** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.4.21 In accordance with GLVIA 3, the construction phase assessment considers the construction activities and the location of construction equipment, access and hauls routes; the type of machinery being used and the position and scale and working areas. The construction phase is assessed at winter when existing deciduous vegetation is not in leaf to soften or screen views and therefore represents a worst-case assessment scenario.

10.4.22 The year 1 of opening assessment considers the location, scale and design of the Scheme structures, access and traffic, changes in land use and planting, as set out above in the assumptions section. In accordance with GLVIA 3, the year 1 opening assessment is undertaken at winter, to represent a worst-case assessment scenario.

10.4.23 The year 15 post opening assessment is based on the same parameters as the year 1 assessment, but with the establishment of the proposed planting and in summer, to reflect the seasonal change. This assumes that the planting is taller, and vegetation is in leaf (as set out in the assumptions section) and is in accordance with GLVIA 3. As such, the Scheme may be less visible, due to softening or screening of views. As part of the year 15 assessment, the assessment considers the impact of the new planting both in terms of softening or screening views of the solar panels and associated structures, but also as a vegetated structure which may truncate views across a predominantly open field pattern. In this respect the assessment 'balances' the impacts between what is considered to be beneficial views of vegetation, given it is characteristic of the views and a valued feature in the landscape, along with potential truncation of views and screening of the Scheme.

10.4.24 The decommissioning phase of the Scheme is based on all the Scheme structures (i.e. solar panels, solar stations) being removed and the proposed landscape planting remaining. Cable Routes A and B would also remain in situ- below ground. The assessment is undertaken for winter.

10.4.25 For all of the above phases, the relationship between the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of impact is used to inform the judgement on the significance of effect for each receptor.

10.4.26 **Table 10-1** is used as guide to inform the LVIA judgement on the significance of effect. This judgement process and terminology is specific to LVIA and therefore differs from the methodology of other EIA topics.

Table 10-1: Guide to the Landscape and Visual Significance of Effect

Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact				
	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	None
High	Major (significant)	Major (significant) / Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant) / Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant) / Negligible (not significant)	Neutral (not significant)
Medium	Major (significant) / Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant) / Minor (not significant)	Moderate (significant) or Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant) or Negligible (not significant)	Neutral (not significant)

Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact				
	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	None
Low	Moderate (significant)	Moderate (significant) or Minor (not significant)	Minor (not significant) / Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant) / Neutral (not significant)	Neutral (not significant)
Very Low	Moderate (significant) or Minor (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant) / Neutral (not significant)	Neutral (not significant)	Neutral (not significant)

10.4.27 With reference to the above table, major and moderate effects are 'significant'. Effects of minor, negligible and neutral are 'not significant'.

10.4.28 Where **Table 10-1** allows for two levels of significance (e.g. major / moderate or minor / negligible) professional judgement has been used on a case by case basis to determine the appropriate level of significance.

10.4.29 Where professional judgement considers that the assessment of significance of effect should differ from the guide in **Table 10-1**, then a reasoned justification is provided in the assessment narrative.

Relationship to Residential Amenity Visual Assessment

10.4.30 The LVIA assesses the potential visual effects to different types of visual receptor, including residential receptors, i.e. private views, and agreed representative viewpoints via discussions with SCC and WSC Landscape Officers.

10.4.31 With reference to the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 2/19: 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment' (Ref 10-21), the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold (RVAT) is considered as to whether:

"the effect of the development on Residential Visual Amenity of such nature and / or magnitude that it potentially affects 'living conditions' or Residential Amenity."

10.4.32 The RVAT guidance is based upon a 'four' stage approach. Stages 1 to 3 accord with the above LVIA methodology, whereby, in line with GLVIA 3, visual receptors are identified, along with the magnitude of impact and the significance of effect.

10.4.33 The fourth step is a more detailed examination of residential properties, where appropriate, when the highest 'significance of effect' levels are identified via stages 1 to 3. Although, as stated by the guidance, there are no '*hard and fast rules'* as to making a judgement on RVAT.

10.4.34 The LVIA has therefore allowed for residential receptors who are predicted to experience any significant adverse effects at year 15, i.e. post the establishment of the proposed mitigation, being subject to a RVAT.

10.4.35 However, as set out in the following assessment, no significant adverse effects are predicted to residential receptors at year 15 and therefore a RVAT has not been required.

10.5 Stakeholder Engagement

10.5.1 The LVIA consultation has included meetings and exchanges of correspondence with Landscape Planning Officers, Rights of Way and Access Officers from SCC and WSC and representatives of the Ramblers, the Jockey Club and Godolphin Stables.

10.5.2 The consultation undertaken to date in relation to landscape and visual effects is outlined in the Consultation Report **[EN010106/APP/5.1]**. **Table 10-2** outlines the matters raised within the Scoping Opinion and how these have been addressed through the ES in relation to landscape and visual matters.

Table 10-2 Main matters raised within the Scoping Opinion

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
The Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion, April 2019			
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	The extent of the study area being determined by the likely impacts and effects rather than being set at 2km	The submission sets out the Area of Search and why the 2km study area is appropriate for this Scheme.	Refer to the Assessment Methodology section in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and the Assumptions and Limitations section of this chapter.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	The ES should clearly set out the assumptions for the assessment years including the height of new planting	The assumptions for heights of new planting and assessment years have been set out in the assumptions section.	Refer to the Assumptions and Limitations section in this chapter.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	The assessment should consider likely impacts to local landscape character and designations and the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment and the Brecks Special Qualities report	The Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment and the Brecks Special Qualities report and all other relevant landscape planning designations, including locally important landscapes have been reviewed as part of the baseline and the respective landscape character areas and characteristics have been assessed in the landscape assessment for all phases of the Scheme.	Refer to the published landscape character assessment baseline in **Appendix 10D** and **Appendix 10E** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the assessment of landscape effects and **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Agreement of the study area and relevant representative and illustrative viewpoints for assessment with relevant consultation bodies, Assessment to include visitors to and residents of Chippenham Hall and its registered park and garden	Correspondence with the Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council between January 2020 and March 2020 has agreed visual receptors and representative viewpoints and that the extent of the study area would be set out in the LVIA.	Refer to the visual assessment and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, which includes an assessment of visitors and residents of Chippenham Hall Registered Park and Garden, via viewpoint 31.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Agreement with stakeholders of the photomontages (including methodology) and relevant representative viewpoints and consideration of producing images at Year 5. ES to include details of photomontage methodology.	Correspondence with the Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council between January 2020 and March 2020 has agreed photomontages and representative viewpoints, which will reflect the year 1 and year 15 assessment phases for the ES. A year 5 assessment has not been undertaken and therefore images have not been produced for the year 5 scenario as this would not reflect the assessment scenario's (year 1 and year 15) and is considered neither representative nor necessary, given there would be little change from the year 1 assessment due to the assumed growth rates of the new planting. The Year 1 scenario presents a more conservative assessment of early Scheme impacts than a Year 5 scenario.	The landscape and visual assessment methodology is set out in full in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, along with the verifiable views (photomontages)
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Assessment of the effects on landscape features should include the loss of any existing trees, hedgerows, and other vegetation.	The effects on landscape features, including loss of trees, hedgerows and other vegetation, has been considered in the landscape assessment.	Refer to the landscape baseline, landscape effects and **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Mitigation to include for tree loss; with design setbacks at Sunnica East from roads and areas of public access and that the potential for enhancement of field boundaries to provide greater connectivity in landcover patterns at the Sunnica East Site should also be considered	Mitigation for tree loss has been included for, via new hedgerow and tree planting, setbacks have been introduced and landscape buffers have been located adjacent to public access areas and roads.	The Works Plans, Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** and the embedded mitigation section of the LVIA and the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) (**Appendix 10I** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**).
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	The selective use of quotations from GLVIA 3, defining significance and the terms *'undue consequences'* and	Quotations have been used where appropriate and the term *'undue consequences'* is taken directly from GLVIA 3 in respect of susceptibility. The term 'susceptibility' is required in the landscape and visual assessment process and has been discussed with the Local Planning Authorities.	Refer to LVIA Methodology (**Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**) which sets out that 'undue consequences' means 'adverse changes to the baseline'.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	The description of 'High' within Table 10-3 and the reference to visitors and heritage assets	The methodology has been revised since the Scoping Opinion following discussions with the Local Planning Authority. High receptors can include visitors and heritage assets.	Refer to LVIA Methodology (**Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**)

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)	The RVAA is included in the assessment methodology should it be required where a residential receptor is predicted to experience significant adverse effects at year 15 of operation. However, as set out in the following assessment, none of the residential receptors are predicted to experience a significant adverse effect at year 15 and therefore a RVAA is considered not to be required.	Refer to the LVIA Methodology section in this chapter.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Reporting the significance of effects to all receptors (significant or not significant)	The assessment has been undertaken for a 2km study area and reports effects which are significant and not significant.	Refer **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** for landscape effects and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** for visual effects for the results of the assessment on all receptors and section 10.8 for reporting on where potential significant effects were identified.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Inclusion of landscape and visual effects within the cumulative assessment	The cumulative assessment includes landscape and visual effects.	Refer to the cumulative assessment.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Clarity of the locations of viewpoints on plans	Viewpoint plans have been produced at several scales to enable the locations to be clarified and in accordance with the GLVIA 3.	Refer to Figures 10-12a to 10-12j of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.3]**.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Statutory Consultee Response to Scoping Opinion, April 2019			
ECDC	Assessment of impacts to trees, photomontages undertaken for winter conditions, year 1, 5 and 15 and without landscaping	The effects on landscape features, including trees has been considered in the landscape assessment. As further studies, including a more detailed tree survey are undertaken, these findings will be updated and feed into the detailed design post consent. The photomontages illustrate the year 1 and year 15 assessments and includes the landscaping as this forms an embedded part of the Scheme. To illustrate these years without the planting would not be representative. A year 5 assessment has not been undertaken as it is considered that the year 1 and year 15 are proportionate and in line with GLIVA 3. An assessment at year 5 would not provide any additional effects from those assessed in the Year 1 scenario given the assumed small growth rates of new planting.	Refer to the landscape baseline, landscape effects, **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** for landscape effects and effects on visual receptors and **Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** which provides a Tree Survey appropriate for the iterative design process and planning application. Detailed tree surveys would be undertaken post consent as a requirement of the DCO as set out in the **Framework CEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.
ECDC	Additional viewpoints at A14/A11 junction, adjacent Warren Towers, Moulton Road, PRoW to the west of Sunnica West Site, PRoW to the north of the Sunnica East Site and Weirs Drove, Burwell. Agreement of LVIA methodology	These additional viewpoints have been included. The methodology is presented in Appendix 10C following responses to the Scoping Report which supported the methodology (SCC / WSC I.D. 324, 325 and 326).	Visual assessment and **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
ECDC	Inclusion of a Glint and Glare assessment	The stand-alone Glint and Glare Assessment has been reviewed and considered in the assessment of the landscape and visual effects.	Refer to the **Glint and Glare Assessment** in **Appendix 16A** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and section 10.8.
Forestry Commission	Confirmation of no ancient woodland within the Scheme	With reference to the High Level Tree Constraints Report, there is no ancient woodland in the Scheme.	Refer to the **Tree Constraints Report** in **Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.
Ministry of Defence	Glint and Glare assessment	The stand-alone Glint and Glare Assessment has been reviewed and considered in the assessment of the landscape and visual effects.	Refer to the **Glint and Glare Assessment** in **Appendix 16A** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and section 10.8.
National Grid	Request for slow and low growing species adjacent to and under overhead lines	This will be reviewed as part of the iterative design process through the development of the detailed LEMPs pursuant to the Outline LEMP.	Refer to the OLEMP in **Appendix 10I** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.
Natural England I.D. 245 and 246	Support of landscape character assessment and request for local landscape character areas and a visual assessment. Agreement on LVIA methodology.	Published landscape character assessments have been reviewed with the respective landscape character areas being included within the assessment. A local landscape character assessment has also been undertaken to add additional information to the published studies and the local effects. The methodology is presented in Appendix 10C.	Refer to the baseline section, Local Landscape Character Areas in **Appendix 10E** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, LVIA Methodology in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2],** Landscape Effects in **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and section 10.8.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Natural England	Detailing of mitigation measures, alternatives and cumulative assessments	The mitigation measures have been set out in the chapter and are set out on the Works Plans, illustrated on the Parameter Plans, **Figures 3-1** and **3-2** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** and are included in the Outline LEMP. The alternatives are set out in **Chapter 4: Alternatives and Design Evolution** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.1]**. A cumulative assessment has been undertaken in respect of landscape and visual matters.	Refer to the embedded mitigation section and the cumulative assessment.
Natural England	Incorporation of measures to improve access, Green Infrastructure and incorporation of Local Authority Green Infrastructure strategies. Assessment of impacts to public access, visual amenity and reference to relevant Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Following the review of published assessments and GI strategies (as set out in the baseline) the mitigation measures have been set out in the chapter and include a Green Infrastructure strategy set out in the Outline LEMP. The LVIA assesses effects on visual amenity, including recreational users of PRoW.	Refer to the baseline, embedded mitigation section and landscape and visual effects tables (**Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Public Heath England	Siting and design of new PRoW to ensure access across the life course of the Scheme and that the mitigation plans should identify the design principles or standards that will be adopted and any support for community engagement to promote use of these assets to local communities	New permissive routes have been included as part of the Green Infrastructure design and are set out on the Outline LEMP.	Refer to the **OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**
Suffolk County Council (SCC) / West Suffolk Council (WSC)	Site specific plans for managing biodiversity and future management plans, including identifying impacts, landscape and biodiversity enhancements	An Outline LEMP is submitted with the DCO Application, with detailed LEMPs to be brought forward in accordance with this document and approved by the local authorities. Impacts have been identified within the landscape assessment, which include enhancements to existing tree belts, e.g. The Avenue, permissive access and landcover.	Refer to the landscape assessment and Landscape Effects in **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2] and the Appendix 10I: OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**
SCC / WSC	Reference to the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment and Brecks Special Qualities Report	These published assessments have been reviewed within the baseline section of the LVIA and the respective landscape character areas included in the landscape assessment. The recommendations of these studies have informed the iterative design process and the embedded mitigation.	Landscape baseline, landscape assessments, Published Landscape Character Assessments in **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and Landscape Effects in **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
SCC / WSC	Value of pine lines	The value of the pine lines has been noted and considered in the assessment of landscape sensitivity. Their importance has also been considered in the design of the Scheme, with all structures offset from pine lines.	Refer to the landscape baseline, embedded mitigation section and Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]**.
SCC / WSC	LVIA methodology is broadly acceptable with expectation to agree representative and illustrative viewpoints and their methodology	The methodology is set out in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and viewpoints (including the methodology for illustration as either Type 2 or Type 4 images) have been agreed via discussions with the Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council.	Refer to the LVIA methodology and LVIA Methodology in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.
SCC / WSC	Cumulative impacts to be included in the assessment	Cumulative impacts from the individual sites as well as with other projects beyond the DCO scheme boundary have been included in the assessment.	Refer to the Cumulative Assessment section.
SCC / WSC	Assessment on residential receptors in respect of the Lavender Test	The Lavender Test relates to wind farms and residential amenity. The LVIA assesses the impact on residential receptors as set out in the methodology in Appendix 10C, which is considered appropriate to address residential visual amenity, including consideration of RVAA methodologies.	Refer to the methodology section and **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
SCC / WSC	Mitigation and compensation measures, landscape enhancements and an exemplar scheme in minimising landscape harm	The mitigation, compensation measures and enhancements are embedded in the OLEMP.	Refer to the embedded mitigation section and the **OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]]**.
SCC / WSC	Glint and Glare Assessment	The stand-alone Glint and Glare Assessment has been reviewed and considered in the assessment of the landscape and visual effects.	Refer to the **Glint and Glare Assessment** in **Appendix 16A** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2],** Landscape Effects in **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and Visual Effects in **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.
ECDC	Reference to the 'Devil's Dyke'	The Devil's Dyke (or the Devil's Ditch) has been included in the landscape baseline description as well as recreational users of it being considered in the visual assessment.	Refer to the landscape baseline and the assessment of visual receptors.
ECDC Tree Officer	Impacts to trees and details of mitigation measures	At this stage a High Level Tree Report has been undertaken which sets out initial mitigation measures, which are included for in the CEMP and OLEMP.	Refer to the **Tree Constraints Report** (**Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**)
Ramblers (Newmarket and District Group)	Detailing of routes either within the Scheme or in proximity to it	New permissive routes are included in Figure 3-1. This figures also demonstrate that existing routes are retained. Figure 10-4 also illustrates the existing public rights of way in and surrounding the Order limits.	The new permissive routes have been considered in terms of their improved recreational value to the landscape. Refer to Figure 3-1 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** for the alignment of the new routes.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council Responses to Landscape and PRoW Meeting, November 2019			
SCC / WSC	Ground truthing for the 2km study area and receptors beyond 2km, including Chippenham House Registered Park and Garden, Newmarket Gallops and Devils Dyke Scheduled Ancient Monument	Section 8.4 sets out the Area of Search and why the 2km study area is appropriate via ground truthing of fieldwork across a 5km area around the Order limits during winter months.	Refer to the methodology section. The assessment includes Chippenham House RPG and the Devils Dyke.
SCC / WSC .	Acceptability of GLVIA3, requirement for a detailed methodology, requirement for a RVAA and need for time period definitions and planting growth rates	The acceptability of GLVIA 3 is noted. RVAA is included for within the methodology, but as set out in the methodology section, it is considered not to be required due to no significant adverse effects to residential receptors at year 15. The period definitions have been provided for new planting growth rates.	Refer to the assumption section for the planting growth rates.
SCC / WSC	Cumulative landscape and visual effects, intra project effects between the different parcels of solar arrays and the sequential impacts	A cumulative intra project assessment has been undertaken with all relevant parts of the Scheme considered in the judgement of potential effects. A cumulative assessment with other projects has also been undertaken.	Refer to **Appendix 10G:Landscape Effects** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, **Appendix 10H: Visual Effects** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.
SCC / WSC	Concern over the location and direction of field of view on plans, with viewpoints requiring information and a detailed methodology for the photomontages	Plans have been updated in response to these comments which provide the additional information required.	Figures 10-12a to 10-12j of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.3]**.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
SCC / WSC	Additional viewpoints locations	The additional viewpoints have been included in the assessment.	Figures 10-12a to 10-12j of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.3]**.
SCC / WSC	Reference to Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan Joint Development and Management Policies Document' Policy DM13; 'Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks'	These policies have been reviewed as part of the landscape baseline.	Refer to the policy appendix (**Appendix 10A** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**)
SCC / WSC	Details of 'landscape buffers'	Details have been set out in the assumptions section for the landscape buffers which are secured through the Works Plans set out illustratively on the Parameter Plans (Figures 3.1 and 3.2) and are included in the OLEMP.	The planting proposals are illustrated on Figure 3-1 and 3-2 and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10I: OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**
SCC / WSC	Query on whether the red line boundary provides sufficient space for construction and operational activity	The Site boundary provides sufficient space for the construction and operational activity.	Refer to **Chapter 3: Scheme Description**
SCC / WSC	Detailed site information, including on trees and hedgerows	A **Tree Constraints Report** has been undertaken which sets out consideration of the trees to inform the design process and the assessment.	Refer to the Tree Constraints Report: **Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**
SCC / WSC	Draft Landscape and Ecology Management Plan is required	An Outline LEMP has been submitted with the DCO Application.	Refer to **Appendix 10I: OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
SCC / WSC	Details on landscape mitigation and boundaries and recreation access	These matters are secured through the Works Plans, set out illustratively on the Parameter Plans (Figures 3.1 and 3.2) and are included in the OLEMP.	Refer to the assumption section of the LVIA, set out in 10.3.
SCC / WSC	Neither sufficient nor sufficiently accurate information presented for us to agree how the viewpoints should be illustrated at this time	Viewpoints have been selected and are illustrated in accordance with the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 06/19.	Refer to **Appendix 10C: LVIA Methodology** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**
SCC / WSC	A narrative on the overall effects of the proposals on each village and identifying within each village how the effects might vary	A local landscape character assessment has been undertaken to assess the likely impacts and effects on the villages. This has been undertaken by a local landscape character assessment of the villages and identifying their sensitivity to the Scheme.	Refer to Refer to **Appendix 10E: Local Landscape Character Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**
SCC / WSC	Feedback on 8 photomontages / photo wires to be produced for the PEI Report	The location of the photomontages has been agreed with the LPAs.	Refer to **Appendix 10C: LVIA Methodology** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**
Suffolk County Council Landscape Officers, West Suffolk Council Landscape Officers and Suffolk County Council Area Rights of Way Officer Response to AECOM Memo 14th February 2020			
SCC / WSC	PEI Report viewpoints 1, 3, 4, 6 and 14b are acceptable with changes required to location 7a, 10a and N4C.	These viewpoints are included in the ES along with the required changes.	Refer to **Appendix 10F: Visual Baseline** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and **Appendix 10H: Visual Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
SCC / WSC	Viewpoints are generally acceptable with amendments required to N4B, 16, 27O and 27N.	These viewpoints are included in the ES along with the required changes.	Refer to **Appendix 10F: Visual Baseline** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and **Appendix 10H: Visual Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**
SCC / WSC	The methodology for visual representation needs to reference more clearly how and where it relates to Visual Representation of Development Proposals LI TGN 06/19 (see all of 3)	The Type 1 annotated photographs and Type 4 photowires and photomontages will be produced in accordance with LI TGN 06/19	Refer to **Appendix 10C: LVIA Methodology** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.
SCC / WSC	The viewpoint numbering needs to be comprehensively revised	The viewpoint numbering has been revised, so as to be sequential from east to west	Refer to Refer to **Appendix 10F: Visual Baseline** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].** and Figure 10-12.

10.5.3 **Table 10-3** summarises the meetings and statutory consultation matters and should be read in combination with the Consultation Report **[EN010106/APP/5.1]**.

Table 10-3: LVIA Related Meetings and Statutory Consultation Response Summary Table

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Landowners of land across Sunnica East Site A and Site B and Sunnica West Site A and Site B	Presentation and agreement of the proposed Scheme, Green Infrastructure and access arrangements.	Feedback and comments have been incorporated into the Works Plans and the OLEMP, as shown illustratively on Figures 3-1 and 3-2.	Refer to **Works Plans [EN010106/APP/2.2]** and the **Appendix 10I: OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and the illustration of the mitigation shown on Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2.

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Jockey Club	Views of the panels in Sunnica West Site A W5 and glint and glare	Glint and glare assessment.	**Chapter 3: Scheme Description** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.1]** and Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**
Godolphin Management Company	Visibility of the Scheme (Sunnica West Site A W4) from gaps in boundary vegetation. Potential noise from construction activity impacting horse training.	Temporary fencing installed locally along the boundary of W4 to screen views until the establishment of the proposed planting	Outline CEMP and secured in **Appendix 10I: OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**
Landowners	Extent of planting, planting (for screening) planting establishment, change in landscape character and management of new grassland.	The extent of new planting has been sited to screen the Scheme and reflect the existing landscape character. The establishment rates for the new planting have been derived from discussions with the LPA and are a precautionary approach. The management for the proposed grassland is mechanical in the short term followed by livestock grazing.	The extent of the new planting is illustrated on the Parameter Plans and secured through the **Works Plans [EN010106/APP/2.2]** and the Appendix 10I: **OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. The impacts and effects to the landscape character are set out in **Appendix 10G: Landscape Effects** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. The management for the new landscape planting is set out in **Appendix 10I: OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

Local Authorities	Extent of solar panels within the landscape and in proximity to villages.	The Scheme design has been revised following the consultation. At Sunnica East Site A the extent of proposed solar panels remains to the east of Beck Road, with panels removed from E07, so that the land to the west of Beck Road (Eco 1 and Eco 2) will be for ecological mitigation. This will retain the open character of the landscape between Freckenham and Isleham to the west of Beck Road. Sunnica East Site B – Parcels E11 and E23 are no longer proposed for solar development and will be for ecological mitigation and additional offsets from Worlington. These areas (Eco 3) will also reduce the extent of panels in relation to U6006. A new permissive path has been included across Sunnica East Site B, to provide access from Red Lodge to Worlington and Golf Links Road, via U6006. The Scheme also incorporates additional landscape buffers in relation to the BESS at E18 and E33. Sunnica West Site A – the extent of proposed solar development has been reduced, with the removal of parcels W13, W14 and W16. The extent of proposed development has also been reduced in	The **Works Plans [EN010106/APP/2.2]** and the **Appendix 10I: OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. The Parameter Plans illustrate the proposed design

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
		W15, with increased set backs from the local road networks.	
Local Authorities	The LVIA methodology	The LVIA methodology has been revised following discussions with the Local Authorities	**Appendix 10C: LVIA Methodology** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**
Local Authorities	The extent of the local landscape character areas and landscape effects	The local landscape character areas have been updated following discussions with the local authority to expand the analysis of local landscape character and review the landscape effects in relation to the revisions to the methodology.	Local landscape character area refer to **Appendix 10E: Local Landscape Character Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and landscape effects refer to **Appendix 10G: Landscape Effects** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**
Suffolk Council and West Suffolk Council Landscape Officers	LVIA methodology, including landscape and visual sensitivity	LVIA methodology amended to revise landscape and visual value and susceptibility.	**Appendix 10C: LVIA Methodology** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**
Suffolk Council and West Suffolk Council Landscape Officers	Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)	LLCA amended with addition detail provided	**Appendix 10E: Local Landscape Character Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**
Suffolk Council and West Suffolk Council Landscape Officers	Viewpoints, additional locations to south-east of Devils Dyke, at the Registered Park and Garden, along the B1085, Fordham House, road east of E33	Additional viewpoints (vp) have been included within the assessment as east of Devils Dyke (vp 59), at the Registered Park and Garden Heritage view 11), along the B1085(vp 34A), Fordham House (vp 48), road east of E33 (vp 2c)	Refer to **Appendix 10H: Visual Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
Suffolk Council and West Suffolk Council Landscape Officers	Design comments on the extent of panels, relationship to PRoW and villages and ecological aspects	The Scheme design has been revisited to reduce the extent of panels, with no panels to the west of Beck Road, to the north of La Hogue Road and in proximity to the Freckenham Road.	The Works Plans **[EN010106/APP/2.2]** and the **OLEMP** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. The Parameter Plans illustrate the proposed design
Management of Heritage Asset Meeting, Officers from SCC, West Suffolk, CCC, Historic England, April 2021			
Heritage Stakeholders	Non-intrusive methods for the implementation and establishment of grassland (landscape proposals)	Hand excavation and weeding, followed by non-intrusive seeding	**Appendix 10I:** OLEMP of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**
Heritage Stakeholders	Grassland Management	Shor term mechanical grazing followed by grazing by livestock	**Appendix 10I:** OLEMP of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**

10.6 Baseline Conditions

10.6.1 This section provides:

a. A description of the landscape baseline across the 2km study area;

b. An analysis of the landscape features within the Order limits;

c. The visual amenity in relation to views of the Order limits; and

d. A summary of the sensitivity of the landscape and visual receptors.

10.6.2 This section should be read in combination with the **Appendices 10A, 10B, 10C 10D, 10E** and **10F** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, which set out the relevant policy, methodologies which inform the conclusions reached and published landscape character areas, local landscape character areas, and the visual baseline descriptions in full.

Landscape Baseline

2km Study Area

10.6.3 With reference to Figure 10-1, the LVIA study area extends up to 2km from the Order limits.

10.6.4 The northern part of the study areas extends around Isleham and to the north of the River Lark, where it continues broadly parallel with the river to the south of Mildenhall and the southern edge of Mildenhall Woods. Within this section of the study area are the villages of Freckenham, Worlington, and Barton Mills to the west of the A11 and Red Lodge, to the east of the A11.

10.6.5 The central part of the study area extends across the northern edge of Newmarket, covering the Limekilns gallops and the A14 and Newmarket railway line. From Newmarket the study area extends northwards to Chippenham, Snailwell, and Fordham and eastwards to Kentford and Kennett.

10.6.6 The western part of the study area extends from Landwade to the north and west of Burwell, including West Fen and Burwell Fen and to the south of Reach, to cover part of the Devil's Dyke.

Landform and watercourses

10.6.7 With reference to Figure 10-2 the northern part of the study area is characterised by extensive areas of low lying and flat landform between 0-5m AOD.

10.6.8 The central part of the study area is characterised by undulating and elevated land between Chippenham Park and the east of Newmarket, up to 85m AOD.

10.6.9 The western part of the study area is characterised by flat land, situated between 0-5m AOD, with localised ridges or engineered watercourses (Lodes) which result in a more varied localised pattern to the landform.

10.6.10 To the north of the River Lark the landform rises very gradually with West Row and land around Mildenhall and Mildenhall Airbase situated around 10m AOD.

10.6.11 To the north of Isleham and adjacent to the River Lark, the landform remains flat and low lying at around 5m AOD. The course of the River Lark is gently meandering, with an engineered section diverted at Isleham Marina, to the north of Isleham.

10.6.12 The landform falls from the edge of Isleham, to form a flat tract of land between 0-5m AOD, before rising to Fordham at 10m AOD, whilst remaining generally flat at Freckenham. There is a narrow tract of elevated land, rising to 17m AOD between Isleham Road and Beck Road in this tract of land, which visually separates Fordham from Isleham and Freckenham.

10.6.13 Between Freckenham and Worlington, the landform is generally flat at around 10m AOD. To the north of Worlington the landform falls gently towards the River Lark and Barton Mills at 5m AOD. To the south-east of Barton Mills, the landform rises across Cherry Hill to 35m AOD, which forms an elevated tract of land to the east of A11.

10.6.14 The Lee Brook is a tributary of the River Lee and flows to the east of Isleham, between the river and Freckenham recreation ground. To the south-west of Freckenham the landform remains generally flat at around 10m AOD adjacent to the course of the Lee Brook, before rising to 15m AOD at Chippenham and Chippenham Fen.

10.6.15 The landform across Chippenham and Chippenham Park is at 20m AOD and forms a localised ridgeline extending to the south of Snailwell. To the north of Snailwell, the landform is undulating, falling towards the River Snail, before rising towards the southern edge of Fordham.

10.6.16 To the south of Snailwell and Chippenham Park, the landform falls southwards to the A14 and Newmarket railway line, before rising to 85m AOD, across Warren Hill and Chippenham Hill, to the east of Newmarket.

10.6.17 To the east of Newmarket, Landwade Park and Kentford, are located across the lower parts of Chippenham Hill and Church Hill respectively and either side of the River Kennet. The landform across this part of the study area is gently undulating between Kentford Heath and Red Lodge, at 15m AOD to 25m AOD.

10.6.18 In the western part of the study area, there are extensive tracts of flat and gently undulating landform across West Fen, which extends between Landwade and Burwell. There are also several large waterbodies and ponds within Landwade, associated with the watercourse flowing from St. Wendred's Well, to the south of the A14.

10.6.19 As West Fen transitions into Burwell Fen, the landform across this part of the study area is flat and low lying between 0m and 5m AOD, but there is localised variation as it rises to the north-east of Burwell, forming a ridgeline at 15m AOD.

10.6.20 An extensive network of linear ditches extends across this part of the Broads, around Reach and Burwell, including Reach Lode and Burwell Lode, which connect their respective settlements to the River Cam.

10.6.21 Within Burwell, the Burwell Lode connects to the Catch Water Drain which flows along the north-west edge of the village of Burwell.

10.6.22 To the south of Reach is the Devil's Ditch, an 11km long raised linear earth bank.

Settlement Pattern

10.6.23 With reference to Figure 10-1, the settlement pattern across the study area is strongly related to the landform and watercourses, with villages located on localised areas of elevated land or at river crossings. **Appendix 10D** and **Appendix 10E** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** provides more detail on the individual settlements as part of the local landscape character assessment (LLCA).

10.6.24 Freckenham is situated at the junction of Elms Road, Mildenhall Road and Mortimer Lane, approximately 1.9km from Fordham and 2.2km from

Isleham. Freckenham is the smaller settlement in comparison with Fordham and Isleham, concentrated either side of the Lee Brook and with the Church of St. Andrew in the south-east part of the village.

10.6.25 Fordham and Isleham are approximately 2.6km from one another and connected via Isleham Road. Isleham is situated adjacent to the B1104 (Station Road), Church Street, and West Street. The eastern edge of Isleham is locally known as 'East End'. The Church of St. Andrew is in the central part of Isleham, adjacent to Church Street. This church is visible when travelling along Beck Road, between Isleham and Feckenham.

10.6.26 Fordham is a linear village pattern, extending mainly west to east adjacent to the B1102, with a smaller concentration of properties either side of the River Snail and the junction with Snail Road.

10.6.27 Worlington is approximately 2.1km to the north-east of Freckenham and is a linear village, extending adjacent to Freckenham Road and Worlington Road. Red Lodge is to the east of the B1085, approximately 3km from Freckenham.

10.6.28 Chippenham is a linear village, situated adjacent to the B1085. Chippenham Lodge and Chippenham Stud are located to the east of the B1085, with Chippenham Hall and Chippenham Park to the south of village.

10.6.29 Newmarket is the main settlement in the study area, located to the south of the A14. Newmarket is a nucleated settlement, concentrated around the junction of the main road networks and bordered by equestrian land uses.

10.6.30 Kennett's small-scale residential land uses are clustered around the junction of Station Road and The B1085 and extend intermittently adjacent to Station Road to Kennett Station, to the north of the A14.

10.6.31 Burwell is the largest settlement in the western part of the study area, extending broadly north to south between Broads Road and the B1102. The western part of Burwell extends to the Catch Water Drain and The Weir's Drove Track, which connects with Burwell Road to provide access westwards to Reach.

10.6.32 There are intermittent properties adjacent to the B1102, between Burwell and Fordham, including a low number of individual farms across West Fen; however overall, the settlement pattern is sparse.

Transport Routes

10.6.33 As noted above, there is a hierarchy of road networks across the study area, with many of the B roads providing the only routes between villages. These reflect the historic road patterns via their straight alignments and narrow widths.

10.6.34 The main roads are across the southern part of the study area, with the A14 extending between Newmarket and Exning and to the south of

Kennett via the junction of the A1304, A14 and A11. The A1304 extends from this junction into the centre of Newmarket.

10.6.35 Between the A1304 and the A14 are several railway lines which converge at Chippenham Junction. These lines extend southwards into Newmarket and northwards across the Broads to Soham. These main roads and railway lines are located across the gallops of The British Riding School and cross the valley floor between Newmarket and Chippenham.

10.6.36 The B1102 extends between Burwell, Fordham and Freckenham. To the east of Freckenham the road extends to Worlington (Mildenhall Road / Freckenham Road). The B1104 (Station Road) extends from the south of Isleham to Chippenham and intersects with the B1102 to the west of Freckenham.

10.6.37 Other roads are the Isleham Road / Fordham Road, between the central part of Fordham and south-west edge of Isleham. Beck Road extends from the south-east edge of Isleham, crossing the Lee Brook via Beck Bridge, to connect with a relatively elevated staggered junction adjacent to Fourways Farm. To the north of this junction the road continues to West Road (Ferry Lane), crossing the River Lark via Jude's Ferry Bridge. To the east of this junction the road continues to Worlington and to the south of the junction the road connects with Mildenhall Road.

10.6.38 Elms Road connects the A11 to Freckenham. Bridge End Road and Badlingham Road both connect to Elms Road. Bridge End Road is a short route, which comes to a dead end adjacent to the A11. Badlingham Road continues through Badlingham to Chippenham.

10.6.39 Chippenham is situated adjacent to the B1085, which extends between Fordham and the A11. To the east of the A11, the B1085 continues southwards to Kennett, Kentford and Moulton. Chippenham Road connects Chippenham with Snailwell to the south-west, where it connects with Snailwell Road, which extends between the A142 and Newmarket.

10.6.40 From Kentford, the B1506 extends westwards to Newmarket, where it connects with the A1304.

10.6.41 In the western part of the study area, the A142 extends from Newmarket to the south of Fordham Abbey, where it diverts to the west of Fordham to connect with the B1102.

10.6.42 Former transport routes across the study area are still evident from the alignment of vegetation and road networks. This includes the dismantled railway between Isleham and Worlington, resulting in the B1104 rising in height to cross the former railway line to the south of Isleham and at the junction of Ferry Lane and Beck Road.

Land Use

10.6.43 The main land use across the study area is intensive agriculture, characterised by geometric fields of varying sizes often divided by drainage ditches and vegetation.

10.6.44 To the north of the River Lark, agricultural land uses extend across the northern part of the study area to Mildenhall before the land use changes to extensive tracts of woodland to the east of Mildenhall.

10.6.45 To the north of Isleham, the agricultural field pattern is smaller in scale than between Isleham and Freckenham, along with intermittent small-scale farms and small scale sewage works adjacent to Fen Bank Road. Also adjacent to Fen Bank Road is Isleham Marina, which consists of moorings and residential properties bordering the River Lark.

10.6.46 To the north of Elms Road, agricultural land uses extend from Freckenham to Worlington and Barton Mills, interspersed with pig farming and plantations to the north and south of Mildenhall Road / Freckenham Road and to the north of Elms Road.

10.6.47 At the eastern edge of this tract of land, and in proximity to the A11, is Worlington Quarry and Bay Farm solar farm. The Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club are to the south-east of Worlington, between Golf Links Road and the remains of a dismantled railway line.

