Meridian Solar Farm

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Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.1 ES Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

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12. Landscape and Visual

12.1. Introduction

12.1.1. This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the environmental information and results of the assessment of likely significant effects on landscape and visual receptors, during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. The Scheme is detailed in full in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), and comprises the Solar Development Area, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route.

12.1.2. This chapter considers the likely significant effects on:

- Landscape character;
- Landscape fabric, referring to the combined effect of physical landscape elements present within the landscape such as landform, land cover, boundary features, shrubs, and trees;
- Landscape designations within the established study area; and
- Visual amenity, divided into groups known as receptors.

12.1.3. The following figures have been prepared in conjunction with this chapter. These figures are referred to throughout the text and listed below:

- **ES Figure 12-1: LVIA Study Area** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-2: Topography** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-3: Public Rights of Way and National Cycle Network** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-4: National Landscape Character Areas** (Doc Ref.6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-5: Regional and County Landscape Character Areas** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-6: District and Borough Landscape Character Areas** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-7: Bare Earth Viewshed – Solar Development Areas** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-8: Bare Earth Viewshed –BESS and On-Site Substation Compounds** (Doc Ref. 6.2);

- **ES Figure 12-9: Bare Earth Viewshed – Inter-Array Connections** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-10: Bare Earth Viewshed – Grid Connection Route** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-11: Bare Earth Viewshed – Combined for Full Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-12: Barrier Earth Viewshed – Solar Development Areas** (Doc Ref.6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-13: Barrier Earth Viewshed – BESS and On-Site Substation Compounds** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-14: Barrier Earth Viewshed – Inter-Array Connections** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-15: Barrier Earth Viewshed – Grid Connection Route** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-16: Barrier Earth Viewshed – Combined for Full Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-17: Barrier Earth Viewshed – Cumulative Overhead Line Developments** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-18: Barrier Earth Viewshed – Other Cumulative Developments** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-19: Viewpoint Locations on OS Mapping** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-20: Viewpoint Locations on Aerial Photography** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-21: Photosheets** (Doc Ref. 6.2); and
- **ES Figure 12-22: LCC Photosheets** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

12.1.4. The following appendices also support this chapter:

- **ES Appendix 12-1: Landscape and Visual Legislation, Policy, and Guidance** (Doc Ref. 6.3);
- **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3);
- **ES Appendix 12-3: Landscape Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3);
- **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3);
- **ES Appendix 12-5: Visual Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3);

- **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3);
- **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3); and
- **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

12.2. Legislation, Policy, and Guidance

12.2.1. A summary of the legislation, policy, and guidance of relevance to the landscape and visual amenity assessment is provided in **ES Appendix 12-1: Landscape and Visual Legislation, Policy, and Guidance** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

12.3. Stakeholder Engagement

12.3.1. A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion, provided in **ES Appendix 1-1: EIA Scoping Report** (Doc Ref. 6.3), was sought from the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate in 2024 as part of the EIA Scoping Process. A summary of consultation responses in relation to the landscape and visual amenity assessment is presented in Section 12.8.

12.3.2. Further pre-application engagement was undertaken through the publication of the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) as part of the statutory consultation and subsequent targeted consultation. Table 12-2 outlines the main matters raised during the statutory and subsequent targeted consultation stages relating to landscape and visual assessment and how these have been addressed through the ES.

Table 12-1: Scoping Opinion responses in relation to landscape and visual assessment

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
Planning Inspectorate (PINS)	Lighting assessment – construction and decommissioning: The Scoping Report states that a lighting assessment will not be undertaken. No information on the lighting to be used or regarding the nature and location of sensitive receptors has been provided. Noting the rural, largely unlit environment in which the Scheme is located and the likely change from the current baseline, PINS does not agree to scope this out of the assessment at this stage. Scoping Report identifies the potential for disturbance to ecological features through light pollution during construction. In the absence of a lighting assessment, it is unclear how an assessment of such effects would be undertaken. Impacts on Landscape and Visual amenity resulting from the introduction of lighting during construction, operation and decommissioning which are likely to have significant effects should be assessed in the ES, unless it is agreed	It is anticipated that temporary lighting will be used during the construction and decommissioning stages, as described within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). During the operational phase, not permanently turned on lighting is proposed, but security lighting would be sensor triggered, located only around critical electrical infrastructure for security. The assessment presented within Section 12.8 of this chapter considers effects from lighting. Good practice measures to minimise the effects of light pollution are included within the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (OCEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.10), **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (ODEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.12). Compliance with these measures is secured through the requirements of the **Draft DCO**	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). Section 12.8 of this chapter. **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12). **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and **ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity** (Doc Ref. 6.1)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	with the relevant consultation bodies that this matter can be scoped out. Any proposed mitigation measures should be described and secured through the DCO. The assessment should cross refer to other relevant aspect assessments and sensitive receptors (such as ecology and cultural heritage).	(Doc Ref. 3.1). The effects of light pollution on heritage and ecological receptors are considered within **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and **ES Chapter 9: Ecology and Biodiversity** (Doc Ref. 6.1) respectively.	
PINS	ZTV: The ZTV should be based on maximum parameters to be permitted by the DCO, including the overhead pylons, and should not take into account the screening effect of surface features such as trees.	A number of ZTVs have been prepared to reflect the maximum parameters permitted by the DCO. These include both bare earth (non-screened) and screened outputs. The ZTVs cover the On-Site Substations and BESS Compound, the Grid Connection Route pylons (accounting for a maximum height of up to 66m), and the wooden poles of the Overhead Inter-Array Connection (maximum height of 15m). These ZTVs have been submitted as ES Figures (Doc Ref. 6.2).	**ES Figure 12-7 to ES Figure 12-18** (Doc Ref. 6.2)
PINS	Receptors – road users: Scoping Report identifies residents and recreational users as potential visual receptors. Potential impacts on road users should	Likely significant effects on road (vehicle) users have been considered within Section 12.8 of this chapter.	Section 12.8 of this chapter.

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	also be considered within the ES, where significant effects are likely.		
PINS	Assessment – operational phase: Assessment should take account of the 'worst case scenario' in terms of winter views, and effects associated with landscape mitigation at Operational Phase (Year 1), established planting (Year 10 to 15) and at the decommissioning phase.	In accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3)[1], the effects during the construction, operational (Year 1) and decommissioning phases have been determined during winter to provide the 'worst case scenario'. Operation at Year 15 has also been assessed to consider established mitigation planting. Winter viewpoint photography has been taken for inclusion in the ES and is presented in **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2). Winter photography was not available at the time of ES submission for viewpoints added following statutory consultation. However, winter photography for these viewpoints will be submitted by	Section 12.8 of this chapter. **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2)

[1] Landscape Institute. Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. 2013. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Third Edition. Available as hard copy only.

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		Deadline 1 to provide additional detail and context to the assessment. Based on the open fenland character of the landscape and limited existing vegetation, it is not anticipated that winter views would materially alter the conclusions of the LVIA.	
PINS	Photomontages: The Applicant should seek to agree the number and location of viewpoints to be developed as photomontages with relevant consultation bodies. Photomontages should be produced in accordance with the Landscape Institute's TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals and should illustrate the proposals at different phases: Existing Situation (baseline), Operational (year 1) and Residual with planting established (10 to 15 years).	Viewpoint locations and the proportionate split of reference photographs (Type 1) and photomontages (Type 3) have been agreed with the landscape advisers of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) and South Holland District Council (SHDC) (refer to Table 12-3 for further information). Photomontages have been produced in accordance with TGN 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals[2] and are presented in **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2). Existing Baseline, Operational year 1 summer and winter	Table 12-3. **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

[2] Landscape Institute (2019) TGN 06/19 Visual representation of development proposals. Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/visualisation/. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		(where available) and Operational year 15 with planting established are provided.	
PINS	Assessment methodology – landscape effects: Although the potential for landscape effects has been acknowledged, no detail has been provided regarding the methodology for the assessment of effects on landscape character. This should be detailed within the ES.	The methodology for the assessment of effects on landscape character is detailed within **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref.6.3) and summarised within Section 0 of this chapter.	**ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref.6.3), Section 0 of this chapter.
PINS	Mitigation: Should any particular pockets of existing vegetation be relied upon to screen the Scheme, the Inspectorate expects their retention to be demonstrably secured.	The majority of existing vegetation along the field boundaries of the Solar Development Areas will be retained and will provide screening for the Scheme. This is illustrated within Figure 1 Outline Landscape Masterplans provided within the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP)** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and secured through compliance with the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 2.3) and **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Order Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.12).	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)and **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Order Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.12).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
PINS	Assumptions and limitations: Uncertainties at this stage including the layout, siting and heights of the solar PV modules, on-site substation(s), and associated structures. The Inspectorate acknowledges these are valid unknowns for the Scoping stage, however as noted in Table 2.1 of this Opinion, sufficient detail should be determined for the application stage.	Maximum heights for proposed infrastructure have been defined, as described within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and secured through the **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4) and vertical limits of deviation, and the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3). ZTVs, presented within **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-16** (Doc Ref. 6.2), have been prepared based on these maximum parameters to ensure that a worst-case scenario has been assessed.	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1) **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-16** (Doc Ref. 6.2)
PINS	Cumulative effects: The assessment of cumulative effects should distinguish between effect on overall landscape character (including for National Landscapes), and on visual impact/amenity generally as well as any other relevant impacts such as 'glint and glare'.	There are no National Landscapes within the vicinity of the Scheme or its associated study area. An assessment of cumulative effects is included within Section 12.11 of this chapter and associated **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), which distinguishes between the effects on landscape character and visual amenity. Glint and glare impacts have been considered within **ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics** (Doc Ref.	Section 12.11 of this chapter and **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), **ES Chapter 16: Other Environmental Topics** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and **ES Appendix 16-2: Glint and Glare Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		6.1) and **ES Appendix 16-2** (Doc Ref. 6.3).	
Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)	The final locations of viewpoints are to be reviewed and agreed with LCC and other relevant stakeholders. The final viewpoint selection should also consider views of taller and more conspicuous elements, as well as consider potential key, or sensitive, viewpoints or visual receptors. This should be discussed in a workshop. Photomontages and accurate visual representations are needed. Their number and location should be agreed with LCC and produced in accordance with TGN 06/19. They should show Baseline, Year 1, and Years 10 to 15.	Meetings were held with LCC and SHDC, as summarised within Table 12-3, to discuss the proposed representative viewpoints. Additional viewpoints proposed by LCC were incorporated into the assessment. The final viewpoint locations agreed with the LCC and SHDC are shown on **ES Figures 12-19 and 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2). **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2) include the photosheets for existing baseline, Year 1 and Year 15, produced in accordance with TGN 06/19[2].	Table 12-3. **ES Figures 12-19 and 12-20**, with photosheets in included within **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2).
LCC	The LVIA should be carried out in accordance with the GLVIA3 and associated guidance. The most up to	GLVIA3[1] and Notes and Clarifications on aspects of GLVIA3 (LITGN-2024-01)[3] have been used to inform the	**ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter.

[3] Landscape Institute (2024) TGN-2024-01 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition (GLVIA3). Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/LITGN-2024-01-GLVIA3-NC_Aug-2024.pdf. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	date technical guidance should be used and the methodology should be further interrogated at the next phases of the project.	methodology developed for this assessment. The assessment methodology is described in detail within **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and summarised within Section 0 of this chapter.	
LCC	The 5km Study Area should be discussed as the full extent of the ZTV is not known. The ZTV mapping should be updated once the proposals have developed and the study area should not be fixed until the full extents of visibility are known. Once the study area has been defined, the LVIA should also provide a justification for the full extent/distance.	The ZTVs, shown on **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-16** (Doc Ref. 6.2), have been prepared based on maximum heights for the proposed infrastructure. However, in agreement with LCC and SHDC, the study area has been defined to include a 5km radius from the Solar Development Areas and the Inter-Array Connections, and 10km radius from the Grid Connection Route, rather than the entire extent of the ZTVs 15km radius study area. This is to ensure that the assessment is proportionate and focussed on receptors where likely significant effects may occur. Further information on the study areas and the assessment methodology is provided within **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA**	**ES Figures 12-7 to 12-16** (Doc Ref. 6.2) **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter.

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		Methodology (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter.	
LCC	The LVIA should include an assessment of landscape effects at a range of scales and need to include relevant published landscape character assessments and likely a finer grain landscape assessment that includes the Scheme and immediate area that also considers individual landscape elements or features that make up the character of the Scheme and study area.	The landscape assessment has considered published landscape character areas at different levels, as described within **ES Appendix 12-3: Landscape Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). A summary of the baseline landscape character areas and the assessment of effects is also provided within Section 12.6 and 12.8 of this chapter. Fieldwork and photography were undertaken between October 2023 and February 2026, ranging from full day site surveys to more site-specific visits focusing on individual sections of the Scheme. Each visit provided an opportunity to view the study areas in different seasons and in varied weather conditions to gain greater understanding of the area and features that make up the character of the scheme and study area.	**ES Appendix 12-3: Landscape Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
LCC	Visual receptors should be reviewed and consulted upon once proposals have	Meetings were held with LCC and SHDC, as summarised within Table	Table 12-3.

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	been developed. The visual assessment should include visual receptors and cross-reference viewpoints to associated receptors.	12-3, to discuss the proposed representative viewpoints. The final viewpoints are shown on **ES Figures 12-18 and 12-19** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and were agreed with LCC and SHDC. A description of the viewpoints and their associated receptors is presented within **ES Appendix 12-5: Visual Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3), with a summary provided within Section 12.6 of this chapter.	**ES Figures 12-18 and 12-19** (Doc Ref. 6.2). **ES Appendix 12-5: Visual Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3),
LCC	The visual assessment should take account of the 'worst case scenario' in terms of winter views, and effects associated with landscape mitigation at Year 1, Years 10 to 15, and at the Decommissioning Phase.	As described within **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref.6.3) and summarised in Section 0 of this chapter, the ES has considered the worst-case effects during winter at construction, Year 1 of operation and at decommissioning. Operational assessment at Year 15 considers the landscape screening proposed by the Scheme.	**ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref.6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter
LCC	All elements associated with the development should be considered and assessed, such as battery storage, sub-stations, CCTV poles, and boundary	All elements of the design have been assessed on the basis of the parameters set out within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1).	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	fencing, which may be more visible than panels due to height, mass, and extent.		
LCC	Overhead cabling and pylons are likely to create additional and wider adverse visual effects, compared to underground cabling.	Noted. The decision to include overhead line infrastructure and alternatives has been reviewed in **ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and is explained in the **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3).	**ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3).
LCC	Cumulative Landscape and Visual effects should be assessed in regard to other major developments. This should consider both Combined and Sequential effects.	Cumulative effects assessment is presented within **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and summarised within Section 12.11 of this chapter.	**ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 12.11 of this chapter.
LCC	A Residential Visual Amenity Survey should be scoped into the ES.	The Scheme design has been developed to minimise significant effects on the residential visual amenity of individual properties where practicable. The LVIA assesses the potential visual effects to different types of visual receptor (people with views). This includes residential receptors, i.e. private views, by means of	Section 0 of this chapter

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		representative viewpoints from publicly accessible locations, along with judgments based on information including aerial mapping. With reference to Landscape Institute (2019) *Residential Visual Amenity Assessment: Technical Guidance Note 2/19*[4], it is considered that through the Scheme design, offsets from residential properties and proposed landscape mitigation proposals, the effects of the Scheme do not reach a threshold at any property where residential visual amenity becomes a material consideration. As such, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment has not been undertaken.	
LCC	The landscape and planting scheme should be coordinated with other relevant disciplines, such as ecology, heritage, or civils. Planting should be well considered and not just placed to	The **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and outline landscape masterplan provided within Figure 1 of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) was developed in collaboration with ecology, heritage, and design teams. It	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree**

[4] Landscape Institute (2019). Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. Technical Guidance Note 2/19.

