Great North Road Solar and Biodiversity Park

Environmental Statement

Volume 4 – Technical Appendices

Technical Appendix A7.5 – Non-Significant Effects

Document reference – EN010162/APP/6.4.7.5

Revision number 1

June 2025

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009, APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Contents

A7.5.1 INTRODUCTION

1 This Technical Appendix provides the assessment for landscape character areas and visual receptors where the level of effect is judged to be lower than Major/moderate and effects would not be significant.

A7.5.2 LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

A7.5.2.1 MID-NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARMLANDS / MEADOWLANDS (INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT)

2 *Baseline Description and Sensitivity*

3 As shown on Figure 7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.3], this character type follows several water courses cutting through the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands and the adjoining Village Farmlands LCTs. It also forms part of the edge of the adjoining Sherwood LCA and runs along the district boundary to the north. The baseline character is described in the NSLCA as being "*flat, low-lying river corridor landscapes characterised by permanent pasture and riparian trees."* The key characteristics are identified as:

- *"Flat, alluvial flood plains*
- *Sparsely settled with few buildings*
- *Permanent pasture and areas of mixed agriculture*
- *Small-scale, semi-irregular pattern of hedged fields*
- *Riparian trees and shrubs*
- *Tradition of willow pollarding*
- *Clumps of deciduous trees and small woods*
- *Ridge and furrow grassland".*

4 Development within this LCT is limited and existing and there are no consented solar farms within this LCT.

5 TA A7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.3] provides an analysis of the susceptibility of these characteristics to change as a result of solar development, identifying mixed susceptibility ranging from High to Low. High susceptibility is identified in relation to the undeveloped character, ridge and furrow, and small-scale character and lower susceptibility in relation to the flat terrain and characteristic trees and woodland given vegetation is typically not affected by solar development. Taking all of the characteristics into account susceptibility is considered to be High/medium.

6 Considering the Regional/community landscape value and susceptibility together, sensitivity for this LCT is judged to be High/medium.

7 *Effects During Construction and Early Operation*

8 As shown by Figure 7.4 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.4] and viewpoints 5, 9, 13 and 35, solar areas would only be within this LCT in two places. One of these would be in a larger arable field which straddles the LCT boundaries, and the other is an entire arable field close to the A1. In each case the character of the field affected is more akin to the adjacent Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCT than to the Meadowlands LCT. There would be Large scale changes to character as a result of the presence of the solar panels and other infrastructure within the Development. Beyond the Development, the scale of change to character would vary depending on

visibility and proximity of the Development. Other proposed changes to this LCT would include the management of areas for ecological benefit – in between the proposed panel areas to the east of Moorhouse and to the northeast of Maplebeck. These changes would improve the landscape fabric of the LCT.

9 As noted in the character description and shown in viewpoint photographs, the flat low-lying terrain of these areas and the characteristic trees and hedges tend to limit outward views, such that visibility would be less prevalent than indicated in Figure 7.4 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.4] (due to trees along water courses and field boundaries and hedges not included in the ZTV model). Medium-term changes to character would arise in discrete areas as follows:

- Large and Medium scale changes to the east of Moorhouse as a result of the combination of solar areas within and adjacent to the LCT, along with improvements in landscape fabric to create the proposed riparian corridor and new woodland planting. On balance, these effects would be Adverse;
- Large scale changes to character where the proposed solar area lies within this LCT to the northeast of Eakring, with Small scale changes in adjacent parts of the LCT south of the local road; west of Penny Pasture nature reserve and in adjacent fields to the northwest of the solar arrays;
- Small scale changes north and east of Maplebeck as a result of relatively close views of the Development beyond nearby trees and hedgerows – particularly in winter. These would reduce to Negligible once proposed planting matures and screens views of the Development; and
- This LCT is also close to a solar area outwith the LCT near Cheveral Wood where it is considered that the existing mature line of trees and the presence of large agricultural buildings within and near this part of the LCT (which are atypical of the prevailing character) would mean that the scale of change to character in the closest part of this LCT would be Negligible.

10 These changes to character would affect parts of two of the six Meadowlands areas within the Mid Nottinghamshire Farmlands. The Large and Medium scale changes to character arising as a result of the presence of the Development within the LCT would be very Limited in extent, whilst those arising from views of the Development would be Small scale and Limited. Considered together these impacts would be of Medium/small magnitude and taking account that the effects would primarily arise in lower sensitivity parts of the LCT, effects would be Moderate, Adverse and not significant.