10.6.48 Between Freckenham, Isleham and Fordham, the large-scale field pattern is interspersed by several reservoirs at Lee Farm, adjacent to the Lee Brook and small scale woodland plantations, including to the south of Isleham at Isleham Local Nature Reserve.

10.6.49 Agricultural land uses continue to the north-west of Red Lodge to Freckenham. The field pattern is geometric, although the scale of the fields varies, with larger scale fields to the south of the River Kennet and around Badlingham, with smaller, rectangular fields to the north of the River and adjacent to Elms Road, several of which are divided by pine lines. There are several reservoirs within this agricultural land use, consisting of engineered embankments.

10.6.50 Agricultural land uses continue between Red Lodge and Kennett, along with several individual farms and residential properties. Red Lodge's residential land uses are predominantly to the east of the B1085. To the north of Red Lodge's residential area there are employment and commercial land uses at King Warren Business Park, to the south of the A11.

10.6.51 Whilst agricultural land uses continue between Chippenham and Red Lodge, there are also leisure land uses including karting tracks adjacent to the A11 and B1085 and retail and commercial land uses at La Hogue Farm. To the east of the A11 and La Hogue Farm, Waterhall Farm and Dane Hill Farm are individual farms with associated residential and farm buildings.

10.6.52 Chippenham Park, which is to the south of Chippenham, is an estate consisting of landscaped grounds, bordered by mature woodland and Chippenham Hall.

10.6.53 To the west of Chippenham Park, agricultural land uses and Chippenham Fen are located between Fordham Abbey and Chippenham. Chippenham Fen consists of a National Nature Reserve characterised by undrained semi-natural fen and woodland.

10.6.54 To the south of Fordham Abbey and adjacent to the A142 is the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory and Snailwell industrial estates and business parks, characterised by large scale warehouse and extensive areas of hardstanding.

10.6.55 There are also industrial estates in the northern part of Newmarket, along with business parks and residential land uses, located to the south of the A14, between the B1103 and the A142.

10.6.56 Equestrian land uses principally border Newmarket, with the British Riding School situated between the A14 and Newmarket railway line to the north-east of Newmarket. These equestrian land uses are characterised by open and extensive grassed fields, studs, exercise tracks and training grounds. These studs and training grounds include:

a. The Limekilns, consisting of a triangular parcel of land between the A1304 and Well Bottom road;
b. The Railway Field and Sandy Gallop between the A1304, Newmarket railway line and A14; and
c. The Gallops, extending from the north of the A14 to border Snailwell.

10.6.57 In the western part of the study area, agricultural land uses extend between Reach and Burwell, consisting of small to medium scale geometric fields. This small-scale field pattern continues to the north of Burwell, until the plains of Wicken Fen, where the field size is larger and more open in character. The field pattern is crossed by several waterways (Lodes), including Burwell Lode.

10.6.58 Burwell Substation is situated to the west of Burwell, adjacent to Newnham Drove, with a smaller substation to the east of West Drove. The Burwell Substation consists of tall transformers and associated structures, and pylon towers extend northwards from the Substation, across Burwell Lode and West Fen. There is also a small-scale business park and sewage works to the north of Burwell, adjacent to Broads Road.

Vegetation Patterns

10.6.59 The agricultural land use results in a generally ‘open’ character to the landscape, although there are notable areas of vegetation, in terms of field boundaries, roadside and residential garden vegetation and woodland blocks, such that the vegetation patterns are varied across the study area.

10.6.60 With reference to the **Tree Constraints Report** in **Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and Figure 10-3, there is no ancient woodland within the Order limits, nor are there veteran trees.

10.6.61 The published landscape character assessments make reference to the 'pine lines', which are former pine shelterbelts and plantations which were planted in the 18th and 19th centuries to divide and enclose fields, as the pine trees established successfully in the poor soils. Today, the 'pine lines' are linear rows of tall pine trees, as shown in Plate 10-1.

Plate 10-1: An example of the Pine Lines

10.6.62 In relation to the Scheme, there are pine lines dividing fields across Sunnica East Site B, to the north and south of Elms Road.

10.6.63 To the north of Isleham, the vegetation cover increases adjacent to the River Lark, with mature trees within Isleham Marina, 'The Fen' woodland at the conflux of the Lee Brook and the River Lark, and woodland belts to the south of Mildenhall, adjacent to the River Lark.

10.6.64 Within Freckenham, woodland blocks extend adjacent to Elms Road, Mildenhall Road and to the north of North Street, such that the northern and eastern parts of the village are far more vegetated than the western part, adjacent to Fordham Road.

10.6.65 This pattern of woodland extends between Elms Road and Worlington, including around Worlington Quarry. The Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Course is also well vegetated, with mature trees dividing the fairways and bordering the course.

10.6.66 The vegetation cover is less extensive between Freckenham and Isleham, forming the western part of the Sunnica East Site. As such there is a more open character to this part of the study area. Many of the field boundary and roadside hedgerows are in varying condition, with extensive gaps along their length. The main vegetation tracts bordering Isleham are adjacent to the Lee Brook, Mortimer Lane and at Isleham Local Nature Reserve.

10.6.67 Between Freckenham and Chippenham, the vegetation patterns relate to the watercourses, with bankside vegetation adjacent to the Lee Brook and the River Kennett. The fields between Badlingham and properties on Bridge End Road are also divided by narrow tree belts, including pine lines, which are also present through parts of Red Lodge.

10.6.68 Within Chippenham Park, there are clumps of woodland and mature trees adjacent to The Canal, within Ash Wood and Gilford Woods to the west of Chippenham Hall. The pattern of individual trees and woodland blocks continues to the east of Chippenham Park, across Chippenham Lodge and Chippenham Stud, whilst the surrounding fields are open in character.

10.6.69 To the south of Chippenham Park, there are several plantations across the fields forming the Sunnica West Site A, with Foxburrow Plantation bordering a reservoir and Coachroad and Hundred Acre Plantations bordering the Lodge and southern entrance to Chippenham Park.

10.6.70 The Avenue consists of a mature intermittent linear tree belt extending from the north side of the A14 to the A1304. The linear form of this tree belt across the racing school training grounds is reflected in the mature linear hedgerows adjacent to the A1304, the B1506 and The Gallops. The embankments bordering the A14 and A11 are also generally well vegetated, with occasional breaks in the vegetation patterns in proximity to overhead bridges or road crossings.

10.6.71 From the northern edge of Newmarket, woodland blocks extend from the A14 towards Snailwell business park and industrial estates.

10.6.72 Within Fordham, the principal vegetation tracts extend through the central part of the village, adjacent to the River Snail, to Fordham Abbey Woods.

10.6.73 The main concentration of vegetation between Burwell and Fordham is at Landwade, with mature woodland blocks around Landwade Hall and along the unnamed watercourse to Exning.

10.6.74 Both Reach and Burwell, in the western part of the study area, are generally well vegetated via residential gardens and roadside vegetation bordering the road networks around the villages.

10.6.75 There is a block of woodland in the south-west part of Burwell, with mature tree belts extending adjacent to Newnham Drove and around Burwell Substation, while mature vegetation extends intermittently adjacent to the Catch Water Drain to Burwell Lode.

10.6.76 There is mature garden vegetation across the north-west part of Burwell, with a narrow block of woodland between the northern edge of Burwell and the business park and sewage works adjacent to Broads Road.

10.6.77 In relation to vegetation patterns along specific roads across the study area:

a. The A14 trunk road is bordered by mature trees as it extends around Newmarket, with a woodland block at the junction with the A142. Tree belts continue adjacent to the A14 until The Avenue, where the vegetation along the north side of the road is intermittent lower scrub and ruderal grassland across the cut slopes. The junction with the A11 is densely wooded, with tree belts and intermittent trees along both sides of the A14 towards Kentford;

b. The A11 trunk road is bordered by mature woodland at the junction with the A1304, but the extent of roadside vegetation decreases on the north side of the A11 as it crosses around the A14. From the junction, the roadside vegetation consists of intermittent trees until the junction with La Hogue Road, where tree belts then extend to Red Lodge. To the north of Red Lodge the roadside vegetation is more intermittent, with tracts of ruderal grassland and individual trees, until the River Lark and Mildenhall, where there is extensive woodland;

c. The A1304, between Newmarket and the A14, is bordered by high hedgerows on both sides of the road for its entire length. This continues until the junction with the A11 and A14 where the vegetation pattern changes to mature woodland. There are occasional breaks within the roadside hedgerows to enable equestrian access between the training grounds;

d. The B1102 between Burwell and Fordham are predominantly open in character, being bordered by fields. There are hedgerows and intermittent trees in proximity to Newmarket railway line;

e. The B1506, between Newmarket and Kentford is bordered by high hedgerows on both sides of the road. There are occasional breaks in the hedgerows to enable equestrian access. There are also alternating blocks of woodland adjacent to the road, with mature woodland on the south side of the road on the approach to Newmarket and on the north side of the road on the approach to Kentford;

f. The B1102, between Freckenham and Worlington (Mildenhall Road / Freckenham Road) is bordered by mature trees within Freckenham. Beyond the village the B1102 is bordered by hedgerows and trees, which extend either side of the junction with Ferry Lane. Hedgerows continue along the west side of the B1102 from the junction with Ferry Lane, with pine lines adjacent to the east side of the road. The height and density of the hedgerows increases on the approach to Worlington, with the roadside vegetation including mature trees;

g. The B1102, between Freckenham and the B1104 is bordered by hedgerows and mature garden vegetation within Freckenham. This abruptly ceases at the edge of the village, such that the road is bordered by a few intermittent trees. At the approach to the junction

with the B1104 the roadside vegetation increases with a hedgerow along the south side of the B1102; and

h. The B1104, between Isleham and the B1102 is bordered by intermittent hedgerows within Isleham along the east side of the B1104 and mature garden vegetation along the west side of the road. As the B1104 rises over the dismantled railway the road is bordered by tall hedges. However, the vegetation cover decreases substantially along the east side of the remainder of the road to the B1102, with a few intermittent hedgerows, whilst the hedgerow pattern along the west side of the road is more consistent.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and Other Public Access

10.6.78 PRoW references have been derived from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) on-line mapping (Ref 10-22) and the Suffolk County Council on-line Definitive Map (Ref 10-23).

10.6.79 With reference to Figure 10-4 the extent of PRoW across the study area is varied due to the land uses, with large tracts of land, particularly across the central part of the study area and between Fordham, Isleham, Worlington and Freckenham with no designated PRoW routes.

10.6.80 PRoW (footpath) W-398/030/0 follows the alignment of the River Lark and to the east of Mildenhall becomes the Lark Valley Path promoted route, in the northern part of the study area.

10.6.81 Within Isleham, PRoW (bridleway) 136/2 extends across the northern part of the settlement to Waterside. To the north of Isleham, PRoW (footpath) 136/3 extends from Waterside to Fen Bank Road.

10.6.82 Within Freckenham, PRoW (footpath) W-257/008/0 extends between Elms Road and the Church of St. Andrew. PRoW (bridleway) W-257/002/0, W-257/002/X and W-257/007/0 extend between the centre of Freckenham and Becks Road. However, there is no footway along Becks Road to Isleham.

10.6.83 To the east of Freckenham, PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0 extends between Elms Road and the B1102. PRoW (bridleway) 257/010/0 extends from Freckenham, along Elms Road, to an unclassified road (U6006). U6006 extends northwards from Elms Road to Worlington and is a publicly accessible route, including for equestrians and also extends southwards along Badlingham Road.

10.6.84 There is access between Badlingham Road and the A11 via PRoW (footpath) 257/003/0. PRoW (footpath) 585/005/0 crosses the overbridge above the A11 to provide access to the western edge of Red Lodge.

10.6.85 In the central part of the study area, PRoW (bridleway) 49/7 extends from Chippenham to the River Kennett.

10.6.86 PRoW (footpath) 92/16 extends southwards from Fordham towards Chippenham Fen. PRoW (footpath) 204/1 and 49/1 extend between Snailwell and Chippenham Fen.

10.6.87 PRoW (bridleway) 204/5 extends from Snailwell to the Avenue, to the east of Godolphin Gallops. The route then crosses the A14 and Chippenham Junction railway line and continues along the Avenue to the A1304. There are no designated PRoW routes between the Avenue and Chippenham Park, nor between The Avenue and Kennet. PRoW (footpath) 49/7 extends around the eastern edge of Chippenham and Chippenham Lodge Stud.

10.6.88 To the west of Landwade, Howlem Balk track (PRoW (byway) 35/15) and Haycroft Lane (PRoW (byway) 35/16) extend from North End to Burwell.

10.6.89 There are several PRoW (footpaths) between the southern edge of Burwell and Reach Road, along with a PRoW (bridleway) along part of the north-west edge of Burwell, adjacent to the Catch Water Drain.

10.6.90 There is also public access adjacent to Reach Lode and Burwell Lode, as well as Newnham Drove, adjacent to Burwell substation and Hightown Drove, which extend across Burwell Fen, between Reach and Burwell. To the north of Burwell Lode, there are several PRoW across West Fen, either along drove routes or access tracks.

10.6.91 There are many PRoW around Reach with two examples being the Straight Drove track and 7km linear track of the Devil's Ditch (PRoW (footpath) 191/10).

Designations

10.6.92 With reference to Figure 10-3, neither the study area, nor the Order limits, is covered by any statutory landscape designations (e.g. National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

10.6.93 With reference to the **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.1]** there are several Conservation Areas across the study area (but none within the Order limits):

a. Isleham Conservation Area, within the central part of the village;
b. Freckenham Conservation Area, within the central part of the village, including St. Andrews Church and the motte and bailey in the southern part of the village;
c. Chippenham Conservation Area, within the central part of the village;
d. Fordham Conservation Area, within the central part of the village, to the east of the River Snail;
e. Snailwell Conservation Area, within the central part of the village;
f. Newmarket Conservation Area, across the north-east part of the town; and

g. Burwell, with Burwell High Town Conservation Area in the southern part of the village and Burwell North Street Conservation Area in the north-west part of the village and extending to border part of the Catch Water Drain.

10.6.94 Chippenham Hall, in the central part of the study area, is a Grade II listed registered park and garden (Historic England list UID: 1000615), which includes a 19th century pleasure ground. The description for the park includes:

"the park is completely enclosed by a red-brick park wall… The main entrance to Chippenham Park is from the village on the northern boundary… The main C18 entrance drive, now (1999) disused, enters the park c 4.3km south of the Hall, off the A11 Bury Road on the northern outskirts of Newmarket… The drive, lined with beech (both drive and trees now (1999) partially lost), runs straight for c 3.2km until it reaches the park wall."

10.6.95 With reference to the **Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.1]**, there a many listed buildings and scheduled monuments across the study area including:

a. The Church of St. Andrew and the Priory Church of St. Margaret of Antioch (both Grade I) in Isleham;

b. Grade II* lodges and gatehouses to the south of Chippenham Park;

c. The Manor House (Grade II), Freckenham;

d. The Church of St. Andrew (Grade II), in Freckenham;

e. The Hall (Grade II) Queen Anne Revival Country House within Chippenham Park; and

f. Devil's Dyke – Reach to Woodditton.

10.6.96 With reference to the **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.1]**, there are many SSSI and CWS across the study area, including Chippenham Fen, Breckland, Devil's Dyke and Worlington Golf Course. The relevant ecological designations within the Order limits are:

a. Worlington Heath County Wildlife Site (CWS) and Badlingham Lane CWS, within the north-west part of Sunnica West Site B;

b. Snailwell Grasslands and Woods CWS in the western part of Sunnica West Site B; and

c. Havacre Meadows and Deal Nook CWS which is crossed by Grid Connection Route A.

Published Landscape Character Assessments and Related Studies

10.6.97 The study area is covered by published landscape character assessments and related studies at national, regional, county levels and neighbourhood levels.

10.6.98 Local planning authorities use published landscape character assessments as part of their planning policy evidence base and the published assessments often provide specific guidance or recommendations on managing landscape change.

10.6.99 The following section summarises the relevant LCA within the study area and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** which sets out the relevant matters of the published assessments in detail.

National Level Published Landscape Character Assessments

Natural England National Character Area (NCA) 46: The Fens

10.6.100 With reference to Figure 10-5, NCA 46: The Fens (Ref 10-24) extends from the western part of the study area, around Reach and West Fen to Isleham and the River Lark in the northern part of the study area.

10.6.101 In relation to the Scheme, the north-west edge of the Sunnica East Site A is in NCA 46: The Fens.

10.6.102 Relevant key characteristics of NCA 46: The Fens are that is a flat, expansive and low-lying wetland landscape, with extensive vistas to horizons and huge skies, such there is a sense or remoteness to the landscape.

10.6.103 The published study also notes that NCA 46: The Fens is a landscape where agricultural uses are constantly changing and that:

"Development on settlement margins can be particularly damaging, creating visual intrusion and resulting in the loss of surrounding landscape features and increasing the risk of coalescence…

10.6.104 Climate change is a noted 'drivers for change' within the landscape, relating to flooding and soil erosion:

"the Government's commitment to increasing energy from renewable sources means there is likely to be continued pressure to accommodate such schemes…;

existing rural landscape features should be protected, and positive management of those features lost or under threat should be encouraged. Restoration of hedgerows on the clay islands should be a priority."

10.6.105 Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) include improving recreational access and conserving, managing and enhancing the Fens landscape. Stated 'Landscape opportunities' include:

"Expand the total area of semi-natural habitat and increase connectivity to allow adaptation to climate change…;

Protect the long views and open expansive unwooded character of the landscape and work to visually mitigate the impact of large

structures including unsympathetic buildings and energy infrastructure that are highly visible in this flat landscape; and

Make use of village and town design statements and conservation area appraisals for informing future development proposals. Encourage design that minimises visual impact on local landscapes."

Natural England NCA 85: The Brecks

10.6.106 With reference to Figure 10-5, NCA 85: The Brecks (Ref 10-25) extends from the River Lark to the eastern part of Freckenham and to the south of Red Lodge.

10.6.107 In relation to the Scheme, Sunnica East Site B, Grid Connection Route A (between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B) and to Heath Plantation are in NCA 85: The Brecks.

10.6.108 The relevant key characteristics of NCA 85: The Brecks are that is a largely open, gently undulating and low-lying landscape, which is predominantly arable land, consisting of regular field layouts, often defined by Scots pine or hedgerows.

10.6.109 SEO for NCA 85: The Brecks include "conserving and enhancing landscape character and the historic environment; securing multiple benefits from infrastructure options through the provision and management of high quality green infrastructure networks and developing opportunities for access and outdoor recreation."

10.6.110 The 'Landscape Change' section notes that there has been some loss of the characteristic pines in the rows and belts, due to the fact that many of these trees are now in decline or senescent. Without planned and targeted replacement, their loss results in the erosion of landscape character. Additionally, the:

"NCA has seen an increase in in-field farming associated structures such as animal housing pens and infrastructure buildings connected with specialist pig farms, intensive indoor and outdoor poultry rearing sheds, new water storage reservoirs and the wide-scale use of large irrigation equipment. The use of plastic crop mulches has also seen an increase, changing the character of the landscape when in use."

10.6.111 Stated 'drivers for change' include increasing the size and connectivity of priority habitats, creating more resilient habitats and landscapes, including woodland cover and Green Infrastructure opportunities for access.

10.6.112 Stated 'landscape opportunities' including planting of Scots pine lines; ensuring new development enhances the landscape and secures multiple benefits through the provision of Green Infrastructure; reduces the impact of development on tranquillity and conserves and enhances the landscape character, including views to and from churches and other vernacular buildings.

Natural England NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk

10.6.113 With reference to Figure 10-5, NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk (Ref 10-26) extends across Burwell, Newmarket, Chippenham Park and Fordham, to the southern edge of Isleham and the western part of Freckenham.

10.6.114 In relation to the Scheme, most of Sunnica East Site A, the southern part of Grid Connection Route A, all of Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B and Grid Connection Route B and Burwell Substation Extension are within NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk.

10.6.115 Relevant key characteristics of NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk are that it is a rolling landscape, mostly in arable production and with sparse tree cover. The dykes are key archaeological features, with settlement focused in small towns and villages. The published study notes that around Newmarket are historically important horseracing land uses and that the stud farms:

"impose a distinctive geometric, enclosed and manicured pattern to the landscape."

10.6.116 SEO for NCA 87: Anglian Chalk include "conserving and promoting landscape and settlement character, open views, people's enjoyment of the area and the enhancement of green infrastructure."

10.6.117 Stated 'Landscape Change' include settlement expansion, replacement of agricultural land uses via horse paddocks and golf courses and the encroachment of the Newmarket 'stud' landscape.

10.6.118 Stated 'Landscape Opportunities' include the protection of character and integrity of the rural landscape; conserving key views to and from landmarks; minimising the visual impact and effects of development and conserving, enhancing and creating new public access infrastructure and linkages.

Summary of NCA Landscape Sensitivity

10.6.119 With reference to **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the landscape sensitivity for these NCAs has been assessed as high. This is due to their cultural and ecological associations overall high landscape value.

Regional Level Published Landscape Character Assessments

East of England Landscape Framework

10.6.120 With reference to Figure 10-6, the study area is covered by the Framework (Ref 10-27) Landscape Character Type (LCT) Lowland Village Chalklands and LCT Forested Estate Sandlands.

LCT Lowland Village Chalklands

10.6.121 LCT Lowland Village Chalklands covers most of the study area, extending as a narrow tract of land between Reach and Mildenhall, via the north of Newmarket.

10.6.122 In relation to the Scheme, most of Sunnica East Site A, the eastern part of Sunnica East Site B, most of Sunnica West Site A, all of Sunnica West Site B and part of Grid Connection Route A would be in the LCT.

10.6.123 LCT Lowland Village Chalklands is described as:

"Low lying, but gently rolling arable landscape, dissected by small streams, with a distinctive pattern of nucleated villages and a patchwork of woodlands and shelterbelts…

historic stone churches in nucleated villages act as local landmarks."

10.6.124 Views within LCT Lowland Village Chalklands are described as:

"an open landscape with long distance views."

LCT Forested Estates Sandlands

10.6.125 LCT Forested Estate Sandlands covers the north-east part of the study area, between Freckenham, Worlington and Red Lodge.

10.6.126 In relation to the Scheme, the central part of Sunnica East Site B Grid Connection Route A and the northern part of Sunnica West Site A are in LCT Forested Estate Sandlands.

10.6.127 LCT Forested Estates Sandlands is described as:

"This is a relatively simple landscape comprising extensive areas of conifer plantations, arable land and some remnant heaths, reflecting the underlying sandy soils. Scots Pine shelterbelts and 'pine lines' are defining characteristics."

10.6.128 Views within LCT: Forested Estate Sandlands are described as:

"This landscape has a 'blocky' structure, resulting from the mix of conifer plantations and open land, which creates a strong visual contrast between confinement in the forested areas and open space in the wide expanses of arable farmland."

LCT Planned Peat Fen

10.6.129 LCT Planned Peat Fen extends across the western and northern parts of the study area, between Burwell and the River Lark.

10.6.130 In relation to the Scheme, the northern edge of Sunnica East Site A, most of Grid Connection Route B and the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension are in LCT Planned Peat Fen.

10.6.131 LCT Planned Peat Fen is descried as:

"A flat, low lying and sparsely populated landscape characterised by dark peaty soils, a grid like pattern of large arable fields bounded by drainage ditches and wide views to distant, often dramatic skies."

Summary of LCT Sensitivity

10.6.132 With reference to **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the sensitivity of the LCT has been assessed as high, due to their high value, through cultural and ecological associations and perceptions of open areas of landscape.

County Published Landscape Character Assessments

Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (Suffolk LCA)

10.6.133 With reference to Figure 10-7, the Suffolk LCA (Ref 10-28), identifies several Landscape Types (LT) across the study area.

LT Estate Sandlands

10.6.134 LT Estate Sandlands cover parts of the northern and eastern sections of the study area, between Freckenham and Worlington, Chippenham and Red Lodge and Kennett and Kennett End.

10.6.135 In relation to the Scheme, the central part of Sunnica East Site B, most of Grid Connection Route A and the northern part of Sunnica West Site A are within LT Estate Sandlands.

10.6.136 The relevant key characteristics of LT Estate Sandlands are:

a. "Flat or very gently rolling plateaux of free-draining sandy soils;
b. Strongly geometric structure of fields enclosed in the 18th & 19th century; and
c. Characteristic 'pine lines' especially, but not solely, in the Brecks."

10.6.137 The visual experience is noted as including long views, but with little variation due to the planned nature of the landscape.

10.6.138 Key forces for change include the expansion of settlements and associated infrastructure. Land management guidelines for the LT Estate Sandlands are:

a. "Reinforce the historic pattern of regular boundaries;
b. Restore, maintain and enhance the pattern of locally distinctive 'pine lines';
c. Restore, maintain and enhance the network of tree belts and pattern of small plantations found across much of this landscape type; and
d. Develop opportunities for locally distinctive species such as the rare Brecks plants."

LT Rolling Estate Chalklands

10.6.139 LT Rolling Estate Chalklands extend centrally across most of the study area, covering Reach, Burwell, parts of West Fen, the land between Newmarket and Freckenham and across to Isleham, Worlington and Barton Mills.

10.6.140 In relation to the Order limits, the Scheme is located across LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, most of Sunnica East Site A, the eastern part of Sunnica East Site B, most of Sunnica West Site A, all of Sunnica West Site B, part Grid Connection Route A and the western part of Grid Connection Route B are in the LT.

10.6.141 The relevant key characteristics of LT Rolling Estate Chalklands are:

a. “Very gently rolling or flat landscape…;
b. Dominated by large scale arable production;
c. "Studscape" of small paddocks and shelterbelts;
d. Large uniform fields enclosed by low hawthorn hedges;
e. Shelter belt planting, often ornamental species;
f. A "well kept" and tidy landscape; and
g. Open views.”

10.6.142 The visual experience is described as:

“The feel of this landscape is one of open space with long views, which is emphasised by the straight roads and regimented pattern of belts and hedges. However, where the ’studscape’ is most apparent, belts of trees and woodland planting confine the views.”

10.6.143 The condition is noted as:

“This is a largely tidy and well-kept landscape that has been maintained by the income from farming the good soil and the horse racing industry. However, the expansion and suburbanisation of villages is eroding the local character.”

10.6.144 With regards to landscape sensitivity and change, the study notes that for this typology:

“Unless there is a ’studscape’ of tree belts and small enclosures, much of this landscape has long open views. Therefore, large buildings in the open countryside can be prominent. However, such changes can be accommodated with suitable planting that is consistent with the character of the landscape.”

10.6.145 Key forces for change include settlement expansion, changes in land management and leisure as a driving force in the economy.

10.6.146 Land management guidelines include reinforcing field boundaries and increasing plantations and chalk grassland.

LT Settled Fenlands

10.6.147 LT Settled Fenlands extend over the western part of the study area, to the north of Reach and Burwell and across parts of West Fen and over the northern part of the study area, along the course of the River Lark and Lee Brook.

10.6.148 In relation to the Scheme, the northern part of Sunnica East Site A, part of Grid Connection Route B and the Burwell Substation extension are in LT Settled Farmlands.

10.6.149 The relevant key characteristics of the LT are:

a. "Flat landscape of peaty soils;
b. Piecemeal enclosure of open common fen;
c. Small, narrow fields that are divided by straight, water-filled drains;
d. Small poplar plantations and occasional Scots Pine belts;
e. Smaller scale farming than in the Planned Fenlands; and
f. Comprehensively settled with farmsteads often forming clusters."

10.6.150 The visual experience of the typology is described as:

"The pattern of smallish fields and numerous farmsteads give a more 'lived in' feel to this landscape, which contrasts with the larger-scale fields and more isolated farmsteads of the planned fenlands to north, although the difference may not be obvious unless both landscapes are visited."

10.6.151 The condition is noted as:

"The array of small farms, with business parks and a golf course mixed in, as well as caravan sites, gives the droves and hamlets a busy air, which contrasts with the openness and isolation of the deeper fen areas. There are also greater development pressures and settlement expansion breaking down the pattern of plotlands and backyard farming."

10.6.152 With regards to landscape sensitivity and change, the study notes that for this typology:

"Although this is also a large-scale landscape, the tree cover, the mixed agriculture and the more complex pattern of settlement means that the Settled Fenlands feel more "lived in" than the Planned Fenlands."

10.6.153 Key forces for change include large-scale agricultural buildings in the open countryside and changes in land uses.

10.6.154 Development management principles for changes in agricultural land use note:

"the flat landform and use of existing and new tree lines can be effective in mitigating much of the visual impact."

10.6.155 Land management guidelines for the area include restoration and maintenance of shelterbelts and tree lines, habitat diversity and safeguarding archaeological remains.

Summary of LT Sensitivity

10.6.156 With reference to **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the sensitivity of these LT has been assessed as ranging between medium and high. This is due to the predominantly arable and pig farming land use, characterised by small to medium scale fields, along with settlements and infrastructure being present which demonstrate some ability to accommodate change.

Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines (CLG)

10.6.157 With reference to Figure 10-7, the CLG (Ref 10-29) covers the western part of the study area, with different character areas to those identified in the Suffolk LCA, which also covers this part of Cambridgeshire.

Area 2 Chalklands

10.6.158 Area 2 Chalklands covers the western part of Reach and Burwell, including parts of Burwell Fen and West Fen.

10.6.159 In relation to the Scheme, part of Grid Connection Route B and the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension is in Area 2 Chalklands.

10.6.160 Area 2 Chalklands is described as:

"a broad-scale landscape of large fields, low mechanically trimmed hedges and few trees. The eastern part of this area has a number of woodlands and shelter belts which help to break up the long distant views and give some form and character."

10.6.161 The principles for landscape improvement and management within Area 2 Chalklands include planting new woodlands, hedgerows and shelterbelts, as well as the management and creation of chalk grassland.

10.6.162 With reference to **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the sensitivity of Area 2 is assessed as medium.

Area 8 Fenlands

10.6.163 Area 8 Fenlands is also in the western part of the study area, covering most of Burwell Fen and West Fen.

10.6.164 In relation to the Scheme, part of Grid Connection Route B crosses Area 8 Fenlands.

10.6.165 A noted characteristic of Area 8 Fenlands is that:

"In the expansive open landscape isolated agricultural buildings, farmsteads and loose-knit villages are often prominent against a background of a constantly changing sky where vast cloudscapes provide drama and visual delight."

10.6.166 With reference to **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the sensitivity of Area 8 is assessed as medium.

Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment

10.6.167 The Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 10-30) describes the distinctive character of the Brecks and supports the positive management of the area.

10.6.168 With reference to Figure 10-8, the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment focuses on Landscape Character Types (LCT) within the Brecks, covering the north-east part of the study area.

Landscape Character Types Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic

10.6.169 Landscape Character Type Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic is in the northern part of the study area, extending between Freckenham, Worlington and the A11.

10.6.170 In relation to the Scheme, most of Sunnica East Site B is within this Landscape Character Type, along with Grid Connection Route A (between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B) and to Heath Plantation.

10.6.171 The distinctive landscape characteristics include:

a. "Flat or gently sloping plateaux underlain by chalk, but with free-draining sandy soils;
b. Large scale mosaic of lowland heath, mixed farmland, conifer plantations, broadleaf woodland and tree belts;
c. Belts of contorted Scots pine form a striking silhouette against the fields, defining the Brecks;
d. Strongly geometric structure of fields, tree belts, roads and tracks; and
e. Virtually no villages, but a dispersed pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and estates."

10.6.172 The 'present landscape character' description includes:

"In the 20th century the widespread use of irrigation has transformed the agricultural potential of the land and irrigated vegetable crops form part of the agricultural mosaic. Pig farming is also common and often visually prominent…

This is a relatively open and very extensive landscape, with long views which are always framed by pine lines and plantations. The straight roads are busy noisy corridors of movement, but away from the roads the landscape feels remote and peaceful, with a touch of wilderness at times.

The landscape has a richly textured, colourful and rather unkempt character – the smooth, cultivated arable fields contrast with the rough textures of the bracken strewn verges and pine lines alongside. Arable fields predominate, but intensive pig farming and some poultry farming also forms part of the land cover mosaic. The changing patterns and textures of the crops, meadows and verges contributes to the colourful character of the landscape.

Overall the diverse and historic pattern of heath, fields, plantations and pine rows and the rich sense of history stretching right back to Neolithic times, combine to make the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic an exceptionally distinctive and evocative landscape."

10.6.173 Valued components of the landscape include:

"The diverse pattern of land uses and varied backdrop of woodland and tree belts ensures that, from a visual point of view, this landscape can generally accommodate change, through carefully designed woodland planting. However, the wild character and perceived remoteness of the open heaths is sensitive to landscape change; any built development, signage or fencing could be visually intrusive in this natural landscape. The pine lines are also important and sensitive landscape features because they are the most distinctive characteristic of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic, instantly recognisable as representing the Brecks."

10.6.174 The published study concludes the condition of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic is moderate to poor and the 'landscape character sensitivity' is described as:

"The diverse patchwork of fields, heath, woodland and tree belts provides a robust visual structure for accommodating landscape change. Areas that are managed for biodiversity are in good condition, many historic features are overgrown, the pine lines are deteriorating, and the uniform age structure makes this locally distinctive feature vulnerable to change."

10.6.175 'Visual sensitivity' is described as:

"Long views are always framed by woodland blocks and/ or pine lines but there is nevertheless a long depth of view. Some areas of heathland are exceptionally open. Overall the landscape feels moderately open, and most areas have good opportunities to mitigate the visual impact of landscape change."

10.6.176 The published study states:

"The diverse pattern of land uses and varied backdrop of woodland and tree belts ensures that, from a visual point of view, this landscape can generally accommodate change, through carefully designed woodland planting."

10.6.177 Relevant aspects of the '*landscape strategy*' relating to new development or conversion of farmland include:

"Avoid or minimise the visual impact of new development in views across or adjacent to natural heathland, where such changes could detract from the natural, wild character of the heathland landscape which is increasingly scarce."

10.6.178 The 'new infrastructure development' guidance includes:

"Extend existing woodlands and tree belts with new planting that is carefully designed to screen the abrupt slopes and access roads that are associated with new storage reservoirs. Extensive new planting will be required to integrate this form of infrastructure within this relatively open arable landscape;

There may be opportunities to create valuable dry heathland habitats on bare ground and newly constructed embankments, provided locally sourced substrate with impoverished soils is used; and

Ensure new hedgerows are planted alongside new or altered roads in order to reduce the perceived scale of road developments and integrate with the existing network of rectilinear boundaries. Blocks of woodland should extend right up to the edge of roads in places, creating 'pinch-points along the roads and adding variety to local views."

10.6.179 From the above and with reference to **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the sensitivity of LCT Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic is assessed as high.

Landscape Character Type Low Chalk Farmland

10.6.180 With reference to Figure 10-8, the Low Chalk Farmlands covers a small part of the north-east part of Sunnica East Site B.

10.6.181 The published study notes that the Low Chalk Farmland is an area of flat or very gently sloping farmland, characterised by medium to large scale arable fields which are often interspersed with woodland.

10.6.182 The stated landscape sensitivities include wooded skylines and in relation to visual sensitivity, the published study states:

"Elsewhere the gateway views from settlements and rural roads are particularly vulnerable to change."

10.6.183 From the above and with reference to **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the sensitivity of LCT Low Chalk Farmland is assessed as medium.

Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

10.6.184 The Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (Ref 10-31) is designed to assist in shaping and co-ordinating the delivery of Green Infrastructure in the county and the creation of new landscapes through development.

10.6.185 With reference to Figure 10-9 the strategic network is separated into six areas, with the following relevant to the study area:

a. Area 4: Eastern Towns and Fens – covering the northern part of the study area but none of the Scheme;

b. Area 5: Chippenham Fen – covering most of Sunnica West A and parts of Grid Connection Route A and Grid Connection Route B. The strategy has an emphasis in reversing the decline in biodiversity and that there are significant opportunities for improving and maintaining the fen landscape in respect of contributing to landscape character; and

c. Area 6: Cambridge and Surrounding Areas – covering the western part of the study area, and parts of Grid Connection Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension. There is a particular emphasis on 'heritage', opening up land for nature conservation and creating economic opportunities for the local community.

The Brecks' Special Qualities

10.6.186 The Brecks Special Qualities (Ref 10-32) analyses and articulates what is meant by 'The Brecks'. In relation to the Scheme, the Sunnica East Site B and most of the Grid Connection Route A are in The Brecks.

10.6.187 Relevant landscape patterns include:

a. "Large scale fields and blocks of farmland;

b. Belts of Scots Pine and conifer plantations;

c. Villages concentrated on the sides of valleys;

d. Very strong sense of history (time depth) due to barrows, roads, warren banks, field systems and parklands; and

e. An 'oddly empty' landscape."