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	screen proposals. Any landscape scheme and associated OLEMP should accompany the ES, which should cover as a minimum the establishment period up to the residual assessment. The management plan should provide for both new planting and existing retained vegetation and how it will be managed and protected through all phases of the development. Any vegetation loss must be clearly identified in the submission.	sets out measures for the protection and management of existing and proposed landscape planting, and applies for the entirety of the operational phase of the Scheme (40 years). Vegetation removals have been mapped out within **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.12).	**Preservation Orders Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.12).
South Holland District Council (SHDC)	The LVIA must be undertaken on a final, fixed cable route, defining which sections will be overhead and underground, and the necessary infrastructure at points where underground cable routes transition to overhead line routes.	The LVIA has been based on the parameters defined within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). These parameters include both the overhead and underground cable configurations, as well as the associated working widths and limits of deviation to allow for micro-siting following detailed design. The LVIA therefore reflects the maximum design parameters for both overhead and underground sections,	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		including the necessary infrastructure at transition points.	
SHDC	ZTV analysis must be undertaken utilising the maximum paraments for the proposed buildings to accurately understand the extend of potential visibility. 'Bare earth' ZTV analysis is needed to indicate the potential 'worst-case' scenario.	ZTV analysis has been undertaken using the maximum parameters for any proposed structures, as set out within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). A bare-earth ZTV has been submitted alongside a screened ZTV, however a screened ZTV is more realistically reflective of the potential visibility of the Scheme. ZTVs are provided within **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-16** (Doc Ref. 6.2).	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-16** (Doc Ref. 6.2).
SHDC	The future baseline should be defined to outline any reasonably foreseeable changes to the baseline scenario in the future, without the proposed development taking place.	A future baseline has been included within the baseline assessment presented within Section 12.6 of this chapter.	Section 12.6 of this chapter.
SHDC	The full LVIA methodology should be submitted and approved prior to the assessment being undertaken. The landscape and visual receptors and representative viewpoints must be submitted and approved prior to the	The LVIA viewpoints and methodology were developed in consultation with SHDC and LCC through multiple meetings, as summarised within Table 12-3. The list of representative viewpoints was agreed with both local	Table 12-3.

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	assessment being undertaken. Supporting ZTV analysis should also be provided to ensure that the proposed study area is sufficient.	authorities and a final full LVIA methodology was issued to SHDC and LCC for review, with no comments received.	
SHDC	All visual representation should be in line with TGN 06/19. Visual receptors should also include road users and any other receptors groups which may be affected. The landscape and visual receptors and representative viewpoints must be submitted and approved prior to the assessment being undertaken. ZTV analysis should also be provided. Locations for proposed 'photomontage' visualisations, including visualisation types, following TGN 06/19 should be submitted and approved prior to being undertaken.	**ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2) include the photosheets for existing baseline, Year 1 and Year 15, produced in accordance with TGN 06/19[2]. Road users have been included within the visual assessment, as summarised within Section 12.8 of this chapter. Viewpoints and types of visualisations to be produced in each location were discussed and agreed with LCC and SHDC prior to the assessment being finalised. Worst case bare-earth ZTV analysis is provided within **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-16** (Doc Ref. 6.2).	Section 12.8 of this chapter Photosheets in **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Photosheets) (Doc Ref. 6.2) ZTVs in **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-16** (Doc Ref. 6.2).
SHDC	It is appropriate for the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment to be carried out if the LVIA indicates significant residual effects on resident receptors.	The Scheme design has been developed to minimise significant effects on the residential visual amenity of individual properties. With reference to Landscape Institute (2019) *Residential Visual Amenity Assessment: Technical Guidance Note 2/19*[4], it is	n/a

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		considered that the effects of the Scheme do not reach a threshold at any property where residential visual amenity becomes a consideration. As such, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment has not been carried out.	
SHDC	The assessment should refer to the relevant National Character Areas as published by Natural England.	The baseline assessment presented within **ES Appendix 12-3: Landscape Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 12.6 of this chapter refers to the National Character Areas as published by Natural England.	**ES Appendix 12-3: Landscape Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 12.6 of this chapter
SHDC	The LVIA should consider the character and distinctiveness of the area. The siting and design of the Scheme should reflect local design characteristics. The EIA should detail the measures to be taken to ensure the building design will be of a high standard, as well as detail of layout alternatives together with justification of the selected option in terms of landscape impact and benefit.	The LVIA and landscape design presented within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) have considered the character and distinctiveness of the local area. The **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3) demonstrates how the principles of 'good design' have been applied to the Scheme, including with regards to the siting of infrastructure, ensuring high design standards and the consideration of alternatives. **ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1) also provides	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3) **ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		further information on the alternative options considered.	
SHDC	The Scheme is inappropriate in terms of scale and would create an industrial character in a predominantly rural area. It reduces the ability of smaller scale renewables and lacks assessment regarding the loss of agricultural land.	The UK Government has identified through its energy policy, most recently in the National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1[5] and NPS EN-3[6], that there is a critical national priority (CNP) for the provision of nationally significant low carbon infrastructure in the UK, including solar technology. Developing the Scheme at its proposed size will be an important contribution to meeting this need. The LVIA has considered the landscape and visual effects of the industrialisation of a predominantly rural area and change of use of agricultural land, as set out within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment**	**ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref 6.3), Section 12.8 of this chapter.

[5] DESNZ (2025). Overarching NPS for Energy (NPS EN-1). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6915ba42bc34c86ce4e6e726/overarching-national-policy-statement-for-energy-en-1-web-accessible.pdf [Accessed 28/11/2025]
[6] DESNZ (2025). NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3). Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6915b78bbc34c86ce4e6e71f/national-policy-statement-for-renewable-energy-infrastructure-en-3-web-accessible.pdf [Accessed 28/11/2025]

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		(Doc Ref 6.3) and summarised within Section 12.8 of this chapter.	
SHDC	The export cable route and associated pylons or laying of underground cable have the potential to result in significant landscape and visual impacts. The LVIA must be undertaken on a final, fixed cable route, defining which sections will be overhead and underground, and the necessary infrastructure at points where underground cable routes transition to overhead line routes. Should the final cable route not be available at the time of assessment, appropriate assessment scenarios should be agreed for assessment to take place on all reasonably foreseeable export cable options.	The LVIA has been based on the parameters defined within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), including with regards to the Grid Connection Route and the Inter-Array Connections. These parameters include both the overhead and underground cable configurations, as well as the associated working widths and limits of deviation to allow for micro-siting following detailed design. The LVIA therefore reflects the maximum design parameters for both overhead and underground sections, including the necessary infrastructure at transition points.	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1)
SHDC	Cumulative impact assessment should include other proposals currently at Scoping stage and onwards.	Cumulative effects assessment presented within **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and in Section 12.11 of this chapter has considered cumulative projects from EIA Scoping stage onwards.	**ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and in Section 12.11 of this chapter

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
Natural England	The methodology set out in the Landscape Institute's Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 2013 should be used. For National Parks and National Landscapes, the assessment should also include effects on the 'special qualities' of the designated landscape, as set out in the statutory management plan for the area.	GLVIA3[1] has been used to inform the methodology developed for this assessment, as described within **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter. There are no National Parks or National Landscapes within the study area of the Scheme.	**ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter
Natural England	The assessment should include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or proposed developments in the area. This should include an assessment of the impacts of other proposals currently at scoping stage	Cumulative effects assessment presented within **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and in Section 12.11 of this chapter has considered cumulative projects from EIA Scoping stage onwards.	**ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and in Section 12.11 of this chapter
Gedney Hill Parish Council	Proposing to plant "small, isolated blocks of woodland" – Gedney Hill Parish Council states this is not in keeping with the existing landscape and Lincolnshire County Council note that tree planting can be very destructive to underlying archaeological remains.	Mitigation planting proposals are presented within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16). Scattered shrub and tree planting is proposed along field boundaries to provide screening for the Solar Development Areas; however, no isolated blocks of woodland have been proposed. The planting strategy has been designed to provide screening	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		whilst ensuring that the planting proposals are in keeping with the surrounding landscape character. The potential for effects on archaeological remains has been considered to inform the development of the landscape strategy.	

Table 12-2: Main matters raised through the statutory and targeted consultations in relation to landscape and visual assessments

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
Statutory consultation responses			
Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)	The Grid Connection Route is still subject to change and its impact on the landscape is a source of concern. There are no viewpoint locations and photomontages covering these locations. The likely effects should be determined as soon as possible. The precise locations and design of the BESS and sub-stations have not been provided.	This comment is based upon the PEIR, however viewpoint locations have now been developed for the ES. The LVIA viewpoints and split of photomontages and reference viewpoints were discussed with SHDC and LCC, as summarised within Table 12-3. These were based with reference to the final locations and siting of the Scheme infrastructure. The list of viewpoints was agreed with the local authorities prior to the assessment being completed.	Table 12-3.
	Vegetation retention and mitigation proposals remain subject	The **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) presents the proposed landscape management strategy for the	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	to change, and it is uncertain that the on-site and off-site planting can be fully implemented. More work and additional consultation are required to ensure that the planting is appropriate and deliverable. These proposals must all be well coordinated with the LEMP.	Scheme. It focusses on the retention of existing vegetation, where practical, and the provision of tree and shrub planting on the field boundaries of the Solar Development Area. Landscape corridors have been maintained through the Site to allow permeability for wildlife. The draft landscape strategy was discussed with LCC and SHDC, as summarised within Table 12-3. No off-site planting is required.	
	The final LVIA / ES should set out the maximum parameters of the development more clearly than the PEIR. The Rochdale Envelope approach is reasonable, but there remain uncertainties about the landscape and visual outcomes and further consultation will be required before significant effects can be agreed.	The LVIA has been based on the maximum parameters described within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), the **Design Parameters** (Doc Ref. 7.4) and the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3).	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1).
	Further landscape and visual consultation should be carried out after the formal consultation process. This would likely cover the PEIR comments as well as	Meetings undertaken with LCC and SHDC landscape advisers are summarised within Table 12-3. These covered the PEIR comments, the Scheme proposals and Scheme mitigation.	Table 12-3.

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	development proposals and mitigation scheme.		
	A plan showing extent of vegetation / boundary / tree removal will be required to fully understand the impact of the proposals on the existing landscape. Existing vegetation should be protected where possible, keeping removal to a minimum.	Vegetation to be removed has been mapped out within **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.12). Existing vegetation has been retained, wherever practical, as set out within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	**ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **Hedgerow Regulations and Tree Preservation Orders Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.12). **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).
	Explanations are required about changes to 10km study area associated with the BESS and on-site substation compounds and Grid Connection Route. It may be appropriate to provide detailed assessment for viewpoint distances greater than 5km if the receptors have a high sensitivity and the development features are larger and can be seen from greater distance.	A study area of 10km has been defined around the Grid Connection Route, which includes the tallest elements of the Scheme's infrastructure. A study area of 5km has been defined around the Solar Development Areas and Inter-Array Connections. It is considered that beyond these distances, no significant effects are likely to occur. This was also demonstrated by the preliminary assessments completed within the PEIR. Further information on the study areas and assessment methodology is provided within **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter.	**ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter.