11 *Effects During Operation and Decommissioning*

12 As planting matures during the operational stage, the landscape condition would continue to improve and the extent of visibility and scale of change in views towards the Development would reduce, generally becoming Negligible, but the effects on character would remain as assessed above.

13 *Effects After Decommissioning*

14 After decommissioning, areas managed for ecological enhancement and new and gapped-up hedgerows would give rise to a Limited extent of Small scale changes to the LCT which would give rise to impacts of Negligible magnitude and effects would be Minimal, Neutral and not significant.

A7.5.2.2 MID-NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARMLANDS / VILLAGE FARMLANDS (0.1 KM, SOUTH)

15 As shown on Figure 7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.3], this character type forms most of the rural area Around Bilsthorpe, Farnsfield and Southwell in the southwest of the study area. As shown by Figure 7.4 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.4] and viewpoints 28 and 29, theoretical visibility would mostly be distant and would give rise to Negligible changes to character with the exception of a small area around Hockerton where there would be some glimpsed views of the Development beyond Cheveral Wood, which separates the LCT from the Development in this location. This limited area of Small scale changes to views would not give rise to more than Negligible changes to character during all stages of the Development.

A7.5.2.3 TRENT WASHLANDS / VILLAGE FARMLANDS (INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT)

16 *Baseline description and sensitivity*

17 As shown on Figure 7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.3], this LCT forms a broad north-south band within the study area, along the Trent. The baseline character is described in the NSLCA, as being "*a flat low-lying agricultural landscape characterised by a traditional pattern of hedged fields and nucleated village settlements."* The key characteristics are identified as:

- *"Broad flat river terraces*
- *Regular pattern of medium-to large-sized fields, breaking down and becoming open in many areas*
- *Hedgerow trees main component of tree cover with Ash being the principal species*
- *Willow pollards*
- *Predominantly arable with permanent pasture around settlements and roads*
- *Nucleated villages with traditional red brick and pantile roofed buildings*
- *Sand and gravel quarries".*

18 The A1 road and ECML railway line run through this LCT between South Muskham and Sutton-on-Trent and the Nottingham-Lincoln railway line also crosses through to the south of Staythorpe. This passes between the Staythorpe substation, situated within the southeastern edge of this LCT, and Staythorpe Power Station which sits just outside. Overhead lines radiate out from the substation in various directions and there is also the nearby a consented Staythorpe BESS and connection, part of which is Work No. 7 to the west of the substation.

19 TA A7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.3] provides an analysis of the susceptibility of these characteristics to change as a result of solar development, identifying susceptibility as mostly Medium to Low, but High in relation to the presence

of villages – the setting of which may be altered by solar development. Taking all of the characteristics into account susceptibility is considered to be Medium.

20 Considering the Regional/community landscape value and susceptibility together, sensitivity for this LCT is judged to be Medium.

21 *Effects During Construction and Early Operation*

22 As shown by Figure 7.4 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.4]; viewpoints 17, 44, 45 and 49; and illustrative view H in TA A7.4 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.4], the BESS part of the Development would be within this LCT to the northwest of the A617 near Averham, along with a very small area of solar arrays to the west of Carlton-on-Trent. Other proposed changes to this LCT would include the management of areas for ecological benefit between Kelham and Cromwell as shown by Figure 7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.3]. These changes would improve the condition of the LCT.

23 As noted in the character description and shown in viewpoint photographs, the flat low-lying terrain and loss of hedged field boundaries in places mean that initial visibility would be more widespread in some places before mitigation matures. Medium-term changes to character would arise in discrete areas as follows:

- Within the solar and BESS areas, there would be Large scale, Adverse changes to character;
- Medium/small scale, Adverse changes to character would arise as far as the A617 to the south of the BESS, and Small scale changes in the fields immediately to the northeast between the BESS and Kelham where visibility would be reduced by the existing hedges to the north of the BESS area;
- Medium to Small scale, Adverse changes to character would arise within the part of the LCT to the southwest of Carlton-on-Trent as a result of views of the nearby solar panels on rising ground to the west; and
- A Limited extent of Small scale, Beneficial improvements in condition to create the proposed ecological enhancement areas within the LCT. Negligible changes to character elsewhere within the LCT.