10.6.188 Guidelines for the 'oddly empty' character of the Brecks include:

a. *"Retain the characteristic dispersed pattern of settlement;*

b. *Avoid linear roadside development; and*

c. *Recognise and promote the value of extensive tranquil, undisturbed areas of countryside."*

10.6.189 Guidelines for the 'heathland mosaic' character include:

a. *"Retain, conserve and enhance valuable lowland heathland habitats;*

b. *Extend and connect core heathland habitats wherever possible; and*

c. *Conserve and manage rare fluctuating meres and pingos."*

10.6.190 Guidelines for the 'pine lines' include:

a. *"Conserve all the remaining historic Brecks pine lines; and*

b. *Initiate sustainable management of the pine lines, with a programme of replanting."*

10.6.191 Guidelines for the 'hidden history' character include:

10.6.192 *"Conserve the setting and integrity of historic features so that they are visible and easily interpreted as part of the distinctive local character of the Brecks."*

Conservation Area Appraisals

10.6.193 At the time of undertaking the assessment in May 2021, there were no Conservation Area Appraisals for Isleham, Worlington, Badlingham and Snailwell.

10.6.194 Conservation Area Appraisals for Barton Mills, Freckenham, Burwell and Newmarket were reviewed.

10.6.195 The Freckenham Conservation Area Appraisal, 2010, (Ref 10-33) includes the following key characteristics of the village:

a. "Village on the fen edge; and

b. Church Tower provides a landmark seen from the south."

10.6.196 The Freckenham Conservation Appraisal notes views from the southern part of the Conservation Area, around Beacon Mound and views of St. Andrews Church from the cemetery, Church Lane and the meadows to the west of the church.

10.6.197 The Burwell North Street Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document (Ref 10-34) analysis the townscape character of the Conservation Area on a street by street basis. The Conservation Area Document notes that the 'key views' are 'up and down' the streets. There are no key views identified towards the Order limits.

10.6.198 The Burwell High Town Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document (Ref 10-35) similarly identifies the streets and buildings within Conservation Area. The 'key views' include locations within the Conservation Area, from which the surrounding countryside is visible.

Neighbourhood Level

Village Design Guides

10.6.199 At the time of undertaking this assessment, there were no village design guides for villages in proximity to the Order limits, i.e. Isleham and Worlington.

Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan Landscape Character Assessment and Key Views Study (2020)

10.6.200 The Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan (Ref 10-36) identifies five townscape character areas within the village and four rural character areas (R) surrounding the village.

10.6.201 Sunnica East Site A covers parts of R1 West and R2 North, with Sunnica East Site B covering parts of R3: East. The published study states in relation to R3: East:

"the landscape does have some capacity, in landscape character terms, for solar arrays, provided it is associated with existing woodland structure. By using and extending the existing woodland structure to help assimilate and provide screening, arrays contained in land parcels surrounded by belts of woodland would, over time, become well assimilated although the loss of openness would have to be accepted. Impacts at first however could be sizeable - large scale land use change could result in substantial visual impacts that local communities will find challenging."

10.6.202 The landscape sensitivity of R1, R2 and R3, with reference to **Appendix 10D** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, is assessed as ranging between high and medium.

10.6.203 The published study also identifies several key views within and around Freckenham. Those relevant to the Order limits (i.e. from which the Scheme may be visible) are:

a. View 2: North of Mortimer Lane (visual receptor 8A);
b. View 3: Meadow north of Mildenhall Road (visual receptor 9A);
c. View 4: Bridleway to east (visual receptor 13A);
d. View 6: Elms Road approach (visual receptor 17A).

10.6.204 The published study defines a key view as:

"A key view is a publicly accessible viewpoint that reflects the most distinct and unique characteristics of the Neighbourhood Area. It is memorable and appreciated and evokes positive emotions. It encompasses an important feature of the village's settlement history and the way its landscape has been shaped by those who have lived and worked in it, and by nature. It may be said to be worthy of being illustrated in a photo, postcard or painting and as such would best represent a special element of the village's identity."

Local Landscape Character Areas defined by the Applicant

10.6.205 To provide an additional level of detail to the above published studies the LVIA field work has identified local landscape character areas (LLCA) across the study area.

10.6.206 These LLCA are illustrated on Figure 10-10 and their key characteristics are set out in **Appendix 10E** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** along with their sensitivity. In summary, the LLCA consist of:

a. Small villages, often concentrated around road junctions and separated from one another by fields, such that the road networks provide the main methods of travelling through the landscape and perception of transitioning between the villages;
b. Agricultural fens, characterised by open field patterns, generally low vegetation cover and limited public access. The condition of the field

hedgerows varies with the ‘pine lines’ forming a notable feature of the skyline;

c. Larger villages and market towns located at the junction of the main roads and infrastructure networks;

d. Conservation Areas, most often located within the larger villages and characterised by churches, which form visible landmarks from the surrounding areas;

e. Ecological fens, where the ecological value is designated by national nature reserves;

f. Registered Park and Gardens; and

g. Horse racing, characterised by manicured training grounds, gallops and stables and trees and hedgerows in good condition.

10.6.207 With reference to **Appendix 10E** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the value of the LLCA mainly ranges between medium and high. This is due to the fen landscapes, Conservation Areas and registered park and gardens being of regional importance, cultural and ecological association and locally characteristic features such as the ‘pine lines’ as illustrated by Figure 10-3.

10.6.208 The susceptibility of the LLCA mainly ranges between low to high. The low susceptibility is due to many developed areas or fields without landscape features such that development could be accommodated. The high susceptibility is due to Conservation Areas, or defined ‘stud’ landscapes, with limited ability to accommodate change.

10.6.209 With reference to **Appendix 10E** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the combination of the value and susceptibility results in the sensitivity of the LLCA ranging between low to high.

The Order limits Level Landscape Character

Sunnica East Site A Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.210 With reference to the Order limits, the Sunnica East Site A extends to the west of Ferry Lane and covers 223ha.

10.6.211 The landform across the Sunnica East Site A is predominantly flat, situated at around 10m AOD.

10.6.212 The Sunnica East Site A does not cover any of the settlements in the study area. Isleham is approximately 0.5km to the north-west and Freckenham is approximately 0.6km to the south of Sunnica East Site A, at its closest point.

10.6.213 The land use across the Sunnica East Site A is agricultural, based around Lee Farm, with either arable or pig pens, consisting of large scale fields which are open in character.

10.6.214 To provide additional detail to the landscape character and land use within the Sunnica East Site A and with reference to Figure 3-1

[EN010106/APP/6.3], parts of the Sunnica East Site A have been divided into the following parcel references (E):

a. E01 to E04 are in the north-west of the Sunnica East Site A. The Fen woodland forms the northern boundary and the reservoirs and access track at Lee Farm form the southern boundary. The Lee Brook forms the western boundary and an intermittent hedgerow tree group form the eastern boundary. The fields are open in character with hedgerows between E03 and E04;

b. E05 forms the north-west part of the Sunnica East Site A, between Beck Road and the Lee Brook. E05 consisting of several fields which are open in character. There are a few individual trees along the southern edge of E05, adjacent to Beck Road and a small woodland block adjacent to the Lee Brook in the south-east part of E05;

c. Land to the west of Beck Road (Eco1and Eco2) form the west part of the Sunnica East Site A, between the dismantled railway line and to the south of Beck Bridge. The fields are open in character, although the northern and western edges of Eco1 are bordered by intermittent hedgerows. PRoW W-257/007/7, W-257/002/X and W-257/002/0 crosses the eastern edge of Eco2, crossing between Beck Bridge and Mortimer Lane;

d. E08 to E10 are in the north-west of the Sunnica East Site A, to the south of E03 and E04 and reservoirs and access track to Lee Farm. Ferry Lane forms the eastern boundary to E08 and E10, with Beck Road forming the southern boundary to E09 and E10. The elevated junction of Beck Road and Ferry Lane forms the south-east boundary to E10. The fields are open in character, although there is a hedgerow along the southern edge of fields E09 and E10 and hedgerows and trees along the eastern edge of E10, which extend to a small woodland block bordering the elevated junction of Beck Road and Ferry Lane; and

e. E33 is located between the reservoirs at Lee Farm and Ferry Lane and is contiguous with E04, which forms the northern boundary and E08 which forms the southern boundary.

10.6.215 With reference to Figure 10-4, Beck Road is predominantly open in character, being bordered by fields. There are intermittent hedgerows around the junction with Sheldrick's Road and the dismantled railway. There is block of mature woodland adjacent to Beck Bridge, which transitions to hedgerows along both sides of the road until the elevated junction with Ferry Lane.

10.6.216 With reference to the **Tree Constraints Report** (**Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**) Ferry Lane, between Freckenham and West Row, is bordered by mature woodland on the east side of the lane at the junction with the B1102. From Freckenham, both sides of the lane are bordered by hedgerows, which extend into a row of mature trees. To the north of these trees, the vegetation patterns return to hedgerows, with some gaps and taller scrub and young trees at the elevated junction with Beck Road. To the north of the junction the lane is

bordered by hedgerows, until the junction with the access road to the reservoirs by Lee Farm, where the lane to West Row is bordered by intermittent hedgerows and mature trees including Scots pine, particularly along the eastern side of the lane.

10.6.217 The Sunnica East Site A is crossed by the following PRoW:

a. PRoW (footpath) W-257/007/7, W-257/002/X and W-257/002/0 which cross the eastern edge of Eco2, between Beck Road and Mortimer Lane.

10.6.218 As set out above, the Sunnica East Site A is not covered by any statutory landscape designations; neither is it covered by any Conservation Areas and nor does it contain any listed buildings.

10.6.219 With reference to GLVIA 3, the PRoW across Eco2 provides a recreational value, but the remainder of Sunnica East Site A is not publicly accessible. There are no rare landscape features across Sunnica East Site A. The agricultural fields are a common land use and the combination of their generally flat landform and low lying position enables the perception of vegetated skylines, or buildings in Isleham and Freckenham when travelling along Becks Road.

10.6.220 The aesthetic of Sunnica East Site A is therefore of large scale fields which are generally geometric in form and where the colour tones reflect those of a rural landscape, alternating between the earthy browns of winter to that of an arable crop in summer. The texture therefore also varies as a result of the change in vegetation cover. In terms of perception, there is no sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to road networks and Lee Farm, which consists of several large scale silos and associated farming equipment. There is also the perception of both Freckenham and Isleham, via inter-visibility with their churches, specifically from along Beck Road and on the approach to Feckenham via public rights of way. The proximity to these features also reduces the tranquillity across Sunnica East Site A. The experience of Sunnica East Site A is therefore of a rural landscape between settlements which is open in character and forms part of the setting to these settlements. This perception is via road networks and public footpaths, such that the experience is transient, and of a landscape which one moves through.

10.6.221 The landscape value of Sunnica East Site A is therefore assessed as medium.

10.6.222 As fields which are open in character and in part bordered by roadside hedgerows or vegetation adjacent to the Lee Brook, the susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

10.6.223 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Sunnica East A having a **medium** sensitivity to the Scheme.

Sunnica East Site B Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.224 With reference to the Order limits plan, the Sunnica East Site B extends to the east of Freckenham Road and to the south of Elms Road and covers 319ha.

10.6.225 The landform across Sunnica East Site B is generally flat, although there is also localised variation at the north-east edge, where the landform adjacent to the A11 rises up to 20m AOD, across the lower slopes of Chalk Hill.

10.6.226 The Sunnica East Site B does not cover any of the settlements in the study area, although borders the southern and eastern edges of Worlington. Red Lodge is approximately 0.4km to the east and Badlingham is approximately 0.5km to the south-west.

10.6.227 The land use across the Sunnica East Site B is predominantly agricultural, as either arable of pig farming. The field pattern is a combination of large to smaller scale fields, which are generally geometric or planned in form. Whilst the fields themselves are open in character, the intervening pine lines or hedgerows along the boundaries of the fields results in a wooded context to the Sunnica East Site B.

10.6.228 To provide additional detail to the landscape character and land use within the Sunnica East Site B and with reference to Figure 3-1 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]**, parts of the Sunnica East Site B have been divided into the following parcel references (E):

a. ECO3 and E12 are located in the western part of the Sunnica East Site B, between the B1102 and U6006. The fields are open in character and bordered to the east by pig farming and Surprise Hill woodland and residential properties to the north, adjacent to the B1102;

b. E13 to E18 are to the east of U6006, extending to Elms Road, which forms the southern boundary to E16 and E18. The eastern boundary to E13-E18 consists of fields and woodland blocks, including mature woodland around Worlington Quarry. The fields within E13-E18 are small in scale, rectangular in form and divided by mature tree belts;

c. E19 to E22 are to the south of Elms Road, forming the southern part of the Sunnica East Site B. Similar to E13 to E18, the fields are smaller in scale, rectangular in form and divided by mature tree belts, including Scots pine and a small reservoir. Residential land uses adjacent to Bridge End Road form the eastern boundary to E19 to E22, with PRoW W-257/003/0 forming the southern boundary to E19 and E22;

d. E24 to E25 are two larger scale fields to the west of Newmarket Road. Both fields are open in character and divided by a vegetated access track to pig farms and woodland belts which form the western boundary;

e. E26 to E29 are four fields to the east of Worlington Road at the north-east part of the Sunnica East Site B. Each field is broadly the same, being small in scale and square in form. E26 to E29 are divided by

mature vegetation such that they are well enclosed in relation to the wider landscape. There is small mature tree clump within the central part of E29; and

f. E30 to E32 form the north-east part of the Sunnica East Site B, located to the south of Golf Links Road and with the A11 forming the eastern boundary. A rectangular block of mature woodland forms the southern boundary to E30 and E32, across the rising ground at the base of Chalk Hill. E30 is rectangular in form and divided from E31 and E32 by a narrow tree belt, with all parcels open in character.

10.6.229 With reference to the **Tree Constraints Report** (**Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**), the main tree species within the Sunnica East Site B include hybrid black poplar (*Populus* × *canadensis*), white poplar (*Populus alba*), oak (*Quercus* sp.), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra*).

10.6.230 Across the southern part of the Sunnica East Site B there are several semi mature pine plantations and a large linear groups of pine and poplar which denote field boundaries. These groups also contain a number of large broadleaf woodlands, consisting of predominantly oak and beech mixed with occasional pine. There are no likely veteran or ancient trees within the Sunnica East Site B.

10.6.231 Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham is bordered by hedgerows and intermittent trees, including pine trees on the south side of the road and mature woodland belt on the north side of the road between the A11 and Bridge End Road. Between Bridge End Road and Badlingham Road, Elms Road is bordered by tall hedgerows on both sides of the road, although the condition is varied, such that are gaps in the hedgerows and around the access gates to fields. At the junction with Badlingham Road the hedgerow pattern is more intermittent with intermittent trees, such that there is a more open character to this part of Elms Road, until mature tree belts on the north side of Elms Road demarcate the edge of Freckenham.

10.6.232 The Sunnica East Site B is crossed by the following PRoWs:

a. U6006 extends from Elms Road to Worlington, across the eastern part of the Sunnica East Site.

b. PRoW W-257/003/0 is adjacent to the southern boundary of Sunnica East Site B, to the south of E19 and E22.

10.6.233 As set out above, the Sunnica East Site B is not covered by any statutory landscape designations; neither is it covered by any Conservation Areas or contain any listed buildings.

10.6.234 With reference to GLVIA 3, U6006 provides a recreational value, but the remainder of Sunnica East Site B is not publicly accessible. The agricultural fields are a common land use, although the vegetation patterns, including the pine lines are noted as features in the published landscape character assessments.

10.6.235 The aesthetic of Sunnica East Site B is of medium to small scale fields which are geometric in form and where the colour tones reflect those of a rural landscape, alternating between the earthy browns of winter to that of the greens and yellows of an arable crop in summer. There is also pig farming which reduces the seasonal colour change. There is a texture from the vegetation cover and pine lines, which also results in a yearly green colour tone to this part of the landscape, being evergreen vegetation. In terms of perception, there is no sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to road networks, including Elms Road, pig farming and Worlington, which are perceived visually and aurally. The proximity to these features also reduces the tranquillity across Sunnica East Site B. The experience of Sunnica East Site B is therefore of a rural landscape forming part of the setting to Freckenham and Worlington. This perception is via road networks, such that the experience is transient, and of a landscape which one moves through.

10.6.236 The landscape value of Sunnica East Site A is assessed as medium.

10.6.237 As fields which are open in character and bordered or divided by tree belts or vegetation, the susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

10.6.238 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Sunnica East Site B having a **medium** sensitivity.

Sunnica West Site A Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.239 With reference to the Order limits plan, the Sunnica West Site A is in the central part of the study area, to the north-east of Newmarket and covers 373ha.

10.6.240 The Gallops forms the western boundary to the Sunnica West Site A. Fields, woodland blocks, Chippenham Park and the B1085 form the northern boundary; fields to the west of Kennett form the eastern boundary and the A14 forms the southern boundary.

10.6.241 There are two unnamed watercourses which flow across the Sunnica West Site A. The first, flows across around the edge of Chippenham Park and across the northern part of the Sunnica West Site A. The second flows between the A11 and The Willows, to the south of Dane Hill Farm, via Halfmoon Plantation.

10.6.242 The landform across the Sunnica West Site A is gently undulating. At the western edge of the Sunnica West Site A the landform rises from the A14, at 30m AOD, to 40m AOD before falling back to Chippenham Road at 35m AOD. In contrast, the landform falls very gradually across the central part of the Sunnica West Site A, from the junction of the A14 and A11 at 25m AOD, to the edge of Chippenham Park, at 20m AOD. Similarly, in the eastern part of the Sunnica West Site A, the landform falls from La Hogue Farm, at 30m AOD, northwards towards the unnamed stream bordering Chippenham Park at 20m AOD, whilst remaining generally flat across Dane Hill and Halfmoon Plantation to the south, at 30m AOD.

10.6.243 The Sunnica West Site A does not directly border any settlements. Chippenham is approximately 1km to the north of the northern part of the Sunnica West Site A; Kennett is approximately 0.8km to the east of the eastern part of the Sunnica West Site A and the eastern edge of Newmarket is approximately 1.5km to the south-west of the Sunnica West A Site.

10.6.244 Part of the B1085 forms the northern edge of the main part of the Sunnica West Site A. The A11 separates the eastern part of the Sunnica West Site A. Chippenham Road and Golf Links Road form the north-west and north-east boundaries of the Sunnica West A Site respectively.

10.6.245 The land use across the Sunnica West A Site is agricultural, consisting of small to medium scale fields. The field pattern to the north of the A14 is more geometric than the fields to the south of the A11. There are several small wooded plantations and woodland belts within the fields.

10.6.246 To provide additional detail to the landscape character and land use within the Sunnica West Site A and with reference to Figure 3-1 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]**, parts of the Sunnica West Site A have been divided into the following parcel references (W):

a. W03 forms the north-west part of the Sunnica West Site A, situated between the Gallops and Foxborrow Plantation. W03 consists of four small square fields, situated across the relatively elevated and rising land to the south-east of Snailwell. The fields are open in character due to the land use, but the fields are bordered by woodland blocks along the western and southern edges and a narrow tree belt along the eastern edge which connects with Foxburrow Plantation. The western edge of the W03 is adjacent to PRoW 204/5;

b. W04 and W05 form the western part of Sunnica West Site A and are adjacent to The Avenue. Both W04 and W05 are geometric in form and open in character due to their land use, although there is a mature woodland belt along the western edge of W04, which PRoW 204/5 crosses adjacent to W03;

c. W06 to W12 are located centrally within Sunnica West Site A and consist of smaller scale geometric fields divided by hedgerows. Sounds Plantation extends between W06 and W07 and there is also a rectangular woodland block between W08 and W10. La Hogue Road crosses the eastern edge of W10, W11 and W12;

d. W15 forms the eastern part of Sunnica West Site A, between the A11 and A14. W15 consists of several fields, which are open in character; and

e. W17 is a rectangular field in the central part of the study area, situated between W06 and W12. The field is open in character and bordered by hedgerows and tree belts, with Sounds Plantation forming the western boundary. There are also several agricultural barns adjacent to the southern edge of W17 and W17 is crossed by telegraph poles.

10.6.247 With reference to the **Tree Constraints Report** (**Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**), the trees within Sunnica West Site A are semi mature to mature in age. The main species include Scots pine, Corsican pine, common beech, sycamore, common oak, common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*).

10.6.248 At the western side of Sunnica West Site A field boundaries consist of large linear pine, beech, willow and sycamore.

10.6.249 Around Dane Hill Farm the fields are bordered mainly by moderate quality tree groups dominated by oak, aspen (*Populus tremula*), beech and field maple. Within this groups are three large mature individual native black poplar (*Populus nigra*) trees, which as a species are rarely distributed across Britain.

10.6.250 Other vegetation patterns include mature trees adjacent to The Avenue and adjacent to the watercourse which flows through Half Moon Plantation, to the south of Dane Hill Farm.

10.6.251 Sunnica West Site A is not covered by any statutory landscape designations, nor is it within a Conservation Area. The Avenue in the western part of Sunnica West Site A is part of the Grade II Chippenham Hall Park and Garden designation.

10.6.252 With reference to GLVIA 3, Sunnica West Site A is not publicly accessible and therefore does not provide any recreational value. There are no rare landscape features across Sunnica West Site A, although the mature woodlands are more valued landscape features.

10.6.253 The aesthetic of Sunnica West Site A is of medium scale fields which are geometric in form and where the colour tones reflect those of a rural landscape, alternating between the earthy browns of winter to that of the greens and yellows of an arable crop in summer. There is a texture from the woodlands, which also results in a seasonal colour change. In terms of perception, there is no sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to road networks, including the sight and sound of vehicles. The proximity to these features also reduces the tranquillity across Sunnica West Site A. The experience of Sunnica East Site B is therefore of a rural landscape. This perception is via road networks, such that the experience is transient, and of a landscape which one moves through.

10.6.254 There is no sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to the A14 and similarly these features reduce the tranquillity across Sunnica West Site A. The agricultural fields are a common land use. The landscape value of Sunnica West Site A is therefore assessed as medium.

10.6.255 As fields which are open in character and with areas of woodland and hedgerows, the susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

10.6.256 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Sunnica West Site A having a **medium** sensitivity.

Sunnica West Site B Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.257 The Sunnica West Site B is also located in the central part of the study area, approximately 1.5km to the north-west of the Sunnica West Site A and to the north of Snailwell. Sunnica West Site B covers 66 ha.

10.6.258 Mature woodland, extending from Chippenham Fen forms the northern boundary to the Sunnica West Site B. Fields form the eastern boundary, part of Snailwell Road forms the southern boundary and a woodland block and the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory form the western boundary.

10.6.259 The River Snail flows along the western and southern edges of the Sunnica West Site B, to flow under Snailwell Road. The landform rises from the River Snail to the eastern edge of the Sunnica West Site B, at 15m AOD.

10.6.260 The Sunnica West Site B does not cover any settlements and is located to the north of a trout farm and Snailwell Business Park.

10.6.261 Snailwell Road forms part of the southern boundary to the Sunnica West Site B, extending from the A142 to Snailwell.

10.6.262 The land use across Sunnica West Site B is agricultural and to provide an additional level of detail, has been divided into the following parcel references:

a. W01 consists of several small fields which are divided by individual trees; and

b. W02 is a single agricultural field which is open in character and bordered by a woodland belt along its southern edge.

10.6.263 With reference to the **Tree Constraints Report** (**Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**), the trees within the Sunnica West Site B are semi mature to mature in age. The main species include common ash, crack willow, hybrid black poplar and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*). Most of the trees were identified as being low to moderate quality.

10.6.264 Sunnica West Site B is not crossed by any formal PRoW.

10.6.265 Sunnica West Site B is not covered by any statutory landscape designations.

10.6.266 With reference to GLVIA 3, Sunnica West Site B is not publicly accessible. There are no rare landscape features across Sunnica West Site B, although the River Snail and woodland are more valued features.

10.6.267 The aesthetic of Sunnica West Site B is of small scale fields which are where the colour tones reflect those of a rural landscape. In terms of perception, there is an increased sense of remoteness further from Snailwell Road. The experience of Sunnica East Site B is therefore of a rural landscape. This perception is via road networks and public rights of

way, such that the experience is transient, and of a landscape which one moves through.

10.6.268 The agricultural fields are a common land use. The landscape value of Sunnica West Site B is therefore assessed as medium.

10.6.269 As fields which are open in character with hedgerows, the susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

10.6.270 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Sunnica West Site B having a **medium** sensitivity.

Grid Connection Route A Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.271 With reference to the Order limits plans, Grid Connection Route A is located between the Sunnica East Sites A and B and the southern edge of the Sunnica East Site B and the north-east edge of Sunnica West Site A.

10.6.272 From parcel E22, as the southern edge of the Sunnica East Site B, the cable route crosses part of the River Kennett, to extend between Heath Plantation and Long Slip woodland, to connect with the northern edge of Sunnica West Site A.

10.6.273 The landform across Grid Connection Route A is generally flat, at around 20m AOD. To the north of Heath Planation, the landform falls gradually to the River Kennet at 15m AOD, before rising back towards 18m AOD at field E22.

10.6.274 Grid Connection Route A does not cross any settlements. The B1085 crosses the southern edge of Grid Connection Route A and is the only road along the route.

10.6.275 With reference to the **Tree Constraints Report** (**Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**), most of the trees across Grid Connection Route A are classified as low quality, with the exception of those in Heath Plantation.

10.6.276 PRoW 49/7 crosses the central part of Grid Connection Route A, to the north of Heath Plantation and PRoW W-257/003/0 crosses the northern edge of Grid Connection Route A, at the edge of parcel E22.

10.6.277 Grid Connection Route A does not cross any designated landscapes.

10.6.278 With reference to GLVIA 3, there is a recreational value across Grid Connection Route A, via the PRoW. There are no rare landscape features across Grid Connection Route A, although the River Kennett and its associated vegetation and the woodland blocks are more valued landscape features.

10.6.279 The aesthetic of Grid Connection Route A is of fields which reflect the seasonal colour tones of a rural landscape. There is no sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to road networks in proximity

to the route. The agricultural fields are a common land use. The landscape value of Sunnica East Site A is therefore assessed as medium.

10.6.280 As fields which are open in character, along with the River Kennett and associated vegetation, the susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

10.6.281 The combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Grid Connection Route A having a **medium** sensitivity.

Grid Connection Route B Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.282 With reference to the Order limits plan, Grid Connection Route B extends from the north-west edge of the Sunnica West Site A to Sunnica West Site B and from the western edge of Sunnica West Site B to Burwell National Grid Substation Extension.

10.6.283 From parcel W03, at the north-west edge of Sunnica West Site A, Grid Connection Route A crosses the western edge of Foxburrow Plantation, part of Chippenham Road and a vegetated track to W02, within Sunnica West Site B.

10.6.284 Across this part of Grid Connection Route B, the landform rises across the fields, from the edge of Sunnica West Site A, at 20m AOD to Chippenham Road at 25m AOD. From Chippenham Road, the landform falls gradually towards Sunnica West Site B, at 20m AOD.

10.6.285 This part of Grid Connection Route B does not cross any settlements and is located approximately 1km to the east of Snailwell. The land use across this part of Grid Connection Route B is agricultural, consisting of varying field sizes, which are open in character and bordered by woodland and hedgerows.

10.6.286 With reference to the **Tree Constraints Report** (**Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**), the vegetation across this part of Grid Connection Route B is assessed as moderate value plantations, with a high value group of beech trees adjacent to Chippenham Road.

10.6.287 From the west of Sunnica West Site B, Grid Connection Route B crosses a small part of the carpark within the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory, Newmarket railway line and the A142, extending to the north of Landwade, across West Fen and to the west of Burwell.

10.6.288 Similarly, this part of Grid Connection Route B does not cover any settlements and crosses a predominantly agricultural landscape, with large scale fields and watercourse (Lodes) across West Fen.

10.6.289 With reference to the **Tree Constraints Report** (**Appendix 10B** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**), the main tree species across this part of Grid Connection Route B include sycamore, common

ash and crack willow. The majority of these trees were assessed as being of low to moderate quality.

10.6.290 Grid Connection Route B is not covered by any statutory landscape designations.

10.6.291 With reference to GLVIA 3, there are no rare landscape features across Grid Connection Route B, although the fens and Lodes are more valued landscape features. The aesthetic of Grid Connection Route B is of fields which reflect the seasonal colour tones of a rural landscape. There is no sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to road networks, settlements and the extent of overhead pylons across the fens. The proximity to these features also reduces the tranquillity across Grid Connection Route B. The agricultural fields are a common land use. The landscape value of Grid Connection Route B is therefore assessed as high.

10.6.292 As fields which are open in character, along with Lodes and areas of vegetation, the susceptibility to change is assessed as 'high'.

10.6.293 The combination of the high value and high susceptibility results in the landscape character of Grid Connection Route B having a **high** sensitivity.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Site Level Landscape Character (including the alternative location)

10.6.294 The Burwell National Grid Substation Extension is located in the western part of the study area, adjacent to the existing Burwell substation compound, which consists of a range of tall electrical equipment, connected to overhead pylons.

10.6.295 Option 1 is located to the east of the existing substation, covering a small scale field pattern of several fields, divided by hedgerows and trees. Option 1 is bound to the north by Newham Drove and to the east by Weirs Drove. Option 1 is not publicly accessible, although is perceived from Weirs Drove and Newham Drove which are accessible. There is vegetation adjacent to both these Droves. The aesthetic, is therefore of small scale fields and vegetation which contrasts with the larger character of the adjacent existing substation and which also provides a different colour and texture to the landscape. Option 1 is perceived in the context of the existing substation and there is no sense of remoteness nor tranquillity due to the perception of the existing substation. The perception of option 1 is of fields separating Weirs Drove from the existing substation. Option 1 is experienced from the Droves and the experience is therefore transient.

10.6.296 Option 2 is located to the north-west of the existing substation, on the north side of Newham Drove, within a large scale field. Option 2 is not publicly accessible but is perceived from Newham Drove. There is vegetation adjacent to Newhams Drove and the southern and eastern edges of Option 2, but the western edge is open in character, being contiguous with the wider fen landscape. Option 2 is perceived in the context of the existing substation and there is no sense of remoteness nor

tranquillity due to the perception of the existing substation. Option 2 is experienced from the Newnham Drove and the experience is therefore transient.

10.6.297 The Burwell National Grid Substation Extension areas Option 1 and Option 2 are not covered by any statutory landscape designations.

10.6.298 With reference to GLVIA 3 Box 5.1, there are no rare landscape features within Option 1 or Option 2. The value of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Option 1 is assessed as medium due to the small scale field pattern and perceived separation from the existing substation. The value of Option 2 is assessed as low, due to the open character of the field pattern.

10.6.299 The susceptibility of Option 1 is medium, due to the vegetation and field patterns, with the susceptibility of Option 2 being low.

10.6.300 For Option 1 the combination of the medium value and medium susceptibility results in a **medium** sensitivity to the landscape character of Option 1. For Option 2, the combination of the low value and the low susceptibility results in a **low** sensitivity to the landscape character of Option 2.

Summary of Landscape Receptors

10.6.301 From the above landscape baseline review, the following tables, **Table 10-4** to **Table 10-6**, set out the landscape receptors and their sensitivity to the Scheme. In line with GLVIA 3 and the methodology in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, landscape sensitivity is derived from an assessment of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, which is set out in full for each landscape receptor in **Appendix 10D** and **Appendix 10E** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

Table 10-4: Published Landscape Character Receptor Sensitivity

Landscape Receptor	Landscape Sensitivity
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)	
NCA 46: The Fens	High
NCA 85: The Brecks	High
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High
Regional East of England Landscape Framework	
Lowland Village Chalklands	High
Forested Estate Sandlands	High
Planned Peat Fen	High

Landscape Receptor	Landscape Sensitivity
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment	
Estate Sandlands	High
Rolling Estate Chalklands	High
Settled Chalklands	Low
Settled Fenlands	High
Valley Meadows and Fens	High
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines	
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium
Area 8 Fenlands	High
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment	
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High
River Valleys	High
Low Chalk Farmland	High
Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan	
A: Fordham Road	Medium
B: Southern Fringes	High
C: Heart of the Village	High
D: Mildenhall Road	Medium
E: Elms Road	Medium
Rural 1: West	Medium
Rural 2: North	High
Rural 3: East	Medium
Rural 4: South	High

Table 10-5: Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Receptor Sensitivity

LLCA	Sensitivity	LLCA	Sensitivity	LLCA	Sensitivity
1. Mildenhall Woods	High	16. Becks Estate Heathland	Medium	30. Gazeley	Medium
2. Mildenhall Airfield	Very Low	17. Fordham Chalklands	Medium	31. Gazeley Chalkland	Medium
3. Mildenhall	Medium	18. Fordham	Medium	32. Planned East Fens	Medium
4. Barton Mills	High	19. Fordham Abbey and Nursery	High	33. Soham Mere	Medium
5. West Row and Thistley Green	Medium	19A. Fordham Estate Sandlands	Medium	34. Soham	Medium
6. West Row Village Chalklands	Low	20. Snailwell Industrial Estate	Very Low	35. Wicken	High
7. River Lark Valley	High	21. Snailwell	High	36. Burwell Fen	Medium
8. Worlington	Medium	22. Chippenham Fen	High	37. Reach	Medium
9. Six Acre Chalk Farmland	Low	23A. Chippenham	High	38. Burwell	Medium
10. Isleham	High	23B. Chippenham Park	High	39. Burwell Wooded Chalklands	Low
11. East Fen Chalklands	Medium	24. Lowland Estate Chalklands	Medium	40. Exning	Medium
12. Freckenham	High	25. Kennett	Low	41. Newmarket	High
13. Elms Sandlands Mosaic	Medium	26. The Limekilns and the Gallops	Medium	42. Newmarket Racecourse	High
14. River Kennett	High	27. Newmarket Studs	Medium	43. Burwell Chalklands	Medium

LLCA	Sensitivity	LLCA	Sensitivity	LLCA	Sensitivity
15. Red Lodge	Low	28. Kentford	Medium	44. Swaffham Prior	High
-	-	29. Moulton	High	-	-

Table 10-6: Order limits Landscape Character Sensitivity

Order limits Area	Landscape Sensitivity
Sunnica East Site A	Medium
Sunnica East Site B	Medium
Grid Connection Route A	Medium
Sunnica West Site A	Medium
Sunnica West Site B	Medium
Grid Connection Route B	High
Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Option 1 – Medium Option 2 – Low

Visual Baseline

10.6.302 The first stage of establishing the visual baseline has been a review of ZTVs for the various Scheme components.

10.6.303 The ZTVs are based on 'bare-earth' modelling, which in accordance with GLVIA 3 models the various Scheme components in relation to only the existing landform and without any existing vegetation or buildings.

10.6.304 To add an additional level of detail, a second iteration of ZTVs have also been produced, which include woodland and buildings, so as to provide a more representative modelling, based on the 'reality on the ground'.

10.6.305 The methodology for the ZTVs is set out in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.6.306 Figure 10-11a demonstrates the bare-earth theoretical visibility of the proposed Scheme across Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B. The bare-earth theoretical visibility is concentrated across these areas, to Isleham, north of the River Lark and to Chippenham. To the west of Chippenham, the theoretical visibility becomes more intermittent, whilst remaining consistent to the south of Chippenham and across the Limekilns.

10.6.307 Figure 10-11b also models the theoretical visibility of the proposed Scheme across Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B, but in

contrast to Figure 10-11a includes existing vegetation and buildings. Figure 10-11b demonstrates that the theoretical visibility is substantially reduced across the surrounding landscape, being far more localised between Isleham, the River Lark, Newmarket Road and to the east of Chippenham. Theoretical localised visibility is also indicated at the Limekilns, to the south of Sunnica West Site A. However as demonstrated by the following visual appraisal, there is no inter-visibility with Sunnica East Site A or Sunnica East Site B.

10.6.308 Figure 10-11c demonstrates the bare-earth theoretical visibility of the proposed Scheme across Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B. The bare-earth theoretical visibility is concentrated across these areas and extends southwards across the Limekilns, until the ridgeline which then reduces the theoretical visibility across the southern part of the study area. The bare-earth theoretical visibility also extends west to Burwell and to the north side of the River Lark.

10.6.309 Figure 10-11d models the proposed Scheme across Sunnica West Site A and B, but with the inclusion of existing vegetation and buildings. In contrast to Figure 10-11c, the ZTV demonstrates that the theoretical visibility is substantially reduced by the existing features. The theoretical visibility remains concentrated across Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B, and between Snailwell and Kennett. The ZTV does not extend across Newmarket, Chippenham, Chippenham Park, nor to Burwell and north of the River Lark.

10.6.310 The second stage of the visual baseline has been via fieldwork, to review both stages of the ZTVs and identify visual receptors. The field work was undertaken across the study area between March 2019 and July 2020, covering winter and summer months.

10.6.311 With reference to Figure 10-12 (which provides an overview of the viewpoint locations) and Figures 10-12a to 10-12j (which provide the detailed locations), viewpoints have been identified as representative of views including from residents, PRoW users, the Jockey Club, visitors and residents at Chippenham Hall Park and motorists, and at a range of distances from the Scheme, including from residents in proximity to the Order limits, where the landscape is part of the setting. There are also several sequential viewpoints along the road networks, as these are often the only public means for views across the landscape, given the limited number of PRoW across parts of the study area.

10.6.312 The location of the viewpoints has been agreed with Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council Landscape Officers email, between January 2020 and March 2020 and again via meetings in March 2021.

10.6.313 The following section provides a summary of the winter visual context across the study area in relation to the Scheme and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10F** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, which provides a description of each viewpoint (VP). Supporting photography is presented on Figures 10-20 to 10-83.