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Other renewable energy projects in the county must be considered as part of the LVIA.	Cumulative developments within the study area of the Scheme (including those for renewable energy projects) have been considered, as set out within **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 12.11 of this chapter.	**ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 12.11 of this chapter.
	The development should be described as a permanent project rather than 'long-term' or 'temporary' unless there is a commitment by the developer to remove underground elements.	The **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) includes a requirement for the decommissioning of the Scheme following its 40 year operational life. As such, the Scheme is not proposed to be permanent, and its decommissioning is a requirement of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1). As described within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), at decommissioning, all the above ground physical infrastructure will be removed from the area within the Order Limits and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. In addition, concrete foundations to these elements would be removed to a depth agreed with the relevant landowner. If required, the cables can be removed by opening the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point, minimising the need to open up the entire length of the cable route. For worst	**Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1) **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		case assessment, cable removal is assessed in this chapter. The methods and impacts involved would be the same as those during the construction period and therefore, effects arising from the removal of the cable would be similar as experienced during the construction period. Areas of habitat and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement, as well as the permissive path delivered as part of the Scheme would remain up until the land is returned to the previous landowners. Following this, the landowners would choose how the land is to be used and managed. The terms 'long-term' and 'temporary' have been clearly defined within the LVIA.	
	Landscape Character studies, including the Statements of Environment Opportunity (SEO), should be listed and the proposed design response to them tabled. It should also be clarified if the SEOs relate to National Character Areas (NCA) or Local Character Areas (LCA).	Landscape character studies at national, regional, and district level have been considered in the landscape baseline assessment, as set out within **ES Appendix 12-3: Landscape Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The landscape character of the Site has also been considered in the development of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	**ES Appendix 12-3: Landscape Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Many of the listed mitigation proposals are caveated with 'where appropriate' (paragraph 10.9.4) and therefore require further consultation and agreement with the relevant stakeholders including the Council.	At the PEIR stage the design was still in development, and therefore mitigation measures could not be fixed. The **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) outlines the proposed landscape strategy for the Scheme. The draft strategy was also discussed with SHDC and LCC, as summarised within Table 12-3.	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)
	Further assurances of the deliverability of the visual containment of the A16 proposal will be required and this mitigation will need to be secured as part of the DCO and clearly identified.	Landscape screening has only been proposed within the Order Limits to ensure the deliverability of the mitigation. The proposed landscape strategy is described within the **OLEMP** and illustrated on **Figure 1 Outline Landscape Masterplan** of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) secured through a requirement of the DCO.	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).
	Areas within the Scheme 'which have no proposed infrastructure' and 'could be used for landscape and visual mitigation planting' will need to be identified and quantified so their value can be assessed. 'The larger areas' contributing to BNG should be identified and their links with the surrounding landscape clarified.	The **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) defines Habitat Management Areas and their purpose. These areas have also been included within the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3) and have been accounted for within the **Biodiversity Net Gain Report** (Doc Ref. 7.9).	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16), **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3), **Biodiversity Net Gain Report** (Doc Ref. 7.9).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Species selection should be native and agreed with the Council and SHDC.	Native species have been proposed to form the planting mix for the Scheme, as set out within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16). The species selection within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) will be reviewed with a final selection agreed with SHDC at the detailed design stage.	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)
	The LEMP should set out the purpose of proposed planting, composition, and method of establishment. The 15-year maintenance regime should be reviewed, updated, and carried out for the life of the development to ensure planting is consistently mitigating landscape and ecological effects. Plant replacements should also be considered.	The **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) includes details of the proposed planting, its composition, method of establishment, maintenance, and monitoring regime. Subject to successful establishment, no further replacements should be required as the proposed planting will meet its objective. Failed or defective planting will be replaced with matching species of the same size during the next planting season after failure.	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)
	A map showing the red line boundaries and location of the applications should be included to help understand the cumulative effects of development and should be provided in the LVIA / ES.	Cumulative schemes short-listed for further assessment are shown on **ES Figures 4-1 and 4-2** (Doc Ref. 6.2).	**ES Figures 4-1 and 4-2** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	The permanent change created by the retention of below ground structures should be mentioned. The Scheme should be classed as a permanent development. It is anticipated that without the removal of below ground structures; the land could potentially not return to the agricultural use presently on site. We would suggest the applicant clarifies this point in the ES.	As described within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), at decommissioning, all the above ground physical infrastructure will be removed from the area within the Order Limits and recycled or disposed of in accordance with good practice and market conditions at that time. In addition, concrete foundations to these elements would be removed to a depth agreed with the relevant landowner. The mode of any underground cable decommissioning will be dependent upon Government policy, best practice, and landowner agreement at that time. If required, the cables can be removed by opening the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point, minimising the need to open up the entire length of the cable route. For worst case assessment, cable removal is assessed in this chapter. The methods and impacts involved would be the same as those during the construction period and therefore, effects arising from the removal of the cable would be similar as experienced during the construction period. Areas of habitat and biodiversity mitigation and enhancement, as well as the permissive path delivered as part of the Scheme would remain up until the land is	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1),

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		returned to the previous landowners. Following this, the landowners would choose how the land is to be used and managed. Agricultural use of the land will be able to continue following decommissioning.	
	Further detail on the proposed planting plan will be required to show more accurately the proposed mitigation planting. The DCO should have a clear requirement that covers a detailed planting scheme and appropriate management linking to the LEMP.	Outline landscape masterplans have been provided with the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) to illustrate how the landscape strategy could be implemented. In accordance with Requirement 7 of the **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1), the detailed LEMP must be in substantial accordance with the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) **Draft DCO** (Doc Ref. 3.1)
	More details are needed regarding the compatibility of proposed trees adjacent to Solar Development Areas, how much undeveloped land would be available for planting, whether off site planting can be protected by agreement or new planting (along the A16) can be implemented, and what existing planting would require. A plan	The proposed landscape mitigation strategy is described within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16). An outline landscape masterplan has also been provided as Figure 1 of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) to illustrate how the landscape strategy could be implemented.	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	showing this information will be essential.		
	Incorporate photomontages and visualisations from key viewpoints, particularly from sensitive receptors such as Conservation Areas.	Viewpoints A & B have been included from Spalding (A) and Moulton (B) Conservation areas providing Type 1 Visualisations as shown in **ES Figures 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2).	**ES Figure 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
South Holland District Council (SHDC)	Viewpoints in the 10-15km range should be included to understand potential effects and demonstrate how the tallest elements of the Scheme relate to distant sensitive receptors. Viewpoints of the Grid Connection Route within Boston Borough Council's area should be included.	Viewpoints 28 and 29 have been included, as shown on **ES Figures 12-19 and 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2), to provide long distance views of the Scheme. They are approximately 6km and 10km from the Scheme, respectively. These viewpoint locations are sites within the administrative boundary of Boston Borough Council. However, in agreement with LCC and SHDC, the study area has been defined to include a 5km radius from the Solar Development Areas and the Inter-Array Connections, and 10km radius from the Grid Connection Route, rather than the entire extent of the ZTVs 15km radius study area. This is to ensure that the assessment is proportionate and focussed on receptors where likely significant effects may occur. Further information on the study areas and the assessment methodology is provided within **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA**	**ES Figures 12-19 and 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		Methodology (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter.	
	The ES should comment on the age and consistency of the screening dataset, particularly where vegetation growth or removal may influence visibility.	The barrier earth viewshed analysis, presented within **ES Figures 12-12 to 12-18** (Doc Ref. 6.2) has been generated using Environment Agency Digital Terrain Model (DTM), dated 2025, with a 2m resolution. To provide evidence of theoretical screening, two additional databases have been included: • OS Open Data (2025) with assumed height for buildings of 8m; and • the Forestry Commission National Forestry Inventory (2025) and Ancient Woodland (2025), with an assumed vegetation height of 12m. These datasets represent the most up-to-date available information and provide a consistent basis for assessing potential screening effects.	**ES Figures 12-12 to 12-18** (Doc Ref. 6.2)
	The future baseline, either in terms of landscape change or likely future land use, must be considered and included in the ES.	The assumed future baseline has been described within Section 12.6 of this chapter.	Section 12.6 of this chapter

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Reference to the joint consultation response submitted on behalf of the Local Planning Authorities in June 2024 should be included.	This consultation response is referenced within the Table 12-3.	Table 12-3
	The planting proposals are noted as indicative and still under development, which is reasonable at this stage. The intention to minimise archaeological constraint areas is supported.	The landscape strategy presented within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) has been developed in liaison with heritage specialists to minimise significant effects on below ground archaeology.	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)
	A more detailed assessment of night-time visual effects is recommended at the ES stage, with clarity on lighting locations, specification, timing, and mitigation.	Night-time visual effects from lighting, including bird flight diverters, have been considered within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), and Section 12.8 of this chapter. During the construction and decommissioning phases, temporary lighting may be required to enable safe working where activities are undertaken outside of daylight hours. Temporary lighting will be designed as far as practical to reduce the potential for light spillage and glare outside of the Scheme. Lighting will not be required for the solar PV modules during the operational phase. Non-	**ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 12.8 of this chapter. **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12). **ES Appendix 9-14: Habitat Regulations Assessment Report, Figure 5 Proposed Line**

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
		continuous sensor triggered infrared lighting would be positioned around critical electrical infrastructure within the BESS and On-Site Substation Compounds and Cable Sealing End Compounds for security purposes and emergency maintenance. Directional lighting would be used, directed away from Site boundaries. As such, lighting will be limited and unlikely to result in significant visual effects at night-time. Good practice measures to minimise light spill off-site have been included within the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).	**Marker Mitigation** (Doc Ref. 6.3)
	The ES should provide a clear matrix of cumulative landscape and visual effects, distinguishing between cumulative landscape character impacts and cumulative visual impacts from key receptor locations.	Cumulative effects assessment is presented within **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and summarised within Section 12.11 of this chapter. Cumulative effects on landscape character and visual amenity have been considered separately.	**ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 12.11 of this chapter
	More detailed commentary on how much mitigation moderates character change over time and on the nature and success of	The effects of proposed mitigation on landscape character and visual amenity, including how mitigation moderates character change over time, have been assessed within **ES Appendix 12-4:**	**ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual**

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	mitigation over time is needed. The ES should expand on this to minimise overstating reversibility.	**Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), with a summary provided in Section 12.8 of this chapter. These assessments consider the nature, timing, and anticipated success of mitigation measures, including the establishment and growth of planting, and how these influence the degree of change and residual effects over the operational period. Commentary is provided on the extent to which mitigation reduces effects and the limitations on reversibility, ensuring that the assessment does not overstate the potential for full restoration.	**Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), Section 12.8 of this chapter.
	Representative viewpoints from 10–15km must be added. Some footpath users might warrant higher sensitivity ratings than currently shown. Specific justification for ratings should be confirmed in the ES. A clearer link between visibility, viewer expectations, and landscape context is needed to justify conclusions.	Viewpoints 28 and 29 have been included, as shown on **ES Figures 12-19 and 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2), to provide long distance views of the Scheme. They approximately 6km and 10km from the Scheme, respectively. Sensitivity ratings of visual receptors have been explained in detail in **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), considering the links between visibility, viewer expectations, and landscape context.	Viewpoint locations: **ES Figures 12-19 and 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2). Photosheets: **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2). **Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3),

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Photomontages showing both winter and summer conditions will be needed in the ES for receptors experiencing 'Significant' effects. Mitigation effects must be described more clearly, substantiated with timelines, species detail, and visual screening potential. For visual receptors in particular, perceptibility and seasonal variation of planting success should be explicitly acknowledged.	Photomontages showing both winter and summer conditions are provided within **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2). Effects of proposed mitigation have been considered as part of the Operational Year 15 assessment within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), with a summary provided within Section 12.8 of this chapter. Recommended species included based on perceptibility and seasonal variation of planting success is provided within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.15)	Section 12.8 of this chapter.
	The pylons proposed for the Grid Corridor Route raise concerns over their impact on the landscape. The assessments of their impact on the character of the landscape does not fully engage with the transformative nature of this infrastructure in a rural landscape. The pylons will impact several visual receptors, and the effectiveness of mitigation planting	The landscape and visual effects of the Grid Connection Route and associated infrastructure within the existing context have been assessed in detail within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), with a summary provided within Section 12.8 of this chapter. Photomontages, provided within **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2), include views of the proposed Grid Connection Route.	**ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), Section 12.8 of this chapter. **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	will be limited. Further photomontage testing is required.		
	The cumulative visual and landscape impact of vertical infrastructure elements must be addressed.	Cumulative effects assessment is presented within **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and summarised within Section 12.11 of this chapter. Photomontages reflecting views of the proposed Grid Connection Route within the context of existing infrastructure and proposed cumulative overhead lines have been provided within **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2).	**ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), Section 12.11 of this chapter. **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2).
	The PEIR must provide more information on the design rationale for the pylon alignment and tower type as well as why alternative connection methods were dismissed. A clearer justification is required in the ES, particularly for sections of the route that pass close to sensitive receptors or intersect open, exposed fenland landscapes. Alternative options should be explored.	**ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and the **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3) provide a summary of the alternative designs and alignments considered, and the reasons for the proposed design.	**ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and the **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	The next phase of consultation should provide information on the provision of security lighting.	As described within **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), during the construction and decommissioning phases, temporary lighting may be required to enable safe working where activities are undertaken outside of daylight hours. Temporary lighting will be designed as far as practical to reduce the potential for light spillage and glare outside of the Scheme. Lighting will not be required for the solar PV modules during the operational phase. Non-continuous sensor triggered infrared lighting would be positioned around critical electrical infrastructure within the BESS and On-Site Substation Compounds and Cable Sealing End Compounds for security purposes and emergency maintenance. Directional lighting would be used, directed away from Site boundaries. As such, lighting across the Scheme will be limited and unlikely to result in significant visual effects at night-time. Good practice measures to minimise light spill off-site have been included within the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).	**ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
Targeted Consultation responses			
LCC	Relocation of all BESS to the 400kV On-Site Substation Compound Overall, the proposed Site is in an open and prominent location, between settlements, where development will change the rural character of this landscape. The proposal will introduce large human-caused buildings with materials, scale, and mass uncharacteristic of the location. Mitigation options are limited, and the proposed BESS will be prominent in the local landscape and seen from the A16 and adjacent trackways. It is anticipated that the development proposal in this location will result in some significant change to landscape character and the visual setting.	The landscape and visual effects of the On-Site Substations and BESS Compound are summarised within Section 12.8 of this chapter and detailed within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). Mitigation is presented in Section 12.7 of this chapter and is secured through the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), **OOEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.11), **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12 and **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).	Section 12.8 of this chapter, **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Parcel B reconfiguration of PV panels to avoid areas of flood risk Overall, this is an open, but not prominent location, with few main roads or properties in the vicinity. Where the Site can be seen, it will be viewed at distance and seen in the context of the wider landscape. It is anticipated that the modifications to the design proposal in this location are unlikely to result in significant effects on the wider landscape character or visual environment. However, there are localised features, like Whipchicken farm, and a possible duck decoy, that may require adjustments to the proposal to ensure that their setting in the wider landscape is respected.	The landscape and visual effects of the Solar Development Area are summarised within Section 12.8 of this chapter and detailed within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). It is noted that the Whipchicken Farm buildings within the Site are semi-derelict agricultural buildings used for the storage of materials, with no residential use and a possible duck decoy are not classed as landscape receptors.	Section 12.8 of this chapter and **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).
	Relocation of 132kV On-Site Substation Compound from Parcel B to Parcel C	The landscape and visual effects of the 132kV On-Site Substation in Parcel C are summarised within Section 12.8 of this chapter and detailed within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment**	Section 12.8 of this chapter and **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	Overall, this new location is better contained within the landscape by existing vegetation, including the former railway embankment, and is a better option than that previously selected. The Site is only open to views from the north (from Queen's bank) where there is potential to reinforce this boundary with new planting along an existing ditch. However, even with this new planting, the proposed substation buildings will still be seen, at distance, on the horizon; but at least its form will be broken up and better integrated into the landscape. From other directions, the existing planting will also help to break up the form of the buildings, and help to reduce their impact, but it will not completely contain views of the buildings. The substation will still bring change to this open landscape, but this is a Site that is	(Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). As illustrated on Figure 1 Outline Landscape Masterplans of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16), existing vegetation will be retained and enhanced with new planting to provide screening for the substation.	and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	relatively well suited to accommodating this.		
	Reconfiguration of Parcel D Layout Overall, the proposed reconfiguration will result in more arrays spread throughout this locality. The larger northern array is of a similar size to that originally proposed, meaning that the three smaller arrays will increase array coverage in this landscape. For this approach to work, undeveloped land around and between the arrays will need to be retained and enhanced with mitigation in keeping with the local context. There is potential for green corridors, boundary setbacks, boundary planting, and small woodland blocks to be used to achieve this. Without mitigation, there is a danger that the dispersal of the panels into multiple locations will have a wider spread negative impact both visually, and	The landscape and visual effects of the Solar Development Area are summarised within Section 12.8 of this chapter and detailed within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). Figure 1 Outline Landscape Masterplans of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) illustrates the landscape mitigation proposals in Parcel D, including buffers around Site boundaries, shrub and tree planting on field boundaries and areas adjacent to residential properties, which have been left undeveloped.	Section 12.8 of this chapter and **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	on landscape character, than the one single array as originally proposed.		
	Undergrounding of 400kV overhead line for a section and the introduction of Cable Sealing End Compounds Overall, the proposed Cable Sealing End Compounds (CSECs) will be located in a locality already influenced by human-caused development with existing powerlines and a sewage works. This location is relatively remote with limited visibility from busier roads and adjacent properties. Those properties that are in the locality, are either sufficiently distant, or are visually contained by intervening garden or boundary vegetation. It will be appropriate to mitigate the visual impact of the proposal on Swanpen Farm by increasing the vegetation on the southern boundary of their fields,	The landscape and visual effects of the Cable Sealing End Compounds are summarised within Section 12.8 of this chapter and detailed within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). It is not practicable to propose tree and shrub planting to the north and south of the Cable Sealing End Compounds, as it would interfere with the overhead line and cabling infrastructure. However, screening planting for receptors has been proposed to the east and west of the compounds, as illustrated on Figure 1 Outline Landscape Masterplans of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16). The screening planting proposed will also benefit Swanpen Farm.	Section 12.8 of this chapter and **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	and by tree planting around the northern and southern CSECs to break up any cumulative impact between them and the sewage works.		
	Refined location of Weston Marsh substation Overall, this Site is in a more prominent edge of settlement location with PROW and main roads within its vicinity. It is likely that the substation will detract from the setting of the chapel ruins, but this site is not publicly accessible, and it is visually well contained by mature vegetation. However, care will be required to protect this heritage asset during development and mitigation planting on the Site's northern boundary will be necessary. With regards to the PROW, is unclear how well this routeway is used, and mitigation adjacent to it will need to be compatible with the	The landscape and visual effects of the Grid Connection Route are summarised within Section 12.8 of this chapter and detailed within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). Effects on Wykeham Chapel Scheduled Monument are assessed within **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.1). The location of the Weston Marsh 400kV Substation has been determined by National Grid Energy Transmission (NGET) as part of the Grimsby to Walpole DCO application. This is being consented and delivered by NGET, not Meridian Solar Farm Limited and therefore the landscape and visual effects associated with the substation are not assessed in the ES, with the exception of the cumulative effects assessment. Further information has now been released on the substation location and it is in a new location	Section 12.8 of this chapter and **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.1). **Outline PROW Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.15)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	overhead powerlines and the prevailing character of the location which is open ditches. People in surrounding properties and on roads will mostly view the Site at distance with intervening boundary or verge vegetation limiting views. From the south and east looking towards the site, the development will benefit from the vegetated backdrop provided by Wykeham Farm and the chapel ruins site.	from that assumed at the first targeted consultation. The **Outline Public Rights of Way (PROW) Management Plan** (Doc Ref. 7.15) describes the proposals for the management of PROW Wstn/3/1 during the construction and decommissioning phases. During the operational phase, no management is expected to be required, and the PROW would remain in use. It is not considered that mitigation planting would be able to screen views of the Scheme from the PROW.	
	Order Limit changes The Sites identified for the Meridian Solar Project generally fall into two categories. There are more visually prominent locations, nearer to settlements and major road, where the landscape is lower, but where changes will be more noticeable; and there are locations that are more secluded locations where the emphasis should be on habitat restoration and the	The **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) describes the landscape and ecological strategy for planting across the Site. The residual effect of some receptors at Operational Phase Year 15 of planting is reduced through the implementation of mitigation planting.	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	preservation of important landscape features. In more visually prominent locations, the aim of mitigation will be reducing the visual impact of proposed development by containing and limited views, or designing with less obtrusive materials. Both will require sensitive mitigation to preserve the landscape character and visual quality of the landscape, but the emphasis will vary.		
SHDC	While presented as localised refinements, these collectively represent a substantial expansion of the overall development footprint and a further intensification of large-scale engineered infrastructure with an already highly sensitive fenland landscape. From a landscape and visual standpoint, these changes cannot be regarded as minor. They increase both the physical and perceptual presence of the Scheme	As shown in **ES Figure 3-1: Targeted Consultation Changes Since Statutory Consultation** (Doc Ref. 6.2), the overall area of the Scheme has reduced since the PEIR and targeted consultation. For comparison, the total area of the Site within the Order limits for the DCO submission is 1,616ha, whereas the total area of the Site within the draft Order limits in the PEIR was 2,121ha. This represents a significant reduction in the development footprint. The refinements introduced during targeted consultation were localised adjustments within the reduced Order limits to optimise layout and	**ES Figure 3-1: Targeted Consultation Changes Since Statutory Consultation** (Doc Ref. 6.2),