24 Considered together these mpacts would arise for a Limited extent of the LCT and would be of Medium magnitude and effects would be Moderate, Adverse and not significant.

25 *Effects During Operation and Decommissioning*

26 Mitigation planting would reduce the extent of visibility, confining changes to character closer to the solar and BESS areas, but effects would remain of the same magnitude and level throughout the operational stage.

27 *Effects After Decommissioning*

28 After decommissioning, areas managed for ecological enhancement and new and gapped-up hedgerows would give rise to a Limited extent of Small scale, Beneficial changes to the LCT. There would be impacts of Negligible magnitude and effects would be Minimal, Neutral and not significant.

A7.5.2.4 TRENT WASHLANDS / RIVER MEADOWLANDS (INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT)

29 *Baseline description and sensitivity*

30 As shown on Figure 7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.3], this LCT forms a broad north-south band within the study area, along the Trent. The baseline character is described in the Newark & Sherwood Landscape Character Assessment SPD (NSLCA), as being "*a flat low-lying riverine landscape characterised by alluvial meadows, grazing animals and remnant wetland vegetation."* The key characteristics are identified as:

- *"Meandering river channels, often defined by flood banks*
- *Sparsely populated with few buildings*
- *Permanent pasture and flood meadow*
- *Steep wooded bluffs*
- *Willow holts*
- *Long sinuous hedges*
- *Pollarded willows*
- *Regular pattern of medium to large size arable fields, breaking down and becoming open in many areas*
- *Hedgerow trees main component of tree cover".*

31 Main roads and railways pass through and cross the LCT to the north and west of Newark, and the sugar factory and Staythorpe Power Station are also in this part of the LCT. Existing and consented solar farms/cumulative schemes within this LCT include a very small part of the consented BESS scheme adjacent to Staythorpe Power Station.

32 TA A7.3 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.3] provides an analysis of the susceptibility of these characteristics to change as a result of solar development, identifying susceptibility as mostly Medium to Low due to the mostly flat and low lying landscape, openness and presence of large scale infrastructure, combined with sinuous patterns and occasional steeper slopes of the river bluffs. Taking all of the characteristics into account susceptibility is considered to be Medium/low. Considering the Regional/community landscape value and susceptibility together, sensitivity for this LCT is judged to be Medium.

33 *Effects During Construction and Early Operation*

34 As shown by Figure 7.4 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.4] and viewpoints 18 and 27, the 400 kV substation and part of the BESS would be within this LCT near Averham . Within the substation and BESS area, there would be Large scale changes to character. Beyond the Development, the scale of change to character would vary depending on visibility and proximity of the Development. Other proposed changes to this LCT would include the management of small areas for ecological benefit between Bathley and Cromwell.

35 The BESS and adjacent 400 kV substation would be located on one of the shallower lower river bluff slopes. Whilst the hedgerow loss noted in the character description is apparent within the area in which the BESS would be sited, the northern and eastern boundaries have mature hedges and rising ground, woodland and the large farm buildings at Flash Farm around the area would contain views of the BESS and 400kV substation to the area

within the LCT between Micklebarrow Hill and the fields west of Kelham. There would also be a separate area of the LCT to the northwest of Cromwell with close views of solar arrays on rising ground in an adjacent LCT. Changes to character would arise in discrete areas as follows:

- Medium to Small scale changes for a Limited extent of the LCT northwest of Cromwell as result of the solar areas adjacent to the LCT;
- Large to Medium scale changes for a very Limited extent of the LCT between the A617 and Kelham Hills as result of the proposed BESS and substation near Flash Farm; and
- Negligible changes to character elsewhere within the LCT, including the improvements to condition arising from areas managed for ecological benefit.

36 Considered together these impacts would be of Medium/small magnitude and effects would be Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant.

37 *Effects during Operation and Decommissioning*

38 Mitigation planting would reduce the extent of visibility, confining changes to character closer to the developed areas, but effects would remain of the same magnitude and level throughout the operational stage.

39 *Effects After Decommissioning*

40 After decommissioning, areas managed for ecological enhancement and new and gapped-up hedgerows would give rise to a very Limited extent of Small scale, Positive changes to the LCT. There would also be continued changes to character from the potential retention of the 400kV and substation. The changes to character arising would be Limited in extent, Small scale and Adverse as a result of mature planting largely screening views of the substation. Effects would be confined to the physical change to the fabric and character within the footprint of the substation. Considering these changes together, there would be impacts of Small/negligible magnitude and effects would be Minor/minimal, Neutral and not significant.