Visual Baseline of Sunnica East Site A and parts of Grid Connection Route A

10.6.314 To the north of the Sunnica East Site A, VP1, from the banks of the River Lark demonstrates that the northern part of this part of the Order limits is visible, seen as part of the large-scale field pattern extending to the south of the river. In contrast, to the north-east of The Fen woodland, also adjacent to the River Lark and at Judd's Bridge (VP2) and along Ferry Lane (VP2C), the riverside vegetation and rising landform screens views of the fields across the eastern part of the Sunnica East Site A, but the upper parts of Lee Farm are visible.

10.6.315 The open character of the fields bordering Isleham is demonstrated by VP3, which is taken from the eastern edge of Isleham, along East Fen Road. VP4 from The Ark and VP 5, from Beck Road, also demonstrate the flat and open character of the fields to the south-east of Isleham and that there are close range views of parcels E05 and Eco1 from the road network. The views also demonstrate there is inter-visibility with residential properties adjacent to the B1104, to the south-west of Isleham and several properties in Freckenham.

10.6.316 From the south-west edge of Isleham, VP6 demonstrates the open character of the fields and the rise in landform along the alignment of the dismantled railway line between the B1104 and Beck Road. The view demonstrates that from the upper storey of residents adjacent to the road, there are views across landscape, including parcels E05 and Eco1, adjacent to Beck Road.

10.6.317 Continuing southwards from Isleham, along the B1104, VP7 demonstrates that parcels E05 and Eco1 are visible, due to gaps in the roadside vegetation, although viewed obliquely in relation to the orientation of the motorists.

10.6.318 From the western edge of Freckenham, VP8 demonstrates the open character of the agricultural landscape between Freckenham and Isleham and that Eco2 is visible. The composition of the view also includes the Church of St. Andrew and The Ark, such that there is already inter-visibility with buildings in Isleham.

10.6.319 To the north of Freckenham, along PRoW W-257/002/X, VP9 to VP11 demonstrate there are close range views of parcels E05, Eco1 and Eco2 to varying degrees along the route. Views also extend to the elevated ridgeline across the B1104, Beck Road, the Church of St. Andrew, The Ark and Lee Farm from VP11.

10.6.320 Eco2 is also visible from the residential property at Beck Road, VP11A. Views extend from the east elevation across Beck Road and E05 to Lee Farm.

10.6.321 There are close range views of the northern and southern parts of Sunnica East Site A from Lee Farm, VP12. Views are from all elevations of the property, although the main aspect is considered to be to the south, due to

the alignment of the avenue of trees and that views from other aspects include farm buildings, silo's and the reservoir at close range.

10.6.322 VP12A and VP12B demonstrate the views for motorists along Ferry Lane, including at the elevated junction with Beck Road. These views demonstrate that due to the elevated position of the receptor, parcels E01, E04, E08 and E10 to the east of Lee Farm are visible, culminating in a wooded background and The Fen woodland, adjacent to the River Lark, as well as parts of Eco 2, although filtered by intervening vegetation.

10.6.323 To west of Worlington, along the B1102 (Freckenham Road), VP13 demonstrates there are close range views from gaps in the roadside vegetation of part of the location for Grid Connection Route A.

Visual Baseline of Sunnica East Site B and parts of Grid Connection Route A

10.6.324 From along the B1102, VP14 demonstrates that there are close range views of Eco 3 and E12 to the north of the road but that E13 is screened by the intervening field boundaries and pine lines adjacent to U6006, which truncate any longer distance views across the landscape.

10.6.325 These parts of Sunnica East Site A are also visible from rear windows of residents adjacent to B1102 (VP14A), although views are filtered by intervening garden vegetation, including a mature hedge.

10.6.326 From along U6006, VP15 to VP16 are representative of recreational users and equestrian riders. These views demonstrate the changing composition of the views, from truncated views as a result of the mature vegetation adjacent to U6006, views of parcels E12 to close range views across E14 and Eco 3.

10.6.327 VP17 to VP19 demonstrate the range of views from along Elms Road, when traveling between Freckenham and the A11. The views demonstrate that at the eastern edge of Freckenham (VP17) the land within the Order limits is not visible due to the intervening rising landform and vegetation. There are close range views of parcels E20 and E18 when travelling along Elms Road, due to either breaks in the roadside vegetation for access into the fields, or the gaps in the roadside hedgerows (VP 18). Upon the approach to Freckenham from the junction with Bridge End Road, the Order limits is not visible, due to the intervening vegetation.

10.6.328 There are also close range views of parcel E22 and part of Grid Connection Route A from PRoW W257/003/0, due to breaks in the hedgerows, as demonstrated by VP20. In contrast, the field boundary vegetation screens views of the fields covering E19 to E22 when travelling along Badlingham Road, as demonstrated by VP21.

10.6.329 Similarly, views of these fields from residents in Badlingham, adjacent to Badlingham Road, VP21A, are also screened by the intervening hedgerows, although there are views across fields covering part of the Grid Connection Route A, on the north side of the River Kennet.

10.6.330 VP22 and VP23 demonstrate there are close range views of E24 and E25 from Worlington Road, due to the low height of the roadside vegetation and the open character of the fields. Both E24 and E25 are bordered by mature trees which truncate any longer distance views across the landscape and the Order limits. These fields are also visible at close range for residents at the southern edge of Worlington, VP23A, with views from the rear of the property extending above the boundary wall.

10.6.331 From Golf Links Road, to the east of Worlington, VP24 demonstrates that parcels E26 to E29 are not visible, being screened by mature field boundaries; although parcels E30 and E31 are visible due to breaks in the roadside vegetation, and their slightly elevated position in the landscape, across the lower slopes of Chalk Hill. The view also demonstrates that the woodland across Chalk Hill screens any longer distance views across the landscape.

10.6.332 VP25, also from Golf Links Road, demonstrates that parcels E31 and E32 are visible due to the open character of the fields and limited roadside vegetation.

10.6.333 Parcels E30 to E32 are also visible from parts of Newmarket Road and PRoW W-128/002/0 as demonstrated by VP26A. This is due to the intervening open character of the fields and that the rising landform across the southern parts of E30 to E32. However, From the edge of Barton Mills, VP 26B demonstrates that the Scheme is not visible due to the intervening vegetation and landform.

10.6.334 From the western edge of Red Lodge, there are views from residents across the A11 to properties adjacent to Bridge End Road; however, the properties and intervening vegetation screen views of the Order limits, as demonstrated by VP27.

10.6.335 At the western edge of Red Lodge, the A11 overbridge links Health Farm Road with Bridge End Road and is in an elevated position across the A11. VP28 demonstrates that parcel E21 and E22 are visible, but views are largely filtered by the roadside vegetation.

10.6.336 Moving to the eastern edge of Chippenham, along PRoW 49/7, VP29 demonstrates there are views across the fields covering most of the Grid Connection Route A part of the Scheme.

Visual Baseline of Sunnica West Site A and B, Grid Connection Route A and Grid Connection Route B

10.6.337 VP30 demonstrates that from within Chippenham, the intervening vegetation and buildings screen views of the land within the Order limits. Similarly, the Order limits is not visible from within Chippenham Park, due to the extent of intervening vegetation, as demonstrated by VP31 and the boundary wall visible in VP32.

10.6.338 Travelling south from Chippenham along La Hogue Road, W10, W11 and W12 and part of Grid Connection Route A are visible for motorists and

visitors to La Hogue Farm Shop, due to breaks in the roadside vegetation and their proximity to the road, as demonstrated by VP32 and VP33.

10.6.339 From along the B1085, to east of the A11, VP35 demonstrates how the density and height of roadside vegetation screens views of W15. Continuing along the B1085, to Station Road, and residents at the western edge of Kennett, VP36 demonstrates that there are views across W15 due to gaps in the roadside vegetation and the height of the properties above the vegetation.

10.6.340 There are close range views of W15 due to breaks in the roadside hedgerows from along Newmarket Road, as demonstrated by VP37. The height of the vegetated embankments of the A11 truncate any longer distance views across the Order limits. There are also close range views of W15 from the upper floor windows of the property to the west, VP37A, although partially softened by intervening garden vegetation.

10.6.341 From along the A11, views are generally largely softened by density of the mature roadside vegetation. The slightly elevated position of the road does enable views across W15, although largely softened in winter by the roadside trees (VP37B). There are more open views across Sunnica West Site A from the elevated slip road of the A1304, as it connects to the A11, in combination with the intermittent extent of roadside vegetation (VP37C). There are also intermittent views across Sunnica West Site A from the A14, in proximity to the overbridge, due to the gaps in the roadside hedgerows (VP37D). Within these views, the composition of the view consists of fields and mature woodlands, culminating in a vegetated skyline.

10.6.342 Moving towards Newmarket and to a more elevated part of the landscape, VP38, demonstrates that most of the Sunnica West Site A, W05 to W12, is visible from the Limekilns, part of the Jockey Club training grounds. This part of the land within the Order limits is seen in the context of A14 and the Newmarket railway which cross the valley floor and the mature vegetation along The Avenue. Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B are not visible due to distance and intervening features.

10.6.343 The visibility of Sunnica West Site A varies from along The Avenue. At the southern part of the Railway Field, the mature vegetation bordering the railway screens most of the Sunnica West Site A, as demonstrated by VP39. Sunnica West Site A and B are not visible from along Snailwell Road, at the northern edge of Newmarket, as demonstrated by VP39A.

10.6.344 There are views above the trees of parcels W05, W08 and W11, although these parcels form a small part of the overall composition of the view. Continuing along The Avenue, VP40 demonstrates that parcel W05 is visible, form the A14 overbridge, although seen through the fencing and in the context of the vehicles on the A14.

10.6.345 To the south-east of Snailwell, along PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, VP41 demonstrates there are close range views of W03, and that despite the elevated position of the receptor, views across the wider landscape and

Order limits are truncated by Foxburrow Plantation and the mature vegetation bordering the PRoW. Chippenham Road and the fields to the north of this road are also visible, in relation to the alignment of Grid Connection Route B.

10.6.346 VP42 demonstrates the vegetated character to Chippenham Road due to the linear row of beech trees and that there are close range views of the fields covering Grid Connection Route B.

10.6.347 These fields are also visible from properties on the eastern side of Snailwell, as demonstrated by VP43, but not form the northern end of the village, due to the rising landform and intervening vegetation, as demonstrated by VP44. The fields are visible at close range, along with views towards W02 from PRoW (footpath) 204/1, which extends to the north of Snailwell, as demonstrated by VP45.

10.6.348 Moving north from Snailwell, VP46 demonstrates the southern part of W01 is visible from motorists travelling along Snailwell Road, due to breaks in the roadside vegetation, as the road crosses the River Snail. Longer distance views across this part of Sunnica West Site B are truncated by the vegetation across W02.

10.6.349 For motorist travelling in the opposite direction along Snailwell Road, VP47 demonstrates how the course of the River Snail is demarcated by linear belts of vegetation and that the northern part of parcel W01 is visible, seen in the context of the upper parts of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory.

Visual Baseline of Grid Connection Route B and the Burwell National Grid Substation extension site

10.6.350 To the south of Fordham Abbey, along Newmarket Road and adjacent to Fordham House, VP48 demonstrates that there are close range views of the location of Grid Connection Route B, across the A142 and Newmarket Road roundabout. For residents in Fordham House, the alignment of Grid Connection Route B is also visible, seen in the context of the A142.

10.6.351 From within Fordham, the land within the Order limits is not visible due to the generally flat landform and intervening vegetation patterns, including mature woodland bordering Fordham Abbey, as demonstrated by VP49.

10.6.352 Moving to the Landwade, VP50 demonstrates that the fields covering Grid Connection Route B to the north-west of village are visible from Landwade Road. Similarly, there are close range views of the fields across Grid Connection Route B from the B1102, as demonstrated by VP51.

10.6.353 From the northern edge of Burwell, along the Howlem Balk track, VP52 demonstrates the gentle rise in the landform to the north of Burwell, resulting in a localised ridgeline to the east of Broads Road, which truncates views across the Cabe Route B alignment.

10.6.354 From the western edge of Burwell, the upper parts of Burwell Substation and National Grid pylon towers are visible in close range views from motorists on Weir's Drove, as demonstrated by VP53.

10.6.355 Similarly, from publicly accessible routes across Burwell Fen, including Burwell Lode, VP54 and Hightown Drove, VP55 and VP55A, Burwell substation and rows of overhead pylons are visible above the flat fens.

10.6.356 From along Burwell Road, VP56 demonstrates that gaps in the roadside vegetation enable longer channelled views across the low lying landscape, with the upper parts of Burwell substation and National Grid pylon towers also visible.

10.6.357 From the eastern edge of Reach, VP57 demonstrates that garden vegetation and field boundaries also filter and truncate views across the wider landscape, but that the upper parts of Burwell substation are visible.

10.6.358 To the south-east of Reach, VP58, from the Devil's Ditch, demonstrates that the field boundary vegetation results in views often being filtered or channelled. The composition of views is often close range views of fields, recreational or residential land uses in Reach set against a wooded background. National grid pylon towers are visible above this vegetation, extending towards Burwell substation, where the upper parts of transformers and electrical equipment are also visible.

Summary of Visual Receptors

10.6.359 From the above visual baseline, **Table 10-7** below summarises the visual receptors and their sensitivity to the Scheme.

10.6.360 In line with GLVIA 3 and the methodology in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, visual sensitivity is derived from an assessment of visual value and visual susceptibility and is set out for each receptor in **Appendix 10F** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2].**

10.6.361 The receptors include private residents in relation to the potential requirements of a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment.

Table 10-7: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
1	View south-east from PRoW W-398/030/0 Figure: 10-20A and 10-20B	Recreational Users on the River Lark	High
2A	View south-west from PRoW W-398/030/0 Figure: 10-21A and 10-21B	Recreational Users on the River Lark	High
2B	View south-west from Jude's Ferry Figure: 10-22A and 10-22B	Visitors to Jude's ferry	High

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
2C	View west from Ferry Lane Figure: 10-22C and 10-22D	Residents and motorists on Ferry Lane	High
3	View south from East Fen Road Figure: 10-23A and 10-23B	Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	High
4	View south-east from The Ark Church Figure: 10-24A and 10-24B	Visitors to the Ark Church	Medium
4A	View south-east from Sheldrick's Road Figure: 10-24C and 10-24D	Residents in Isleham and motorists on Shledrick's Road	High
5	View south-east from Beck Road Figure: 10-25A and 10-25B	Motorists on Beck Road	High
6	View south-east from B1104, Isleham Figure: 10-26A and 10.26B	Residents adjacent to the B1104	High
7	View north-east from the B1104, between Isleham and Freckenham Figure: 10-27A and 10-27B	Motorist on B1104	Medium
8	View north from residents at the western edge of Freckenham Figure: 10-28A and 10-28B	Residents in Freckenham	High
8A	View north from Mildenhall Road Figure 10-28C and 10-28D	Residents in Freckenham	High
9	View north-west from PRoW (footpath) W-257/002/0 (Mortimer Lane, Freckenham) Figure: 10-29A and 10-29B	Recreational users PRoW on W-257/002/0	High
9A	View north-west from PRoW (footpath) W-257/002/0 (Mortimer Lane, Freckenham) Figure: 10-29C and 10-29D	Recreational users PRoW on W-257/002/0	High
10	View west from PRoW (footpath) W-257/002/X Figure: 10-30A and 10-30B	Recreational users W-257/002/X	High
11	View north-west from PRoW (footpath) W-257/002/0 Figure: 10-31A and 10-31B	Recreational users W-257/002/0	High
11A	View east from Beck Road property	Residents of Beck Road	High
12	Lee Farm	Residents of Lee Farm	High

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
12A	View north-west from Ferry Lane Figure: 10-32A and 10.32B	Motorists on Ferry Lane	Medium
12B	View west from Ferry Lane Figure 1033A and 10-33B	Motorists on Ferry Lane	Medium
13	View north from B1102 Figure: 10-34A and 10-34B	Motorists on B1102	Medium
13A	View east from bridleway, south of Mildenhall Road Figure: 10-34C and 10-34D	Recreational users, including equestrians	High
14	View south from B1102 Figure: 10-35A and 10-35B	Motorists and Pedestrians on B1102	Medium
14A	View south from residents adjacent to the B1102	Residents adjacent to B1102	High
15	View west from U6006 (unclassified road) Figure: 10-36A and 10-36B	Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High
15A	View south-west from U6006 (unclassified road) Figure: 10-37A and 10-37B	Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High
15B	View south-east from U6006 (unclassified road) Figure 10-38A and 10-38B	Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High
16	View north-east from U6006 (unclassified road) Figure: 10-39A and 10-39B	Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High
17	View north-east from Elms Road and PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0 Figure: 10-40A and 10-40B	Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0	High
17A	View west from Elms Road Figure: 10-40C and 10-40D	Motorists on Elms Road	High
18	View north-west from Elms Road Figure: 10-41A and 10-41B	Motorists on Elms Road	Medium
19	View north-west from Elms Road Figure: 10-42A and 10-42B	Motorists on Elms Road	Medium

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
20	View north from PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0 Figure: 10-43A and 10-43B	Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	High
21	View east from Badlingham Road Figure: 10-44A and 10-44B	Motorists on Badlingham Road	Medium
21A	View south-east from Residential Properties adjacent to Badlingham Road	Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	High
22	View north-west from Worlington Road Figure: 10-45A and 10-45B	Motorists on Worlington Road	Medium
23	View north-west from Worlington Road Figure: 10-46A and 10-46B	Motorists on Worlington Road	Medium
23A	View south from Queens Hill, Worlington	Residents at Queens Hill	High
24	View south from Golf Links Road Figure: 10-47A and 10-47B	Motorists on Golf Links Road	Medium
25	View south-west from Golf Links Road Figure: 10-48A and 10-48B	Motorists on Golf Links Road	Medium
26A	View south-west from PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0 Figure: 10-49A and 10-49B	Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium
26B	View south-west from the southern edge of Barton Mills Figure 10-50A and 10-50B	Recreational users at Barton Mills	Medium
27	View west from the western edge of Red Lodge Figure: 10-51 and 10-51B	Residents in Red Lodge	Medium
28	View north from the A11 overbridge Figure: 10-52A and 10-52B	Recreational users on A11	Low
29	View south-east from PRoW (footpath) 49/7 Figure: 10-53A and 10-53B	Recreational users on PRoW ((footpath) 49/7	High
30	View south-east from Chippenham Figure: 10-54A and 10-54B	Residents in Chippenham	High
31	View south-east from Chippenham Park Figure: 10-55A and 10-55B	Visitors and tourists to Chippenham Park and Chippenham Hall	High

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
32	View south-west from La Hogue Road, to the south of Chippenham Park Figure: 10-56A and 10-56B	Motorists on La Hogue Road	High
33	View north-west from La Hogue Road at the junction with La Hogue Farm Figure: 10-57A and 10-57B	Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Medium
33A	View north from La Hogue Farm	Residents at La Hogue Farm	High
34	View south-west from the B1085, adjacent the Wild Tracks Centre Figure: 10-58A and 10-58B	Motorists on the B1085	Medium
34A	View south-west from the B1085 Figure: 10-58C and 10-58D	Motorists on the B1085	Medium
35	View south from Dane Hill Farm	Residents at Dane Hill Farm	High
35A	View south-west from the B1085 Figure 10-59A and 10-59B	Motorists on the B1085	Medium
36	View south-west from Kennett Figure: 10-60A and 10-60B	Residents adjacent to Station Road	High
37	View north from Newmarket Road Figure: 10-61A and 10-61B	Motorists on Newmarket Road	Medium
37A	View east from residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	High
37B	View south-east from the A11	Motorist on the A11	Very Low
37C	View north from the A1304/A11 slip road	Motorists on the A1304/A11 slip road	Very Low
37D	View north from the A14	Motorist on the A14	Very Low
37E	View north-west from the A14 Figure 10-61C and 10-61D	Motorists on the A14	Very Low
38	View north from The Limekilns Figure: 10-62A and 10-62B	Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	High
39	View north-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, The Avenue Figure: 10-63A and 10-63B	Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5	High

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
39A	View north-west from the northern edge of Newmarket Figure: 10-64A and 10-64B	Residents at the northern edge of Newmarket	High
39B	View north from the Godolphin Management Company Offices Figure: 10-64C and 10-64D	Employment workers	Medium
39C	View north-east from Godolphin Gallops Figure: 10-64E and 10-64F	Employment workers	Medium
40	View north-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, crossing the A14 Figure: 10-65A and 10.65B	Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, crossing the A14	Low
41	View south-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell Figure: 10-66A and 10.66B	Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5	High
42	View north-west from Chippenham Road Figure 10-67A and 10-67B	Motorists on Chippenham Road	Medium
42A	View south-west from Park Farm and PRoW 49/2 Figure 10.67C and 10-67D	Residents and recreational users on PRoW 49/2	High
43	View north-east from the eastern edge of Snailwell Figure: 10-68A and 10-68B	Residents in Snailwell	High
44	View from The Street, at the northern edge of Snailwell Figure: 10-69A and 10-69B	Residents in Snailwell	High
45	View north from PRoW (footpath) 204/1, north of Snailwell Figure: 10-70A and 10-70B	Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	High
46	View north from Snailwell Road Figure: 10-71A and 10-71B	Motorists on Snailwell Road	Medium
47	View north-east from Snailwell Road Figure: 10-72A and 10-72B	Motorists on Snailwell Road	Medium
47A	View north from the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory	Employees	Low
48	View south from Fordham House Figure: 10-73A and 10-73B	Residents in Fordham House	High

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
49	View south from Fordham Figure 10-74A and 10-74B	Residents in Fordham	High
50	View north-west from Landwade Road Figure: 10-75A and 10-75B	Recreational users	Medium
51	View south from the B1102 Figure: 10-76A and 10-76B	Motorists on B1102	Medium
52	View north from Howlem Farm track (PRoW (byway) 35/15) Figure: 10-77A and 10-77B	Residents adjacent to Howden Farm Track	High
53	View west from Weir's Drove, Burwell Figure: 10-78A and 10-77B	Motorist adjacent to Weir's Drove	Low
54	View south-east from Burwell Lode Figure: 10-79A and 10.79B	Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium
55	View east from Hightown Drove Figure: 10-80A and 10-80B	Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium
55A	View east from Hightown Drove	Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium
56	View north-east from Burwell Road, Reach Figure: 10-81A and 10-81B	Motorists on Burwell Road	Low
57	View north-east from the Church of St. Etheldreda, Reach Figure: 10-82A and 10-82B	Residents in Reach	Medium
58	View north-east from the Devil's Ditch (PRoW (footpath) 191/10) Figure: 10-83A and 10-83B	Recreational users on the Devil's Ditch	High
59	View north from the Devil's Ditch Figure: 10-84A and 10-84B	Recreational users on the Devil's Ditch	High

Future Baseline

10.6.362 In the absence of the Scheme, the future landscape and visual baseline across the Order limits is anticipated to remain as stated above. The Order limits would therefore continue to be predominantly agricultural land uses, with vegetation patterns of 'pine lines' or woodland blocks, bordered by roadside hedgerows or fields which are open in character.

10.6.363 In relation to the study area, the land uses and vegetation patterns are also considered to remain, including roadside vegetation adjacent to the

A11 and A14, across parts of the Limekilns and Railway Field and across Chippenham Park.

10.6.364 The agricultural, residential, infrastructure and equestrian land uses in proximity to the Order limits would remain.

10.6.365 There would be additional residential and employment land uses in the eastern and northern parts of Red Lodge.

10.6.366 There would be additional residential land uses in Kennett, to the west of Station Road, in proximity to the Sunnica West Site A and parcels W15. These future baseline receptors are considered to be representative of the identified viewpoints from Red Lodge and Kennett.

10.6.367 There would be additional residential land uses to the south of Burwell substation and to the west of Weirs Drove. These future baseline receptors are considered to be representative of the identified viewpoints from Higham Drove (VR 55A).

10.6.368 Also in proximity to Burwell substation there would a battery storage scheme on the east side of Weirs Drove.

10.7 Embedded Design Mitigation

10.7.1 The LVIA has informed the iterative design process, via design principles which respond to the policy requirements, published landscape character assessments and field work analysis, in order to mitigate the likely adverse effects of the Scheme.

10.7.2 LVIA design principles are secured via the Works Plans and the OLEMP and illustrated within Figures 3-1 and 3-2 (the Parameter Plans) **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** and within the Landscape Masterplan in Figures 10-14a-f**.** They are therefore embedded in the design and accounted for in the assessment process

10.7.3 The LVIA design principles across the Scheme are based on responding positively to the published guidance, including the Statements of Environmental Opportunity identified in section 10.6 by:

a. Careful siting of the Scheme in the landscape by the structures being offset from pine lines, vegetation patterns and road networks;

b. Conserving landscape, ecology and archaeological features (including below ground) across the Order limits, including the pine lines; and

c. Creating new Green Infrastructure within the Order limits and in relation to the study area through new permissive routes to provide linkages between Freckenham and Isleham and Red Lodge and Worlington.

10.7.4 With reference to Parameter Plan Figure 3-1 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** and the OLEMP, these design principles have been incorporated across the Sunnica East Sites A and B by:

a. Siting the primary construction compound, BESS and substation in E33 adjacent to reservoirs and Lee Farm, so that their massing and land uses are perceived in the context of existing infrastructure features and built structures in the landscape. The tonal rendering of shades to integrate the permanent structures within the landscape will help to reduce their perceived overall mass, the detailed design of such structures to be approved by the relevant local planning authority pursuant to a DCO Requirement.

b. Siting the BESS and substation in E18 so that it is enclosed and screened by existing woodland along its northern edges and in part by roadside vegetation adjacent to Elms Road to its south-east. The tonal rendering of shades which are suitable to integrate within the landscape will help reduce the perceived overall mass of these structures, secured via the OEMP. Additionally, these land uses and proposed structures are consolidated in proximity to Worlington Quarry and Bay Farm solar farm, so that the cumulative impact of these land uses are localised within the landscape;

c. Siting the solar arrays away from Freckenham, Isleham and Worlington to avoid the Scheme resulting in the physical coalescence of settlements, and retaining the open character to the west of Beck Road, between Isleham and Freckenham via Eco 1 and Eco 2;

d. Conserving the field boundaries and the vegetation patterns, including the pine lines, overall by offsetting the solar panels from the field edges. This also retains views across the landscape to valued features including the pine lines in long distance views and vegetation adjacent to the Lee Brook, as well as responding positively to the Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan Landscape Character Assessment guidance "*by using and extending the existing woodland structure to help assimilate and provide screening, arrays contained in land parcels surrounded by belts of woodland would, over time, become well assimilated*";

e. Implementing new woodland and hedgerows, as set out in the OLEMP to aid in visually screening the Scheme and improving the landscape structure, as well as new native grassland mixes beneath the solar panels to improve the range of fauna and increase the biodiversity across the Site in comparison to intensive agriculture, including pig farming; and

f. New permissive routes between Freckenham and Isleham, adjacent to Beck Road, to the south of Worlington, along U6006, adjacent to Elms Road and around the perimeter of E19 and E22, to link with existing routes to Red Lodge, between U6006 and E24 and across E26 to E27 to connect with Golf Links Road. These permissive paths will enable increased public access across the landscape and respond positively to published Green Infrastructure strategies.

10.7.5 Other embedded mitigation measures across the Sunnica East Sites A and B which are shown on Figure 3-1 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** and are shown in the OLEMP within the Landscape Masterplan in Figures 10-14a-f are:

a. Parcel E01 – the solar panels are offset from the Fen woodland to the north and by 8m from the Lee Brook to the west. The proximity to the

woodland aids in screening views from the wider landscape to the north;

b. Parcel E02 – new woodland planting along the eastern edge of the parcel, to reinforce the vegetation structure adjacent to Ferry Lane and screen the panels in longer distance views from the east.

c. Parcel E03 – new woodland to the north and south of the parcel, to screen views from the wider landscape to the north and from Lee Farm. The linear form of the woodland reflects the linear form of pine lines within the wider landscape and provides vegetation linkages east to west across this part of the scheme, between the Lee Brook and vegetation bordering Ferry Lane;

d. Parcel E04 – as per E03, additional woodland along the northern edge and the eastern edge, adjacent to Ferry Lane, so as to screen the panels and improve the vegetation cover;

e. Parcel E05 - the solar panels have been sited back from Beck Road via a landscape buffer of native grassland, to reduce the proximity of the panels to road users, retain views along the road corridor of the churches in Isleham and Freckenham and to retain a perception of travelling through the landscape that separates the settlements;

f. Parcel Eco1 – the proposals are for an area of native chalk grassland implemented via non-invasive methods, as a positive response to the below ground archaeology. In combination with Eco2, this will retain the open character of land between Isleham and Freckenham, to the west of Beck Road;

g. Parcel Eco2 – native chalk grassland and stone curlew plots, which in combination with Eco2 will retain the open character of the land between Isleham and Freckenham, to the west of Beck Road;

h. Parcels E08, E09 and E10 are enclosed by new hedgerows, to screen views of the panels and reinforce existing hedgerow patterns. There is also a proposed area of chalk grassland within E09, above an archaeological mitigation area;

i. Parcels Eco3 will establish a substantial offset from Freckenham Road, to reduce the perception of the solar panels and proximity to residents. The U6006 County Wildlife Site will be retained and is proposed for native chalk grassland as an improvement to the land cover compared to the agricultural fields;

j. Parcels E12 – solar panels have been sited to the south of Worlington and offset from the residential land uses by native chalk grassland. These grassland areas would also provide opportunities for stone curlew mitigation;

k. Parcels E12 to E17 – solar panels have been located within the smaller field parcels and offset from the intervening pine lines, so as to retain the field pattern and vegetation cover. The panels have also been offset from U6006, which is retained as a recreational route through this part of the Scheme;

l. Parcels E19 to E22 – the solar panels in this part of the Site have also been located within the smaller field parcels, to reflect the landscape pattern and retain the intervening pine lines. New woodland is proposed around the perimeter of the parcels to reduce the visibility from residents adjacent to Bridge End Road and local PRoW, as well as screen the structures and reduce the perception of the Scheme from Badlingham;

m. Parcels E24 and E25 – new woodland planting is proposed to the north, east and south of these parcels to screen the structures and reduce the perception of the scheme when travelling along Worlington Road;

n. Parcels E26 to E29 – the solar panels have been located within the small scale fields and are offset from the boundary vegetation. This is to retain the landscape pattern and screen the panels from wider views;

o. Parcels E30 to E32 – the woodland in the south-east part of the Site and around the field parcels has been retained for visual screening and retaining the vegetation cover. Additional hedgerow and woodland planting are proposed adjacent to Golf Links Road to screen views for motorists and from views from the wider landscape to the north, as well as reduce the perception of the Scheme in relation to Worlington.

10.7.6 With reference to Parameter Plan Figure 3-2 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** and the OLEMP, the design principles have been incorporated across Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B by:

a. Siting the primary construction compound and the BESS and substation within W17, so that it is in part adjacent to existing barns and bordered by the mature woodland of Sounds Plantation which aids in screening the structures from the west and in views from the east, their suitable rendering in the context of the woodland, to aid in reducing the perceived overall massing of the structures;

b. Conserving the field boundaries and the vegetation patterns by locating the solar panels within the fields and offsetting them from the existing hedgerows and trees. This also retains views across the landscape to valued features including Avenue and plantations; and

c. Implementing new woodland and hedgerows to aid in visually screening the Scheme and reflect the vegetation patterns, as well as new grassland mixes beneath the solar panels to improve the range of fauna and increase the biodiversity across the Site in comparison to intensive agriculture.

10.7.7 Other embedded mitigation across the Sunnica West Site A and B sites which are shown on Figure 3-2 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** and secured in the OLEMP and within the Landscape Masterplan in Figures 10-14a-f are:

a. Parcels W01 and W02 – siting the solar arrays within a small part of W01 and W02, away from Chippenham Fen, the River Snail and Snailwell Road so as to reduce the visibility of the Scheme from motorists and conserve the landscape features of woodland and the

river. New native wetland grassland is proposed across these parcels as a positive response to the adjacent RAMSAR site and in response to below ground archaeology;

b. Parcel W03 – siting the solar panels between woodland blocks and Foxburrow Plantation and reinforcing the vegetation patterns with new woodland planting to aid in screening this part of the Scheme from the wider landscape and retaining a physical separation from Chippenham Road and Snailwell;

c. Parcel W04 – new native chalk grassland across part of the parcel, in response to below ground archaeology. The solar panels have also been sited away from The Avenue so that new woodland can be implemented. A temporary fence, rendered in a colour to aids its integration in the landscape will also be implemented in relation to views from Godolphin Gallops, until the establishment of the proposed planting, secured via the OLEMP;

d. Parcel W05 – siting the solar panels away from The Avenue so that new woodland can be implemented along the southern edges of the parcel, which is considered appropriate in the context of the Avenue and Chippenham Parl. There would also be a new woodland mix along the southern edge of the parcel which would include a higher percentage of evergreen species and a temporary fence, rendered in a suitable colour, to screen views from motorists on the A14, secured via the OLEMP.

e. Parcels W06 and W07 – new woodland planting to the west of the parcels, to reduce their visibility in longer distance views from The Limekilns, as well as provide new vegetation links across the landscape. The existing woodland between these parcels has also been retained, with panels and associated infrastructure offset from the woodland;

f. Parcels W08 and W09 – limiting the extent of the solar panels across these fields, so as to respond positively to below ground archaeology. New native grassland would extend across the archaeological areas, to create a continuous sward of grassland with that which will be present under the panels;

g. Parcels W10, W11 and W12 – the extent of the solar panels has been located to ensure a physical separation from the boundary wall of Chippenham Park and Chippenham Hall. New hedgerow and woodland are proposed along the northern edge of these parcels to provide visual screening from La Hogue Road. New woodland is also proposed along the northern edge of W10, to provide visual screening from the same road and reinforce the existing vegetation patterns;

h. Parcel W15– the solar panels have been offset from the watercourse, along with the retention of the riverside trees and vegetation and road networks. New woodland is proposed around the perimeter of the parcels to screen the Scheme, as well as to soften views of the A11 from Kennett and increase the vegetation.

10.7.8 In relation to the below ground cable routes, there would be new planting to replace vegetation removed during the construction phase where practicable.

10.7.9 At Burwell National Grid Substation Extension, there would be new boundary woodland planting along the eastern edge of Option 1 and the western edge of Option 2. There would also be replacement planting along the Newnham drove where the vegetation is to be removed for cable route construction. These elements are set out in the Landscape Masterplan proposals, in Figures 10-14a-f

10.7.10 All of the above measures would be maintained in accordance with the LEMP produced in accordance with the Outline LEMP, included in **Appendix 10I** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.7.11 Embedded mitigation measures for the construction stage are set out **Appendix 16C: Framework CEMP, Appendix 16F: Framework Operational Environmental Management Plan** and **Appendix 16E: Framework Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, including measures such as construction exclusion zones in relation to retained vegetation, ensuring a tidy and neat working area, covering stockpiles, hoardings in a suitable colour to aid their integration in the landscape and storing topsoil in accordance with best practice measures.

10.8 Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects

10.8.1 The impacts and effects (both beneficial and adverse) associated with the construction, operation year 1, operation year 15, and decommissioning of the Scheme are summarised in the sections below.

10.8.2 The assessments are based on the Works Plans and the OLEMP with reference made to the Figures 3-1 and 3-2 (the Parameter Plans) **[EN010106/APP/6.3],** which include for the embedded mitigation described above.

10.8.3 The following section focuses mainly on the potential likely significant effects (i.e. effects of major or moderate) and should be read in combination with the landscape effects in **Appendix 10G** and **10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** which set out the landscape and visual effects in full, covering significant and not significant effects.

10.8.4 The likely impacts and effects are set out in relation to each of the Site areas, i.e. Sunnica East Site A or Sunnica West Site A and in respect of Cable Routes A and B. This is followed by an assessment of the combined effects (intra project effects), i.e. where more than one Site area is within a landscape character area, or a visual receptor has views of more than one Site area.

Construction Phase Assessment (winter)

Sunnica East Site A - Construction Landscape Effects

Sunnica East Site A – Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.5 The construction phase would be located across all of the Sunnica East Site A, covering the fields adjacent to Beck Road, to the west of Ferry Lane and around Lee Farm.

10.8.6 Primary compounds would be located to the east of the reservoirs and Lee Farm (in parcel E33), with excavators, piling machines and vehicles in all parcels across the Sunnica East Site A. The exception would be Eco1, Eco2 and a small part of E09, where due to below ground archaeology no development is proposed.

10.8.7 There would be localised excavation to implement the below ground cables between E05 and the remainder of the Sunnica East Site A. The implementation of the BESS (including the firewater tanks) and substation would require tall lifting equipment and associated machinery of a greater size than general farming machinery and operations.

10.8.8 Fencing around the compound and the Sunnica East Site A would be implemented early within the construction phase, which would also enable the protection of the retained vegetation during the implementation of the remainder of the Scheme, including along the Lee Brook and adjacent to Ferry Lane, Beck Road and Lee Farm.