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	within an area already approaching, and likely exceeding, its capacity to accommodate development of this scale and character.	respond to consultation feedback. These changes do not constitute a substantial expansion of the overall development area. While they involve repositioning and refinement of infrastructure, they remain within the parameters assessed and do not materially increase the Scheme's scale or character beyond what was previously consulted upon.	
	The relocation and concentration of all BESS and substation infrastructure at the 400 kV Weston Marsh connection point represents a marked intensification of permanent built form within an open fenland setting. The increased Order limits encompass a significantly larger area than previously shown, introducing new hard infrastructure, security fencing, and ancillary development. While the change may reduce potential noise effects elsewhere, it materially increases the scale, massing, and visual dominance of development at Weston Marsh.	At targeted consultation stage, the BESS was relocated to the On-Site 400kV Substation near the A16 and Queen's Bank not the Weston Marsh 400kV Substation. The latter remains part of the Grimsby to Walpole DCO, and the Scheme connects into it. The increased Order Limits at Weston Marsh provide flexibility for the final alignment of the Grid Connection, however, do not represent increased footprint for physical infrastructure such as the BESS.	n/a

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	This location is inherently sensitive, with limited existing containment and wide visual exposure. The expanded compound would likely become a prominent focal point in long and medium distance views, extending the influence of the grid connection corridor and contributing to a more industrialised character.		
	These effects are intensified by the absence of any meaningful additional landscape mitigation. The consultation material makes no reference to new or enhanced planting, bunding, or design evolution to address the expanded footprint—despite previous consultation responses having already highlighted that the indicative mitigation proposals were insufficient. This omission is highly concerning and undermines confidence in the Scheme's ability	The proposed landscape mitigation strategy is described within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16). An outline landscape masterplan has also been provided as Figure 1 of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) to illustrate how the landscape strategy could be implemented. This has continued to be refined, including to incorporate the changes arising from the targeted consultation.	**OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	to deliver an acceptable residual effect.		
	Further extensions of the Order limits to provide flexibility for pylon locations, stringing areas and haul routes demonstrate ongoing uncertainty around the design and alignment of the overhead line. The pylons remain among the most intrusive and transformative components of the proposal. Given their height, vertical form, and the open topography, it is doubtful that any planting could meaningfully mitigate their impact. The ES must clearly justify the alignment and tower design and explain why partial undergrounding has not been adopted in sensitive sections.	**ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and the **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3) describe the alternatives and design evolution considered for the Grid Connection Route, including reasons for the proposed alignment and tower design. These documents explain the technical, environmental, and deliverability reasons for selecting an overhead line rather than undergrounding. The ES acknowledges that pylons represent prominent vertical elements within an open fenland landscape and that planting alone cannot fully mitigate their visual impact. The design approach therefore focuses on minimising effects through alignment optimisation, use of wooden poles for the Overhead Inter-Array Connection, and limiting the extent of overhead infrastructure to what is operationally necessary.	**ES Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Evolution** (Doc Ref. 6.1) and the **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3)
Additional Targeted Consultation responses			
LCC	The location selected to extend the Meridian Solar overhead line connection is potentially sensitive	The landscape and visual effects of the Grid Connection Route are summarised within Section 12.8 of this chapter and detailed within **ES**	Section 12.8 of this chapter; **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment**

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	to landscape and visual change. The proposal will introduce large man-made structures with materials, scale, and mass uncharacteristic of the location. Presently, there are no overhead lines or pylons on the site - although distant pylons can be seen on the horizon 2km away to the east from Stone Gate. *Landscape Effects* The extension area is a sensitive landscape with no man-made infrastructure; development will conflict with its rural character and detract from the setting of the Chapel of St Nicholas. However, as the broader landscape is already influenced by the A16, A151, and the edge of Spalding, the resulting change to the landscape setting is unlikely to be significant. *Visual Effects*	**Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). An assessment of effects on the setting of Wykeham Chapel Scheduled Monument is presented within **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.1). As illustrated by viewpoints 27, 30, LCC10 and LCC11 in **ES Figure 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and **ES Figure 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2), there is an existing 400kV overhead line with steel lattice pylons and a low-voltage overhead with wooden poles that cross the Site south of Stone Gate. The existing 400kV overhead line is to be dismantled as part of the Grimsby to Walpole scheme. Viewpoint 30 has been added into the assessment to consider effects on the users of Wstn/6/1. The Applicant recognises that it is not possible to screen views of the Grid Connection with planting due to the height of the pylons.	(Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.1). **ES Figure 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and **ES Figure 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2)

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	The extension area is located in an open landscape, but receptors are limited with no major routeways or PROW through it. The only routeway with sensitive receptors likely to be affected is the public bridleway (Wstn/6/1), located 500m outside the zone; this will experience a negative local impact, though many views will be seen within the context of Spalding and associated road infrastructure. Other receptors are limited to isolated buildings with intervening vegetation or low-sensitivity places of work, meaning the change to the visual setting is not likely to be significant. *Mitigation* The mitigation options in this location are limited due to the flat and open character of the landscape. There are no woodlands in the immediate vicinity and the flatness of the location precludes		

Consultee	Summary of main matters raised	How has the matter been addressed?	Location of response in the ES
	the use of bunding. Any vegetation added could change the landscape's character from open to enclosed and will need to be targeted at field edges or planting around dwellings to be consistent with the existing setting. Mitigation should be used sparingly to specifically reduce impacts on sensitive receptors which includes the public bridleway Wstn/6/1 and the ruins of the Chapel of St Nicolas.		

12.3.3. Table 12-3 below summarises the consultation that has been carried out to date, in addition to the EIA Scoping, statutory and targeted consultations described above.

Table 12-3: Landscape and Visual Additional Consultation

Date	Format	Attendees (organisation)	Summary of Discussion
10 April 2024	MS Teams	SHDC	During the meeting, introductions were made and an introduction to the Scheme and LVIA scope was provided.
21 August 2024	MS Teams	LCC	The meeting provided introductions and an update on Scheme evolution since the Scoping review. Initial Solar Development Areas viewpoints were discussed and provided for ground truthing and comment, alongside the Scoping ZTV. LCC provided feedback on the viewpoint locations on the 16 September 2024. The majority of the comments were agreed, and the approach was amended accordingly. The agreed list of Solar Development Areas viewpoints was used in the PEIR.
30 August 2024	MS Teams	SHDC	The viewpoints, associated with the Solar Development Areas, for summer photography were discussed. The proposed viewpoints and solar array ZTV were provided; SHDC had no comments.
24 July 2025	MS Teams	LCC & SHDC	Attendees discussed the statutory consultation feedback received. An update was provided on the development of Scheme design. Landscape and visual mitigation principles were presented, and the viewpoint strategy was reviewed. Initial findings from the updated glint and glare assessment were presented. LCC and SHDC requested for the landscape strategy to consider the introduction of

Date	Format	Attendees (organisation)	Summary of Discussion
			landscape corridors through the Site to increase permeability. Following the meeting, the Applicant shared a viewpoint spreadsheet and mapping for review, including an indication on the location of the On-Site Substation Compounds and overhead lines. Comments from both LCC and SHDC were received. The landscape strategy was also reviewed and updated in line with comments received during the meeting.
18 September 2025	MS Teams	LCC & SHDC	The Applicant had reviewed and incorporated viewpoints proposed by LCC into the baseline photography. An additional 12 viewpoints were included. The split of viewpoints to become a photomontage (Type 3) or an annotated image (Type 1) were discussed and agreed. LCC and SHDC were pleased that Applicant had incorporated their feedback and were comfortable with the viewpoint strategy. Study areas for landscape and visual effects were discussed (5km for Solar Development Areas and Inter-Array Connections, and 10km for the Grid Connection Route). LCC and SHDC were content with the principle of adding permeable corridors within the individual parcels of the Solar Development Areas.

Date	Format	Attendees (organisation)	Summary of Discussion
28 September 2025	Email	Fenland District Council	The Applicant enquired about the availability of Landscape Character Areas in GIS format for Fenland District. The Council advised that a comprehensive landscape character assessment is not available, but there are historic studies that may provide relevant context.
14 October 2025	Email	SHDC	The Applicant enquired about the availability of Landscape Character Areas in GIS format for South Holland District. SHDC did not provide a response.
14 October 2025	Email	Peterborough District Council	The Applicant enquired about the availability of Landscape Character Areas in GIS format for Peterborough District. The District Council shared a map showing the Landscape Character Areas.
16 October 2025	Email	South Kesteven District Council	The Applicant enquired about the availability of Landscape Character Areas in GIS format for South Kesteven District. The Council provided a link to download the files.
21 October 2025	Email	Boston Borough Council	The Applicant enquired about the availability of Landscape Character Areas in GIS format for Boston Borough. The Council provided the files.
21 October 2025	Email	LCC & SHDC	The Applicant provided an updated LVIA methodology document for review. No comments have been received to date.

12.4. Assessment Methodology

12.4.1. This section summarises the methodology for assessing the likely significant landscape and visual effects predicted to arise during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. The complete methodology used for the LVIA is included in **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

12.4.2. This assessment has been carried out in accordance with the industry standards, including GLVIA3[7], as detailed in **ES Appendix 12-1: Landscape and Visual Legislation, Policy, and Guidance** (Doc Ref.6.3).