A7.5.2.5 MID-NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARMLANDS RCA (INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT)

41 Significant effects are identified in the LVIA chapter within the Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCT, along with some localised non-significant effects within the Meadowlands LCT. The majority of the RCA within NSDC is Village Farmlands (with or without Ancient Woodlands) and that character type continues northwards into Bassetlaw and southwards into Rushcliffe. The sensitivity of the RCA is judged to be Medium (the same as for the host LCTs) given the similarities of the RCA character.

42 In this wider context the effects of the Development would create a strong association of the more wooded Village Farmlands with Ancient Woodlands LCT between Hockerton and Egmanton with solar farms, increasing the differences between the two Village Farmlands sub-types. These changes to character would be Large to Medium scale and Localised in the context of the larger RCA area, giving rise to impacts of Medium magnitude. Effects during stages of the development prior to decommissioning would be Moderate, Adverse and not significant.

43 After decommissioning, the woodland planting, areas managed for ecological enhancement and new and gapped-up hedgerows would give rise to a Localised extent of Permanent, Small scale, Positive changes to the RCA. There would also be continued changes to character from the retention of Intermediate Substations. In each case the changes to character would be Limited in extent, Small scale and Adverse as a result of mature planting largely screening views of the substations. Considering these changes together, there would be impacts of Small magnitude and effects would be Minor, Neutral and not significant.

A7.5.2.6 TRENT WASHLANDS RCA (INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT)

44 Localised non-significant effects are identified above within the Village Farmlands LCT and River Meadowlands LCT. The RCA comprises an interwoven mix of these two LCTs and continues northwards into Bassetlaw and south into Rushcliffe. The sensitivity of the RCA is judged to be Medium (the same as for the more sensitive of the two host LCTs) given the similarities of the RCA character.

45 In this wider context the effects of the Development would create two discrete areas of changes to character around the 400kV substation and BESS west of Kelham, and near the solar arrays to the southwest of Cromwell. The changes to character would be Large to Medium scale and of Limited extent in the context of the larger RCA area, giving rise to impacts of Medium/small magnitude. Effects during all stages of the development prior to decommissioning would be Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant.

46 After decommissioning, areas managed for ecological enhancement and new and gapped-up hedgerows would give rise to a Limited extent of Small scale, Positive changes to the RCA. Considering these changes together, there would be impacts of Negligible magnitude and effects would be Minimal, Neutral and not significant.

A7.5.2.7 NCA 48 TRENT AND BELVOIR VALES (INCLUDES DEVELOPMENT)

47 NCA 48 is a large national character area and as set out in the character area description[1], it plays host to many energy developments including former coal fired power stations, Staythorpe power station, and solar farms including the recently consented Cottam Solar Farm (DCO/NSIP). In this context the non-significant effects on the RCAs identified above would be a further localised continuation of the character area's association with energy projects and would not be significant.

A7.5.3 VISUAL RECEPTORS

48 Effects on the following visual receptors are assessed to be not significant and Moderate/minor or less during all stages of the Development. The greatest effects would be during the construction and early operational stage

[1] Natural England (online only - undated). National Character Area 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales. Available at: Trent and Belvoir Vales - National Character Area Profiles (nationalcharacterareas.co.uk) . Accessed 23/10/2024

before mitigation planting has matured. These effects are summarised below:

- **Kersall (0.1 km)** - The village has limited outward views due to a combination of being located on the side of a valley and surrounded by trees, though some footpaths radiating from the village and homes at the junction with Mill Lane have more open views. Mill Lane is bounded by tall hedges. Changes to views will arise along the PRoW around the edges of the village, with some localised changes to views as a result of views of the Development to the southeast of the village. The panel areas to the east would mostly be screened, except in eastward views from the road heading north of the village to Mill Lane, where they would be seen beyond and amongst existing vegetation. Changes to views would be Medium/small scale at most, and no more than Localised in extent. The magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant. Homes in Kersall are considered in the RVAA (TA 7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.4.7.6]).
- **A1 (0 km)** – As shown by Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] the A1 is a major trunk road connecting Scotland to London and passes north-south through the study area. There are some sections on embankments or within cuttings, but most commonly the A1 is at the same level as the surrounding landscape through the study area. Typically, there are hedges and/or trees along the roadside, but there are also some more open sections. Users of the A1 travel at speed and will mostly be making longer distance journeys – they would have a Low susceptibility to changes to views. The A1 does not pass through designated landscapes within the study area and views are of Community value. Considering value and susceptibility together, the sensitivity of road users is judged to be Low. As shown by Figures 7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.6] and 7.7 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.7] there would be a short stretch of more open views of a nearby solar area near Weston giving rise to Large and Large/medium scale changes to views. These changes to views would arise for a very Limited extent of the route as brief glimpses along the journey and the magnitude of impact would be Small. Effects would be Minor, Adverse and not significant.
- **A616 (0 km)** – As shown by Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5], the A616 is a single carriageway road connecting Ollerton to Newark on Trent and passes northwest-southeast through the study area. The road is typically at the same level as the surrounding landscape through the study area and hedge lined, occasionally passing through villages or alongside woodlands where views are more enclosed. Users of the A616 travel at speed and will be making a mix of local and longer distance journeys and would have a Medium susceptibility to changes to views. The A616 does not pass through designated landscapes within the study area and views are of Community value. Considering value and susceptibility together, the sensitivity of road users is judged to be Medium. As shown by the Figures 7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.6] and 7.7 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.7], there would be short section of the road (approximately 0.7 km) between Cocked Hat Plantation and Caunton Common Barn where open views of the Mill Lane substation and nearby panel areas to both sides of the road would give rise to Large and

Large/medium scale effects. There would also be Large scale effects close to viewpoint 7 and very short stretches of Medium/small scale effects to the south of Caunton Common Barn and Small scale effects where solar panels would be seen above well-established hedges to either side of viewpoint 7. Considered together, these effects would arise over a very Limited extent of the route and the magnitude of impact would be Medium/small. Effects would be Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant.

- **A617 (0.3 km)** – As shown by Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] the A617 is a single carriageway road heading west from Newark on Trent through the study area. It is similar in nature to the A616 described above and road users would have a Medium sensitivity. As shown by Figures 7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.6] and 7.7 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.7] there would be a short stretch of visibility affecting a very Limited extent of the route near the layby northwest of Averham where the 400 kV substation and BESS would be seen looking through gaps in the roadside vegetation. The magnitude of impact arising from this very Limited extent of Medium to Small scale changes to views would be Small and effects would be Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant.
- **East Coast Main Line (0 km)** - As shown by Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] the East Coast main line is a fast rail route connecting Scotland to London and passes north-south through the study area. There are some sections on embankments or within cuttings, but most commonly the railway is at the same level as the surrounding landscape through the study area and there is a mix of open sections and sections enclosed by shrubs and trees. Railway passengers will be travelling at speed, and mostly see views to the side of the route, rather than ahead or behind. Whilst they have the leisure to appreciate the view, the time for which specific features are visible is brief. They would have a Medium susceptibility to changes to views. The railway does not pass through designated landscapes within the study area and views are of Community value. Considering value and susceptibility together, the sensitivity of rail travellers users is judged to be Medium/low. As shown by Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5], the railway passes close to the Development near Carlton on Trent and rail travellers would have a very brief glimpse of the Development as the train passes close to solar arrays on rising ground to the west . The shortest journey that could be made over this stretch of the route would be 29 km (Newark to Retford), for which Large to Medium scale effects would arise for a very Limited extent. The magnitude of impact would be Small and effects would be Minor, Adverse and not significant.
- **Robin Hood Way (0.1 km)** - As shown by Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] this long-distance footpath follows a winding route from Robin Hood Hill at its southern end, via Southwell, Kirklington and Eakring to Sherwood Forest. In common with other recreational receptors, users of this footpath are considered to have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views. As shown by Figures 7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.6] and 7.7 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.7], changes to views would arise where the route passes close to the Development near Eakring. There would be a short stretch of the route where walkers in both directions would see nearby solar panels approximately 60 m

ahead of them in open view. In this area east of Eakring the adjacent pylons of various types are a more eye-catching feature and the scale of effect would be Medium to Medium/small. Walkers heading east approaching Eakring would also see the edges of the same solar area as they descend the hill towards the village, giving rise to Small scale effects as illustrated by viewpoint 1. In this location the Development would be an addition to the views of other solar farms and wind farms seen to the west of Eakring. Elsewhere on the route, visibility would be limited and/or relatively distant and effects would be Negligible as illustrated by viewpoint 3. Considered together, effects would arise for a very Limited extent of the route and in the context of a long-distance walking route the magnitude of impact would be Small. Effects would be Moderate/minor, Adverse and not significant.