10.8.9 The construction phase would result in changes to the landcover and landform across Sunnica East Site A, from vegetation clearance, topsoil stripping and localised land levelling. This activity would expose sub-base chalk, altering the tonal colour within the fields, as well raised earth stockpiles and bunds which are uncharacteristic in relation to the gently undulating landform and open character of the rural landscape. There would be more localised excavation via trenching within fields for the cable routes, piling for the frames for the solar panels and excavation for the internal road networks within the parcels, as well as the stockpiling of solar panel frames.

10.8.10 The scale and extent of the construction phase would result in a substantial alteration to the landscape character across the Sunnica East Site A, including a reduction in tranquillity.

10.8.11 The magnitude of impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high in relation to substantial change from the construction activity across Sunnica East Site A, which, when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site A - Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.12 The Sunnica East Site A construction activity would be located across NCA 46 The Fens, NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Rolling East Chalklands and LT Settled Fenlands and the Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan rural character areas R1: West and R2: North.

10.8.13 The NCA, LCT and LT character areas are large in scale and characterised by generally flat to gently undulating landform, agricultural land uses and a range of settlement sizes and associated infrastructure.

10.8.14 With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, there would be changes to landform and landcover within these published landscape character areas, as well as localised reductions in tranquillity from the construction activity.

10.8.15 The key features of vegetation (i.e. the pine lines) or stream corridors (i.e. the Lee Brook) would be retained and protected during the construction phase via the CEMP. Most of the construction activity would be located in the curtilage of Lee Farm, where there are existing buildings and silos. The extent of the construction activity would also be bound by Beck Road and Ferry Lane.

10.8.16 The scale of the construction activity across Sunnica East Site A would be very small in relation to the extent of the published landscape character areas. In combination with the temporary presence of construction activity and that the key landscape features would be protected and retained, the construction phase would result in effects ranging between **negligible adverse and minor adverse**, these are considered not significant.

10.8.17 In relation to the Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan landscape character areas, the implementation of the grassland either side of Beck Road and part of the permissive path would be in Rural 1: West.

10.8.18 The construction of the solar panels and associated structures would be within Rural 2: North. The impacts to Rural 2: North would reflect those stated at the Site level, resulting in a high magnitude of impact. In relation to the high sensitivity of the character area, the construction phase would result in effects of **major adverse**; this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site A - Construction Impacts on Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.19 At the local scale and with reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and Figure 10-10, all of the construction activity would be located within LLCA 11: East Fen Chalklands (LLCA 11).

10.8.20 LLCA 11 is characterised by its flat to gently undulating landform, arable land use and open character.

10.8.21 The impacts to LLCA 11 would reflect those at the Site level, with changes to common features of fields and a reduction in the tranquillity. The scale and duration of the construction activity would be greater than general farming practices.

10.8.22 The construction activity would be located across part of LLCA 11 and mainly within Lee Farm where there are tall silo's and buildings which would introduce height and structures within the landscape. The construction activity would retain and protect the key features of Lee Brook and vegetation within Lee Farm. The perception of the construction activity would also be localised due to the undulating landform across the LLCA.

10.8.23 The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium, which results in a temporary **moderate adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

10.8.24 For other LLCA in proximity to Sunnica East Site A, including LLCA 7: River Lark Valley, LLCA 10: Isleham and LLCA 12: Freckenham, the construction activity would not be located within these areas and would not result in any physical changes to the LLCA. The effects are therefore assessed as not significant to these LLCA.

Sunnica East Site A - Construction Visual Effects

10.8.25 The construction activity across Sunnica East Site A would not be visible to all of the visual receptors identified in the visual baseline. This is due to the intervening landform, vegetation and distance across the Order limits which would result in a smaller visual envelope for the construction activity at Sunnica East Site A, extending between the River Lark, the southern edge of Isleham, the northern edge of Freckenham and Ferry Lane.

10.8.26 The ground level construction activity across the fields would be visible, seen through the perimeter fencing for most of the identified visual receptors.

10.8.27 The upper parts of machinery and tall lifting equipment would be visible at close range from motorists travelling along Beck Road and Ferry Lane, as well as visitors to The Ark Church. The tall lifting equipment and construction of the upper parts of the BESS (including the firewater tanks) and substation would be visible for recreational users along the River Lark, along Ferry Lane and at Jude's Ferry.

10.8.28 Residents on the southern edge of Isleham and at the western edge of Freckenham would have views of the construction activity adjacent to Beck Road, in parcels E05 to Eco 2, as well as longer distance views of the construction of the upper parts of the BESS and substation and the associated cranes.

10.8.29 There would also be close range views of the construction activity for residents in Lee Farm and Beck Road and recreational users along PRoW 257/002/X, which crosses the eastern edge of Eco 2 and connects with Beck Road.

10.8.30 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium to high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in **Table 10-7**, result in temporary **major** or **moderate** adverse effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors, as summarised in **Table 10-8** below:

a. VP1 Recreational Users on the River Lark;
b. VP2A Recreational Users on the River Lark;
c. VP2B Visitors to Jude's Ferry;
d. VP2C Residents and motorists on Ferry Lane;
e. VP3 Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End;
f. VP4 Visitors to the Ark Church;
g. VP4A Residents in Isleham and motorists on Sheldrick's Road;
h. VP5 Motorists on Beck Road;
i. VP6 Residents adjacent to the B1104;
j. VP9A Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0;
k. VP11 Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0;
l. VP11A Residents of Beck Road;
m. VP12 Residents in Lee Farm; and
n. VP12A Motorists on Ferry Lane.

Summary of Construction Effects for Sunnica East Site A

10.8.31 **Table 10-8** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-8**, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-8: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 46: The Fens	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Settled Farmlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Neighbourhood Level – Freckenham Local Plan Landscape Character Assessment					
Freckenham Village A: Fordham Road	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Rural 1: West	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Rural 2: North	High	Substantial alteration to the key characteristics	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Local Landscape Character Areas					
7. River Lark Valley	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
10. Isleham	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
11. East Fen Chalklands	Medium	Partial alteration to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
12. Freckenham	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major Adverse	Yes
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
2B. Visitors to Jude's Ferry	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
2C. Residents and motorists on Ferry Lane	High	As above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
4A Residents in Isleham and motorists on Sheldrick's Road	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
5. Motorists on Beck Road	High	As above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
7. Motorist on B1104	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
8. Residents in Freckenham	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
9. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	Barely discernible change to existing views	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
9A. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	Partial change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	High	Barely perceptible change to the composition of the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	Extensive change to the composition of the view	High	Major Adverse	Yes
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	High	As Above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
12. Residents in Lee Farm	High	As Above	High	Major Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
12A. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
13. Motorists on the B1102	Medium	Subtle change to the composition of the view	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica East Site B - Construction Landscape Effects

Sunnica East Site B - Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.32 The construction activity would be located across all parcels of Sunnica East Site B, extending between Freckenham Road, Elms Road and Golf Links Road.

10.8.33 There would be changes to landcover and landform across Sunnica East Site B, from vegetation clearance, topsoil stripping and localised levelling. There would be more localised excavation via trenching within fields for the cable routes, piling for the frames for the solar panels and excavation for the internal road networks within the parcels. The construction of the BESS (including firewater tanks) and substation in E18 would require tall lifting equipment and associated machinery.

10.8.34 The scale of the construction equipment and excavation within fields and duration of the construction phase would result in a substantial alteration to the landscape character across the Sunnica East Site B, including a reduction in tranquillity.

10.8.35 The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high in relation to the Sunnica East Site B, due to the substantial change, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site B - Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.36 The Sunnica East Site B would be located across NCA 85 The Brecks, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LT Estate Sandlands, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, the Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic and Low Chalk Farmland. The Sunnica East Site B would also be located in the Freckenham Neighbourhood Level landscape character area R3: East.

10.8.37 These published areas are characterised by their geometric field patterns, 'pine lines' and sparse settlement pattern.

10.8.38 With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, whilst there would be changes to landform and landcover within these published NCA, LCT and LT landscape character areas, the key features of 'pine lines' would be protected via the tree protection measures in the CEMP. The construction activity would be small and localised in relation to the wider extent of the published areas. Due to this, the landscape effects during the construction phase would range between **negligible adverse and minor adverse,** these are considered not significant.

10.8.39 In relation to Rural 3: East, the impacts would reflect those predicted at the Site level, although not across all of the extent of Rural 3: East. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium and in relation to the medium sensitivity of Rural 3: East, the effect would be **moderate adverse**; this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site B - Construction Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.40 At the local scale and with reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and Figure 10-10, all of the construction activity would be located across most of LLCA 13: Elms Sandlands Mosaic (LLCA 13).

10.8.41 LLCA 13 is characterised by its geometric field patterns, arable and pig farming land uses, 'pine lines', woodland and PRoW, which provide a recreational value.

10.8.42 The impacts to LLCA 13 would reflect those at the Site level, with changes to common features of fields and a reduction in the tranquillity. The scale and duration of the construction activity would be greater than general farming practices.

10.8.43 The key features of 'pine lines', woodland across the base of Chalk Hill and enclosing E26 to E29 would be protected via the tree protection measures in the Framework CEMP and the recreational value of U6006 would be limited to a three week temporary closure, such that for the main duration of the construction activity the route would remain open.

10.8.44 The changes to landform, landcover and the presence of the construction machinery, balanced with the scale of the activity in relation to the extent of LLCA 13 is assessed as resulting in a high magnitude of impact and a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

10.8.45 For other LLCA in proximity to Sunnica East Site B, including LLCA 8: Worlington, LLCA 9: Six Acre Chalk Farmland, LLCA 12: Freckenham and LLCA 14: River Kennett, the construction activity would not be located within these areas and not result in any physical changes to the LLCA.

The effects are therefore assessed as not significant to LLCA 8, LLCA 9, LLCA 12 and LLCA 14.

Sunnica East Site B – Construction Visual Effects

10.8.46 The construction activity across Sunnica East Site B would not be visible to all of visual receptors identified in the visual baseline. This is due to the intervening landform, vegetation and distance across the Order limits which would result in a small visual envelope for the construction activity within Sunnica East Site B.

10.8.47 Views of the construction activity across Sunnica East Site B would be experienced mainly by motorists, who are passing through the landscape, due to the sparse settlement pattern and limited recreational routes across this part of the Order limits limiting views from residents and recreational users.

10.8.48 For motorists on the B1102, between Freckenham and Worlington, residents adjacent to the B1102 and at the southern edge of Worlington, the planting of the ecology enhancement areas and new native grassland in Eco 3 would be visible at close range. This would be a small change to the composition of the view and generally reflect views of farming activities (if slightly larger). The construction across E12 would also be visible for these receptors, consisting of ground level excavation and tall lifting equipment and associated machinery.

10.8.49 Walkers and equestrian riders along U6006, crossing between Worlington and Elms Road, would have views of the construction activity at close range.

10.8.50 The construction activity would be mainly screened for motorists on Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham due to the roadside vegetation. There would be close range views of activity and tall lifting equipment north and south of the road (in parcels E16, E19, E20 and E21) as well as the cranes at the compound and implementation of the BESS (including firewater tanks) and substation. However, the construction activity would be visible for a short part of the journey along Elms Road.

10.8.51 The construction within parcel E21 would be largely screened by the retained pine lines in relation to views from Elms Road and the construction in E22 would not be visible, due to the lower lying position of this parcel of land in relation to motorist on Elms Road.

10.8.52 There would be filtered views of the construction activity in E22 from the A11 overbridge, to the east of E22, due to the elevated position of the receptor. For residents adjacent to Badlingham Road, the ground level construction activity would be screened by the intervening hedgerows, such that there would only be oblique views of tall lifting equipment in E22.

10.8.53 For motorists on Newmarket Road and Golf Links Road, to the west of Worlington, the activity and tall machinery would be visible at certain points along the route, with views across E24 and E25 due to breaks in the

roadside vegetation. The activity across E30 to E32 would be screened to a greater degree by the roadside hedgerows, although localised gaps and the intermittent vegetation and the eastern end of the road would enable more open and close range views of the activity and tall lifting equipment; albeit viewed obliquely.

10.8.54 The construction activity in parcels E30 to E32 would also be visible for recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0, to the north of these parcels, due to the gaps in the vegetation adjacent to Golf Links Road and the rising land across the base of Chalk Hill.

10.8.55 The construction activity would not be visible from residents at the western edge of Red Lodge, nor within Barton Mills, due to the intervening residential land uses, vegetation and distance from the Site.

10.8.56 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium to high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors identified in **Table 10-7**, results in temporary **major** or **moderate** adverse effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

a. VP14 Motorists and pedestrians on the B1102;
b. VP14A Residents adjacent to the B1102;
c. VP15A, VP15B and VP16 Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006;
d. VP18 Motorist on Elms Road;
e. VP20 Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0;
f. VP21 Motorists on Badlingham Road;
g. VP21A Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road;
h. VP22 and VP23 Motorists on Worlington Road;
i. VP23A Residents at Queens Hill, Worlington;
j. VP24 and VP25 Motorists on Golf Links Road; and
k. VP26A PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0.

Summary of Construction Effects for Sunnica East Site B

10.8.57 **Table 10-9** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-9**, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-9: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 85 The Brecks	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment					
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Low Chalk Farmland	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Neighbourhood Plan Freckenham Landscape Character Assessment					
Freckenham Village B: Southern Fringes	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Freckenham Village E: Ems Road	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Rural 3: East	Medium	Partial alteration to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Local Landscape Character Areas					
LLCA 8 Worlington	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 9 Six Acre Chalk Farmland	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 12 Freckenham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 13 Elms Sandlands Mosaic	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
LLCA 14: River Kennet	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site B	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
13A. Recreational users including equestrian users on bridleway south of Mildenhall Road	High	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
14. Motorists and Pedestrians on B1102	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
14A. Residents adjacent to B1102	High	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
15. Recreational users including equestrian riders on U6006	High	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor Adverse	No
15A. Recreational users including equestrian riders on U6006	High	Extensive change to the composition of the view	High	Major Adverse	Yes
15B. Recreational users including equestrian riders on U6006	High	As above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
16. Recreational users including equestrian riders on U6006	High	As above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
17. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0	High	Subtle change to the view	Low	Minor Adverse	No
18. Motorists on Elms Road	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
21. Motorists on Badlingham Road	Medium	Partial change to the composition of existing views	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
21A. Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	High	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
22. Motorists on Worlington Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
23. Motorists on Worlington Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	High	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
24. Motorists on Golf Links Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
25. Motorists on Golf Links Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
28. Recreational users on A11	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Landscape Effects

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.58 The construction activity would be located across all Sunnica West Site A, extending between La Hogue Road and the B1085, to the north of the A11 and to the south of the A11, between the B1085 and the A14.

10.8.59 Like Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B, the construction activity would commence with the fencing of the perimeter of this part of the Order limits area. The early implementation of the fencing and the tree protection measures would retain the vegetation structure across Sunnica West Site A, including The Avenue, Sounds Plantation and Foxburrow Plantation, roadside hedgerows and the tree belts adjacent to W15, thereby protecting these features during the construction phase.

10.8.60 There would be changes to landform and landcover, as a result of the topsoil stripping and localised excavation required for the solar panel, BESS and substation. The construction compound would be located centrally, within W17, resulting in temporary massing and structures, stockpiles and associated machinery, with HGV vehicles accessing the compound via La Hogue Road. There would be localised vegetation clearance to enable the construction access off of La Hogue Road.

10.8.61 The construction activity would result in a substantial alteration to the fields across Sunnica West A, its settled character, landcover and tranquillity.

10.8.62 The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high, due to the substantial change, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.63 Sunnica West Site A would be located across part of NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, and Suffolk LT Rolling Estate Chalklands. These areas are characterised by undulating landform, vegetation patterns, rural land uses and ‘stud landscapes’.

10.8.64 As noted, the key features of vegetation cover would remain, such that alteration to the fields would be to a common landscape feature. The impacts to tranquillity as a result of the construction activity would not impact the wider extent of the published studies. This is due to the construction activity located adjacent to, or in proximity of, the A11, A14 and Newmarket railway lines.

10.8.65 With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, whilst there would be changes to landform and landcover within these published landscape character areas, the scale of the construction activity, in relation to the wider extent of these areas, would small and localised. Therefore, the landscape effects to the

published landscape character areas during the construction phase of Sunnica West Site A would range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**, these are considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Impact to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.66 At the local scale and with reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and Figure 10-10, all of the construction activity would be located across LLCA 24 Lowland Estate Chalkland (LLCA 24).

10.8.67 LLCA 24 is characterised as an arable landscape, interspersed with broadleaf plantations and a medium scale field pattern, situated across gently undulating landform.

10.8.68 As the construction activity would be located across part of LLCA 24, there would be a partial loss to the field pattern from the changes to landform, and the presence of the construction machinery. The construction phase is predicted to result in a medium magnitude of impact and a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

10.8.69 For LLCA in proximity to LLCA 24, the construction activity would not be located in LLCA23A: Chippenham, LLCA23B: Chippenham Park nor LLCA 25: Kennett. This distance from the Scheme, and the consideration that any perception of the construction activity would be limited, means that the Scheme is considered not to result in significant effects to these LLCA.

10.8.70 For LLCA 26: The Limekilns and Gallops (LLCA 26), the construction activity across Sunnica West Site A would also be separated from the 'stud' landscapes by the A14 and railway line, which are also considered to negate any perception of noise during the construction phase. The perception of the construction phase in the context of the movement along these infrastructure corridors would alter the setting of the LLCA, compared to the settled character of fields, but it is considered that the Scheme would not result in significant effects to LLCA 26.

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Visual Effects

10.8.71 The construction activity across Sunnica West Site A would not be visible to all of visual receptors identified in the visual baseline. This is due to the location of most of the fields within a localised valley between Chippenham and Newmarket, intervening vegetation and distance across the Order limits, such that the visual envelope is localised.

10.8.72 From within Chippenham and Chippenham Park, the construction activity would not be visible across Sunnica West Site A, due to the intervening buildings, mature woodland and boundary wall along the edge of the Park.

10.8.73 However, for motorists travelling along La Hogue Road, between Chippenham Park and the A11, including visitors to La Hogue Farm shop and residents, the upper parts of machinery within W10, W11 and W12

would be visible, including the cranes and construction of the upper parts of the BESS and substation. Compared to views of the fields and woodland plantations, the construction activity would be an extensive change to the view for motorists along part of La Hogue Road.

10.8.74 For motorists along the B1085 the upper parts of tall construction machinery would be visible in the background of the view.

10.8.75 Construction activity in the southern part of W15 would be visible at close range for motorists travelling along Newmarket Road and residents adjacent to W15, but largely screened in views from the A11. There would be longer distance views of the construction activity in W15 for residents adjacent to Station Road.

10.8.76 The construction across parts of Sunnica West Site A would be visible for motorists on the A11/A1304 slip road and short part of the A14, in proximity to the overbridge, due to the gaps in the roadside vegetation.

10.8.77 Due to the elevated position and open character of The Limekilns gallops, receptors at this location would also have views of the construction across W03 to W12. Similarly, to the north of the Limekilns, for recreational users on The Avenue, the construction activity across W05 to W12 would be visible from the Railway Field and overbridge across the A14 to varying degrees.

10.8.78 The construction across this part of Sunnica West Site A in views from the Limekilns would be seen beyond and in the context of the A14 and Newmarket railway line which already introduce movement and vehicles within the composition of the view. However, the scale, extent and duration of the construction phase would be an extensive change to the view in relation to the settled character of the fields to the north of the A14.

10.8.79 Recreational receptors along PRoW 204/5, between The Avenue and Chippenham Road, would also have close range views of the activity adjacent to W03 and W04. Much of this route is bordered by mature vegetation, such that views are screened and channelled. However, in proximity to Chippenham Road, there would be close range and open views of the machinery and tall equipment above the intervening vegetation around W03 and similarly for motorists on this road, the upper parts of construction machinery in W03 would also be visible. There would also be largely filtered views of the construction activity in W03 and the southern part of W04 for employment users on Godolphin Gallops.

10.8.80 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium to high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors, as identified in **Table 10-7**, results in temporary **major** or **moderate** adverse effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

a. VP32 Motorists of La Hogue Road;

b. VP33 Visitors to La Hogue Farm;

c. VP36 Residents adjacent to Station Road;

d. VP37 Motorists on Newmarket Road;

e. VP37A Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road;

f. VP38 Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns; and

g. VP41 Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell.

Summary of Construction Effects for Sunnica West Site A

10.8.81 **Table 10-10** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-10**, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-10: Summary of Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site A Construction Phase

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 21 Snailwell	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 23B. Chippenham Park	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
LLCA 25: Kennett	Low	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 26. The Limekilns and Gallops	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	High	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Medium	Substantial change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
34. Motorists on the B1025	Medium	Barely noticeable change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
34A. Motorists on the B1085	Medium	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
35. Residents at Dane Hill Farm	High	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
36. Residents adjacent to Station Road	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
37. Motorists on Newmarket Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
37A. Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	High	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
37B. Motorists on A11	Very Low	Barely perceptible change to the composition of the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
37C. View north from the A11/A1304 slip road	Very Low	Substantial change to the composition of the view	High	Minor Adverse	No
37D. Motorists on the A14	Very Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
37E Motorists on the A14	Very Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
38. Users of the Gallops	High	Substantial change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
39. Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
39C. Employment workers at the Godolphin Gallops	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
40. Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, The A11	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
41. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	High	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site B - Construction Landscape Effects

Sunnica West Site B - Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.82 Sunnica West Site B consists of W01, W02 and Eco 4, to the north of Snailwell Road. The construction activity within W01 and W02 would consist of excavation, trenching, machinery and the associated vehicles and general activity.

10.8.83 The excavation for the solar panels would be offset from the River Snail and the riverside vegetation, as well as from the vegetation bordering Chippenham Fen, via the ecology enhancement zones. However, as stated in the assumptions, there would be small scale construction activity within this zone to implement ecological measures for sowing native grassland.

10.8.84 The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high, due to the substantial change, which when considered alongside have medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Sunnica West Site B – Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessment

10.8.85 The construction activity at Sunnica West Site B would be located within NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands.

10.8.86 The construction activity would be located in a part of these published landscape character areas which is already characterised by a rural landscape crossed by main roads and railway lines and where other land uses include large industrial estates in contrast to small scale villages.

10.8.87 Whilst the construction activity would result in localised changes to surface landform and landcover and a reduction in tranquillity, the scale and duration of the construction phase would be small in relation to the wider extent of the published landscape character areas. Therefore, the landscape effects to these published landscape character areas are assessed as **negligible adverse**, these are considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site B – Construction Impacts on Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.88 At the local level, the construction activity would be located across part of LLCA 24: Lowland Estate Chalkland (LLCA 24), which consists of fields and woodland across undulating landform.

10.8.89 The key features of the River Snail, woodland and hedgerows within LLCA 24 would be protected during the construction phase by the measures set out in the CEMP and the construction activity for the panels being located centrally within Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.90 There would be changes to surface landform and the presence of construction activity, including traffic management measures, to a greater scale and extent than agricultural activity; although localised to the northern part of the LLCA.

10.8.91 The construction impacts are therefore assessed as low and in relation to the medium sensitivity of the LLCA, the effect are assessed as **minor adverse**; this is considered not significant due to the small scale of the construction activity associated with Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.92 With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the effects to adjacent LLCAs are considered not to be significant. This is due to the construction activity not being located in the adjacent LLCA's and any perception of activity in LLCA 24 would not alter key characteristics.

Sunnica West Site B – Construction Visual Effects

10.8.93 Machinery and tall lifting equipment would be visible above the intervening hedgerows for recreational users along PRoW 204/1, to the east of the Sunnica West Site B site.

10.8.94 Construction within W01 and W02 would be briefly visible from parts of Snailwell Road, due to breaks in the roadside vegetation, specifically when crossing the River Snail, due to the more open character of the roadside verges at this location.

10.8.95 The woodlands and tree belts across the wider landscape would screen the construction activity across Sunnica West Site B from residents in Fordham and Snailwell, such that the extent of visibility of the construction activity would be small and localised.

10.8.96 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the magnitude of impact is assessed as medium, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors identified in **Table 10-7** results in a temporary **moderate adverse** effect (and thus significant) for the following visual receptor:

a. VP45 Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1.

Summary of Construction Effects for Sunnica West Site B

10.8.97 **Table 10-11** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-11**, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-11: Summary of Magnitude of Construction Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 24 Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site B	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
46. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
47. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Grid Connection Route A – Construction Landscape Effects

Grid Connection Route A – Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.98 As stated in the assumptions, the assessment is based on all of the 50m wide Cable Route being excavated, with associated machinery, including boring equipment to enable the route to pass beneath vegetation, roads and watercourses.

10.8.99 The excavation for Grid Connection Route A would extend from the southern edge of Sunnica East A and extend across agricultural fields to the B1085. The alignment of the excavation would pass between the River Kennett and its bankside vegetation and between several retained woodland blocks, including Heath Plantation.

10.8.100 Due to the excavation, hoarding and presence of construction machinery, there would be changes to landform and landcover within the land covered by Grid Connection Route A. The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high in relation to Grid Connection Route A, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Grid Connection Route A – Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.101 Grid Connection Route A would be located across NCA85 The Brecks, NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands and LT Estate Sandlands, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands and Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic.

10.8.102 The small scale and short duration of the construction phase of Grid Connection Route A, in combination with the key landscape features remaining unchanged, would result in the key characteristics of the published studies remaining. Therefore, Grid Connection Route A is assessed as resulting in a range of **negligible adverse** to **minor adverse** landscape effects, these are considered not significant.

Grid Connection Route A – Construction Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.103 At the local scale, Grid Connection Route A would cross LLCA 11: East Fen Chalklands, between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B. Grid Connection Route A would also cross LLCA 14: River Kennett and LLCA: 24 Lowland Estate Chalklands, between Sunnica East Site B and Sunnica West Site A.

10.8.104 For these LLCA, the scale of the construction activity would be localised in relation to the wider extent of the LLCA. The key vegetation structure would be retained and protected, via the CEMP, and the boring of the cable route beneath the River Kennett. There would be alterations to

surface landform and the presence of the construction activity to a greater degree than general agricultural activity.

10.8.105 The impact of Grid Connection Route A is assessed as ranging between very low and low. From the medium sensitivity of LLCA 11: East Fen Chalklands and medium sensitivity of LLCA24: Lowland Estate Chalkland, the effects to these LCAs would not be significant.

10.8.106 With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the effects to adjacent LLCAs are considered not to be significant. This is due to the construction activity not being located in the adjacent LLCA's and due to distance and intervening features any perception of the installation of Grid Connection Route A would not alter key characteristics.

Grid Connection Route A – Construction Visual Effects

10.8.107 The excavation and machinery along the alignment of Grid Connection Route A would be visible for motorists travelling along parts of Freckenham Road, due to the proximity of the construction activity via gaps in the intervening field boundaries.

10.8.108 The boring equipment adjacent to the River Kennett would be visible for recreational users on PRoW W257/003/0 at close range. The boring equipment would also be visible in middle distance views for residents adjacent to Badlingham Road.

10.8.109 To the south of the River Kennett, the upper parts of boring equipment and machinery would be visible from recreational receptors on PRoW 49/7, which extends from Chippenham to the River Kennett.

10.8.110 Motorists on La Hogue Road would have close range views of the associated machinery for the Grid Connection Route B, which would be covering the fields either side of the road. The construction activity would also be visible for residents at La Hogue Farm.

10.8.111 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium and high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in **Table 10-7** results in a temporary **moderate adverse** effect (and thus significant) for the following visual receptor:

a. VP33A Residents at La Hogue Farm;
b. VP20 Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0;
c. VP21A Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road; and
d. VP29 Recreational receptors on PRoW (footpath) 49/7.

Summary of Construction Effects for Grid Connection Route A

10.8.112 **Table 10-12** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Grid Connection Route A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-12**, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-12: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Grid Connection Route A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 85: The Brecks	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Limited alteration to the key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment					
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 11 East Fen Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable change	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 14 River Kennett	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 24 Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Grid Connection Route A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
13. Motorists on the B1102	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/03	High	Partial change to the composition of existing views	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
21A Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
29. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 49/7	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
33A. Residents in La Hogue Farm	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Grid Connection Route B – Construction Landscape Effects

Grid Connection Route B Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.113 Grid Connection Route B would extend from the Sunnica West Site A, across Chippenham Road, to the south-eastern edge of W02, at Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.114 The route would then extend across the western part of the study area, across West Fen and to the west of Burwell, to connect with the existing

Burwell substation. There would be below ground boring at watercourses, Lodes, retained vegetation and existing infrastructure.

10.8.115 There would be alterations to the surface landform and landcover, as well as the presence of construction machinery and activity. The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high in relation to Grid Connection Route B at the site level, which when considered against the high sensitivity of the receptor, results in a temporary **major adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

Grid Connection Route B Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.116 The construction activity across Grid Connection Route B would be located within NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Planned Peat fen, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, LT Settled Fenlands and Cambridgeshire Area 2 Chalklands and Area 8 Fenlands.

10.8.117 Due to the relatively small scale of the excavation across the Cable Route in relation to the wider extent of the published assessments, along with the proximity of the construction activity to existing infrastructure and its duration, the landscape effects are assessed as ranging between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

Grid Connection Route B – Construction Impacts on Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.118 At the local level, Grid Connection Route B would cross parts of LLCA 19: Fordham House, LLCA 20: Snailwell Industrial Estate, LLCA 24: Lowland Estate Chalklands, LLCA 36: Burwell Fen, LLCA 39: Wooded Chalklands and LLCA 43: Burwell Chalklands.

10.8.119 In relation to LLCA 19: Fordham House and LLCA 20: Snailwell Industrial Estate, Grid Connection Route B would be located across a small extent of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory carpark and to the north of Snailwell industrial estate, adjacent to part of the A142. This part of the LLCA is therefore already characterised by infrastructure, large scale buildings and ‘movement’ in the landscape via the vehicles.

10.8.120 For the remaining LLCA which Grid Connection Route B crosses, the construction activity would be located across fields as part of a rural landscape. The construction activity would result in changes surface landform, with the presence of the construction activity, but the key features of watercourse, Lodes and vegetation would be retained and protected.

10.8.121 Across LLCA 36: Burwell Fen, the construction activity would be located in close proximity to National Grid overhead pylons and the existing Burwell substation and perceived in this context.

10.8.122 The scale of Grid Connection Route B would also be small in relation to the wider extents of each of these LLCA and the key features would be retained, such that effects would range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

10.8.123 With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the effects to adjacent LLCAs are considered not to be significant. This is due to the construction activity not being located in the adjacent LLCA's and any perception of the installation of Grid Connection Route B would not alter key characteristics.

Grid Connection Route B – Construction Visual Effects

10.8.124 The upper parts of the construction equipment would be visible from residents on the eastern edge of Snailwell, due to the open character of the interning fields and generally flat intervening landform and at close range for motorists on the Chippenham Road.

10.8.125 The implementation of Grid Connection Route B between the A142 and the railway line would be visible from the upper storey of residential receptors in Fordham House, although seen in the context of vehicles on the A142 and large-scale industrial units in Snailwell industrial estate. A small part of the construction phase would also be visible for employees of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory, due to its proximity, although in the context of internal car-parking.

10.8.126 The construction vehicles and upper parts of the boring equipment across West Fen would be visible from recreational users on PRoW 92/19, to the east of Landwade and Howlem Farm track (PRoW (byway) 35/15), adjacent to residential properties on the northern edge of Burwell and motorist along the B1102.

10.8.127 The machinery required to connect Grid Connection Route B to Burwell substation would from along Weir's Drove road and seen in the context of the upper parts of Burwell substation and national gird pylons, as well as vehicles on Weir Drove.

10.8.128 The upper parts of the boring equipment and construction machinery in proximity to Burwell substation would also be visible from recreational users on Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove. The vertical elements of the boring equipment would be seen in the context of extensive pylons and the upper parts of the existing substation.

10.8.129 For residents in Reach and recreational users along the Devil's Ditch, to the south of Reach, Cabe Route B would not be visible, due to intervening vegetation.

10.8.130 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium to high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in **Table 10-7**, results in temporary **major** or

moderate adverse effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

a. VP42. Motorists on Chippenham Road;
b. VP43. Residents in Snailwell;
c. VP44: Residents in Snailwell;
d. VP45. Recreational users of PRoW (footpath) 204/145; and
e. VP48. Residents in Fordham House.

Summary of Construction Effects for Grid Connection Route B

10.8.131 **Table 10-13** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Grid Connection Route B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10 H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-13**, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-13: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effects for Grid Connection Route B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LT Settled Fenlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines					
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Area 8 Fenlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA)					
LLCA 19: Fordham House	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 20: Snailwell Industrial Estate	Very Low	As above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 21: Snailwell	High	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 24: Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 36: Burwell Fen	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 38: Burwell	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 39: Burwell Wooded Chalklands	Low	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 43: Burwell Chalklands	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Grid Connection Route B	High	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
34. Motorists on the B1085	Medium	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
43. Residents in Snailwell	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
44. Residents in Snailwell	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
45. Recreational users of PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
47A Employees and the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory	Low	As above	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
48. Residents in Fordham House	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
50. Recreational users on Landwade Road	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
51. Motorist on the B1102	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
52. Recreational users on Howlem Farm Track	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
53. Motorists on Weirs Drove Road	Low	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
55. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension– Construction Landscape Effects

10.8.132 As per the assumptions, the assessment of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension is based on both options that are being considered, i.e. Option 1 to the east of the existing substation and Option 2, to the north-west of the existing substation.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.133 For Option 1, the excavation and implementation of the extension would be located to the east side of the existing substation and across several small scale fields divided by hedgerows and trees that lie adjacent to the existing substation area. The construction activity would result in localised changes to landform, topsoil stripping and removal of vegetation across the fields and from along Weirs Drove road, as part of the construction of the access into the Site. The impact in relation to Option 1 at the Site level would be high. In relation to the medium sensitivity of the Option 1 landscape character, the effect would be **major adverse**. This is considered significant.

10.8.134 For Option 2, there would be localised vegetation removal from along Newham Drove. The construction activity would be located within a larger scale field in comparison to Option 1, such that the extent of vegetation removal would be less, but the presence of construction activity, changes to surface landform and presence of construction activity would retain a high impact, as per Option 1. In relation to the low sensitivity of the Option

2 landscape character, the effect would be **major adverse**. This is considered significant.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Construction Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.135 The construction activity for Option 1 or Option 2 would be located within NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Settled Fenlands and Cambridgeshire Area 2: Chalklands.

10.8.136 The construction activity for Option 1 or Option 2 would be localised to a part of these published landscape character areas which are crossed by National Grid pylons and the scale and massing of the existing substation already influences the existing landscape character, aesthetics and perception.

10.8.137 The impact of the construction phase for Option 1 or Option 2 is assessed as **negligible adverse**; this is considered not significant.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Construction Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas

10.8.138 At the local level, the construction activity for Option 1 or Option 2 would be located in LLCA: 36 Burwell Fen. As stated above, the influence on the character from the scale of the existing substation and the tracts of overhead pylons extending across the flat fens is such that the construction activity would not result in significant adverse landscape effects.

10.8.139 Similarly, for LLCA 37: Reach and LLCA 38: Burwell, which border LLCA: 36 Burwell Fen, the construction activity would not be located in these areas and any perception of the construction activity, for either Option 1 or Option 2 would be in the context of the existing Substation. Due to this, the construction activity would not result in significant adverse landscape effects.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Construction Visual Effects

10.8.140 The construction of the extension within Option 1 would be visible at close range for motorists along Weir's Drove Road, Newham Drove and Hightown Drove; however, the activity would be seen in the context of the existing substation and pylons. From recreational routes across the wider fen landscape to the west of Option 1, the intervening substation and vegetation patterns would screen views of the ground level construction activity. The upper parts of cranes and tall lifting equipment would be visible above the vegetation but would be seen in the context of the pylons and substation.

10.8.141 For recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove, the construction activity would be located on the far side of the existing substation, such that most of the construction activity would be screened.

The upper parts of the construction activity, including tall lifting equipment would be seen in the context of the substation and pylons.

10.8.142 For residents in Reach and recreational users on the Devil's Dyke, the intervening vegetation and distance would screen most of the construction activity. The upper parts of tall lifting equipment would be seen in the context of the existing infrastructure at Burwell. Due to the construction activity being seen at close range but in the context of Burwell substation, it is predicted that there would be significant adverse effects at the lower end of significance (**Moderate Adverse**) for users of Weir's Drove (VR 53).

10.8.143 The construction of the extension within Option 2 would be predominantly screened from Weirs Drove due to the distance and intervening vegetation. The exception would be views of the upper parts of tall construction equipment above the intervening vegetation. The construction activity would be visible from Newham Drove and from recreational routes across the wider fen landscape to the west of Option 2.

10.8.144 However, due to the construction activity being seen in the context of the existing substation the effects are predicted to be not significant.