12.4.3. Landscape and visual effects can be linked, but for the purposes of this assessment, a clear distinction is made between the two, as noted below:

- Landscape effects are those that may arise from the Scheme on physical characteristics or components of the landscape which inform its character, such as landform, vegetation, watercourses, or perceptual influences; and
- Visual effects are those that relate to changes in the view that may arise from the Scheme as experienced by specific receptors, such as local residents, or users of public footpaths or roads.

Study Area

12.4.4. The study area has been defined through preparation of ZTVs, desk-based research, GLVIA3 guidance, site visits to verify the ZTVs and discussion with LCC and SHDC. Paragraph 5.2 of GLVIA3 proposes the study area is *"based on the extent of Landscape Character Areas likely to be significantly affected either directly or indirectly. However, it may also be based on the extent of the area from which the development is potentially visible, defined as the ZTV, or a combination of the two"*.

12.4.5. As presented at EIA Scoping, an initial 5km study area was identified for the Solar Development Areas and Inter-Array Connections based on the extent of the primary areas of potential visibility, indicated by the ZTVs. A 15km study area was used for the Grid Connection Route due to the proposed height of the pylons. The 15km extent was in accordance with GLVIA3 and the Scottish

[7] Landscape Institute. Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. 2013. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Third Edition.

Natural Heritage (SNH) Visual Representation of Wind Farms (Version 2.2)[8] guidance and has been retained from the ZTV production at ES stage. SNH guidance has been used due to it being the only available comprehensive methodology regarding ZTV production for elements of height. Additionally, there is no specific guidance regarding overhead lines.

12.4.6. The study areas associated with the Scheme have changed from those identified within the EIA Scoping Report and the PEIR due to refinement of the Scheme design and locations of the proposed pylons, and to ensure that the assessment is proportionate and focussed on receptors where likely significant effects may occur.

12.4.7. With the further design information provided, it is considered highly unlikely that significant effects would be experienced further than 5km from the Solar Development Areas – Land Parcels A-D (including On-Site Substation Compounds), and the Inter-Array Connections, and 10km from the Grid Connection Route.

12.4.8. The three ES study areas include the following and are shown on **ES Figure 12-1** (Doc Ref. 6.2):

- 5km: Solar Development Areas – Land Parcels A-D (including On-Site Substation Compounds);
- 5km: Inter-Array Connections (including 'Overhead Inter-Array Connection' and 'Underground Inter-Array Connection'); and
- 10km: Grid Connection Route (including 400kV Overhead Line, and Cable Sealing End Compounds).

Sources of Information

Desktop Research

12.4.9. The following sources of information have been reviewed to aid the preparation of the baseline information:

- Online aerial maps/photography;

[8] Scottish Natural Heritage (2017) *Visual Representation of Wind Farms.* Available at: https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2019-09/Guidance%20-%20Visual%20representation%20of%20wind%20farms%20-%20Feb%202017.pdf. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

- National Character Area (NCA) Profile 46 – The Fens, Natural England, 2014[9];
- The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire, Lincolnshire County Council, September 2011[10];
- Strategic Landscape Capacity Study for South Holland District Council, John Campion Associates, July 2003[21];
- South East Lincolnshire Local Plan, Adopted 2011-2036[11]; and
- Electronic working copy of the SHDC Public Web Maps to review locations of Public Rights of Way[12].

Surveys

12.4.10. Fieldwork and photography were undertaken between October 2023 and February 2026, ranging from full day site surveys to more site-specific visits focusing on individual sections of the Scheme. Each visit provided an opportunity to view the study areas in different seasons and in varied weather conditions. These surveys assisted in the verification of statements within the published landscape character assessments, allowed an analysis of the landscape character and ascertained the likely visibility of the Scheme by identifying visual receptors. Winter photography was not available at the time of ES submission for viewpoints added following statutory consultation. However, winter photography for these viewpoints will be submitted by Deadline 1 to provide additional detail and context to the assessment. Based on the open fenland character of the landscape and limited existing vegetation, it is not anticipated that winter views would materially alter the conclusions of the LVIA. The GLVIA3 guidance suggests that consideration be given to seasonal variation in effects where appropriate but acknowledges that the timing of the assessment may mean that this is not practical. In this LVIA potentially significant differences between seasonal views have been

[9] Natural England (2014) *NCA Profile: 46 The Fens (NE424)*. Available at: https://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6229624. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

[10] LCC (2011) *The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire.* Available at: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/downloads/file/2205/the-historic-character-of-lincolnshire. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

[11] South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (2019) *South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036*. Available at: https://www.south-eastlincslocalplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Local-Plan-text-March-2019.pdf

[12] SHDC (2024) *Public WebMaps*. Available at: https://shdc.dynamicmaps.co.uk/MapThat_SHDC_Public/Default.aspx. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

indicated in the assessment and taken into consideration in reaching conclusions.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

12.4.11. ZTVs have been produced as both 'bare earth' and 'screened' versions. The latter provide an indication of the screening effects of existing woodland and buildings, based on a single height assigned to each type of feature. When the screening effect of woodland and buildings is included, the extent of theoretical visibility of the Scheme is locally reduced. The 'screened' ZTVs do not, however, demonstrate the screening effects of existing hedges and hedgerow trees, which can markedly reduce visibility of elements such as solar panels, particularly when in leaf.

12.4.12. ZTVs were produced for the Solar Development Area (including the solar arrays and the solar stations); the proposed On-Site Substation and BESS Compounds; Overhead Inter-Array Connection, Grid Connection Route and for all of these elements combined. ZTVs are presented in **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-18** (including cumulative developments) (Doc Ref. 6.2).

Impact Assessment Methodology

Landscape Baseline

12.4.13. The landscape baseline was established to enable an assessment of the likely significant effects that would arise from the Scheme. Landscape receptors were then identified, and the effects of the proposed changes on these landscape receptors considered. This landscape baseline study considered the criteria set out below.

Landscape Character

12.4.14. Landscape character is defined as the distinct and recognisable pattern of physical elements that occurs consistently within a particular type of landscape. Landscape character reflects the specific combinations of geology, landform, soils, vegetation, land use, and human settlement that creates the particular sense of place, taking account of perceptual and aesthetic qualities.

12.4.15. Landscape Character is defined at varying scales, including National Landscape Character Areas (NCA) covering broader patterns and elements, to Regional, County, District and Borough Landscape Character Areas & Types distinguishing smaller areas of similar characteristics.

Landscape Fabric

12.4.16. Landscape fabric refers to the combined effect of physical landscape elements present within the landscape such as landform, land cover, boundary features, trees, and woodland, i.e. the physical elements that make up the landscape, and that may be affected during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

Landscape Designations

12.4.17. Sites with landscape designations, such as National Landscapes are not present within the study area.

Visual Baseline

12.4.18. Visual effects relate to how the Scheme may affect the views available to people and their visual amenity. Visual amenity is the visual quality of a site or area as perceived by visual receptors, i.e. the people that experience the view (e.g. residents, workers, and visitors). Developments can change people's direct experience and perception of a view depending on existing context, scale, form, colour and texture of the proposals, the nature of the activity associated with the Scheme and the distance and angle of view. Visual effects can be experienced through developments altering existing views experienced by residents and frequent users of the area, as well as views experienced by tourists and visitors passing through or visiting the area.

12.4.19. Identification of potential visual receptors has been informed by desk and field studies, in conjunction with preparation of the ZTVs, to identify locations where people might be expected to experience views of the Scheme. Visual receptors include people who live in the area, people who work there, people passing through on roads and any other means of transport, people visiting promoted landscapes or attractions, and people engaged in recreational activities. A summary of the visual receptors is provided within the baseline section of this chapter.

Viewpoints

12.4.20. A viewpoint is a location from where a view of the Scheme may be gained by a particular receptor or group of receptors; 29 viewpoints were agreed with the landscape advisors of LCC, SHDC, and Boston Borough Council. An additional 12 viewpoints were agreed with LCC during the ongoing consultation process, as outlined in Section 12.3 above. One additional viewpoint (Viewpoint 30) was added due to a change of location of the Weston Marsh substation and the required extension of the Grid Connection

Corridor further to the north. Subsequently the orientation of Viewpoint LCC 10 was amended from west to northwest to capture the Grid Connection Route alignment towards the proposed Weston Marsh B substation. Further information on the viewpoint selection has been included in **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3). Two views have been located within conservation areas following a request by Lincolnshire County Council in its Statutory Consultation response as listed in Section 12.3 above. Viewpoint A is located within the Spalding Conservation Area. Viewpoint B is located within the Moulton Conservation Area. Both views are included in **ES Figure 21: Representative Viewpoints** (Doc Ref. 6.2) for information only and are assessed in **ES Appendix 8-4: Summary of Heritage Setting Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

12.4.21. The next stage is to determine the sensitivity of the landscape receptors to the type and scale of development proposed. To determine the sensitivity, the susceptibility and value of the receptor were considered and combined.

12.4.22. Susceptibility is the "*ability of the landscape receptor to accommodate the proposed development without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies*" (GLVIA3[1]).

12.4.23. Landscape receptor value is concerned with the relative value attached by society to different landscapes. A consideration of value at the baseline stage informs judgements on the level and significance of effects. Landscape value can be informed by designations, planning policy and documents and can be valued by different stakeholders for different reasons connected to a range of factors, including landscape quality (condition), scenic quality, rarity, representativeness, conservation interests, recreation value, perceptual aspects, and associations. Value can be recognised at an international, national, regional, and local scale.

12.4.24. As detailed above, landscape sensitivity combines the judgements made for susceptibility and value, along with professional judgement. Four levels of sensitivity are defined: high, medium, low, or very low.

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

12.4.25. To determine the scale of visual effects the sensitivity of the receptor must be assessed. This follows the same approach as the assessment of landscape effects.

12.4.26. This is achieved through the consideration of the susceptibility of the receptor and the value of the view. Within the assessment, susceptibility and value may not always be noted.

12.4.27. Susceptibility of visual receptors to changes in views and visual amenity is mainly a function of the activity or occupation of people experiencing the view at particular locations, and the extent to which their attention would be focused on the views and visual experience.

12.4.28. The value of views requires a judgement to be made about the value attached to the views experienced.

12.4.29. Sensitivity is judged as a combination of susceptibility and value and is defined as either high, medium, low, or very low. As with all aspects of the methodology, these descriptions are not rigid; where professional judgement has been applied, this is noted in the narrative.

Magnitude of Landscape Effects

12.4.30. Effects on landscape receptors are assessed in terms of the magnitude of change. This is a combination of the size or scale, geographic extent of the area influenced, and the duration and reversibility of the impact. Magnitude is categorised as high, medium, low, and very low.

Magnitude of Visual Effects

12.4.31. The assessment of the magnitude of change on visual receptors follows similar principles to the magnitude of change on landscape receptors in terms of size or scale, the geographic extent of the area influenced and its duration and reversibility. Within the assessment these may not always be noted and in many cases, it is considered sufficient to describe only the magnitude of change, which is informed by an overall professional judgement.

12.4.32. The three elements detailed above are combined to form a judgement of the magnitude of change to the visual receptor. The typical criteria for the magnitude of change for visual effects-are determined as either high, medium, low, very low, or no change.

Significance of Landscape and Visual Effect

12.4.33. The classification (or level) of the landscape or visual effect and the resulting determination of significance is derived from the relationship between the senstivity of the receptor and the magnitude of the effects.

12.4.34. A guide to this relationship is set out in the matrix in Table 12-4. However, should professional judgement consider that the effect is different to that in the matrix, then a reasoned justification is presented in the assessment.

Table 12-4: Classification of Effects Matrix

Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of change				
	High	Medium	Low	Very Low	None
High	Major	Major	Moderate	Minor	Neutral
Medium	Major	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Neutral
Low	Moderate	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Neutral
Very Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible	Neutral	Neutral

12.4.35. Following the classification of an effect, clear statements have been made within the LVIA as to whether that effect is significant or not significant.

12.4.36. Residual effects found to be 'moderate' or 'major' are deemed to be 'significant' and may be important or relevant to the decision-making process. Effects found to be 'negligible', or 'minor' are considered to be 'not significant' and may not be important or relevant to the decision-making process, although they may be matters of local concern. Further details can be found in the **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

12.4.37. GLVIA3 states that this is not a prescriptive process and that tables and matrices are provided as a guide to how combinations of sensitivity and magnitude are typically combined. In this LVIA, reasoned explanations of judgements made on effect significance are based on consideration of the factors set out in **ES Appendix 12-2** (Doc Ref. 6.2) as an indicative framework. However, conclusions of significance may differ from those in the table when supported by evidence.

Assessing Cumulative Effects

12.4.38. The assessment of cumulative effects must be considered as part of a landscape and visual impact assessment when it is carried out as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment.

12.4.39. GLVIA3 defines cumulative landscape and visual effects as those that "result from additional changes to the landscape or visual amenity caused by the

proposed development in conjunction with other developments (associated with or separate to it), or actions occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future".

12.4.40. Cumulative effects occur where there may be additional changes caused by other similar developments alongside the Scheme, or due to the combined effect of a number of developments. Further details can be found in the **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Relationship to Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

12.4.41. The LVIA assesses the potential visual effects to different types of visual receptor (people with views). This includes residential receptors, i.e. private views, by means of representative viewpoints from publicly accessible locations, along with judgments based on information including aerial mapping.

12.4.42. Residential Visual Amenity, according to the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 2/19: 'Residential Visual Amenity'[13], is defined as:

12.4.43. *"…the overall quality, experience and nature of views and outlook available to occupants of residential properties, including views from gardens and domestic curtilage"*.

12.4.44. Significant adverse effects on views and visual amenity may be experienced by residential receptors. In itself, this does not normally cause planning concern, but there may be situations where the effect is so significant that it is not generally considered to be in the public interest to permit such conditions where they did not exist before.

12.4.45. In circumstances where an effect is potentially this significant, a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) may be prepared to assist in making judgements as to whether (with reference to TGN 2/19), this 'Residential Visual Amenity Threshold' (RVAT) has been reached and that the effect may potentially affect 'living conditions' or residential amenity.

12.4.46. The RVAT guidance is based upon a four-step approach. Steps one to three accord with the above LVIA methodology whereby, in line with GLVIA3, visual receptors are identified, along with the magnitude of impact and the

[13] Landscape Institute (2019). Residential Visual Amenity Assessment. Technical Guidance Note 2/19.

significance of effect; and concluding which properties may be assessed further.

12.4.47. For identified properties, stage four comprises further assessment in order to make a concluding judgement as to whether or not the RVAT threshold has been reached.