49 For the following visual receptors, the magnitude of impact would be Negligible and effects would be Minimal, Neutral and not significant during all stages of the Development as described below:

- **Averham and Staythorpe (0.5 km)** – As shown by Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] this group covers the villages of Averham, Staythorpe, and the adjacent rural area between the A617 and the railway line. Staythorpe substation forms a prominent feature within the area and overhead lines route between the villages to converge at the substation. The consented BESS near Staythorpe substation will be visible in this receptor group once constructed. Roads are generally bordered by tall hedgerows and the villages are mostly set within trees and have views contained by hedgerows around nearby fields. The BESS and 400kV substation would be the nearest part of the Development and occasional breaks in roadside vegetation would allow for very limited views of these (see Viewpoint 44) and the solar PV areas are unlikely to be visible. Given the context of existing electrical infrastructure, changes to views would be Negligible scale, affecting a Limited extent of the settlements.
- **Cromwell (1.5 km)** – Cromwell is a village located broad low-lying valley floor around the River Trent between the A1 and the East Coast Main Line. The village is close to the A1 to the east and tree cover is denser in this area to screen views of the road. To the west the village has a more rural character with open views to the north and south across the surrounding fields, including from the two footpaths which leave the village heading west. Following changes to the design after the PEIR stage, the Development would not be visible from Cromwell.
- **Eakring (0.2 km)** –This village is located in a local valley between adjacent hills. Views towards the Development from within the village are well screened by trees, buildings and the landform, such that the only areas where views towards the Development would arise would be from the northern edge of the village which is relatively open and the footpaths crossing and around the paddocks in that area (see viewpoint 2 in Figure 7.11 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.11]). Changes to views would be of Negligible scale, affecting a Limited extent of the settlement.
- **Maplebeck (0.2 km)** – Maplebeck is a village located on the lower slopes of valley. The village is surrounded by trees which would screen views towards the Development from within the village itself. Roads

around the edge of the village are generally bordered by tall hedgerows; there would be brief glimpses of the Development through and/or over the roadside hedges for users exiting the village along the short section of road in the east, before it joins Maplebeck Road. Along this stretch of road, changes to views would be of Small/negligible scale for a very Limited extent of the settlement.

- **Group G: East of A1 (0 km)** – As shown on Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5], this receptor group encompasses the rural area to the east of the A1 and includes settlements and a network of roads and recreational routes. The area is mostly low lying, with some elevated areas at the eastern edge of the receptor group and to the north beyond Weston. The consented Tuxford Road solar farm is located in the north part of this area. Vegetation along the A1 and River Trent at the west of the receptor group would screen views of the Development from most of the area (see viewpoints 14,16, 17 and 18). Changes to views would be of Negligible scale at these viewpoints and in more distant elevated views (such as viewpoint 52 in Figure 7.11 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.11]) affecting a Limited extent of the receptor group. Viewpoint 54 near Sutton-on-Trent illustrates an atypical elevated view from beyond the A1, where there would be a very Limited extent of Small scale effects. This receptor group does not include the footpath over the overbridge above the A1 near Weston as this elevated view is atypical of the area and is included in the adjacent receptor groups to the west.
- **Group H: Ossington to Cromwell and A616, including Norwell, Norwell Woodhouse and Caunton (0.2 km)** – As shown on Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] this receptor group covers the rural area and settlements across land within the centre of the Development. There are limited minor roads and PRoW within the area; PRoW mostly radiate from Caunton and provide north to south connections, with the minor roads largely providing east to west links. As shown by viewpoints 19, 31, 32 and 37 there would be occasional views of the Development across the area, where the solar areas would typically be seen at a distance and partially screened by the layers of existing vegetation across the wider landscape. Changes to views would be of Negligible scale, affecting a Limited extent of the receptor group.
- **Group I: Hockerton, Upton, Staythorpe, Averham and Kelham (0.3 km)** – Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] shows the extent of the receptor group which includes villages and the rural area along the A617 corridor to the south of the study area. There are few roads and PRoW within the area closest to the Development and these routes are mostly lined by tall hedgerows and trees. The ZTV studies (see Figures 7.1 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.1] and 7.8-7.10 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.7-10]) indicate limited potential visibility from settlements and actual visibility would be reduced by vegetation around the settlements. Views across this area would be limited and would be mostly screened by trees, hedgerows and buildings across the wider landscape (see viewpoints 29, 44 and 45). Changes to views would be of Negligible scale, affecting a Localised extent of the receptor group.
- **Group J: Between Hockerton and Eakring (0.5 km)** – As shown on Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] this receptor group covers the rural