Summary of Construction Effects for Burwell National Grid Substation Extension

10.8.145 **Table 10-14** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-14**, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-14: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Burwell National Grid Substation Extension

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Settled Fenlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines					
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
Site Level Landscape Character Option 1	Medium	Extensive alteration to key characteristics	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Site level landscape character Option 2	Low	Extensive alteration to key characteristics	High	Major Adverse	Yes
LLCA 36. Burwell Fen	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
LLCA 37: Reach	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
LLCA 38: Burwell	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse for Option 1 Neutral for option 2	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Visual					
53. Motorists Weir Drove Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	High – Option 1 Low – Option 2	Moderate Adverse – Option 1 Minor Adverse Option 2	Yes No
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium	As Above	Low – Option 2	Minor Adverse	No
55. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
55A. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	As Above	Low – Option 1 Very Low – Option 2	Minor Adverse – Option 1 Negligible Adverse – Option 2	No
56. Motorists on Burwell Road	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse (for Option 1 and Option 2)	No
57. Residents in Reach	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (for Option 1 and Option 2)	No
58. Recreational users on the Devil's Ditch	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (for Option 1 and Option 2)	No
59. Recreational users on the Devil's Ditch	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Combined Construction Effects on Receptors (Intra Project Effects)

10.8.146 This section summarises the impacts and effects of the combined construction phase of Sunnica East Site A and Site A, Sunnica West Site A and B, Cable Routes A and B and the Burwell Substation Extension on the landscape and visual receptors.

10.8.147 This combined assessment assumes that the construction activity would be present across all of the Order limits at the same time and is therefore a worst case assessment.

10.8.148 This section should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** which outline the combined landscape and visual effects in full.

Combined Construction Landscape Effects

Combined Construction Impacts to Site Level Landscape Character

10.8.149 The combined construction activity would result in the same changes to surface landform, vegetation cover and landcover and reductions in tranquillity across the Order limits as predicted for the individual Order limits areas. The combined construction activity would therefore result in significant adverse landscape effects at the Order limits level.

Combined Construction Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.150 In relation to the published landscape character areas, the combined construction activity would increase the magnitude of impact occurring across the published areas, due to a greater amount, scale and duration of construction activity.

10.8.151 For most of the published landscape character area, the effects of the combined construction activity would range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant as the construction activity would still remain a relatively small geographic extent of the wider published landscape character area and the CEMP would retain key landscape features, e.g. pine lines.

10.8.152 For LCT: Lowland Village Chalklands, the combined construction activity, occurring across parts of Sunnica East Site A and B, Sunnica West Site A and B and part of Grid Connection Route B, the scale and extent of the construction activity would result in a **moderate adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

10.8.153 Similarly, for LCT Rolling Estate Chalklands, the extent of the construction activity occurring across parts of Sunnica East Site A and Site B, Sunnica West Site A and B and Cable Routes A and B, would increase the predicted magnitude of impact in comparison to the assessments of the individual Order limits area. The combined construction effect to LCT Rolling Estate Chalklands would therefore be **moderate adverse**; this is considered significant.

Combined Construction Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas

10.8.154 At the local landscape character level, the construction activity would remain within the identified individual local landscape character areas, for which their assessment has already accounted for the perception of adjacent construction activity.

10.8.155 Due to this, in combination with distance and intervening features, the combined effects would be the same as set out for the individual Order limits areas.

10.8.156 For LLCA 11: East Fen Chalklands, the combined construction activity associated with Sunnica East Site A and part of Grid Connection Route A, would results in a **moderate adverse;** effect; this is considered significant.

10.8.157 For LLCA 21: Snailwell, the combined construction activity occurring to the north, east and west of the village, via Sunnica West Site A and B and Grid Connection Route B, the combined effect would be **moderate adverse**; this is considered significant.

10.8.158 For LLCA 24: Lowland Estate Chalkland, which covers Sunnica West Site A and Site B and parts of Grid Connection Route A and B, the combined construction activity would be **major adverse**; this is considered significant.

10.8.159 For LLCA 36 Burwell, which covers parts of Grid Connection Route B and Burwell Substation Extension, the effect from the combined construction activity is predicted as **moderate adverse**; this is considered significant.

Combined Construction Visual Effects

10.8.160 For several of the identified residential and motorist receptors, there would be views of the both the construction of the solar panels (and in one case this would be of more than one of the Sites) and implementation of one of the cable routes. At Burwell, there would also be views of both the implementation of the cable routes and the Option 2 of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension.

10.8.161 The impact to these receptors would be a greater amount of construction activity within views and therefore an increase in the magnitude of impact in comparison to the assessments of the individual Order limits areas. The predicted to effects to these visual receptors in this respect are set out in **Table 10-15** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

Summary of Combined Construction Effects for the Scheme

10.8.162 **Table 10-15** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the combined assessment of the Scheme is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.163 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in, **Table 10-15** no combined impacts are predicted during the construction phase and the effects are as stated for the individual aspects of the Scheme.

Table 10-15: Summary of Combined Construction Landscape and Visual Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape Effects						
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)						
NCA 85 The Brecks	High	Sunnica East Site B and Part of Grid Connection Route A	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica West Sites A and B, parts of Grid Connection Route A, Grid Connection Route B and Burwell Substation Extension	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework Landscape Types (LCT)						
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A and B, Sunnica West Site A and B and Grid Connection Route B	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Sunnica East Site A, part of Grid Connection Route B and Burwell Substation Extension	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and part of Grid Connection Route A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)						
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B, parts of Grid Connection Route A and part of Sunnica West Site A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B, Grid Connection Route A and Grid Connection Route B	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LT Settled Fenlands	High	Sunnica East Site A, Grid Connection Route B and Burwell substation	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines						
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Grid Connection Route B and Burwell substation	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County - Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment						

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Sunnica East Site B and Grid Connection Route A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)						
11. East Fen Chalklands	Medium	Sunnica East Site A and Grid Connection Route A	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
12. Freckenham	High	Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
14. River Kennett	High	Sunnica East Site B and Grid Connection Route A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
21. Snailwell	High	Sunnica West Site B and Grid Connection Route A	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B, Grid Connection Route A and Grid Connection Route B	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
36. Burwell Fen	Medium	Grid Connection Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
38. Burwell	Medium	Grid Connection Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Visual						

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Medium	Sunnica East Site A and Grid Connection Route A	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
13. Motorists on the B1102	Medium	Sunnica East Site A and Grid Connection Route A	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
20. Recreational users on PRoW (W257/003/3)	High	Sunnica East Site B and Grid Connection Route A	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major Adverse	Yes
21A. Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	High	Sunnica East Site B and Grid Connection Route A	As above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	High	Sunnica West Site A and Grid Connection Route A	As above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Medium	Sunnica West Site A and Grid Connection Route A	As above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
34 Motorists on the B1085	Medium	Sunnica West Site A and Grid Connection Route A	Subtle change to the composition of the view	Low	Minor Adverse	No
34A Motorists on the B1085	Medium	Sunnica West Site A and Grid Connection Route A	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Medium	Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B and Grid Connection Route B	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	High	Sunnica West Site B and Grid Connection Route B	As above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
53. Motorists on Weir's Drove Road	Low	Grid Connection Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Partial change to views	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium	Grid Connection Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Option 2	Partial change to views	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
55. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	Grid Connection Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Option 2	Partial change to views	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
56. Motorists on Burwell Road	Low	Grid Connection Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Year 1 Opening Assessment (winter)

Sunnica East Site A Landscape Effects Year 1 Opening

Sunnica East Site A Impacts on Site Level Landscape Character Year 1 of Opening

10.8.164 At opening, the Scheme would introduce new land uses across Sunnica East Site A. There would be solar panels, solar stations with 6m high weather stations, internal access roads and the BESS and substation. These structures would introduce an infrastructure character and alter the 'open' character of the landscape.

10.8.165 Eco1 and Eco2, to the west of Beck Road, would not have any structures, due to the below ground archaeology and would be native grassland, with Stone Curlew plots; although at year 1 the native grassland would not have fully established.

10.8.166 With the reinstatement of the topsoil and existing ground levels, the perception of the low lying and gently undulating across Sunnica East Site A would remain.

10.8.167 The vegetation patterns across the Sunnica East Site A would also remain, with the solar panels offset from the vegetated Lee Brook, the roadside hedgerows adjacent to Beck Road and Ferry Lane and the woodland within Lee Farm.

10.8.168 The solar panels and associated structures would be set within the grounds of Lee Farm overall. The extent of panels across E05 would not extend to Beck Road, due to the proposed 80m grassland offset.

10.8.169 The solar panels and associated structures would introduce extensive additional infrastructure style massing across Sunnica East Site A compared to the buildings and silos within Lee Farm and open character of the fields.

10.8.170 The horizontal form of the panels and the associated infrastructure would also alter the aesthetic, perceptual and experiential landscape character via the colour tones of the solar panel frames, the blue/back tones of the solar arrays, the change from agricultural land uses to infrastructure land uses.

10.8.171 However, the perception of the massing of the BESS and solar stations would be reduced via these structures being rendered in tones to reflect the landscape.

10.8.172 The 'static' nature of the Scheme, i.e. fixed panels, rather than rotating panels, would retain a similar perception to the open and still character of the fields, although the tranquillity across Sunnica East Site A would be reduced as a result of the infrastructure character of the Scheme and its operation.

10.8.173 The proposed tree planting around E05 and Lee Farm and adjacent to Ferry Lane would not have established; nor would the proposed infilling and additional hedgerows adjacent to Beck Road or the grassland beneath all the panels.

10.8.174 The permissive path adjacent to Beck Road would be accessible, increasing the recreational value across Sunnica East Site A and providing increased connectivity between Freckenham and the southern edge of Isleham.

10.8.175 The impact of the year 1 opening phase to the Sunnica East Site A has been assessed as high, which when combined with the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **major adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site A Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessment Year 1 Opening

10.8.176 Sunnica East Site A would be located across NCA 46 The Fens, NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Rolling East Chalklands and LT Settled Fenlands and the Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan rural character areas R1: West and R2: North.

10.8.177 These NCA, LCT and LT character areas are large in scale and characterised by generally flat to gently undulating landform, agricultural land uses and a range of settlement sizes and associated infrastructure.

10.8.178 With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the Scheme would introduce a new land use and 'infrastructure character', although localised in relation to the wider extent of the published LCT and LT character areas. The structures of the Scheme would also be located mainly within the grounds of Lee Farm, with Ferry Lane and Beck Road forming the boundaries to the structural elements of the Scheme, so as not to be contiguous with the wider landscape.

10.8.179 The Scheme would respond positively to statements of environmental opportunity and land management guidelines by improving recreational access via the permissive path adjacent to Beck Road, which is considered to enhance the recreational value. The Scheme would also conserve the field pattern and existing key landscape features of vegetation and flat landform beneath the panels. As demonstrated by the subsequent visual assessment, the relative low height of the solar panels, at 2.5m, would enable the perception of pine lines, wooded horizons and large open skies across the landscape to remain.

10.8.180 The extent of the Scheme across Sunnica East Site A would be very small in relation to the extent of the published LCT and LT areas. In combination with the key landscape features being retained, the year 1 opening phase is assessed as ranging in effects between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

10.8.181 In relation to the Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan landscape character areas, there would be no solar panels, nor structures in Rural 1: West. This area would consist of grassland (although not established) and Stone Curlew plots and part of the permissive path. The permissive path is assessed as a beneficial landscape changes, due to an improved recreational value. The perception would therefore be of the rural character as per the existing baseline.

10.8.182 Rural 2: North would consist of solar panels and associated structures, such that the effects would reflect those at the Site level, such that the year 1 opening phase would result in effects of **major adverse**; this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site A – Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) Year 1 Opening

10.8.183 At the local scale and with reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**and Figure 10-10, all of the solar panels and associated structures would be located within LLCA 11: East Fen Chalklands (LLCA 11).

10.8.184 LLCA 11 is characterised by it's flat to gently undulating landform, arable land use and open character.

10.8.185 The impacts to LLCA 11 would reflect those at the Site level, with the introduction of structures and massing of an infrastructure character and a reduction in the tranquillity, aesthetic and perceptual aspects of an open rural landscape.

10.8.186 The Scheme would retain the key features of the Lee Brook and vegetation within Lee Farm across LLCA 11 and introduce native grassland and new planting, although this would not have established at year 1.

10.8.187 With the panels and structures to the east of Beck Road and Eco 1 and Eco 2 to the west of Beck Road, the open and rural character between Freckenham and Isleham would be retained.

10.8.188 The Scheme would result in a **moderate adverse** effect to LLCA 11, this is considered significant.

10.8.189 For LLCA 10: Isleham, the proposed Scheme would not be located within the LLCA, but on the opposite side of Sheldrick's Road.

10.8.190 The change in land use from the solar panels across Sunnica East Site A, would alter a part of the immediate rural setting of LLCA 10. However, the key characteristics of the LLCA would remain, including the perceived visual relationship with the Freckenham, due to the low height of the panels and the associated offsets of panels from Beck Road and the retained open character of Eco 1 and Eco 2.

10.8.191 For LLCA 12: Freckenham, the Scheme would similarly not be located within the LLCA. The Scheme would retain the physical separation

between LLCA 12 and LLCA10 by the open character of Eco 1 and Eco 2 and that the solar panels and structures would be set beyond Beck Road, with the larger scale massing of the BESS and substation in E33, also beyond intervening woodland in Lee Farm.

10.8.192 For both LLCA 10: Isleham and LLCA 12: Freckenham, the Scheme is predicted to result in **minor adverse** effects, these are considered not significant.

Sunnica East Site A Visual Effects Year 1 Opening

10.8.193 The solar panels, substations and associated infrastructure across Sunnica East Site A would not be visible in their entirety for any of the identified visual receptors, due to the intervening landform, distance between the Order limits areas and vegetation.

10.8.194 There would be middle distance views of the rear side of the panels in E01 and E05 and the upper parts of the BESS and substations for recreational users along part of the River Lark, motorists on East Fen Road and residents in East End due to the open character of the intervening fields. The low height of the solar panels would retain longer distance views, above these structures to wooded skylines and key features of the pine line. With reference to the **Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, there would be no glint and glare impacts to recreational users along the River Lark.

10.8.195 The upper parts of the solar panels and solar stations within parcels E01 and E10 and the upper parts of the BESS and substation in E33 would be visible at close range for motorists travelling along Ferry Lane. These structures would be seen above the intervening roadside vegetation. The massing of the BESS and substations would be softened by their tonal rending, but the structures would represent a noticeable change in the composition of views.

10.8.196 Motorists would also have close range views of the solar panels and solar-stations in E05 when travelling along Beck Road. Views would remain of buildings in Isleham due to the set back of the panels in E05 from the road, with views also extending across to Isleham, as existing, to the west of Beck Road.

10.8.197 Residents on the southern edge of Isleham would have views of the solar panels adjacent to Beck Lane, in parcels E05.

10.8.198 For residents at Lee Farm, the solar panels would be visible from the north and south-east of the property. There would also be views of the upper parts of the BESS and Substation to the east of the property, although views from the ground floor windows would be screened by the intervening woodland and reservoir. With reference to the **Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, there would be no glint and glare impact to residents at Lee Farm.

10.8.199 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium and high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in **Table 10-7**, result in **major** or **moderate adverse** effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

a. VP1 Recreational Users on the River Lark;
b. VP2C Residents and motorists on Ferry Lane;
c. VP3 Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End;
d. VP4 Visitors to the Ark;
e. VP4A Residents in Isleham and motorists on Sheldrick's Road;
f. VP5 Motorists on Beck Road;
g. VP6 Residents adjacent to the B1104;;
h. VP9A Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0;
i. VP11 Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0;
j. VP11A Residents at Beck Road;
k. VP12 Residents in Lee Farm; and
l. VP12A Motorists on Ferry Lane.

Summary of Year 1 Opening Effects for Sunnica East Site A

10.8.200 **Table 10-16** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.201 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-16**, no significant effects are predicted during the year 1 opening phase.

Table 10-16: Summary of Year 1 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 46: The Fens	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Settled Fenlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Neighbourhood Level – Freckenham Local Plan Landscape Character Assessment					
Rural 1: West	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Rural 2: North	High	Partial alteration to the key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Local Landscape Character Areas					
10. Isleham	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
11. East Chalkland	Medium	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
12. Freckenham	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor adverse	No
2B. Visitors to Jude's ferry	High	Subtle change to the view	Low	Minor Adverse	No
2C. Residents and motorists on Ferry Lane	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
4A Residents in Isleham and motorists on Sheldrick's Road	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
5. Motorists on Beck Road	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
7. Motorist on B1104	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor adverse	No
8. Residents in Freckenham	High	Barely perceptible change to the composition of the existing view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
9A. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
12. Residents in Lee Farm	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major Adverse	Yes
12A. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica East Site B Landscape Effects Year 1 Opening

Sunnica East Site B Impacts on Site Level Landscape Character Year 1 Opening

10.8.202 There would be a change in land use across the Sunnica East Site B as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and weather stations, BESS and their operation, along with associated internal road networks which would cover most of the parcels E12. Eco3 would not contain panels and would be an ecological mitigation area and similarly and physical buffer between the solar panels, Worlington and properties adjacent to Freckenham Road. The BESS and substation would be located in E18, between Elms Road and existing mature trees.

10.8.203 The key landscape features across Sunnica East Site B would be retained, via the proposed Scheme being offset from the 'pine lines' adjacent to U6006 and which divide parcels E13 and E14. The geometric and rectangular aesthetic pattern of the fields would also be retained by the siting of the solar panels in relation to the field boundary vegetation, which would be retained.

10.8.204 The hedgerows around the perimeter of E26 to E29 would be retained along with the small-scale field pattern. Similarly, the mature woodland at the base of Chalk Hill would be retained, with the solar panels offset from the woodland.

10.8.205 The Scheme would introduce new massing and structures across Sunnica East Site B, resulting in an infrastructure character and changes to the tonal colour of the landscape via the solar panel frames and arrays. This would result in adverse impacts to the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of an open rural landscape character, as well as the tranquillity.

10.8.206 The recreational value of U6006 would remain, with recreational enhancement via the permissive path from U6006 extending to connect to existing routes from Red Lodge, to link routes between Worlington, Elms Road and Red Lodge.

10.8.207 The pattern of the fields and tree cover would also remain and be perceived due to the low height of the panels. There would be new native grassland beneath all of the panels across the Sunnica East Site B and Eco 3, although it would not have established at year 1.

10.8.208 From the above, the impact at the year 1 opening phase to the Sunnica East Site B has been assessed as high, due to the substantial change,

which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **major adverse** effect, this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site B – Year 1 Opening Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessment

10.8.209 The Sunnica East Site B would be located across NCA 85 The Brecks, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LT Estate Sandlands, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, the Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic and Low Chalk Farmland. The Sunnica East Site B would also be located in the Freckenham Neighbourhood Level landscape character area R3: East.

10.8.210 These published areas are characterised by their geometric field patterns, 'pine lines' and sparse settlement pattern.

10.8.211 With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, whilst there would be changes to land use within these published NCA, LCT and LT landscape character areas, the key features of 'pine lines' and geometric field patterns would remain. The scale of the solar panels and associated structures would be small and localised in relation to the wider extent of the published areas. The Scheme would also be located in part of the published landscape character areas consisting of road infrastructure, settlements and Worlington Quarry, i.e. this is an active and 'working' landscape.

10.8.212 Due to the above, the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

10.8.213 In relation to Rural 3: East, the impacts would reflect those at the Site level, although not across all of the extent of Rural 3: East. The siting of the Scheme within the retained pine lines and geometric fields is considered to respond positively to the published study, which notes there is some capacity for solar arrays by using the existing woodland structure and by implementing new tree planting.

10.8.214 The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium and in relation to the medium sensitivity of Rural 3: East, the effect would be **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site B – Year 1 Opening Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.215 At the local scale and with reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and Figure 10-10, the Scheme would be located across part of LLCA 13: Sandlands Mosaic (LLCA 13).

10.8.216 LLCA 13 is characterised by its geometric field patterns, arable and pig farming land uses, 'pine lines', woodland and PRoW, which provide a recreational value.

10.8.217 The impacts to LLCA 13 would reflect those at the Site level, with changes to land use and a reduction in the aesthetic, perceptual and tranquillity attributes of the landscape character due to the infrastructure character of the Scheme.

10.8.218 The key features of 'pine lines', woodland across the base of Chalk Hill and enclosing E26 to E29 would remain, with only a localised reduction in roadside vegetation due to the access requirements. There would be an improvement to the recreational value of the LLCA via the new permissive paths.

10.8.219 The changes to land use and the infrastructure character, balanced with the scale of the Scheme in relation to the extent of LLCA 13 is assessed as resulting **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

10.8.220 For other LLCA in proximity to Sunnica East Site B, including LLCA 8: Worlington, LLCA 9: Six Acre Chalk Farmland, LLCA 12: Freckenham and LLCA 14: River Kennett, the Scheme would not be located within these areas, such that there would be no physical change to the LLCA. The impact would be from the change to their settings and perception of being bordered by infrastructure land uses. As the Scheme would not be located within these LLCAs and the Scheme would be set within the existing landscape framework across Sunnica East Site B, the effects to these LLCA would not be significant.

Sunnica East Site B Year 1 Opening Visual Effects

10.8.221 From within Freckenham and Isleham, the solar panels and associated structures would not visible across the Sunnica East Site B, due to the combination of landform, distance and intervening vegetation.

10.8.222 For motorists on the B1102, between Freckenham and Worlington, the rear side of the solar panels in parcel E12 would be visible. The panels would also be visible for residents adjacent to the B1102, with views across the landscape to the west remaining as existing. With reference to the **Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.223 Recreational users, including equestrian riders and pedestrians along U6006 would have close range and solar panels, particularly in parcels E12 to E16. However, the visibility of the Scheme would vary due to the density of the vegetation adjacent to U6006 and close range views of the solar panels either side of U6006 would be predominantly screened as a result. Due to this, the change to composition of views for users of U6006 would mainly be due to panels being visible on the east side of U6006. With reference to the **Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, there would be no glint and glare impact overall to these receptors, although there would be localised points along U6006 where glint and glare would be experienced for less than twenty minutes a day.

10.8.224 For motorists on Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham, there would be close range views of the upper parts of the rear side of the solar panels to the south of the road due to gaps in the roadside hedgerows. The upper parts of the BESS and substation to the north of the Elms Road, in E18, would also be visible above the roadside hedgerows.

10.8.225 However, these structures would not be visible for all of the journey along Elms Road, being neither visible from the eastern edge of Freckenham, nor at the junction with Bridge End Road due to the varying extent of roadside vegetation and slight undulation in the landform.

10.8.226 The solar panels in parcel E22 would be visible at close range for recreational users on PRoW W257/003/0 due to their height above the intervening hedgerows. For those travelling along Badlingham Road and residents adjacent to the road, the upper parts of the solar panels would also be visible but viewed obliquely. With reference to the **Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.227 Views would remain of the pine lines for all these receptors, due to the low height of the panels.

10.8.228 For motorists on Worlington Road, the panels in E24 would be visible at close range, due to breaks in the roadside vegetation and similarly in E30, although views far more obliquely and at further away from the receptor.

10.8.229 The rear side of the panels in E24 and E25 would be visible for residents at Queens House in Worlington, due to the gaps in the garden vegetation. However the intervening vegetation and distance would screen these parcels from the remainder of Worlington. The panels would also not be visible from residents in Freckenham.

10.8.230 For motorists travelling along Golf Links Road, to the west of Worlington, the rear side of the solar panels across E30 to E32 would be visible at close range, due to gaps in existing hedgerows.

10.8.231 These solar panels would also be visible for recreational users to the north of E30 and E32 along PRoW W-128/002/0 and motorists travelling along Newmarket Road. This is due to the gaps in the vegetation adjacent to Golf Links Road and the rising landform across the southern parts of E30 to E32.

10.8.232 The solar panels and associated structures across Sunnica East Site B would not be visible from residents on the western edge of Red Lodge, nor within Barton Mills, due to the intervening residential land uses and existing vegetation. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.233 Due to the height of the A11 overbridge, there would be views of the panels in E22; however views would be largely filtered by the roadside

vegetation and the dominant element of the view would be the road and traffic.

10.8.234 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium and high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in **Table 10-7**, result in **major or moderate adverse** effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

a. VP15A, VP15B and VP16 Recreational users of U6006, including equestrian riders;
b. VP18 Motorist on Elms Road;
c. VP20 Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0;
d. VP21A Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road;
e. VP22 and VP23 Motorists on Worlington Road;
f. VP23A Residents at Queens Hill, Worlington; and
g. VP26A: PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0.

Summary of Opening Year 1 Effects for Sunnica East Site B

10.8.235 **Table 10-17** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.236 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-17**, no impacts are predicted during the year 1 opening phase.

Table 10-17: Summary of Year 1 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 85: The Brecks	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment					
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Low Chalk Farmland	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Neighbourhood Plan Freckenham Landscape Character Assessment					
Freckenham Village B: Southern Fringes	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Freckenham Village E: Ems Road	Medium	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Rural 3: East	Medium	Partial alteration to the key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 8 Worlington	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 9 Six Acre Chalk Farmland	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 12 Freckenham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 13 Elms Sandlands Mosaic	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
LLCA 14: River Kennett	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site B	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
13A. Recreational users including equestrian users on bridleway south of Mildenhall Road	High	Barely perceptible change to the composition of the view	Very Low	Minor Adverse	No
14. Motorists and Pedestrians on B1102	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
14A. Residents adjacent to B1102	High	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor Adverse	No
15. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High	Barely perceptible change to the composition of the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
15A. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major adverse	Yes
15B. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
16. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
18. Motorists on Elms Road	Low	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
21. Motorists on Badlingham Road	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
21A. Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
22. Motorists on Worlington Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
23. Motorists on Worlington Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	High	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
24. Motorists on Golf Links Road	Medium	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor adverse	No
25. Motorists on Golf Links Road	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
28. Recreational users on A11	Low	Barely perceptible change to the composition of the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site A Landscape Effects Year 1 Opening

Sunnica West Site A Impacts on Site Landscape Character Year 1 Opening

10.8.237 Like the Sunnica East Sites A and B, the Scheme would introduce new land uses compared to the agricultural fields. The solar panels and solar stations would be located across most of the Sunnica West Site A, with the BESS and substations concentrated within W17. There would be no structures in Eco5 due to the archaeological mitigation and similarly the panels would be offset from the edges of W10 and The Avenue.

10.8.238 The undulating landform across Sunnica West Site A and key vegetation patterns of Sounds Plantation, Halfmoon Plantation and roadside hedgerows would remain beneath the panels.

10.8.239 The perception of the BESS and substations would be reduced by their tonal rendering and siting adjacent to Sounds Plantation, to provide a degree of enclosure in relation to the wider landscape to the south, across the Limekilns.

10.8.240 The colour of the solar arrays and massing of the solar panels would be a change from the colour tones of the fields, reducing the aesthetic value of Sunnica West Site A and its tranquillity.

10.8.241 There would be new native grassland, hedgerows and woodlands, although these would not have established at year 1.

10.8.242 From the above, the impact at the year 1 opening phase to the Sunnica West Site A has been assessed as high, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **major adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

Sunnica West Site A Year 1 of Opening Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.243 Sunnica West Site A would be located across part of NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands. These areas are characterised by their undulating landform, vegetation patterns, rural land use and 'stud landscapes'.

10.8.244 As noted, the key features of vegetation cover would remain. The impacts to tranquillity would not impact the wider extent of the published landscape character areas. This is due to the proximity of the Scheme to A11, A14 and Newmarket railway lines, which already impact the tranquillity of these published landscape character areas. In this respect, Sunnica West Site A would be sited adjacent to existing large-scale linear infrastructure within the published landscape character areas.

10.8.245 With reference **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, whilst there would be changes to land use within these published landscape character areas, in relation to the wider extent of these areas, this would be small and localised.

10.8.246 Therefore, the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site A Year 1 of Opening Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.247 At the local level, Sunnica West Site A would be located across part of LLCA 24 Lowland Estate Chalkland (LLCA 24).

10.8.248 There would be a change in land use across LLCA 24 as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. There structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS and substation would result in an infrastructure character to the LLCA. This is balanced by the key landscape features across the LLCA remaining and the new recreational value of the Scheme.

10.8.249 The changes to land use and the infrastructure character, is assessed as resulting **major adverse** effect to LLCA 24; this is considered significant.

10.8.250 For LLCA 23A Chippenham, the distance from the Scheme and the intervening vegetation would negate any perception of the change in land use and the key characteristics of the distinctive buildings would remain. Therefore, no significant effects are predicted to LLCA 23A.

10.8.251 For LLCA 23B Chippenham Park the Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and therefore there would be no physical change to the key characteristics. Therefore, no significant effects are predicted to LLCA 23B.

10.8.252 For LLCA 25: Kennett, the Scheme would result in a change in land use and an increased infrastructure character to the west of the LLCA. There would be no change to the key characteristics and the additional massing and change in land use would result in a limited change and no significant effect are predicted.

10.8.253 For LLCA 26 The Limekilns and Gallops, which extends to the south of the A14, the proposed Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and therefore there would be no physical change to LLCA 26.

10.8.254 The proposed Scheme would introduce additional massing and increase the infrastructure character to the setting of LLCA 26, reducing the aesthetic and tranquillity perceptions, in comparison to the settled character of the fields. However, the setting to LLCA 26 is already characterised by infrastructure via the road networks and railway line.

10.8.255 As there would be no physical change to LLCA 26 and that the existing tranquillity, aesthetic and perceptual aspects of LLCA 26 are already impacted upon by the A14, railway lines and A1304, the effects at year 1 to LLCA 26 The Limekilns are predicted to be **minor adverse**; this is assessed as not significant.

Sunnica West Site A Year 1 of Opening Visual Effects

10.8.256 From within Chippenham and Chippenham Park, the solar panels, BESS and substations across the Sunnica West Site A would not be visible, due to the intervening buildings and mature woodland and boundary wall along the edge of the Park.

10.8.257 For motorists travelling along La Hogue Road, between Chippenham Park and the A11, including visitors to La Hogue Farm shop, the upper parts of the solar panels within W10, W11 and W12 would be visible above the roadside hedgerows and beneath the tree canopies bordering W10. The upper parts of the BESS and substation would also be visible, although their massing would be softened by their tonal rendering and that they would be seen against the backdrop of Sounds Plantation.

10.8.258 The rear side of the solar panels within W15 would be visible for residents at Dane Hill Farm, although largely filtered by intervening garden vegetation. The solar panels would not be visible for motorist on the B1085, adjacent to Dane Hill Farm, due to the height and density of the roadside vegetation.

10.8.259 The solar panels would be visible from the upper storeys of residents adjacent to Station Road, in Kennett, due to the height of these properties above the roadside vegetation. The panels would be low in height, such that views would remain across the wider landscape and the panels would

be seen in the context of existing infrastructure, including the A11 embankments and associated traffic. With reference to the **Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.260 The solar panels in W15 would be visible for motorists on Newmarket Road and properties adjacent to W15, due to gaps in the vegetation bordering W15. There would also be largely filtered views for motorist on the A11. There would be open views of the panels in Sunnica West Site A for motorists on the A11/A1304 slip road and part of the A14, by the overbridge due to the intermittent existing vegetation.

10.8.261 The solar panels across W03 to W07 would be visible for receptors at the Limekilns, due to the elevated position of the receptor. The 'static' solar panels would be seen in the context of moving vehicles and trains along the valley floor and would introduce a different colour tone via the solar arrays, across a wide extent of the view. With reference to the **Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.262 Recreational receptors along PRoW 204/5, (between the A14 and Snailwell), within the Railway Field and crossing the A14, would have views of the solar panels to varying degrees.

10.8.263 The upper parts of the solar panels on the northern edge of parcel W03 would also be visible for motorists travelling along Chippenham Road.

10.8.264 The Sunnica West Site A would not be visible for residents within Snailwell, due to the intervening landform and vegetation. With reference to the **Appendix 16A: Glint and Glare Assessment** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.265 With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium and high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in **Table 10-7**, result in **major or moderate adverse** effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

a. VP32 Motorists on La Hogue Road;
b. VP33 Visitors to La Hogue Farm;
c. VP38 Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns; and
d. VP41 Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell.

Summary of Year 1 Opening Effects for Sunnica West Site A

10.8.266 **Table 10-18** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.267 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-18**, no impacts are predicted during the opening year 1 phase.

Table 10-18: Summary of Year 1 Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 21 Snailwell	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 23B. Chippenham Park	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Partial alteration to key characteristics	Medium	Major Adverse	Yes
LLCA 25. Kennett	Low	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 26. The Limekilns and Gallops	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
36. Residents adjacent to Station Road	High	Subtle change to the composition of the view	Low	Minor Adverse	No
37. Motorists on Newmarket Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
37A. Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
37B. Motorists on the A11	Very Low	Barely perceptible change to the composition of the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
37C. Motorists on the A11/A1304	Very Low	Partial change to the composition of the view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
37D. Motorists on the A14	Very Low	Barely perceptible change to the composition of the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
37E. Motorists on the A14	Very Low	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
39. Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
39C. Employment workers at Godolphin Gallops	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the composition of the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
40. Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, The A11	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
41. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site B Year 1 Opening Effects

Sunnica West Site B Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.268 At year 1 of opening, there would be solar panels, solar stations and access roads across the central and eastern parts of Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.269 The Scheme would result in a change in land use and reduce the aesthetic, tranquillity and perceptual attributes due to the massing and infrastructure character of the panels.

10.8.270 The underlying pattern of the landform would remain beneath the panels, rising gradually from the River Snail to the northern edge of Sunnica West Site B. The solar panels would be off-set from the River Snail and its mature woodland by the ecological mitigation areas. The solar panels would also not be located above the archaeological mitigation area within Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.271 The impact of the year 1 opening phase to the Sunnica West Site B has been assessed as high, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **moderate adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

Sunnica West Site B Year 1 Opening Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.272 The solar panels, solar stations, fencing and internal roads across Sunnica West Site B would be located within NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands.

10.8.273 Whilst the Scheme would result in a localised change in land use and a reduction in tranquillity via the introduction of structures within an open rural landscape, the scale of the Scheme would be very small in relation to the wider extent of the published landscape character areas. Therefore, the effects are predicted to be **negligible adverse**; these are considered not to be significant.

Sunnica West Site B Year 1 Opening Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.274 At the local level, the construction activity would be located across part of LLCA 24: Lowland Estate Chalkland (LLCA24), which consists of fields and woodland across undulating landform.

10.8.275 There would not be significant landscape effects to LLCA 24 due to the small scale of the Scheme in the northern part of LLCA 24 and that the key features of the River Snail, woodland, hedgerows and the pattern of landform would remain.

10.8.276 There would also be no significant effects to the surrounding LLCA due to the distance from the Scheme and the intervening vegetation which would negate any perception of the change in land use.

Sunnica West Site B Year 1 of Opening Visual Effects

10.8.277 The upper parts of the solar panels in W01 and W02 would be briefly visible for motorists on Snailwell Road, as they cross the River Snail, due to the open character of the roadside verge and the access point into the fields. The panels would be glimpsed as the attention of the driver would be on the road, due to the road narrowing on the approach to the bridge.

The lower parts of the solar panels would be softened by the intervening field boundaries.

10.8.278 The solar panels and associated structures would not be visible from Fordham, nor Snailwell, due to the intervening woodland, undulating landform and distance. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no impact to these receptors.

10.8.279 Due to the above, effects are predicted to range between **neutral** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

Summary of Year 1 Opening Effects for Sunnica West Site B

10.8.280 **Table 10-19** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.281 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-19** no impacts are predicted during the opening year 1 phase.

Table 10-19: Summary of Year 1 Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 24 Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site B	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
46. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
47. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Grid Connection Route A - Year 1 Opening Effects

10.8.282 As the Grid Connection Route A would be below ground, any impacts at year 1 would relate to the potential of a very localised reduction in the extent of vegetation above the cable route and that replacement planting, where practicable, would be low in height. This physical change is considered not to result in significant effects to any of the identified landscape receptors due to its very small scale.

10.8.283 Similarly, with the Grid Connection Route A below ground, it would not be visible. Any views of the reduced extent of vegetation would not result in significant adverse visual effects to any of the identified visual receptors.

10.8.284 With reference to **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the impact of the Grid Connection Route A at year 1 of opening has been assessed as ranging between none and very low. The effects have been assessed as ranging between **neutral** and **negligible adverse** to landscape and visual receptors, which is considered not significant.

Grid Connection Route B – Year 1 Opening Effects

10.8.285 As Grid Connection Route B would be below ground, any impacts at year 1 would relate to the potential of very localised reduction in the extent of vegetation above the cable route and that the new planting would be low in height. This physical change is considered not to result in significant effects to any of the identified landscape receptors due to the very small scale of the change.

10.8.286 Similarly, with the Grid Connection Route B below ground, it would not be visible. Any views of the reduced extent of vegetation would not result in significant adverse visual effects to any of the identified visual receptors.

10.8.287 With reference to **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the impact of the Grid Connection Route B at year 1 of opening has been assessed as ranging between **neutral** and **negligible adverse**. The effects have been assessed as ranging between **neutral** and **negligible adverse** to landscape and visual receptors. This is considered not significant.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Year 1 Opening Effects

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Year 1 Opening Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.288 The Burwell National Grid Substation Extension would result in additional massing and infrastructure adjacent to the existing compound for either Option 1 or Option 2.

10.8.289 For Option 1, the Scheme would result in a change in land use via the introduction of the substation, associated fencing and access roads. The Scheme would introduce an infrastructure character across the Site at an adjacent point to the existing substation, with alteration to the roadside vegetation structure and the loss of the internal small scale field and vegetation patterns. The impact would be high and in relation to the medium sensitivity of the landscape character of Option 1, the effect would be **major adverse,** which is considered significant.