12.4.48. The guidance states that there are no "*hard and fast rules*" as to making a judgement on RVAT and notes:

12.4.49. "*LVIA findings of significant (adverse) effects on outlook and/or on visual amenity at a residential property do not automatically imply the need for a RVAA. However, for properties in (relatively) close proximity to a development proposal, and which experience a high magnitude of visual change, a RVAA may be appropriate, and may be required by the determining / competent authority*".

12.4.50. Consideration of residential visual amenity and justification that an RVAA is not required in respect of the Scheme is provided in Section 12.8.

12.5. Assumptions and Limitations

12.5.1. This assessment of likely significant landscape and visual effects has been carried out based on the following assumptions and limitations. This is in accordance with legislation, policy and guidance presented in **ES Appendix 12-1: Legislation, Policy, and Guidance** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Design Flexibility

- As described in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1), the detailed design has yet to be finalised for the Scheme. To accommodate design flexibility and potential technological changes at construction, the 'Rochdale Envelope' approach been applied within the LVIA to ensure a robust assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors.
- The LVIA assessed the maximum design parameters to represent a reasonable worst-case scenario in terms of potential effects. This includes, but is not limited to:
    - the layout of the Solar Development Areas;
    - the precise route of the Overhead Inter-Array Connection and Grid Connection Route;
    - the detailed layout and type of mitigation such as planting and seeding; and

- precise locations where vegetation may require removal.

- All such elements have been considered within the defined worst-case parameters.

Baseline Data

- Baseline conditions and assessments are based on desk-based research and site visits undertaken to date, as set out within Section 12.4 of this chapter, combined with professional judgement in accordance with GLVIA3 guidance.
- Fieldwork outside the Order Limits has been undertaken from publicly accessible locations.
- Where direct visibility from private properties could not be confirmed, professional judgement has been applied, using aerial photography and fieldwork observations from the surrounding area.

Construction Phase

- For the construction phase assessment, the precise locations of temporary elements such as material laydown and stockpile areas are not yet known; therefore, a worst-case scenario has been assessed.
- Ground preparation is assumed to involve localised topsoil stripping, levelling and storage, construction of foundations for structures and trenching for wiring, using standard construction equipment and followed by the construction of the Scheme elements.

Operational Phase

- Year 1 operation:
  - the LVIA assumes that the Scheme would be operational across all of the Order Limits during winter, when deciduous vegetation would not be in leaf.
  - Grassland would not be fully established, and proposed new native shrubs and trees would be immature.
  - This represents a reasonable worst-case assessment scenario.
- Year 15 operation:
  - the LVIA assumes that the Scheme is operational across all of the Order Limits during summer, with vegetation and proposed

planting fully established in accordance with the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).

- Grassland swards beneath the PV modules and habitat enhancement within the ecological mitigation areas will be in place.
- The tree planting is assumed to reach approximately 6-8m in height and new shrubs would be managed and maintained between 2m and 3m in height.

Decommissioning Phase

- Assumes the removal of all infrastructure over an approximate 24 month period.
- Planting forming part of the mitigation strategy is intended to remain post-decommissioning; however, this cannot be guaranteed once land returns to third-party control and is therefore noted as a limitation.

Cumulative Effects

- To inform the cumulative effects assessment presented within this ES, the PEIR and Weston Marsh Supplementary PEIR of the Grimsby to Walpole DCO[14, 15] and the Stage 1 Consultation Document[16] and EIA Scoping Report[17] of the Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire (WMEL) DCO have been reviewed and considered. Cumulative photomontages presented within **ES Figure 12-21** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and **ES Figure 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2) are based on the publicly available information published for these schemes to date. However, it is noted that an updated assessment of cumulative effects would be undertaken as part of the Grimsby to Walpole and the WMEL DCO applications, once these projects have progressed further. The cumulative photomontages have therefore been produced for illustrative purposes only to inform the assessment of likely significant effects within this ES and are not indicative of the final designs of these cumulative schemes.

[14] NGET (June 2025) Grimsby to Walpole: Preliminary Environmental Information Report.
[15] NGET (November 2025) 2025 Weston Marsh targeted consultation - Supplementary Preliminary Environmental Information Report.
[16] NGET (June 2025) Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire: Stage 1 Consultation Document.
[17] NGET (November 2025) Weston Marsh to East Leicestershire EIA Scoping Report. Available at: https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN0210007/documents [Accessed 23 January 2026]

- Two cumulative assessment scenarios are set out in **ES Chapter 4: Overview of the EIA Process** (Doc Ref. 6.1) which are considered to capture the worst-case cumulative effects. The following worst-case cumulative assessment scenario has been considered in relation to the Grimsby to Walpole DCO, Outer Dowsing Offshore Wind Farm DCO, the WMEL DCO and Ossian Wind Farm DCO schemes within this chapter:
  - Scenario 2: The projects are built out sequentially, with no overlap in peak construction periods but a longer overall cumulative construction period between 2028 and 2038.

12.6. Baseline Conditions

Landscape Baseline

12.6.1. This section details the baseline characteristics of the Scheme and study area. Baseline information on topography and hydrology, vegetation, settlement and land use, connectivity and accessibility, tranquillity and designations are detailed below. Detailed baseline information concentrates on the 5km study area where the greatest effects are likely to occur. Reference is also made to key features and characteristics present within the 10km study area associated with the Grid Connection Route.

12.6.2. Due to the nature of the assessment, the baseline covers the Scheme as a whole, which includes the Solar Development Areas, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route. Where relevant, mention of the individual elements of the Scheme has been included to provide clarity in changes in the baseline scenario across the study area.

Scheme Context

12.6.3. The Scheme is located in Lincolnshire, to the north-east of Peterborough, between the settlements of Crowland, Gedney Hill, Spalding and Weston. It lies within a predominantly arable landscape, with flat, typically fenland, topography. The A16 passes through the Scheme, in between Land Parcels A and B of the Solar Development Areas, connecting Peterborough and Boston to the south and north respectively.

Topography and Hydrology

12.6.4. The topography within the study area is predominantly flat and low lying, which is a key characteristic of the Fens, ranging from approximately 0m to 10m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) across the full extent of the 10km study area. The embankment associated with the River Welland, on its eastern side,

provides an elevated view of the landscape surrounding the Scheme from the PRoW Crow 7/1 and National Cycle Network (NCN) SUSTRANS 12. This elevated river embankment continues north beyond the 5km study area. Across the Solar Development Areas, there is little fluctuation in topography, adding to long, open views with large skies in this location.

12.6.5. Low-lying topography is also typical within the wider 10km study area, with similar elevated views found along river embankments, including the River Welland embankment at Fosdyke and the embankment of the South Holland Main Drain at Tydd St Mary to the east. The highest areas within the 10km study area can be found to the south, along the northern edge of Peterborough, either side of the A16 in the area north and east of Newborough.

12.6.6. A network of large linear drainage ditches and dykes along field boundaries and close to rural roads and PRoW are a distinct feature within the study area. The main hydrological feature within the study area is the River Welland, which is present from the south-west to the north-east of the 10km study area, travelling in a broadly straightened corridor.

12.6.7. Additional information on the hydrology network can be found in **ES Chapter 11: Hydrology and Flood Risk** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

Vegetation

12.6.8. Significant vertical vegetation within the study area is sparse, large rectilinear fields with limited boundary vegetation allowing open views across an arable landscape and adding emphasis to the long, open views of The Fens. However, occasional tree belts, clusters of trees, linear tree planting, large shrubs, or bands of shrubs interrupt some of these open views. Sporadic remnant hedgerows are present in a few locations indicating former field boundary features, in particular near Whaplode Drove. The limited extant vegetation is largely associated with the A16 road corridor, residential settlements and surrounding isolated properties, as well as along the dismantled railway corridor between Queen's Bank and French Drove.

12.6.9. South of Langary Gate Road, to the south-east of the Scheme, tree belts, woodland blocks, and boundary planting are also present, with tree belts associated with Gedney Hill Golf Course.

12.6.10. The majority of the vegetation present is deciduous, with some lines or isolated stands of columnar poplars forming a notable feature within open views, as evident around the settlement of Whaplode Drove.

Settlement and Land Use

12.6.11. Land use within the study area is largely arable farmland, enclosed by dykes and drains. It is a working landscape of intensively farmed medium and large-scale arable fields. The field pattern becomes distinctly smaller to the east of the Solar Development Areas, around Whaplode Drove and Gedney Hill.

12.6.12. The largest settlement within the 5km study area is Crowland, with Spalding and Weston within 10km, and Peterborough, the largest nearby city, outside the 10km study area. There are several small villages, hamlets and individual properties and farmsteads dispersed throughout the study area. Overall, the Scheme is located within a sparsely populated area; individual properties are generally associated with the agricultural landscape. A densification of settlements is noticeable in the northern central section of the 10km study area between Spalding in the west and Holbeach in the east where a band of settlements follows the course of the A151 High Road.

12.6.13. The villages of Shepeau Stow, Whaplode Drove, Holbeach Drove and Gedney Hill, all to the south-east of the 5km study area, contain several listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments such as windmills and churches. The settlements are linear developments either on or leading away from the B1166. Cowbit, Moulton Chapel and Weston Hills are to the north-west within the 5km study area. These settlements also contain listed buildings and Scheduled Monuments such as mills, churches, and farmhouses. Spalding and Moulton, located in the north of the 10km study area, contain Conservation Areas and numerous listed buildings.

12.6.14. Within the 10km study area north of the Grid Connection Route, residential settlements such as Cowbit, Moulton Chapel, Weston Hills, Moulton, and Weston are located on the east or west of the proposed route. To the north of this 10km study area, dispersed industrial units, infrastructure and structures become more frequent, including overhead pylons, telecommunication masts, wind turbines, and additional main roads including the A17.

Connectivity and Accessibility

12.6.15. The A16 is the main road present within the study area, extending from the south-west to the north-east of the 10km study area. The A151 extends from the A16, heading east towards Holbeach and the A17. The B1166 is located to the south of the study area and extends from the A16 east towards Gedney Hill before it changes direction. Further details are included in **ES Chapter 15: Traffic and Access** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

12.6.16. A large network of local rural roads connects small villages and hamlets throughout the study area. A number of these are single track lanes, generally located in more isolated areas where properties are limited.

12.6.17. Other infrastructure includes the railway line linking Spalding to the East Coast Main Line, which passes Deeping St Nicholas on the western fringe of the 5km study area, with a station located in the centre of Spalding. A mix of overhead transmission pylons cross the study area, in a variety of directions including east to west and south to north.

12.6.18. There are numerous PRoWs within the 10km study area. There are limited PRoWs to the centre of the Scheme, surrounding the Solar Development Areas. Where they are present, they generally follow field boundaries or the route of the River Welland and surroundings, or the South Holland Main Drain.

12.6.19. PRoW and recreational routes are mapped on **ES Figure 12-3** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

12.6.20. The PRoW listed below are located within or directly adjacent to the Scheme:

- Bridleways along the South Holland Main Drain, Flee/6/1, Flee/7/1, Flee/8/1, Flee/8/2, Holb/14/1 and Holb15/1;
- Bridleway east of Queen's Bank, Crow/11/1;
- Footpath between Queen's Bank and Back Bank, Crow/12/1;
- Footpath between Back Bank and Broadgate, Whap/1/1;
- Footpath along Wash Bank Crow/17/1;
- Bridleway east of Welland Bank, Crow/17/2;
- Footpath east of Welland Bank, Crow/7/1; and
- Footpath Wstn/3/1 at Lord's Drain north-west of Weston.

Tranquillity

12.6.21. The majority of the study area is classed as Countryside in the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036[18]. The limited settlements, quiet minor roads and limited pedestrian presence create a sense of tranquillity across the Scheme and 5km study area. This is most evident within the eastern half of the 5km study area, between Gedney Hill, Whaplode Drove and Whaplode St.

[18] South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee (2019) *South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036*. Available at: https://www.south-eastlincslocalplan.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Local-Plan-text-March-2019.pdf. [Accessed 01/11/2025]

Catherine. Further west, toward the A16, road noise, vehicle presence and larger settlements diminish the sense of tranquillity.

12.6.22. To the north, the sense of remoteness and tranquillity reduces with the increased presence of pylons, industrial units, large settlements, and presence of both the A16 and A17.

12.6.23. This is evidenced within the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) tranquillity mapping[19]. The Solar Development Areas fall within the area mapped as most tranquil, with areas around the settlements and main transport routes mapped as least tranquil, which is more apparent within the north of the 10km study area.

Landscape Designations

12.6.24. There are no national, regional, or local landscape designations within or adjacent to the Scheme. The closest National Landscape is the Norfolk Coast, located more than 24km north-east of the Scheme.

12.6.25. There are several historic designations within the study areas, including listed buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Conservation Areas as outlined in **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** (Doc Ref. 6.1).

Landscape Character

12.6.26. The published documents listed in **ES Appendix 12-1: LVIA Legislation, Policy and Guidance** (Doc Ref. 6.3) provide national and regional level character areas that describe the landscape character, as well as district level landscape character types. These have been summarised below with further detail provided within **ES Appendix 12-3: Landscape Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

National Landscape Character

12.6.27. National Character Areas (NCAs), published by Natural England, divide England into distinct areas at a national scale, based on their unique landscapes, geology, biodiversity, cultural and economic influences. The entirety of the study area lies within a single NCA, NCA 46 – The Fens. This area is a distinctive, historic, and human-influenced wetland landscape, notable for its large-scale, flat, open landscape with extensive vistas to level horizons. NCAs are depicted on **ES Figure 12-4** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

[19] CPRE (2007) Tranquillity Mapping. Available at: Tranquillity Map: England - CPRE [Accessed 13 March 2026].

National Character Area Profile 46 (NCA 46) – The Fens

12.6.28. Key characteristics of NCA 46 relevant to the Scheme and study area are:

- Expansive, flat, open, low-lying wetland landscape influenced by the Wash estuary, and offering extensive vistas to level horizons and huge skies throughout, provides a sense of rural remoteness and tranquillity;
- Overall, woodland cover is sparse, notably a few small woodland blocks, occasional avenues alongside roads, isolated field trees and shelterbelts of poplar, willow and occasionally leylandii hedges around farmsteads, and numerous orchards around Wisbech;
- The predominant land use is arable – wheat, root crops, bulbs, vegetables, and market gardening made possible by actively draining reclaimed land areas;
- Open fields, bounded by a network of drains and the distinctive hierarchy of rivers (some embanked), have a strong influence on the geometric/rectilinear landscape pattern. The structures create local enclosure and a slightly raised landform, which is mirrored in the road network that largely follows the edges of the system of large fields;
- The area is very rich in geodiversity and archaeology, with sediments containing evidence for past environmental and climate changes and with high potential for well-preserved waterlogged site remains at the fen edge, within some of the infilled paleo-rivers and beneath the peat; and
- Villages tend to be dispersed ribbon settlements along the main arterial routes through the settled fens, and scattered farms remain as relics of earlier agricultural settlements.