area to the north of the A617 between Hockerton and Eakring. Visibility across the area is generally limited by woodland, hedgerows, trees and the undulating topography. The consented Winkburn solar farm is located in this area. Three roads cross the area and these are generally lined by hedgerows and trees with limited open views of the wider landscape. PRoW are often located within areas of woodland or along and between hedgerows at field boundaries. Any glimpsed views of the Development would be similar to those at viewpoint 3 in Figure 7.11 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.11] where solar areas would be seen as a very minor feature glimpsed between layers of trees and hedgerows. Changes to views would be of Negligible scale, affecting a Localised extent of the receptor group.

- **Group K: Kneesall to Laxton and Egmanton (0.2 km)** – As shown on Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5], this receptor group covers the settlements and rural areas to the northwest of the Development. The area contains a well-connected network of PRoWs and Open Access Land, along with a smaller network of minor roads that form connections between the settlements. The operational Egmanton solar farm is located at the north end of this area. Views of the Development would be limited to infrequent views of solar areas; often partially screening by the rolling topography, vegetation across the landscape and woodlands (see viewpoint 10 in Figure 7.11 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.11]). The Development would also often be seen behind large electricity pylons that cross the receptor group. Changes to views would be of Negligible scale, affecting an Intermediate extent of the receptor group.
- **Recreational Users of the River Trent (1.0 km)** - As shown by the ZTV studies (Figure 7.1 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.1] and 7.5-7.7 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5-7]) the embankments along the River Trent would tend to screen views towards the Development from the river. As shown by Figure 7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.6], visibility of solar panels would be limited to a very short stretch where there would be an aligned view along the river of panels to the west 1.6km distant beyond the A1 and railway near Carlton-on-Trent, similar to the view shown from nearby viewpoint 18. As shown by Figure 7.1, there would be no visibility of the main substation and BESS from the river near Kelham and Averham. Changes to views would be of Negligible scale, affecting a Limited extent of the river..
- **Trent Valley Way (0.7 km)** - As shown by Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5] this long-distance footpath follows a winding route running broadly north-south mostly beyond the study area to the east of the River Trent. In common with other recreational receptors, users of this footpath are considered to have a High/medium sensitivity to changes to views. As shown by Figures 7.6 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.6] and 7.7 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.7], only a short stretch of the route near Kelham would be within 1 km of the Development, and as illustrated by viewpoint 45, changes to views from the route with be Small scale at the open field entrance, but otherwise Negligible scale as a result of hedges and other vegetation screening views to the west.
- **Nottingham to Lincoln (Newark Castle) Railway (1.7 km) –** As shown by Figure 7.5 [EN010162/APP/6.3.7.5], at its closest point near Staythorpe Power station this route would be 1.7 km from the BESS and

400 kV substation and the closest solar panels would be 3.2 km from the route. Given these distances, and the context in which the substation and BESS would be seen (if visible), changes to views would be Negligible scale.

A7.5.4 VIEWPOINTS AT WHICH EFFECTS ARE JUDGED TO BE NEGLIGIBLE SCALE

No.	Viewpoint	Distance	Scale and nature of change
02	Eakring	0.6 km	Negligible, Neutral
03	Robin Hood Way near Orchard Wood Farm	0.9 km	Negligible, Neutral
10	Footpath near Leyfields	1.4 km	Negligible, Neutral
14	B1164 Weston	0.6 km	Negligible, Neutral
16	B1164 Sutton on Trent	1.4 km	Negligible, Neutral
17	B1164 (A1 bridge) Carlton-on-Trent	0.4 km	Negligible, Neutral
18	Besthorpe Nature Reserve	1.9 km	Negligible, Neutral
31	Caunton	1.9 km	Negligible, Neutral
32	Norwell Woodhouse	1.1 km	Negligible, Neutral
37	Footpath at Hunger Barn	1.7 km	Negligible, Neutral
44	Staythorpe	1.3 km	Negligible, Neutral
52	Footpath near Mount Pleasant Farm	2.0 km	Negligible, Neutral