10.8.290 For Option 2, the Scheme would similarly result in a change in land use via the introduction of the substation extension. However, the underlying large scale field pattern would remain, along with the extent of boundary vegetation. The impact is assessed as high, but the effect would be **moderate adverse** which is considered significant.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Year 1 Opening Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.291 The Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Option 1 and Option 2 would be located within NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Settled Fenlands and Area 2: Chalklands.

10.8.292 The Substation Extension Option 1 and Option 2 would be localised to a part of these published landscape character areas which are crossed by

national grid pylons and where the scale and massing of the existing substation already influences the existing landscape character, aesthetics and perception.

10.8.293 Therefore, the effects for either Option 1 or Option 2 are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**. These are considered not significant.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Year 1 Opening Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.294 At the local level, Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Option 1 and Option 2 would be located in LLCA: 36 Burwell Fen. For Option 1, the Scheme would increase the infrastructure character adjacent to Weirs Drove road, due to its proximity and the reduced density of roadside vegetation. The Scheme would be consolidated to between the existing substation and the road. The impact would be very low, and the effect is assessed as **negligible adverse** (not significant).

10.8.295 For Option 2, the Scheme would extend the extent of infrastructure slightly to the west of the existing substation, as well as to the north of Newham Drove. The substation would therefore be perceived from the wider landscape to the west of the existing substation, with existing vegetation reducing the perception to the east and from along Weirs Drove. The impact is assessed as low and the effect is assessed as **minor adverse** (not significant).

10.8.296 For LLCA 38: Burwell Option 1 would introduce additional infrastructure and massing via the substation extension adjacent to the LLCA and increase the proximity of infrastructure to the LLCA. The impact would be low, and the effect would be **minor adverse** (not significant).

10.8.297 For Option 2, the substation would be further from the LLCA and perceived in the context of the existing substation, such that the effect to LLCA 38 would be **neutral** (not significant).

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Year 1 Visual Effects

10.8.298 Option 1 would be visible at close range for motorists along Weir's Drove Road and Newham Drove and in longer distance views from Hightown Drove; however, it would be seen in the context of the existing substation and overhead pylons. Option 1 would not be visible from the wider landscape to the west of the existing substation due to the intervening vegetation and the scale and height of the existing substation. For residents in Reach, the upper parts of Option 1 would be visible but seen in the context of the existing electrical substation. For option 1, there would be **moderate adverse** effects for users of Weirs Drove (VR53); these are considered significant.

10.8.299 Option 2 would be visible for recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove due to the new planting along the western edge of the Option 2 site being low in height. The new substation at Option 2 would be

seen in the context of the existing substation. Due to this context, the effects in relation to Option 2 are predicted to range between **negligible and minor adverse**. These are considered not significant.

Summary of Year 1 Operation Effects for Burwell National Grid Substation Extension

10.8.300 **Table 10-20** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.301 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-20**, no impacts are predicted during the year 1 opening phase.

Table 10-20: Summary of Year 1 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Burwell National Grid Substation Extension

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Settled Fenlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines					
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
				(Option 1 and Option 2)	
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
Site level landscape character	Option 1 – medium Option 2 - low	Partial alteration to key characteristics Limited alteration to key characteristics	High (Option 1 and Option 2)	Major Adverse (Option 1) Moderate Adverse (Option 2)	Yes
36. Burwell Fen	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics Limited alteration to key characteristics	Very Low Option 1 Low – Option 2	Negligible Adverse – Option 1 Minor Adverse – Option 2	No (option 1 and option 2)
38. Burwell	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics No change to the view	Low – Option 1 None – Option 2	Minor Adverse (not significant) – Option 1 Neutral – option 2	No (option 1 and option 2)
Visual					
53. Motorists Weir Drove Road	Low	Extensive change to the view – option 1 Barely perceptible change to the view – option 2	High – Option 1 Very Low – Option 2	Moderate Adverse – Option 1 Negligible Adverse – Option 2	Yes No
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low – Option 2	Minor Adverse - Option 2	No
55. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view – Option 1 Subtle change to the existing view – Option 2	Very low – Option 1 Low – Option 2	Negligible Adverse – Option 1 Minor Adverse – Option 2	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
55A. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	Subtle change to the existing view – Option 1 Barely perceptible change to the view – Option 2	Low – Option 1 Very low – Option 2	Minor Adverse – Option 1 Negligible Adverse – Option 2	No
56. Motorists on Burwell Road	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low – Option 1	Negligible Adverse – Option 1	No
57. Residents in Reach	Medium	As Above	Very Low – Option 1	Negligible Adverse – Option 1	No
58. Recreational users on the Devil's Ditch	High	As Above	Very Low – Option 1	Negligible Adverse – Option 1	No

Combined Year 1 Opening Effects on Receptors (Intra Project Effects)

10.8.302 This section summarises the impacts and effects of all aspects of the Scheme in operation on the landscape and visual receptors. This assumes all aspects of the Scheme are fully built-out across all of Sunnica East Site A and B, Sunnica West Site A and B and the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension and is therefore a worst-case assessment.

10.8.303 This section should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** which outline the landscape and visual effects in full.

Combined Year 1 Landscape Effects

Combined Year 1 Impact to Site Level Landscape Character

10.8.304 The combined impacts to Site level landscape character would reflect those predicted in the assessment of the individual areas within the Order limits. There would therefore be significant adverse landscape effects at the Order limits level, due to the change in land use and introduction of infrastructure.

Combined Year 1 Impact to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.305 The combined impacts from the DCO Scheme to the published landscape character areas would be the presence of solar panels, solar stations and structures in contrast to the 'open' character of the fields. These structures

would result in alterations to the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape to a greater degree than the assessment of the individual Order limits areas.

10.8.306 With Grid Connection Route A and Grid Connection Route B below ground, these aspects of the Scheme would not impact the landscape character, even accounting for any localised reduction in vegetation.

10.8.307 Due to this, the effects to most of the published landscape character assessments are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

10.8.308 For LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, for which the effect is assessed as **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant. This is due to the extent of the Scheme as a whole across the landscape area, compared to the assessment of the individual Order limits areas.

Combined Year 1 Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas

10.8.309 For LLCA 11: East Fen Chalklands, the impacts would reflect those predicted for Sunnica East Site A, as Grid Connection Route A would be below ground. The effects are predicted as **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant.

10.8.310 For LLCA 24: Lowland Estate Chalkland, the combination of Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B within the character area would result in a **major adverse** effect at year 1 of operation. This is considered significant.

Combined Year 1 Visual Effects

10.8.311 Due to the distance between the various parts of the Scheme, i.e. between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B, none of the identified visual receptors would have views across the Scheme in its entirety.

10.8.312 Similarly, as Cable Routes A and B would be below ground, these aspects of the Scheme would not be visible.

10.8.313 The exception is for motorists on the Chippenham Road, who would have views of the upper parts of panels in W03 (in Sunnica West Site A) to the south of the road and the upper parts of the fencing and solar stations at a further distance, to the north of the road (in Sunnica West Site B). Due to this distance and the upper parts of the panels forming a small feature in the view, the effect is predicted to be **minor adverse**; this is not significant.

Summary of *Combined* Year 1 Effects for the Scheme

10.8.314 **Table 10-21** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the combined assessment of the Scheme is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.315 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-21**, no combined impacts are predicted during the year 1 opening phase and the effects are as stated for the individual aspects of the Scheme.

Table 10-21: Summary of Combined Year 1 Opening Landscape and Visual Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape Effects						
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)						
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica West Sites A, Sunnica West Site B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework Landscape Types (LCT)						
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A and B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Sunnica East Site A and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)						

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B and part of Sunnica West Site A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LT: Settled Fenlands	High	Sunnica East Site A and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)						
12. Freckenham	High	Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
21. Snailwell	High	Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Sunnica West Site A ad Sunnica West Site B	Extensive loss to key characteristics	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual						
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low	Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Year 15 Opening Assessment (summer)

Sunnica East Site A Landscape Effects Year 15 Opening

Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Opening Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.316 Compared to the year 1 assessment, the proposed Green Infrastructure consisting of new trees, hedgerows and native grassland would have established, being taller in height and in leaf. The existing vegetation across the study area would also be in leaf.

10.8.317 Whilst the change of land use and infrastructure character from the solar panels, solar stations, BESS and substations would remain across Sunnica East Site A, all the land beneath the solar panels would consist of an established and integrated sward of native grassland.

10.8.318 With reference to the **Chapter 8: Ecology and Nature Conservation** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.1],** this change to the land cover is considered to be beneficial for biodiversity in comparison to the intensively managed fields and pig farming across Sunnica East Site A.

10.8.319 The establishment of the native grassland is a more valued landscape feature than the fields and pig farming, as it increases the ecological value via the opportunities for biodiversity, such that it would result in a physical change to the landscape in land cover terms.

10.8.320 The new tree planting would have established along the eastern edges of E02, E04, E08, E10 and E33, to reinforce the existing pattern of roadside vegetation and increase the enclosure of the BESS and substations in E33 and reduce their perception from the wider landscape.

10.8.321 The tree planting to the south-east and north of Lee Farm would also have established to reflect the linear tree belts across the farm and similarly increase the enclosure between the property, solar panels and associated structures and reduce their perception from the wider landscape.

10.8.322 These beneficial changes to the land cover are balanced with the continued presence of the solar panels and associated structures across the Sunnica East Site A, in contrast to the open character of the fields, along with Scheme remaining reversible.

10.8.323 The impact of the year 15 opening phase to the Sunnica East Site A has been assessed as high, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **moderate adverse** effect. This is considered significant. This is a reduction from the major adverse effect predicted for year 1 of opening, due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure and beneficial changes to land cover and vegetation.

Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Opening Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.324 Sunnica East Site A would be located across NCA 46 The Fens, NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Rolling East Chalklands and LT Settled Fenlands and the Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan rural character areas R1: West and R2: North.

10.8.325 The proposed planting would reflect the existing patterns of vegetation, via roadside hedgerows or trees, or reinforcing existing field boundary patterns across these published landscape character areas.

10.8.326 The beneficial change is also balanced with the continued presence and perception of the solar panels and associated structures and their resulting infrastructure character. With reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the Sunnica East Site A would not result in significant adverse landscape effects at year 15 to the published NCA, LCT and LT landscape character areas.

10.8.327 The establishment of the grassland either side of Beck Road in Rural 1: West would result in beneficial effect for Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan landscape character area Rural 1: West at year 15. This is due to the improved vegetation cover and experience of the aesthetic and textural qualities of the landscape from the establishment of the grassland. Due to the small scale of this change in relation to the wider extent of Rural 1: West; the effects are not considered significant.

10.8.328 For Rural 2: North, which covers Lee Farm, the continued presence of the solar panels and associated infrastructure would retain the **moderate adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Opening Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Effects

10.8.329 At the local scale and with reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and Figure 10-10, all of Sunnica East Site A is in LLCA 11: East Fen Chalklands (LLCA 11).

10.8.330 The tree planting around the perimeter of E05 would reinforce and reflect the existing trees at Beck Bridge and adjacent to the Lee Brook and enclose and reduce the perception of the panels within E05.

10.8.331 With the trees set back from Beck Road and the native grassland in Eco 1, the open character of the landscape adjacent to Beck Road towards Isleham would remain, along with the perception of travelling via a rural landscape between the settlements along with the inter-visibility with the churches in Isleham and Freckenham.

10.8.332 The infrastructure character of the land use would remain, although the magnitude of impact would reduce, due to the balance between the establishment of the proposed planting and the improved opportunities for

vegetation cover and biodiversity within the LLCA. The effect would be **minor adverse** at year 15 to LLCA 11. This is considered not significant.

10.8.333 For LLCA 10 Isleham, with the establishment of the proposed planting adjacent to E05, there would be a more vegetated setting to the southern part of the LLCA, reflecting the woodlands to the south of Isleham, adjacent to the B1104 (Station Road). The adverse impacts to the setting of Isleham would reduce and the effects would remain not significant.

Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Opening Visual Effects

10.8.334 The visibility of the solar panels and upper parts of the BESS and solar stations in E01 to E05 would be substantially reduced by the establishment of the proposed planting around the edge of E05 and adjacent to E01, in relation to views from recreational users along the River Lark and motorists on East Fen Road and Sheldrick's Road.

10.8.335 The upper parts of the solar panels and solar stations within parcels E01 and E10 and the upper parts of the BESS and substation in E33 would also be screened in relation to views from motorists travelling along Ferry Lane, by the establishment of the proposed trees above the roadside hedgerows.

10.8.336 The established tree planting to the east of Beck Road would also screen the solar panels and solar stations for motorists travelling along Beck Road. Motorists views would remain of buildings in Isleham and Freckenham due to the tree planting being set back from the road, as well as the open character of Eco 1 and Eco 2.

10.8.337 For residents on the southern edge of Isleham and at The Ark Church, the tree planting adjacent to E05 would screen views of the solar panels. However, the planting would also truncate the distance of the view across the wider landscape in comparison to the existing view. Therefore there is still an adverse change to the view due to the truncation, although views of the new planting are still considered characteristic of features in the view.

10.8.338 For residents at Lee Farm, the combination of the establishment of the proposed planting to the north and south-east of the property, along with the existing woodland to the east of the property being in leaf, would result in views of the solar panels and associated structures being screened.

10.8.339 Due to the above, and with reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the visual effects would range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**. When considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors, as identified in **Table 10-7**, there would not be significant adverse visual effects to the identified visual receptors at year 15 of operation, in relation to Sunnica East Site A.

Summary of Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Effects

10.8.340 **Table 10-22** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects

and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.341 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-22**, no impacts are predicted during the year 15 opening phase.

Table 10-22: Summary of Year 15 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 46: The Fens	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Settled Fenland	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Neighbourhood Level – Freckenham Local Plan Landscape Character Assessment					
Freckenham Village A: Fordham Road	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Rural 1: West	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Beneficial	No
Rural 2: North	High	Partial alteration to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 10. Isleham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 11. East Fen Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 12. Freckenham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
2B. Visitors to Jude's ferry	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
2C. Residents and motorists on Ferry Lane	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
4. Visitors to the Ark	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
4A Residents in Isleham and motorists on Sheldrick's Road	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
5. Motorists on Beck Road	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
7. Motorist on B1104	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
9A. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	Subtle change to the composition of the view	Low	Minor Adverse	No
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
12. Residents in Lee Farm	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
12A. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Sunnica East Site B Year 15 Landscape Effects

Sunnica East Site B Year 15 Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.342 By year 15, the proposed hedgerows and trees along the northern edge of E12 would have established, to provide vegetated field boundaries and reflect the pattern of tree belts across this part of Sunnica East Site B.

10.8.343 The proposed planting would enclose the solar panels and solar stations in E12.

10.8.344 The native grassland across Eco 3 would also have established, increasing the ecological value of this part of Sunnica East Site B in relation to the fields.

10.8.345 The establishment of the proposed tree planting adjacent to U6006 would reflect the linear alignment of the existing vegetation patterns adjacent to the route. In combination with the retained pine lines between parcels E13 to E16; the planting would also reinforce the geometric pattern of the fields by forming linear boundaries around their edges.

10.8.346 The combination of the proposed tree planting within E18 and the existing trees to the north of the parcel, would enclose the BESS and substation. The infill planting to the existing roadside hedgerows on Elms Road would also have established to reinforce the vegetated character and reduce the perception of the solar panels and associated structures when travelling along this part of Elms Road.

10.8.347 The proposed tree planting around the perimeter of E19 to E22, to the south of Elms Road, would have established, increasing the vegetation cover across this part of the Sunnica East Site B and biodiversity value. The proposed planting would reflect the character of the tree belts to the east of Sunnica East Site B and enclose and reduce the perception of the Scheme in relation to Badlingham and the adjacent PRoW to the south of E20.

10.8.348 New woodland around the perimeter of E24 and E25 and the establishment of hedgerows adjacent to Worlington Road would reflect the character of roadside vegetation and the pattern of rectangular blocks of woodland within the surrounding landscape. The tree planting across the northern part of E25 would also reduce the perception of the Scheme in relation to residents at the southern edge of Worlington.

10.8.349 At the north-east part of the Sunnica East Site B, the proposed trees, hedgerows and infill planting, would extend along the northern edge of E30, E31 and E32, to reflect the pattern of roadside vegetation and enclose the solar panels in this part of the Order limits.

10.8.350 The native grassland would also have established across the Sunnica East Site B, beneath all of the solar panels and would be beneficial in landscape terms for the landcover and biodiversity value.

10.8.351 These beneficial changes from the proposed Green Infrastructure are balanced with the continued and long term presence of the solar panels and structures across Sunnica East Site B, its resulting infrastructure character and that it is reversible.

10.8.352 The impact of the year 15 post opening phase has been assessed as reducing from high to medium, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **moderate adverse** effect; this is considered significant. This is a reduction from the major adverse effect predicted for year 1 of opening, due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure.

Sunnica East Site B – Year 15 Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.353 The Sunnica East Site B would be located across NCA 85: The Brecks, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands, LT Estate Sandlands, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, the Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic and Low Chalk Farmland. The Sunnica East Site B would also be located in the Freckenham Neighbourhood Level landscape character area R3: East.

10.8.354 The proposed planting would reinforce the geometric ‘pine lines’, the roadside vegetation and linear rectangular bocks of woodlands within these published landscape character areas. In combination with the establishment of the native grassland beneath all of the panels, the vegetation structure and biodiversity would be improved within these published landscape character areas.

10.8.355 These beneficial changes are balanced with continued long term presence of the solar panels, the small scale of the Green Infrastructure in relation to the wider extent of the published character areas, along with the reversibility of the Scheme.

10.8.356 Due to the above, the effects to the NCA, LCT and LT are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse** as a result of Sunnica East Site B during the year 15 phase. These effects are considered not significant.

10.8.357 In relation to Rural 3: East, the impacts would reflect those predicted at the Site level due to the continued presence of the solar panels and structures, although not across all of the extent of Rural 3: East. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium and in relation to the medium

sensitivity of Rural 3: East, the effect would be **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site B – Year 15 Opening Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.358 At the local scale and with reference to **Appendix 10G** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** and Figure 10-8, the Scheme would be located across part of LLCA 13: Sandlands Mosaic (LLCA 13).

10.8.359 The impacts to LLCA 13 would reflect those at the Site level, with beneficial changes to the vegetation cover and biodiversity of the LLCA from the establishment of the planting. In combination with the existing vegetation, the planting would enclose the solar panels, BESS and substation to a greater degree than compared to year 1 and reduce the adverse impacts to the aesthetic value of the landscape and the perception of the Scheme.

10.8.360 The key features of 'pine lines', woodland across the base of Chalk Hill and enclosing E26 to E29 along with the recreational value of U6006 remaining and continuing to be enhanced by the additional permissive paths from Red Lodge and to Golf Links Road.

10.8.361 These changes are balanced with the continued presence of the solar panels and associated structures and the infrastructure character. The magnitude of impact is assessed as reducing from high to medium, which reduces the effect to **moderate adverse**. This is considered significant.

10.8.362 For LLCA 8: Worlington (LLCA 8) which is adjacent to parts of Sunnica East Site B, the increased vegetation cover would reduce the perception of the Scheme. Therefore, there would continue to be no significant adverse effects to LLCA 8.

10.8.363 Similarly for LLCA 12: Freckenham (LLCA 12), there would not be significant adverse landscape effects, due to the combination of distance from Sunnica East Site B and that the existing and proposed vegetation in would be in leaf, reducing the perception of the Scheme.

Sunnica East Site B Year 15 Opening Visual Effects

10.8.364 For motorists on the B1102, travelling between Freckenham and Worlington, the solar panels and solar stations in E12 would be screened by the establishment of the proposed hedgerows and trees. Similarly, with garden vegetation also in leaf, the solar panels would be screened from residents adjacent to the B1102.

10.8.365 The planting aroundE13 and adjacent to parts of U6006 would screen views of the solar panels for recreational users, including equestrian riders along U6006. The planting would truncate some longer distance views across the landscape, but reflect the visual composition of the route, which is predominantly bordered by trees.

10.8.366 For motorists on Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham, the establishment of the roadside hedgerows and trees would screen the upper parts of the BESS and substation to the north of the Elms Road, in E18. The planting would reflect the visual composition of the vegetation bordering the road between the A11 and Freckenham, balanced with slightly truncating views creating a more channelled composition to the view.

10.8.367 The solar panels in parcel E22 would also be screened from recreational users on PRoW W257/003/0, those travelling on Badlingham Road and residents adjacent to the road, by the establishment of the tree planting around the edges of the parcels of land to the south of Elms Road. This is balanced with the extent of views being truncated and the pine lines no longer being visible.

10.8.368 For motorists on Worlington Road, the establishment of the hedgerow planting along the road would screen views across to E30 and the solar panels and solar stations would also be screened by the tree planting adjacent to E24 and E25, balanced with truncating views across the wider landscape.

10.8.369 Similarly, the solar panels and solar stations would be screened by the woodland in the northern part of E25 in relation to views from residents at Queens House in Worlington.

10.8.370 For motorists travelling along Golf Links Road, to the west of Worlington, the solar panels would be screened by the additional height of the roadside hedgerows and the establishment of the tree planting. The proposed planting would reflect the visual composition of Golf Links Road being bordered by vegetation.

10.8.371 The increased height in the vegetation adjacent to Golf Links Road would also screen views of the solar panels and solar stations for recreational users to the north of E30 and E32 and motorists travelling along Newmarket Road.

10.8.372 For recreational users crossing the A11 overbridge, the roadside vegetation would screen the solar panels in E22. The Scheme would also remain not visible for residents in Red Lodge and Barton Mills.

10.8.373 Due to the above and with reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the visual effects are predicted to range between **neutral** and **minor adverse**. Therefore, there are no significant adverse effects are predicted to visual receptors at year 15 in relation to Sunnica East Site A.

Summary of Opening Year 15 Effects for Sunnica East Site B

10.8.374 **Table 10-23** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.375 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-23**, no impacts are predicted during the year 15 phase.

Table 10-23: Summary of Year 15 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 85: The Brecks	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment					
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Low Chalk Farmland	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Neighbourhood Plan Freckenham Landscape Character Assessment					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Freckenham Village B: Southern Fringes	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Freckenham Village E: Ems Road	Medium	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Rural 3: East	Medium	Partial alteration to the key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 8 Worlington	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 9 Six Acre Chalk Farmland	Low	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 12 Freckenham	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 13 Elms Sandlands Mosaic	Medium	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site B	Medium	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
14. Motorists and Pedestrians on B1102	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Beneficial	No
15. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor Beneficial	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
15A. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
15B. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
16. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
18. Motorists on Elms Road	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	High	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
22. Motorists on Worlington Road	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
23. Motorists on Worlington Road	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	High	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
24. Motorists on Golf Links Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
25. Motorists on Golf Links Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site A Landscape Effects Year 15 Opening

Sunnica West Site A Year 15 Opening Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.376 At year 15, the establishment of the proposed hedgerow and trees adjacent to W03 and part of W04 would result in a continuous vegetation around these parcels, to enclose the solar panels and solar stations, reducing their perception from the wider landscape.

10.8.377 The new tree planting across Sunnica West Site A would also create additional tree belts either side of Sounds Plantation and infill existing gaps in the tree line along The Avenue.

10.8.378 The establishment of the woodland adjacent to the A14, along the southern edges of W05 and W07 would reduce the reinforce the existing vegetation adjacent to the A14 and A11/A1304 slip road, to screen views from motorists.

10.8.379 Along the northern edge of the Sunnica West Site A, the establishment of woodland within parcels W08 and W10 would reinforce and reflect the existing tree line adjacent to the stream. This would also establish a wider belt of woodland between the Scheme and the intervening fields towards Chippenham Park and Chippenham House.

10.8.380 Centrally within the Sunnica West Site A, the establishment of the woodland bordering W17 would enclose the BESS and substations and aid in reducing their perception.

10.8.381 The characteristic hedgerows adjacent to La Hogue Road would be retained and reinforced by the establishment of infill planting along the edges of parcels W10. The overall pattern of roadside vegetation would be increased by the establishment of the woodland on the eastern edges of W11 and W12, adjacent to the entrance into La Hogue Farm.

10.8.382 New hedgerows and woodland would around the perimeter of W15 would reinforce the vegetated character at Halfmoon Plantation. The vegetation bordering W15 would enclose the solar panels in relation to the road networks and from residents adjacent to W15.

10.8.383 There would also be continuous native grassland sward beneath all the solar panels across Sunnica West Site A.

10.8.384 The above beneficial changes to vegetation patterns are balanced with the continues presence of the solar panels and associated structures. The infrastructure character would therefore remain, although the adverse impacts to aesthetic value and perception would be reduced in comparison to the year 1 assessment due to the establishment of the planting.

10.8.385 For the Sunnica West Site A, the impact of the year 15 post opening phase has been assessed high, which results in a **moderate adverse** effect; this is considered significant. This is a reduction from the major

adverse effect predicted for year 1 of opening, due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure.

Sunnica West Site A Year 15 Opening Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.386 Sunnica West Site A would be located across part of NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands. These areas are characterised by undulating landform, vegetation patterns, rural land use and 'stud landscapes'.

10.8.387 The new vegetation patterns, of roadside woodland, hedgerows and linear belts of woodland would reflect the character of wooded boundaries to paddocks and fields within the character areas.

10.8.388 The proposed tree planting would reflect the vegetated roadside character, including the B1506, between Newmarket and Kentford and in combination with woodland adjacent to the A14 to the north of Newmarket, provide a greater coverage of woodland extending between the A14 and A11.

10.8.389 The establishment of the new planting would also reinforce the stated published key characteristics of shelterbelts and plantations around Newmarket.

10.8.390 Due to the above, balanced with the continued presence of the solar panels and associated structures, along with the reversibility of the Scheme, the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse** to the published landscape character areas at year 15. These effects are considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site A Year 15 Opening Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.391 At the local level, the extensive change from the solar panels and associated structures would remain across LLCA 24 Lowland Estate Chalkland (LLCA 24).

10.8.392 This is balanced with the increase in vegetation cover, such that the proposed tree and hedgerow planting would reflect the character of wooded boundaries to paddocks and fields across LLCA 24.

10.8.393 On balance, the impact at year 15 to LLCA 24 would reduce in comparison to that at year 15 and the effect is assessed as **moderate adverse**; this is considered significant. This is a reduction from the major adverse effect predicted for year 1 of opening, due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure.

10.8.394 For LLCA 23B Chippenham Park (LLCA 23B), the existing vegetation across the LLCA being in leaf and the distance from Sunnica West Site A would reduce any perception of the Scheme. Therefore, in combination with no physical change to the Park, there would be no significant effects to LLCA 23B.

10.8.395 For LLCA 26 The Limekilns and Gallops (LLCA 26), the proposed planting would reduce the perception of the solar panels and structures on the opposite side of the A14 in comparison to the year 1 assessment. In combination with no physical change to LLCA 26, the effect would be **minor adverse**. Therefore, there would not be significant adverse effects at year 15 to LLCA 26.

Sunnica West Site A Year 15 Operation Visual Effects

10.8.396 As per the year 1 assessment, for receptors in Chippenham and Chippenham Park, the solar panels, BESS and substations across the Sunnica West Site A would not be visible, due to the intervening buildings and mature woodland and boundary wall along the southern edge of the Park.

10.8.397 For motorists travelling along La Hogue Road, between Chippenham Park and the A11, including visitors to La Hogue Farm shop, solar panels within W10, W11 and W12 would be screened by the roadside hedgerows.

10.8.398 The garden vegetation at Dane Hill Farm would also screen views of the panels in W15, in combination with the proposed woodland. The hedgerows and trees along the eastern edge of W15 would also screen views of the panels from residents adjacent to Station Road, in Kennett, which is also considered to be beneficial in softening views of the A11 embankment.

10.8.399 Views of the panels in W15 for motorists on Newmarket Road and properties adjacent to the road would also be screened by the establishment of the planting, resulting in a very subtle truncation of views and greater channelling of views along the road.

10.8.400 The visibility of the solar arrays across W03 to W07 for receptors at the Limekilns, views of the panels would remain however, due to the elevated position of the receptor, and retain a partial change to the composition of the view.

10.8.401 The solar panels would be screened for recreational receptors between The Avenue and Snailwell, including within the Railway Field, crossing the A14 and along PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, due to the proposed planting.

10.8.402 The upper parts of the solar panels in parcel W03 would also be screened for motorists travelling along Chippenham Road.

10.8.403 The Sunnica West Site A would not be visible for residents within Snailwell, due to the intervening landform and vegetation.

10.8.404 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, significant **moderate adverse** visual effects are predicted for the following visual receptors:

a. VP38 Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns.

Summary of Opening Year 15 Effects for Sunnica West Site A

10.8.405 **Table 10-24** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.406 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-24**, no impacts are predicted during the year 15 phase.

Table 10-24: Summary of Year 15 Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to the key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to the key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 21. Snailwell	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 23B. Chippenham Park	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LLCA 26. The Limekilns and Gallops	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site A	Medium	Extensive alteration to the character area	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Minor Adverse	No
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
36. Residents adjacent to Station Road	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Beneficial	No
37. Motorists on Newmarket Road	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
37C. Motorists on the A11/A1304	Very Low	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
41. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site B Landscape Effects Year 15 Opening

Sunnica West Site B Year 15 Opening Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.407 The native grassland would have established to a greater extent than at year 1 of opening, forming an improved ecological value across Sunnica West Site B and with the River Snail and its associated bankside vegetation.

10.8.408 The hedgerows along the south-east edge of the Sunnica West Site B would also have established, reinforcing the vegetation patterns and the enclosure around the solar panels and solar stations.

10.8.409 The change in land use would remain, balanced with the improved ecological value, such that landscape effect at year 15 at the Site level is predicted to be **minor adverse**, this is considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site B Year 15 Opening Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.410 The Sunnica West Site B would be located within NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands.

10.8.411 The very small scale of the change in land use, balanced with the improvements to the Green Infrastructure and the reversibility of the Scheme is considered to result in landscape effects of **negligible adverse**, this is considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site B Year 15 Opening Impacts on Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.412 As per the year 1 assessment, there would not be significant adverse landscape effects to LLCA 24: Lowland Estate Chalkland (LLCA 24), due to the relatively small scale of the Scheme in relation to the extent of LLCA 24, along with the balance between the establishment of the Green Infrastructure and reversibility of the Scheme.

Sunnica West Site B Year 15 Opening Visual Effects

10.8.413 The upper parts of the solar panels in W01 and W02 would be screened by the establishment of the proposed hedgerows and existing hedgerows for motorists crossing the River Snail. The hedgerows would result in a slight truncation of views across the landscape.

10.8.414 The intervening woodlands would continue to screen the solar panels across W01 and W02 from residents in Fordham and Snailwell.

10.8.415 The visual effects at year 15 are predicted to range between **neutral** and **negligible adverse**. Therefore, there would be no significant adverse visual effects at year 15 to the identified receptors in relation to Sunnica West Site B.

Summary of Opening Year 15 Effects for Sunnica West Site B

10.8.416 **Table 10-25** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.417 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-25**, no impacts are predicted during the opening year 15 phase.

Table 10-25: Summary of Year 15 Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas					
LLCA 24: Lowland Estate Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site B	Medium	Partial alteration to the character area	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
Visual					
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
46. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Grid Connection Route A – Year 15 Opening Effects

10.8.418 Grid Connection Route A would remain below ground. There would be a very localised reduction in vegetation cover access points, but the establishment of the new planting would reinstate the existing field boundaries to reflect the existing height, density and character of the vegetation patterns and composition of views.

10.8.419 With reference to **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the impact of the Grid Connection Route A at year 15 has been assessed as none and the effect as **neutral** to landscape and visual receptors. This is considered not significant.

Grid Connection Route B – Year 15 Opening Effects

10.8.420 As Grid Connection Route B would remain below ground. There would be a very localised reduction in vegetation cover access points, but the establishment of the new planting would reinstate the existing field boundaries to reflect the existing height, density and character of the vegetation patterns and composition of views.

10.8.421 With reference to **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, the impact of the Grid Connection Route B at year 15 of opening has been assessed as ranging between none and very low and the effect as **neutral** to **negligible adverse** to landscape and visual receptors. This is considered not significant.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Year 15 Effects

10.8.422 For Option 1, the proposed planting around the eastern perimeter of the Site would have established. This would reduce the perception of the substation and partially reflect the vegetated character of Weir's Drove. The effect would remain significant at the Site level due to the change in land use, but there would not be significant adverse effects to the local landscape character areas and published character assessments. Views from Weirs Drove would be softened by the establishment of the proposed planting and the visual effects would reduce to not significant.

10.8.423 For Option 2, the proposed planting along the western edge of the Site would have established. This would improve the vegetation structure of the Site and reflect the vegetated field boundaries around the northern and eastern edges of the Option 2 Site. The establishment of the planting would reduce the perception of the substation from the wider fen landscape to the west; notwithstanding that Option 2 would be perceived in the context of the existing substation and pylons. The effect would remain significant at the Site level due to the change in land use, but there would not be significant adverse effects to the local landscape character areas and published character assessments. Views from the Fen landscape to the west would be softened by the establishment of the proposed planting and the visual effects would reduce to not significant.

Combined Year 15 Opening Effects on Receptors (Intra Project Effects)

10.8.424 This section summarises the impacts and effects of all aspects of the Scheme (Sunnica East Site A and B, Sunnica West Site A and B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension) on the landscape and visual receptors at year 15, summer.

10.8.425 This section should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G and Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]** which outline the landscape and visual effects in full.

Combined Year 15 Opening Landscape Effects

Combined Year 15 Impact to Site Level Landscape Character

10.8.426 At year 15 opening the Scheme would retain the change in land use across the individual Order limits areas, via the solar panels and associated structures and the resulting infrastructure character. Grid Connection Route A and Grid Connection Route B would remain below ground and would therefore not impact the landscape character.

10.8.427 There would be an increased amount of Green Infrastructure (GI), via the proposed native grassland, hedgerows and trees across the Order limits.

10.8.428 The continued presence of the solar panels and structures mean that the significant adverse effects at the Order limits level would remain; however, the significance of effect would reduce due to the increase in GI.

Combined Year 15 Impact to Published Landscape Character

10.8.429 Due to the Scheme remaining a relatively small geographic part of the wider published studies, balanced with the further establishment of the GI, the effects to the published landscape character areas are assessed as ranging between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse** on a combined basis; these are considered not significant.

Combined Year 15 Impacts to Local Landscape

10.8.430 At the local landscape character area (LLCA) scale, the continued presence of the solar panels across most of LLCA 13: Sandlands Mosaic and LLCA 24: Lowland Estate Chalkland, would retain the **moderate adverse** effect; this is considered significant. For the other LLCAs the effects would be not significant.

Combined Year 15 Opening Visual Effects

10.8.431 Due to the distance between the various parts of the Scheme, i.e. between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B, none of the identified visual receptors would have views across the Scheme in its entirety at year 15.

10.8.432 For motorists on Chippenham Road, in comparison to the year 1 assessment, views of the upper parts of panels in W03 to the south of the road and the upper parts of the fencing and solar stations to the north of the road would be screened.

10.8.433 Similarly, as Cable Routes A and B would be below ground, these aspects of the Scheme would not be visible.

10.8.434 Therefore, there would be no combined significant adverse visual effects at year 15 of operation.

Summary of Combined Year 15 Opening Effects

10.8.435 **Table 10-26** below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the combined assessment of the Scheme is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with **Appendix 10G** and **10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.8.436 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-26**, no combined impacts are predicted during the combined year 15 phase and the effects are as stated for the individual aspects of the Scheme.

Table 10-26: Summary of Combined Year 15 Opening Landscape and Visual Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape Effects						
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)						
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework Landscape Types (LCT)						
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Sunnica East Site A and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B and Sunnica West Site A	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)						

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B and part of Sunnica West Site A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Settled Fenlands	High	Sunnica East Site A and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)						
12. Freckenham	High	Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
21. Snailwell	High	Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Sunnica West Site A ad Sunnica West Site B	Substantial loss to key characteristics	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual						

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low	Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Barely perceptible change to existing views	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Decommissioning

10.8.437 As set out in the assumptions section, the decommissioning assessment is based upon the activity required to remove the solar panels, solar stations, BESS, substations, fencing and internal road networks, i.e. all proposed structures from across the Order limits. Cable Routes A and B would remain below ground and are therefore scoped out of the assessment.

10.8.438 The proposed Green Infrastructure would remain. Compared to the year 15 assessment, the diversity of the native grassland would have increased, and the proposed trees would be taller in height. However, the assessment is based on winter conditions, such that none of the deciduous vegetation is in leaf.

Decommissioning Landscape Effects

Decommissioning Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.439 At the Site level, across Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B, the native grassland, increased density and extent of hedgerow and tree planting is considered to be beneficial in relation to the baseline intensive agricultural management and pig farming.

10.8.440 This is because the native grassland represents a more valued landscape feature, with stronger ecological association, and the woodland and trees provide an increased aesthetic value and all of the Green Infrastructure provides opportunities for increased biodiversity.

10.8.441 These beneficial changes are balanced with the decommissioning activity to remove the solar panels and associated structures, along with machinery and localised excavation occurring at the Site level.

10.8.442 At the Site level, for Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B. In relation to the medium sensitivity of these receptors, these impacts are assessed as resulting in **moderate adverse** effects, which are considered significant.