12.6.29. NCAs are broad-scale and provide context to more detailed studies of regional / county or local landscape characters. Effects on these NCA will not, therefore, be assessed in the LVIA.

Regional Character Areas and Zones

12.6.30. While the NCA profiles provide a broad perspective on the region's natural and cultural identity, LCC published a focussed assessment on the historic character of the county in September 2011. The Historic Landscape

Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire[20] provides a detailed analysis of the unique regional character, and how the landscape has evolved over time.

12.6.31. The region is divided into ten Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCAs), the Scheme falls within two of the HLCAs: The Fens and The Wash. These are then divided further into several smaller Historic Landscape Character Zones (HLCZs) based on distinctive features. A summary for both the character areas and zones can be found below.

12.6.32. Refer to **ES Figure 12-5** (Doc Ref. 6.2) to see these areas mapped in relation to the Scheme and study area.

The Fens (HLCA 9)

12.6.33. The Fens Historic Landscape Character Area encompasses the south and west of the 10km study area, and a large proportion of the southern half of Lincolnshire. It can generally be characterised by the following:

- The landscape is the most rural in the county and is mostly made up of arable fields. These fields are typically rectilinear, with boundaries formed from drains rather than hedges;
- The few trees to be found in the area are also found near and around the farmsteads and there are no hedges in evidence as field boundaries;
- The flat landscape is relieved by occasional small blocks of woodland, raised roads and tracks, and the occasional isolated farmstead;
- The only vertical elements in this otherwise flat landscape are the scattered farmsteads and their barns, which are frequently located some distance from the main residential farm buildings;
- The overall effect of the flatness of the landscape, and the lack of tall objects therein, is to emphasise the impact of the sky;
- Since the Second World War the increasingly mechanised nature of agriculture has necessitated the removal of field boundaries to create larger fields that can more easily be worked by machinery; and

[20] LCC (2011) The Historic Character of the County of Lincolnshire 2011. Available at: https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/HEV002%20LincsHLC_Report-1.pdf [Accessed 21/11/2025]

- Historic wetland heritage of the Fens has largely been lost due to intensive arable farming; however, drainage to keep the land dry is still identifiable across the area.

The Eastern Fens (HLCZ FEN2) and The Witham Fens (HLCZ FEN1)

12.6.34. Within The Fens, the Scheme falls under the Historic Landscape Character Zone 'The Eastern Fens'. Key characteristics of this HLCZ are:

- The area has a strong feeling of openness, with few hedges demarcating fields; and
- Although dispersed, there is a relatively high settlement density in this area, compared to other fen or marsh areas in the county.

12.6.35. Also within The Fens HLCA, lies HLCZ 'The Witham Fens', west of the Scheme, generally outside the 5km study area although a small part of the HLCZ falls within the 5km study area. Key characteristics of this HLCZ are:

- Few nucleated settlements;
- Dispersed pattern of settlements including isolated farmsteads and irregular linear settlements along routes, with little intervisibility between them;
- Generally flat landscape with very slight rises of around half a metre upon which settlement is located; and
- Extensive network of drainage ditches, including the 20m wide South Forty Foot Drain, part of which forms the boundary of this character zone.

The Wash (HLCA 10)

12.6.36. The northernmost section of the Grid Connection Route crosses into 'The Wash', a large estuarine complex on the east coast of Lincolnshire and present across the north-east of the 10km study area. Key characteristics of this HLCA relevant to the Scheme and study area are:

- The rural landscape offers wide, open vistas, occasionally interrupted by vertical structures like St Botolph's Church tower in Boston, wind power installations, or old sea banks;
- Roads are usually raised by up to a metre, allowing long-distance views, particularly across the drained marshlands;

- The area is predominantly agricultural, with the highest proportion of modern fields by area in the county, which is indicative of the high rate of field boundary loss;
- There is a high proportion of surviving ancient enclosure;
- Settlements are typically found on high ground, often nucleated in character. Although an increasing proportion of new housing threatens to merge some smaller settlements with their neighbours; and
- Despite changes, much of the historic character remains, including remaining marshland which is a National Nature Reserve.

The Townlands (HLCZ WSH6), Reclaimed Wash Farmlands (HLCZ WSH4), Bicker Haven (WSH5), and Reclaimed Coastal Fringe (WSH1)

12.6.37. Within The Wash is The Townlands HLCZ, which encompasses most of the nucleated settlements in the wider Wash region. The northernmost section of the Grid Connection Route is located within this character zone. Key characteristics include:

- The pattern of settlement in the zone is distinct, with a string of nucleated medieval market towns, such as Boston and Spalding, and villages running roughly parallel to the coastline;
- The zone is largely agricultural in character, with the greater part of this area made up of arable fields; and
- Tree cover in the zone is sparse, comprising deciduous and non-deciduous, small-scale plantations located in field edges and corners, around settlements and as shelter belts around farmsteads.

12.6.38. The other three HLCZ (WSH1, WSH4 and WSH5) are located adjacent to WSH6. The northern extent of the Grid Connection Route extends into the Reclaimed Wash Farmlands HLCZ (WSH4) and the other two HLCZs (WSH1 and WSH5) lie within the north, north-east of the study area. Their key characteristics are summarised below.

12.6.39. Reclaimed Wash Farmlands (HLCZ WSH4) is located to the north-east of WSH6. It is characterised by being primarily agricultural with large scale farmsteads and a semi-regular field pattern. A small number of orchards are present to the west of this area. Field boundaries are generally narrow and shallow dykes, with the exception of some hedgerow boundaries at Holbeach St Matthew on the edge of the 10km study area.

12.6.40. Bicker Haven (WSH5) is a small HLCZ located between The Townlands and Reclaimed Wash Farmlands. This zone primarily arable with a number of farmsteads, with all settlement dispersed. The boundaries of the zone are characterised by the 'Roman Bank', a historic remnant sea bank. The A16 now crosses this zone.

12.6.41. Reclaimed Coastal Fringe (WSH1) is located between The Townlands and Reclaimed Wash Farmland and extends outside of the study area to the north and south along the coast. This zone is characterised by a network of relict sea banks, with agricultural rectilinear fields bound by shallow dykes. The canalised River Welland dissects the zone within the study area. Settlement is sparse, limited to isolated farmsteads.

District Landscape Character types

South Holland District Council Landscape Character Types (LCT)

12.6.42. The SHDC Strategic Landscape Capacity Study[21], produced in 2003, also provides useful characterisation of the landscape within the study area based on distinctions within NCA 46 – The Fens. Two Landscape Character Types (LCTs) are present within the 10km study area. They are described further below and depicted on **ES Figure 12-6** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

The Settled Fens LCT

12.6.43. The Grid Connection Route is located within the Settled Fens LCT, which encompasses the majority of the district, and the central and north areas of the study area, extending east toward the coast. Characteristics of The Settled Fens include:

- Predominantly flat topography, dissected by main roads, rivers, and drainage channels;
- Nucleated settlement with associated mature trees;
- Locally strong hedgerow elements;
- Church spires and towers often rise above the mature vegetation; and

[21] SHDC (2003) Strategic Landscape Capacity Study for South Holland District Council. Available at: https://southeastlincslocalplan.org/media/24158/Strategic-Landscape-Capacity-Study-for-South-Holland-District-Council/pdf/Strategic_Landscape_Capacity_Study_for_South_Holland_District_Council.pdf?m=1703961388580 [Accessed 21/11/2025]

- Visual detractors include overhead lines, substations, and urban fringe visual clutter.

The Peaty Fens LCT

12.6.44. The Peaty Fens encompass the majority of the Scheme, including the Solar Development Areas, Inter-Array Connections, and a portion of the Grid Connection Route to the centre of the 10km study area, including Crowland to the south of the Scheme. This LCT extends into the north-west of the study area around the outskirts of Spalding and toward the A52. Characteristics of The Peaty Fens include:

- Flat topography dissected by long straight roads, rivers, drainage channels, and drainage ditches;
- Large scale, extensive views, and largely uninterrupted skyline, providing a sense of openness/exposure; and
- Strong linear pattern, defined by geometric arable fields bounded by drainage channels.

South Kesteven District Council Landscape Character Assessment

12.6.45. The south western extremities of the 10km radius Grid Connection Route study area cover the south eastern edge of the District of South Kesteven. The South Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment[22], produced in 2007, splits the district into 7 separate landscape character areas (LCA), of which the study area falls within 'The Fens' character area.

The Fens LCA

12.6.46. Key characteristics of The Fens LCA include:

- "Low flat terrain, level horizons, and large skies;
- Large-scale open rectangular fields, divided by drainage ditches and embanked rivers;
- Sparse trees and woodland cover; and
- Little settlement apart from individual farmsteads".

[22] South Kesteven District Council (2007) South Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment. Available at: https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-11/Landscape%20Character%20Assessment%202007.pdf [Accessed 21/11/2025]

Boston Borough Council Landscape Character Assessment

12.6.47. The northernmost part of the 10km Grid Connection Route study area intersects with the southern part of the Boston Borough and four of its landscape character areas (LCAs)[23]. A summary of key characteristics for each LCA is included below.

Bicker to Wyberton Settled Fen (B1)

12.6.48. Key characteristics:

- "A largely flat landform slightly elevated above the adjacent drained fenland;
- Open views with big skies;
- Views towards landmark water towers, and church towers and spires set amongst mature trees in historic villages;
- An intact working rural landscape;
- Settlement pattern of widely spread villages, often medieval in origin, with farmsteads and dwellings scattered in between; and
- Scattered agricultural buildings, horticultural glasshouses, packing sheds, poultry sheds, food processing plants, and distribution centres which are a mix of styles and ages".

Frampton to Fosdyke Settled Fen (B2)

12.6.49. Key characteristics:

- "A largely flat farmed landscape with a patchwork of predominantly arable fields with some pasture;
- Open views with big skies;
- Views to landmark church towers and spires set amongst mature trees in historic villages;
- Tree cover is generally sparse with occasional hedgerows and trees and infrequent blocks of mixed woodland;

23 ECUS (2009) Landscape Character Assessment of Boston Borough. Available at: https://southeastlincslocalplan.org/media/24154/Landscape-Character-Assessment-of-Boston-Borough/pdf/Landscape_Character_Assessment_of_Boston_Borough.pdf?m=1703961387673#:~:text=The%20key%20landscape%20characteristics%20found,with%20shelter%20belts%20around%20farmsteads. [Accessed 21/11/2025]

- Some areas under Environmental Stewardship Schemes have more rangy hedgerows with hedgerow trees; and
- A small-scale landscape pattern of winding narrow roads enclosing small irregularly shaped fields bounded by dykes and ditches".

Welland to Haven Reclaimed Saltmarsh (C1)

12.6.50. Key characteristics:

- "A fairly remote human-caused, flat landscape of reclaimed saltmarsh which is surrounded and enclosed by sea banks of varying ages;
- Views to big skies within the area are contained at ground level by grassed and hedged sea banks;
- Longer views from the tops of the sea banks extend towards The Wash and the Norfolk coast;
- A predominantly geometric pattern of medium to large-scale fields bordered by open ditches and dykes;
- Tree and hedgerow cover is mostly confined to the inland relict sea bank and also shelter belts around farmsteads and dwellings; and
- Limited access via a very small number of minor roads and farm tracks".

Welland to Haven Wash Saltmarsh (D1)

12.6.51. Key characteristics:

- "An extensive area of open saltmarsh and intertidal winding mud and sand flats, and mud creeks;
- Tidal areas which regularly change from landscape to seascape with the tides. Occasional flooding by the sea in other areas;
- A largely inaccessible, remote, and wild landscape;
- Views with big skies and wide horizons across The Wash to Norfolk are influenced by the changing tides, light, and weather conditions; and
- Built structures are virtually absent and there are no roads, and only one track".

Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment (2024)

12.6.52. The southern sections of the 5km and the 10km radius study areas include the jurisdiction of the City of Peterborough in Cambridgeshire.

12.6.53. The 2024 Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment[24] identifies Landscape Character Types (LCTs), which are subdivided into Landscape Character Areas (LCAs).

12.6.54. The following two LCTs and LCAs are located within the southern sections of the 5km radius study area of the Solar Development Areas, Underground and Overhead Inter-Array Connections, and the 10km radius study area of the Grid Connection Route:

Peterborough Fens (LCT) - 3a: Bedford North Level (LCA)

12.6.55. LCT Key characteristics:

- *"Flat, extensive, and open landscape with panoramic views and large skies.*
- *Rectilinear field pattern reflecting the artificial drainage pattern.*
- *Predominantly arable farmland.*
- *Isolated farmsteads of Victorian to modern origin.*
- *Sparse tree cover, generally limited to shelter belts/copses around farmsteads and avenues along drove roads.*
- *Road pattern typically straight and raised above the surrounding peat fen.*
- *Scattered active and former mineral extraction sites.*
- *Settlements on the drained fen mainly of recent origin".*

12.6.56. LCA Key characteristics:

- *"Flat landscape, at or just above sea level;*
- *Intensively farmed arable land with fields arranged in a rectilinear pattern, subdivided by straight drainage ditches;*
- *Limited settlement and isolated farmsteads often surrounded by trees and shelterbelts;*
- *Shelterbelts and copses often form the skyline in long-distance views across the fen;*
- *Straight roads and droves bordered by drainage ditches elevated above the surrounding landscape with sharp right angle turns; and*

[24] Peterborough City Council (2024). Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment: Final Report September 2024.

- *A vast, open landscape with panoramic views and large skies".*

Fen Fringe (LCT) - 4b: Eye Fen Edge (LCA)

12.6.57. LCT Key characteristics:

- *"Gently undulating landform, slightly higher than the adjacent fen at up to approximately 10m AOD.*
- *Evidence of former clay extraction, with former clay pits now used for landfill or reinstated to provide nature conservation value.*
- *Car Dyke and other drainage ditches.*
- *Isolated farmsteads and residential properties".*

12.6.58. LCA Key characteristics:

- *"Gently undulating but low-lying landform.*
- *Arable farmland area transitioning into surrounding fenland.*
- *Limited woodland cover.*
- *Ecological habitats including LNR, SSSI and County Wildlife Sites.*
- *Large Local Geological Site".*

Emerging Fenland Local Plan

12.6.59. The Fenland Local Plan 2021-2040, Draft Local Plan Consultation (August 2022)[25] is a proposed new Local Plan for the Fenland District in Cambridgeshire and includes information on landscape character areas. While still a draft it will replace the Fenland Local Plan (May 2014), which does not include specific information on landscape character areas.