Decommissioning Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.443 The proposed Green Infrastructure is considered to respond positively to the published landscape character assessments', Statements of Environmental opportunity and land management guidelines.

10.8.444 This is by increasing woodland cover, linkages with existing plantations, reinforcing the characteristics of pine lines and the geometric pattern of fields and the implementation of native grassland.

10.8.445 The perception of the machinery and activity to remove the panels and structures would be reduced by the retained Green Infrastructure. The effects of the decommissioning phase to the published landscape character areas are assessed as ranging between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

10.8.446 The exception is Freckenham Rural 2: North and Rural 3: East, due to the presence and perception of the decommissioning activity. The effects are predicted to be **major adverse** and **moderate adverse** respectively. These are considered significant.

Decommissioning Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Effects

10.8.447 The perception of the removal of the proposed structures would be reduced by the increased vegetation cover across the Order limits. The decommissioning activity, including machinery and localised excavation would result in temporary adverse impacts to the native grassland beneath the panels, as well as introduce additional machinery and 'movement' to a greater extent than the existing baseline land uses.

10.8.448 For LLCA 11 East Fen Chalklands, which covers Sunnica East Site A, the decommissioning activity would be across part of the LLCA and mainly within the curtilage of Lee Farm. The effect is assessed as **moderate adverse**; this is considered significant.

10.8.449 For LLCA 13 Sandlands Mosaic, which covers Sunnica East Site B, the decommissioning activity would be across most of the LLCA. The effect is assessed as **major adverse**; this is considered significant.

10.8.450 For LLCA 24 Lowland Estate Chalkland, which covers Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B, the combined decommissioning activity is predicted to result in a **major adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

Decommissioning Visual Effects

10.8.451 The decommissioning activity across the Order limits would not be visible to all of visual receptors identified in the visual baseline. This is due to the intervening landform, vegetation and distance across the Order limits.

10.8.452 The density and height of the proposed planting would result in the majority of the ground level decommissioning activity being substantially screened, even with the vegetation not in leaf.

10.8.453 In relation to Sunnica East Site A, the upper parts of machinery and tall lifting equipment would be visible at close range from motorists travelling along Beck Road and Ferry Lane, as well as visitors to The Ark Church and recreational users along the River Lark and at Jude's Ferry.

10.8.454 Residents on the southern edge of Isleham and at the western edge of Freckenham would also have views of the lifting equipment, particularly in parcel E05.

10.8.455 There would also be close range filtered views of the decommissioning activity for residents in Lee Farm.

10.8.456 In relation to Sunnica East Site B, the hedgerows and trees would substantially soften views of the ground level decommissioning for motorists on the B1102, between Freckenham and Worlington, residents adjacent to the B1102 and at the southern edge of Worlington.

10.8.457 The decommissioning activity would not be substantially screened for motorists on Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham due to the density and height of the roadside vegetation, with views of the upper parts of tall lifting machinery and associated vehicles.

10.8.458 The activity within parcel E22 would be also be largely screened by the retained hedgerows and trees in relation to recreational users along PRoW W257/003/0 and residents adjacent to Badlingham Road.

10.8.459 For motorists on Newmarket Road and Golf Links Road, to the west of Worlington, the tall machinery would be visible at certain points along the route, with the ground level decommissioning largely softened by the roadside planting.

10.8.460 Similarly, the decommissioning activity in parcels E30 to E32 would be largely softened in views of recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0, to the north of these parcels.

10.8.461 The decommissioning activity would not be visible from residents at the western edge of Red Lodge, nor within Barton Mills, due to the intervening residential land uses and vegetation.

10.8.462 At Sunnica West Site A, the decommissioning activity would not be visible for receptors in Chippenham and Chippenham Park, due to the intervening buildings, mature woodland and boundary wall along the edge of the Park.

10.8.463 For motorists travelling along La Hogue Road, between Chippenham Park and the A11, including visitors to La Hogue Farm shop and residents, the upper parts of machinery within W10, W11 and W12 would be visible, whilst the ground level decommissioning would be largely softened by the density of roadside vegetation.

10.8.464 The decommissioning activity within W15 would be largely softened in views from the upper storey rear elevation of residents at Dane Hill Farm. There would be views of the upper parts tall lifting equipment above retained planting for residents adjacent to Station Road, Kennett, but ground level activity would be screened by the planting.

10.8.465 Due to the elevated position and open character of The Limekilns gallops, receptors at this location would have views of the decommissioning across parts of Sunnica West Site A. To the north of the Limekilns, for recreational users on The Avenue, the decommissioning activity across W03 to W05 would be visible for recreational receptors along PRoW 204/5, between The A11 and Chippenham Road.

10.8.466 The upper parts of machinery and tall lifting equipment would be visible above the intervening planting for recreational users along PRoW 204/1, to the east of the Sunnica West Site B site and motorists along Chippenham Road.

10.8.467 Decommissioning within W01 and W02 would be largely screened in views from parts of Snailwell Road, due to the density of the proposed hedgerows, such that the upper parts of tall machinery would be a small component of the view and seen obliquely and briefly.

10.8.468 The existing woodlands and tree belts across the wider landscape would screen the decommissioning activity across Sunnica West Site B from residents in Fordham and Snailwell.

10.8.469 At the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension, there would be close range views for motorists along Weir's Drove Road for Option 1 ; however, the decommissioning activity would be seen in the direct context of the existing substation and pylons.

10.8.470 For recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove, the decommissioning activity of Option 2 would be largely softened by the retained planting along the western edge of the Option 2 area. The decommissioning activity at the Option 1 area would be located on the far side of the existing substation, such that most of it would be screened. The upper parts of tall lifting equipment at Option 1 and Option 2 would be seen in the context of the substation and pylons.

10.8.471 For residents in Reach and recreational users on the Devil's Dyke, the intervening vegetation and distance would screen most of the decommissioning activity at Option 1 and Option 2. The upper parts of tall lifting equipment at Option 1 and Option 2 would be seen in the context of the existing infrastructure at Burwell. The exception is for recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove, where the decommissioning activity at Option 1 would be more visible, due to being located on the west and south side of the existing substation. However, it would still be seen in the context of the existing infrastructure and softened by intervening vegetation.

10.8.472 With reference to **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**, significant **moderate adverse** visual effects are predicted for the following visual receptors in the decommissioning stage:

a. VP12 Residents of Lee Farm; and

b. VP38 Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns.

Summary of Decommissioning Effects

10.8.473 From the above, **Table 10-27** summarises the decommissioning landscape and visual magnitude of impact and effects in relation to Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B and the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension decommissioning.

10.8.474 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in **Table 10-27** no impacts are predicted during the decommissioning phase of the Scheme.

Table 10-27: Summary of Decommissioning Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site A and B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape Effects					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 46 The Fens	High	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 85 The Brecks	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework Landscape Type (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LT Settled Fenlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment					
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Low Chalk Farmland	High	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines					
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Neighbourhood Level – Freckenham Local Plan Landscape Character Assessment					
Freckenham Village A: Fordham Road	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	No
Freckenham Village B: Southern Fringes	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Freckenham Village E: Ems Road	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	No
Rural 1: West	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	No
Rural 2: North	High	Substantial alteration to key characteristic	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)	Yes
Rural 3: East	Medium	Partial alteration to key characteristic	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)	Yes
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 8 Worlington	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 9 Six Acre Chalk Farmland	Low	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 10 Isleham	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 11 East Fen Chalklands	Medium	Partial alteration to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LLCA 12 Freckenham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 13 Elms Sandlands	Medium	Substantial alteration to key characteristics	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LLCA 24 Lowland Estate Chalklands	Medium	As Above	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 26 The Limekilns and Gallops	Medium	Limited addition to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 36 Burwell	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low Option 1 Low Option 2	Minor Adverse (Option 1 and Option 2)	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Partial alteration to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Sunnica East Site B	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Sunnica West Site A	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Sunnica West Site B	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Burwell Option 1	Medium	Extensive alteration	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Burwell Option 2	Low	Extensive alteration	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
2B. Visitors to Jude's Ferry	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
2C. Residents and motorists on Ferry Lane	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Low	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
4A. Residents in Isleham and motorists on Sheldrick's Road	High	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
5. Motorists on Beck Road	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
7. Motorists on the B1104	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
8. Residents in Freckenham	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
9. Recreational users W-257/002/0	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
9A. Recreational users W-257/002/0	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	High	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
12. Residents in Lee Farm	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
12A. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
12B. View west from Ferry Lane	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
13. View north from B1102	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
13A. Recreational and equestrian users on bridleway south of Mildenhall Road	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
14. View south from B1102	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
14A. View south from residents adjacent to the B1102	High	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
15. View west from U6006 (unclassified road)	High	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
15A. View south-west from U6006 (unclassified road)	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
15B. View south-east from U6006 (unclassified road)	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
16. View north-east from U6006 (unclassified road)	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
17. View north-east from Elms Road and PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
18. View north-west from Elms Road	Medium	Partial change to existing views	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
20. View north from PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
21. View east from Badlingham Road	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
21A. View south-east from Residential Properties adjacent to Badlingham Road	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
22. View north-west from Worlington Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
23. View north-west from Worlington Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
23A. View south from Queens Hill, Worlington	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
24. View south from Golf Links Road	Medium	Subtle change to the view	Low	Minor Adverse	No
25. View south-west from Golf Links Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
26A. View south-west from PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
28. View north from the A11 overbridge	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
32. View south-west from La Hogue Road, to the south of Chippenham Park	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
33. View north-west from La Hogue Road at the junction with La Hogue Farm	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
34. Motorists on the B1085, adjacent the Wild Tracks Centre	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
34A. Motorists on the B1185	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
36. View south-west from Kennett	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
37. View north from Newmarket Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
37A. View east from residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
38. View north from The Limekilns	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
39. View north-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, The Avenue	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
40. View north-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, crossing the A14	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
41. View south-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
42. View north-west from Chippenham Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
45. View north from PRoW (footpath) 204/1, north of Snailwell	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
46. View north from Snailwell Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
47. View north-east from Snailwell Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
53. View west from Weir's Drove, Burwell	Low	Extensive change – Option 1 Subtle change – Option 2	High – Option 1 Low – Option 2	Moderate Adverse – Option 1 Minor Adverse – Option 2	Yes No
54. View south-east from Burwell Lode	Medium	Barely discernible change to the view	Very Low – Option 1 and Option 2	Negligible Adverse Option 1 and Option 2	No
55. View east from Hightown Drove	Medium	Barely discernible change for Option 1 Subtle change for Option 2	Very Low – Option 1 Low – Option 2	Negligible Adverse – Option 1 Minor Adverse – Option 2	No
55A. View east from Hightown Drove	Medium	Subtle change for Option 1	Low – Option 1 Very Low – Option 2	Minor Adverse – Option 1 Negligible Adverse – Option 2	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
		Barely discernible change for Option 2			
56. View north-east from Burwell Road, Reach	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low – Option1 and Option 2	Negligible Adverse Option 1 and Option 2	No
57. View north-east from the Church of St. Etheldreda, Reach	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low – Option 1 and Option 2	Negligible Adverse Option 1 and Option 2	No
58. View north-east from the Devil's Ditch (PRoW (footpath) 191/10)	High	As Above	Very Low Option 1 and Option 2	Negligible Adverse Option 1 and Option 2	No
59. View north-east from the Devil's Ditch (PRoW (footpath) 191/10)	High	As Above	Very Low Option 1 and Option 2	Negligible Adverse Option 1 and Option 2	No

10.9 Additional Monitoring, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

10.9.1 The residual significant landscape effects are due to the change in land use and the massing of the panels and various structures. As these are inevitable due to the operational requirements of the Scheme, additional mitigation measures are not practicable at the local landscape character level.

10.9.2 The one significant visual effect from the Limekilns is due to the elevated position of the receptor and the open character of the intervening foreground, which forms a part of the wider Gallops. Additional mitigation measures, e.g. off-site planting is considered not to be practicable in retaining the equestrian land use across the Gallops. Additionally, the elevated position of the receptor would retain views across to Sunnica West Site A.

Monitoring

10.9.3 The Framework CEMP will include measures to protect the retained vegetation and OLEMP will include monitoring requirements to ensure the

successful establishment of the proposed planting. With reference to the OLEMP, these monitoring requirements are bi-monthly inspections of the proposed planting, with associated watering and pruning in the relevant seasons.

10.9.4 Due to this, no additional monitoring in relation to landscape and visual matters is required during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.

10.10 Residual Effects

10.10.1 This section summarises the residual effects of the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors.

10.10.2 Significant residual effects are defined as moderate or major adverse or beneficial and are listed in the following tables below:

a. **Table 10-28** Scheme construction (winter);
b. **Table 10-29** Scheme operation year 1 (earliest 2025) (winter);
c. **Table 10-30** Scheme operation year 15 (earliest 2040), (summer); and
d. **Table 10-31** Scheme decommissioning (earliest 2065), (summer).

10.10.3 The construction phase residual effects are due to the changes in surface landform, landcover, presence of construction machinery and the associated activity which is required to implement the Scheme.

10.10.4 The year 1 opening phase residual effects are due to the change in land use from agriculture to infrastructure, via the solar panels and associated structures, resulting in impacts to the character, aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and the introduction of new features within views.

10.10.5 The year 15 post opening phase residual effects reflects that of the year 1 assessment, due to the continued, long term but reversible presence of the solar panels and associated structures. The reduction in the number of significant adverse effects, particularly to visual receptors, is due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure.

10.10.6 The decommissioning phase residual effects are due to the machinery and activity to remove the panels and associated structures, and the physical and perceptual changes to the landscape character. Although at the Green Infrastructure (new planting) would remain, the visibility of the decommissioning phase would be much reduced in comparison to the construction assessment.

10.10.7 All residual landscape and visual effects (significant and not significant) for the above phases are set out in full in **Appendix 10G** and **Appendix 10H** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.10.8 **Table 10-28** outlines the likely residual significant landscape and visual construction effects after mitigation during the construction phase.

Table 10-28 Summary of Significant Residual Effects (Construction)

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica East Site A - Construction					
Freckenham Rural 2: North character area	Substantial alteration to the character area.	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available or practicable	Major Adverse
Sunnica East Site A Site Landscape Character Area	Substantial alteration to the character area.	As above.	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
LLCA East Fen Chalklands	Partial alteration to key characteristics	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	Substantial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
2B. Visitors to Jude's Ferry	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
2C. Residents and motorists on Ferry Lane	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
4A. Residents in Isleham and motorists on Sheldrick's Road	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
5. Motorists on Beck Road	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
8. Residents in Freckenham	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
9A. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
12. Residents in Lee Farm	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
12A Motorists on Ferry Lane	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica East Site B - Construction					
Freckenham Rural 3: East	Partial alteration to the key characteristics	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available or practicable	Moderate Adverse
LLCA 13 Elms Sandland Mosaic	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Sunnica East Site B	As Above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
14. Motorists and pedestrians on B1102	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
14A. Residents adjacent to B1102	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
15A. Recreational users including equestrian riders on U6006	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
15B. Recreational users including equestrian riders on U6006	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
16. Recreational users including equestrian riders on U6006	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
18. Motorists on Elms Road	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
21. Motorists on Badlingham Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
21A. Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
22. Motorists on Worlington Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
23. Motorists on Worlington Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
24. Motorists on Golf Links Road	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
25. Motorists on Golf Links Road	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A - Construction					
24. Lowland Estate Chalklands	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available or practicable	Major Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica West Site A	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
36. Residents adjacent to Station Road	Partial change to the composition of the view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
37. Motorists on Newmarket Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
37A. Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
41. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica West Site B – Construction					
Sunnica West Site B	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable	Major Adverse
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Grid Connection Route A – Construction					
Grid Connection Route A	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Major Adverse
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/03	Partial alteration to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
21A Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	Partial alteration to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
29. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 49/7	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Grid Connection Route B - Construction					
Grid Connection Route B	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable.	Moderate Adverse
33A. Residents in La Hogue Farm	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
43. Residents in Snailwell	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
44. Residents in Snailwell	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
45. Recreational users of PRoW (footpath) 204/1	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
48. Residents in Fordham House	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Burwell National Grid Substation Extension - Construction					
Burwell Site character Option 1	Extensive change to the existing character	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable.	Major Adverse
Burwell Site character Option 2	Extensive change to the existing character	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
53. Motorist on Weirs Drove – Option 1	Partial change to the character of existing views	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Intra Project Landscape Effects - Construction					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Partial loss to key characteristics	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable	Moderate Adverse
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	Partial loss to key characteristics	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
LLCA 11. East Fen Chalklands	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
21. Snailwell	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
36. Burwell Fen (Option 1 and 2)	Partial loss to key characteristics	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Intra Project Visual Effects - *Construction*					
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
20. Recreational users on PRoW (W257/003/3)	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
21A Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Extensive change to the composition of existing views	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
53. Recreational users on Weirs Drove	Partial change to the composition of existing views	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Partial change to the composition of existing views	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
55. Recreational users of Hightown Drove	Partial change to the composition of existing views	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

10.10.9 **Table 10-29** outlines the likely residual significant landscape and visual residual year 1 of operation effects after mitigation.

Table 10-29: Summary of Significant Residual Effects (Year 1 of Operation)

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica East Site A – Year 1 Operation					
Freckenham Rural 2: North	Partial alteration to the key character area	Implementation of layout as illustrated on the Parameter Plans (as shown on Figure 3-1 and 3-2 **[EN010106/APP/6.3]**) supported by the management regime set out in the OLEMP	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica East Site A Site Landscape Character Area	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
2C. Residents and motorists on Ferry Lane	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
4A Residents in Isleham and motorists on Sheldrick's Road	Partial alteration to the composition of existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
5. Motorists on Beck Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
9A. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	As Above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	As Above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
12. Residents in Lee Farm	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
12A. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica East Site B – Year 1 Operation					
Freckenham Rural 3: East	Partial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework Operational Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) and OLEMP, including solid hoardings, protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable.	Moderate Adverse
LLCA 13 Sandlands Mosaic	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Sunnica East Site B	As Above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
15A. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major adverse	As above	Major adverse
15B. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
16. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	As Above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
18. Motorists on Elms Road	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
21A. Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
22. Motorists on Worlington Road	As above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	As above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A – Operation Year 1					
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework OEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available practicable.	Major Adverse
Sunnica West Site A	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
41. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Sunnica West Site B – Year 1 Operation					
Sunnica West Site B	Partial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework OEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available practicable.	Moderate Adverse
Burwell Substation					
Burwell site character option 1	Extensive alteration to the character of the area	Implementation of the Framework OEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available practicable.	Major Adverse
Burwell site character option 2	Partial alteration to the character of the area	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
53. Motorist on Weirs Drove – option 1	Partial alteration to composition of views	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Intra Project Landscape Effects – Year 1 Operation					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	Partial loss to key characteristics	Implementation of the Framework OEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available practicable	Moderate Adverse
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Intra Project Visual Effects – *Year 1 Operation*					
n/a as receptors can not see other parts of the Scheme in combination.					

10.10.10 **Table 10-30** outlines the likely residual significant landscape and visual residual year 15 post opening effects after mitigation.

Table 10-30: Summary of Significant Residual Effects (year 15 post opening)

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica East Site A – Year 15 Operation					
Freckenham Rural 2: North	Partial alteration to the character area	Implementation of layout as illustrated on the Parameter Plans **[EN010106/APP/6.3]** supported by the management regime set out in the OLEMP	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable.	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica East Site A Site Landscape Character Area	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above.	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica East Site B – Year 15 Operation					
Freckenham Rural 3: East	Partial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework OEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable	Moderate Adverse
LLCA 13 Sandlands Mosaic	As above	As above.	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica East Site B	Partial alteration to the character area	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A – Year 15 Operation					
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Partial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework OEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As Above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site B – Year 15 Operation					
n/a as no significant adverse effects are predicted due to the establishment of mitigation planting					

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Burwell Substation					
Burwell Site character Option 1	Extensive change to the existing character	Implementation of the Framework CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable.	Major Adverse
Burwell Site character Option 2	Partial change to the existing character	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Intra Project Landscape Effects – Year 15 Operation					
24. Lowland Estate Chalklands	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Intra Project Visual Effects – *Year 15 Operation*					
n/a as no significant adverse effects are predicted as receptors can not see separate parts of the Scheme.					

10.10.11 **Table 10-31** outlines the likely residual significant landscape and visual residual decommissioning effects after mitigation.

Table 10-31: Summary of Residual Effects (Decommissioning)

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Published Landscape Character Areas - Decommissioning					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Partial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework Decommissioning DEMP and OLEMP, including solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable.	Moderate Adverse
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Freckenham Rural 2: North	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Freckenham Rural 3: East	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Local Landscape Character Areas					
LLCA 11 East Fen Chalkland	Partial alteration to landscape character	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
LLCA 13 Elms Sandlands	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
24. Lowland Estate Chalklands	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework DEMP and OLEMP, including solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available nor practicable.	Moderate Adverse
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site A Site Landscape Character Area	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Framework DEMP and OLEMP, including solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica East Site B	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site B	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Burwell Site character Option 1	Extensive alteration to the character	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Burwell Site character Option 2	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Visual Effects - Decommissioning					

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Implementation of the Framework DEMP and OLEMP, including solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
12. Residents in Lee Farm	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
18. View north-west from Elms Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
33. View north-west from La Hogue Road at the junction with La Hogue Farm	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
38. View north from The Limekilns	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
53. Motorist on Weirs Drove	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

10.11 Cumulative Effects

10.11.1 With reference to GLVIA 3, the cumulative assessment is based on the 'combined' impacts and effects of the Scheme with the cumulative schemes.

10.11.2 The impacts and effects are assessed in relation to the landscape and visual receptors presented in this chapter, using the same methodology as set out in **Appendix 10C** of this Environmental Statement **[EN010106/APP/6.2]**.

10.11.3 Developments of a similar type to the Scheme and that are subject to a valid planning application are included where specific circumstances indicate there is potential for notable cumulative effects to occur, with progressively decreasing emphasis placed on those which are less certain to proceed. On this, GLVIA notes that those in pre-planning or scoping stage are not generally considered in the assessment of cumulative effects.

10.11.4 The impacts and effects are assessed at the construction phase and year 1 of opening, so as to reflect a worst case scenario, given the details of many of the cumulative schemes are not confirmed.

10.11.5 In reality, the detailed design and integration of the cumulative schemes via new planting and high quality design would reduce the stated impacts set out below.

ID 85: Application Reference 17/01838/ESF

10.11.6 The cumulative scheme is for new buildings and changes of 'use' within the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory centre.

10.11.7 The cumulative scheme is located in proximity to the Sunnica West Site B and in LLCA20: Snailwell Industrial Estate (LLCA 20), the same LLCA as part of Grid Connection Route B.

10.11.8 The cumulative impact would be additional construction activity, excavation and presence of construction machinery in LLCA 20. However, as both the cumulative scheme and Grid Connection Route B are consolidated to the same parts of the published landscape character areas, there would be no change to the predicted landscape effects to the published areas.

10.11.9 In relation to the LLCA the combination of Grid Connection Route B and the cumulative scheme would increase the magnitude of impact for LLCA 20, from low (as predicted for Grid Connection Route B) to medium. The effect would also increase from negligible adverse (predicted for Grid Connection Route B) to **minor adverse**, which is considered not significant. This increase is due to the cumulative scheme.

10.11.10 The combined construction activity would be visible for motorists on Chippenham Road and employees at the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory. For the motorists, the cumulative impact would not alter the predicted significant adverse effects from Grid Connection Route B. For the employees, the proximity of the cumulative scheme would increase the predicted impacts from medium (as predicted for Grid Connection Route B) to high, and the effect from minor adverse (not significant for Grid Connection Route B) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant. This increase is due to the cumulative scheme and temporary as construction.

10.11.11 In operation, with Grid Connection Route B below ground, the change to the composition of views would relate to the cumulative scheme and the new buildings within the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory.

ID:95 Application Reference 17/02205/FUL

10.11.12 The cumulative scheme is for battery storage units, transformers and grid connections. The height of the tallest structures (transformer) is approximately 5 metres and the battery storage units are 3m in height. The landscape scheme for ID.95 includes bunding and hedgerows around the boundary to screen the cumulative scheme.

10.11.13 The cumulative scheme is located approximately 50m to the south of Burwell substation, on the east side of Weir's Drove Road.

10.11.14 The construction cumulative impact would be from the additional construction activity and machinery, located across both sides of Weir's Drove Road. However, as the construction activity would be consolidated between existing substations, also on both sides of Weir's Drove Road, the impacts would be localised. In relation to the published landscape character areas, the impacts and effects are considered to remain as predicted for the Scheme, due to the overall very small scale of the cumulative schemes.

10.11.15 At the local level, the additional construction activity would increase the magnitude of impact for LLCA 38: Burwell, from very low (as predicted for the Scheme) to low. The effect would also increase, from negligible adverse (as predicted for the Scheme) to **minor adverse**. This is not significant.

10.11.16 The combined construction activity would be visible at close range for motorists on Weir's Drove Road (VP53). Views of the combined construction activity would increase the impact from low (as predicted for the Scheme) to medium, due to construction activity on both sides of the road. The effect would also increase from minor adverse (as predicted for the Scheme), to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.17 In operation, the cumulative impact would be additional infrastructure adjacent to a part of Weir's Drove Road. For LLCA38: Burwell, compared

to the neutral effect predicted for the Scheme, the cumulative effect would increase to minor adverse; this is considered not significant. This increase is due to the cumulative scheme as it increases the amount of infrastructure within the LLCA.

10.11.18 Also, in operation, there would be close range views for motorists on Weir's Drove Road (VP53) of the proposed infrastructure on both sides of road. Compared to the predicted negligible adverse effect for the Scheme, the cumulative effect would be **minor adverse**. This is considered not significant.

ID:96 – Application Reference 19/00155/FUL

10.11.19 The cumulative scheme proposes battery units and transformer equipment, 5m in height, surrounded by a 3m timber acoustic screen and planting. The cumulative scheme is located approximately 50m south of the existing Burwell substation on the south side of Weir's Drove Road. The impacts and effects would reflect those stated above of ID:95.

ID 98: Application Reference 15/00723/ESF

10.11.20 The cumulative scheme is for a 40MW solar farm, covering 72ha, with heights of structure up to 3m in height. The cumulative scheme is located approximately 800m north of the Burwell substation and in proximity to Grid Connection Route B and in the same LLCA as the proposed substation extension.

10.11.21 During construction, there would be cumulative impacts from alterations to surface landform and the presence of construction activity. Due to the localised and relatively small scale of the construction activity, there would be no change to the effects predicted for the national character areas.

10.11.22 For Lowland Village Chalklands, Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands the cumulative construction impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to these character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.23 At the local scale, there would be cumulative impacts to LLCA 36: Burwell Fen. The impact of the construction activity would increase the alterations to surface landform and the overall presence of construction activity across Burwell Fen, from Grid Connection Route B, the proposed substation extension and the cumulative scheme. The combined impacts would therefore increase the predicted impact of very low (for the Scheme only) to low. The cumulative construction effect would increase from negligible adverse (predicted for the Scheme only) to minor adverse. This is considered not significant.

10.11.24 In relation to the identified visual receptors, the combined construction activity would not be visible within the same orientation of views and in

combination with distance and intervening vegetation, there would be no cumulative visual effects.

10.11.25 In operation, with Grid Connection Route B below ground, the cumulative impacts would relate to the proposed substation and the cumulative scheme. Both would introduce additional infrastructure, within the context and perception of existing substations and overhead pylons.

10.11.26 There would be no change to the predicted effects to the national character areas, due to the relatively small scale of the infrastructure, in a part of the published landscape character areas which are already influenced and characterised by Burwell substation and tracts of overhead pylons.

10.11.27 For Lowland Village Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant.

10.11.28 For Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated very low impact (for the Scheme) to low. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme) to minor adverse. This is considered not significant.

10.11.29 At the local scale, for LLCA 36, the additional infrastructure would increase the magnitude of impact from low (as predicted for the Scheme only) to medium. The effect would also increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme only) to minor adverse. This is considered not significant.

10.11.30 Visually, in operation the combined massing would not be visible within the same orientation of views and in combination with distance, intervening vegetation and height of the solar panels, there would be no cumulative visual effects.

ID: 154: Policy FRD1, FRD2, FRD3 and FRD 4 – Allocations for Employment and Housing

10.11.31 The cumulative scheme is for approximately 7ha of employment land use, across the central and northern parts of Fordham. FRD3 would be located in LLCA19: Fordham House (LLCA19), in which part of Grid Connection Route B is located.

10.11.32 During the construction phase there would be cumulative impacts from the additional construction activity. As the extent of the construction activity is located across or in proximity to an existing settlement, there would be no change to the predicted effects to the published landscape character areas.

10.11.33 At the local level, for LLCA 19, construction impacts would increase from low (as predicted for the Scheme), to medium. The effects would increase from minor adverse (as predicted for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant and temporary. The increase is due to the cumulative schemes.

10.11.34 In operation, with Grid Connection Route B below ground, the impacts and effects to LLCA 19 would relate to the cumulative scheme only.

10.11.35 Visually, the cumulative schemes would not be within the same composition of views for any of the identified visual receptors. Therefore, there would be not be cumulative visual effects in construction, nor operation phases.

ID 163: Policy FRD 5 and FRD 6 – Allocations for Employment and Housing

10.11.36 As per ID:154 above, the cumulative scheme would be located within Fordham and further from the Order limits. The impacts and effects would reflect those states for ID:154.

ID 296: Application Reference 10/01576/SCREEN and ID: 348 – Application Reference 20/00557/ESF

10.11.37 The cumulative scheme is for a solar farm across fields to the west of Burwell substation, between Hightown Drove and Burwell Lode. The cumulative scheme is in the same LLCA as the proposed substation extension and parts of Grid Connection Route B.

10.11.38 During the construction phase, there would be combined impacts from alteration to surface landform and the presence of construction activity, both adjacent to the existing substation compound and across the fields to the north and west.

10.11.39 The combined impact of the construction activity would not alter the predicted effects to the national character areas, due to their relatively small scale.

10.11.40 For Lowland Village Chalklands, Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands the cumulative construction impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to these character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.41 Visually, the construction activity would be visible for recreational users on Burwell Lode (VP54) and Hightown Drove (VP55). Compared to the predicted low impact (for the Scheme), the cumulative impact would be medium. The cumulative effect would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.42 In operation, the impacts would relate to the proposed substation and the cumulative scheme, as Grid Connection Route B would be below ground.

10.11.43 The cumulative scheme and the Scheme would introduce additional infrastructure, although the cumulative scheme would introduce a greater change in land use and perception of infrastructure, as the Scheme is located adjacent to Burwell substation.

10.11.44 Both the cumulative scheme and the Scheme would be located in a part of the published landscape character areas which are already characterised by large scale infrastructure. There would be no change to the predicted effects to the national character areas.

10.11.45 For Lowland Village Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant.

10.11.46 For Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated very low impact (for the Scheme) to low. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.47 Visually, for recreational users on Burwell Lode (VP54) and Hightown Drove (VP55), changes to views would be from the cumulative scheme. This is because it would be in the foreground of the view, whereas the Scheme would be located beyond Burwell substation. The cumulative impact would increase from very low (for the Scheme) to medium. The effect would increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant.

ID: 351 – Application Reference 20/00522/FUM

10.11.48 The cumulative scheme is for a solar farm approximately 3.5km to the north of Burwell substation, between Wicken and Soham, in a part of the landscape which is not crossed by the Scheme.

10.11.49 For Lowland Village Chalklands, Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands the cumulative construction impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to these character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.50 The cumulative construction impact to LLCA 33: Soham Mere would increase from none (for the Scheme) to low. The effect would increase from neutral (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.51 In operation, the cumulative impact would not alter the predicted effects to the national character areas.

10.11.52 For Lowland Village Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to moderate adverse; this is considered significant.

10.11.53 For Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated very low impact (for the Scheme) to low. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.54 The cumulative operation impact to LLCA 33: Soham Mere would increase from none (for the Scheme) to low. The effect would increase from neutral (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.55 Visually, the cumulative scheme and the Scheme would not be visible within the same composition of views for any of the identified visual receptors. Therefore, there would be no cumulative effects during the construction or operation phases.

ID 756 Planning Application Ref: 21/00816/FUL

10.11.56 Construction of a 30MW battery energy storage system facility to the east side of ID 95 and associated access, landscaping and other infrastructure works. The cumulative scheme is located approximately 50m south of the existing Burwell substation on the south side of Weir's Drove Road. The impacts and effects would reflect those stated above of ID:95 and ID:96

ID 757 National Grid Substation extension to the existing Burwell Substation

10.11.57 The cumulative scheme is for an extension to the National Grid Substation extension to the east side of Burwell substation to the south of Newnham Drove. The cumulative scheme is in the same LLCA as the proposed substation extension and parts of Grid Connection Route B.

10.11.58 During the construction phase, there would be combined impacts from alteration to surface landform and the presence of construction activity, both adjacent to the existing substation compound and across the fields to the east adjacent to Option 1 for the substation.

10.11.59 The combined impact of the construction activity would not alter the predicted effects to the national character areas, due to their relatively small scale.

10.11.60 For Lowland Village Chalklands, Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands the cumulative construction impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to these

character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.61 Visually, the construction activity would be partially visible for recreational users on Burwell Lode (VP54) and Hightown Drove (VP55) with intervening vegetation screening most of the construction activity. This would not change the predicted low impact (for the Scheme) and the cumulative effect would be minor adverse. For road users on Weirs Drove (VP53) the level of cumulative impact would be similar to the predicted impact for the Scheme Option 1 given the nature of the extension and context in the view towards the existing substation.

10.11.62 In operation, the impacts would relate to the proposed substation and the cumulative scheme, as Grid Connection Route B would be below ground.

10.11.63 The cumulative scheme and the Scheme would introduce additional infrastructure, although the cumulative scheme would introduce a greater change in land use and perception of infrastructure, with the Scheme adding another smaller extension to the infrastructure.

10.11.64 Both the cumulative scheme and the Scheme would be located in a part of the published landscape character areas which are already characterised by large scale infrastructure. There would be no change to the predicted effects to the national character areas.

10.11.65 For Lowland Village Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse;** this is considered significant.

10.11.66 For Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated very low impact (for the Scheme) to low. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.67 Visually, for recreational users on Burwell Lode (VP54) and Hightown Drove (VP55), changes to views would be limited towards the cumulative scheme. This is because it would be to the rear of intervening vegetation beyond the existing Burwell substation. The cumulative impact would not increase from very low and the effect would be negligible adverse. For road users on Weirs Drove (VP53) the level of cumulative impact would remain medium with a Moderate adverse cumulative effect, given the nature of the extensions as a partial change to the composition of the existing view which comprises the larger scale of the existing Burwell substation.

10.12 References

Ref 10-1 Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011; 'Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)', London: The Stationery Office.

Ref 10-2 Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011; 'National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)', London: The Stationery Office.

Ref 10-3 Department for Energy and Climate Change, 2011; 'National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)', London: The Stationery Office.

Ref 10-4 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government, 2019; 'National Planning Policy Framework', APS Group.

Ref 10-5 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government, 2019; 'National Planning Practice Guidance – Natural Environment', on-line.

Ref 10-6 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government, 2015; 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy', on-line.

Ref 10-7 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan',

Ref 10-8 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Further Consultation Draft',

Ref 10-9 Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, 'Suffolk – Creating the Greenest County'

Ref 10-10 Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, 2017, 'Suffolk Climate Action Plan 3'

Ref 10-11 East Cambridgeshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2015

Ref 10-12 East Cambridgeshire District Council, Renewable Energy Development (Commercial Scale) Supplementary Planning Document

Ref 10-13 East Cambridgeshire District Council Design Guide

Ref 10-14 The West Suffolk, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan, Joint Development, Management Policies Document

Ref 10-15 Forest Heath Local Development Framework, Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Ref 10-16 Forest Heath District Council, Accessible Natural Greenspace Study

Ref 10-17 Fordham Neighbourhood Plan

Ref 10-18 Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan

Ref 10-19 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, 2013

Ref 10-20 Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, TGN 06/19, 2019

Ref 10-21 Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 02/Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

Ref 10-22 Cambridgeshire County Council, on-line mapping

Ref 10-23 Suffolk County Council, on-line Definitive Map

Ref 10-24 Natural England, 2013, National Character Area 46: The Fens

Ref 10-25 Natural England, 2015, National Character Area 85: The Brecks

Ref 10-26 Natural England, 2014, National Character Area 87: East Anglian Chalk
Ref 10-27 Landscape East, East of England Landscape Typology
Ref 10-28 Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment, on-line
Ref 10-29 Cambridgeshire County Council, 1991, Cambridgeshire Landscape Character
Ref 10-30 The Brecks Partnership, 2013, Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment
Ref 10-31 Cambridgeshire County Council, 2011, Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy
Ref 10-32 Breaking New Ground, Brecks Special Qualities, An Analysis of Identity and a Sense of Place
Ref 10-33 Freckenham Conservation Area Appraisal,
Ref 10-34 Burwell North Street Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document,
Ref 10-35 Burwell High Town Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document,
Ref 10-36 Freckenham Neighbourhood Plan, Landscape Character Assessment and Key Views, 2020,