12.6.60. The Draft Local Plan 2021-2040 identifies 5 Landscape Character Areas (LCAs). The southern tip of the 10km radius study area of the Grid Connection Route and the southeastern section of the 5km radius study area of the Solar Development Area – Land Parcel D covers a small area of the following landscape character area as indicated in Appendix 4 of the Fenland Local Plan 2021-2040, Draft Local Plan Consultation (August 2022).

[25] Fenland Local Plan 2021-2040: Draft Local Plan Consultation August 2022. Available at: https://www.fenland.gov.uk/draftlocalplan [Accessed 21/11/2025]

The Fens

12.6.61. Key characteristics include:

- *"This area is located in the central area forms the majority of the district.*
- *Largely unsettled, arable landscape with isolated villages and scattered individual properties*
- *Characterised by large scale, flat and open landscape with extensive views and large skies.*
- *With very few hedgerows in the landscape and long straight roads elevated above the surrounding fields.*
- *Very few hedgerows in the landscape and long straight roads elevated above the surrounding fields".*

Site Character

12.6.62. The Site, including the Solar Development Areas, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route, are characterised by low-lying arable fields generally bound by drainage ditches. The field pattern is primarily medium to large scale rectilinear field, changing to a smaller field pattern to the east of the Solar Development Areas, to the north of Whaplode Drove and Gedney Hill. Vegetation is sparse across the entirety of the Scheme, with some roadside trees, shrubs and scrub, occasional broken hedgerows, tree belts, and small woodland blocks. To the south of the Scheme, around the Solar Development Areas, settlement is sparse, limited to occasional farmsteads and linear patterns of residential properties along roads adjacent to the Scheme. The villages of Whaplode Drove and Gedney Hill are the closest to the Scheme, located between Land Parcels C and D of the Solar Development Areas. To the north, the Grid Connection Route crosses over the A151, between Spalding, the largest settlement within the study area, and the village of Weston.

12.6.63. Observations carried out whilst on Site, and in the study area, generally accord with the regional and local character assessments described above.

Visual Baseline

12.6.64. Visual baseline is described within **ES Appendix 12-5: Visual Baseline** (Doc Ref. 6.3) with a summary provided below.

12.6.65. Open, long distant views are experienced across the study area due to the low-lying terrain and limited woodland cover. The flat topography permits

expansive, sky-dominated views. While vehicles on the A16 are often visible, the road itself remains largely concealed from most locations.

12.6.66. Broader, more open views across the predominantly flat landscape can be found at elevated locations such as roads on embankments (such as Barrier Bank), footpaths along the River Welland and settlement edges.

12.6.67. Toward the east of the Solar Development Areas, vegetation is more frequent, primarily consisting of small woodland blocks around properties and field corners, as well as linear planting along field boundaries.

12.6.68. Some infrastructure is present within the existing views. To the north of the study area, a number of overhead lines and associated pylons are evident along the skyline. To the centre of the Scheme, long distance views south and west include wind turbines at wind farms at Deeping St. Nicholas, Scolding Drove and French Drove visible in the distance.

12.6.69. The key findings of the ZTVs are detailed below. Refer to **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-16** (Doc Ref 6.2) for further detail.

Solar Development Area

12.6.70. Solar PV modules would be located within the Solar Development Areas, within which larger structures would also be situated within the BESS and On-Site Substation Compounds. As such, two separate ZTVs have been generated for the Solar Development Areas.

12.6.71. The potential visibility of the Solar Development Area (refer to **ES Figure 12-7** (Doc Ref 6.2)) extends in all directions from the Scheme. To the south-west, visibility decreases within the built-up areas of Crowland, with limited visibility beyond the town in that direction. Either side of the town visibility has potential to extend beyond 5km. To the south, there are several areas around small settlements, including Shepeau Stow and Gedney Hill, where the ZTV indicates no views of the Scheme would be possible, although receptors on the northern edge would likely experience changes in view. These settlements also provide some screening for receptors immediately south-east. To the west and north-west, Deeping St Nicholas and Cowbit partially screen potential views for receptors beyond these settlements. To the north-east of the study area, potential visibility is more intermittent, due to presence of scattered built form and increased vegetation.

12.6.72. The locations of the BESS and On-Site Substation Compounds (refer to **ES Figures 12-13** (Doc Ref. 6.2) indicate that the majority of potential views would be from locations within 5km, with potential for intermittent views in

some locations extending up to 10km. To the north, potential views are generally contained by the A151 and the southern edge of Holbeach, with potential for long ranging glimpsed views extending up to 15km at Surfleet Seas End. The A17 and A1101 contain views from the east, but potential views do not extend to Wisbech to the south-east. To the south, the ZTV shows intermittent views may be possible for receptors south of the A47, although these are contained by Peterborough to the south-west. Between Crowland and Spalding, where views are limited by these settlements, views west extend beyond 10km across Deeping Fen, with potential glimpses extending to 15km beyond Pode Hole.

Inter-Array Connections

12.6.73. The ZTV of the Inter-Array Connections (refer to **ES Figures 12-9** (Doc Ref. 6.2), suggests potential views concentrated within first 5km of the Scheme. The ZTV suggests that views may be possible from the south, just beyond the B1167/ French Drove. Views from receptors to the south-west and north-west are unlikely to be experienced significantly beyond 5km. However, views from the north-east could extend to Whaplode St Catherine. To the west, views are contained by Deeping Saint Nicholas, although there is potential for views from beyond 5km between this settlement and Cowbit.

Grid Connection Route

12.6.74. The ZTV of the Grid Connection Route (refer to **ES Figures 12-7 to 12-15** (Doc Ref. 6.2)), indicates the potential for long-distance views extending in all directions across the 10km study area. To the south, and south-west, views are generally contained by the A47 and the edge of Peterborough, respectively. Views would be limited within built up areas, in particular Spalding to the east, with only receptors on the edges of the town likely to experience changes in views. To the north-west around Rippingdale and north-east at the coastline, the ZTV indicates the potential for views to extend beyond the 10km study area, although at this distance any view would be partially obscured by intervening features and in context with other existing overhead line infrastructure.

Visual Receptors and Representative Viewpoints

12.6.75. Fieldwork was undertaken at various points between October 2023 and February 2026 to verify the assessed visibility of the Scheme. The ZTVs were subsequently updated to reflect design iterations.

12.6.76. Visual receptors likely to experience views of the construction, operation or decommissioning of the Scheme were identified through interrogation of the ZTVs and fieldwork, and subsequently categorised into the following types:

- Residents;
- Vehicle Users (People travelling through the area on roads and public transport);
- Recreational users, (Walking, cycling, horse riding, boat users, visitors); and
- Outdoor / Agricultural Workers.

12.6.77. With reference to **ES Figure 12-19** and **ES Figure 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2), viewpoints have been identified as representative of views experienced by people within the study areas (5km and 10km). Viewpoints have been selected to demonstrate the experience of the receptor groups identified above and to show a variety of distances and orientation towards the Order Limits.

12.6.78. Consultations in relation to representative viewpoint locations with local planning authorities are listed in Section 12.3 Stakeholder Engagement above.

12.6.79. GLVIA3[26] distinguishes between different types of viewpoints as follows:

- "Representative viewpoints, selected to represent the experience of different types of visual receptor, where larger numbers of viewpoints cannot all be included individually and where significant effects are unlikely to differ".
- "Specific viewpoints, chosen because they are key and sometimes promoted viewpoints within the landscape..., viewpoints in areas of particularly noteworthy visual and/or recreational amenity..., or viewpoints with particular cultural landscape associations".
- "Illustrative viewpoints, chosen specifically to demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues".

12.6.80. A total of 42 viewpoints including cumulative viewpoints have been identified to represent the views of the visual receptors described above. The locations of the proposed 42 viewpoints selected are shown on **ES Figure 12-19** and **ES Figure 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2). A description of the baseline and sensitivity of

[26] Landscape Institute. Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment. 2013. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. Third Edition. Available as hard copy only.

these viewpoints as well as the identification of what receptor groups these viewpoints represent is included in **ES Appendix 12-5** and **ES Appendix 12-6** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

12.6.81. Booklets with existing viewpoint photography are located in **ES Figure 12-21 Photosheets 1-30** and **ES Figure 12-22 Photosheets LCC 1-11** (Doc Ref. 6.2) illustrating views from 42 viewpoints. These visualisations have been prepared in accordance with Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, and represent 'Type 1' and 'Type 3' visualisations. Type 1 visualisations include the baseline photography annotated with the approximate location of visible elements of the Scheme indicated with different colours and explanatory text. Type 3 visualisations are photomontages that the baseline photography with a rendered image of the Scheme, accurately positioned and scaled. The split of Type 1 and Type 3 has been agreed with LCC, SHDC and Boston Borough Council.

12.6.82. Some of the viewpoints have been sub-divided into 2 views were deemed necessary, for example VP LCC 2-1 and VP LCC 2-2, in order to show a wider visual context from the same viewpoint but in different directions.

12.6.83. The locations of the viewpoints have also been established with regard to public accessibility, the number and sensitivity of viewers who may be affected, the viewing direction, distance and elevation, the nature of the viewing experience and the view type.

12.6.84. With regard to the nature of the viewing experience, GLVIA3 notes the difference between "*static*" (e.g., residents at home) and "*sequential*" views (e.g., views from a road or PRoW).

12.6.85. The assessment of potential cumulative visual effects has been carried out and is included in **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

12.6.86. Table 12-5 and

12.6.87. Table 12-7 set out the landscape and visual receptor groups covered by the assessment and their corresponding viewpoints. Existing viewpoint photography for these viewpoints is included in **ES Figure 12-21 Photosheets 1-30 and ES Figure 12-22 Photosheets LCC 1-11** (Doc Ref. 6.2). Representative viewpoint locations are mapped in **ES Figure 12-19** and **ES Figure 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

Receptor Sensitivity

12.6.88. This section summarises the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors, using the methodology as summarised in Section 12.4 of this chapter and detailed in **ES Appendix 12-2 LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and described in **ES Appendices 12-3** to **12-6** (Doc. Ref. 6.3).

12.6.89. Table 12-5 below summarises the sensitivity of landscape receptors, the full assessment of this is captured in **ES Appendix 12-4 Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). For the cumulative assessment, the broad-scale NCA 46 – The Fens was considered; however, for the main assessment, NCAs were not considered further as they provide contextual information rather than site-specific detail. Furthermore, the landscape character areas defined by the SHDC, Boston Borough Council, and South Kesteven District Council were not considered further, as the more recently published LCC Historic Landscape Characterisation study[27] was considered to take precedence as it provides a detailed analysis of the unique regional character, and how the landscape has evolved over time.

Table 12-5: Landscape Receptors – Sensitivity

Landscape Receptors	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
HLCA 9 – The Fens	Medium	Medium	Medium
HLCZ FEN1 – The Witham Fens	Medium	Medium	Medium
HLCZ FEN2 – The Eastern Fens	Medium	Medium	Medium
HLCA 10 – The Wash	Low	Medium	Medium
HLCZ WSH1 – Reclaimed Coastal Fringe	Medium	Medium	Medium
HLCZ WSH4 – Reclaimed Wash Farmlands	Medium	Medium	Medium
HLCZ WSH5 – Bicker Haven	Medium	Medium	Medium
HLCZ WSH6 – Townlands	Medium	Low	Medium

27 LCC (2011) The Historic Character of the County of Lincolnshire 2011. Available at: https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-03/HEV002%20LincsHLC_Report-1.pdf [Accessed 21/11/2025]

Landscape Receptors	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Peterborough LCA – 3a Bedford North Level	Medium	Medium	Medium
Peterborough LCA – 4b Eye Fen Edge	High-Medium	Medium	High-Medium
Fenland LCA – The Fens	Low-Medium	Low-Medium	Low-Medium

12.6.90. Table 12-7 to Table 12-9 summarise visual receptor group sensitivities. Visual receptors have been separated based on their distance from the Scheme. Receptors within 5km, and those more likely to experience significant effects, are listed individually. Receptors within 5-10km, have been grouped by receptor type.

12.6.91. Following extensive site survey work, the cross check of ZTV mapping on site, and based on findings gathered at PEIR Stage, the study areas for the assessment were tailored to allow for a proportionate and focussed assessment on receptors where likely significant effects may occur. It is unlikely that there will be significant effects beyond 10km of the Grid Connection Route and 5km from the Solar Development Areas including Inter-Array Connections. Hence, visual receptors located beyond 10km of the Scheme are not listed below.

12.6.92. However, visual receptors beyond 10km have been captured by representative Viewpoint 29 as requested by Boston Borough Council. The assessment of significance of visual effects from this or similar viewpoints is detailed within the assessment sections of this chapter. Further information on the study areas and the assessment methodology is provided within **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and Section 0 of this chapter.

Summary of Receptor Groups: Susceptibility, Value and Sensitivity

Residential Receptors

12.6.93. **Susceptibility:**
Residents have high susceptibility because views from homes are typically static, frequent, and form part of everyday visual amenity. Changes to these views are therefore more keenly felt.

12.6.94. **Value:**
Residential views are treated as high value, reflecting the importance placed on amenity and the personal nature of home environments.

12.6.95. **Sensitivity:**
Across the study area, all residential examples—both 0–5 km and 5–10 km—are consistently assessed as High sensitivity due to the combination of High susceptibility and High value.

Recreational Users (e.g., PRoW walkers, cyclists, horse riders, boat users, visitors)

12.6.96. **Susceptibility:**
Recreational users generally display high susceptibility, particularly where enjoyment of the landscape—scenery, tranquillity, open views—is part of the activity (e.g., walking, cycling on banks/embankments, long-distance trails).

12.6.97. **Value:**
Most recreational routes and assets are treated as Medium value, though a number of long-distance routes and nature reserves hold High value (e.g., Macmillan Way, nature reserves, key promoted paths).

12.6.98. **Sensitivity:**
Typically High sensitivity, arising from High susceptibility and Medium value. Some recreational assets with elevated value (e.g., nature reserves, long-distance trails, glamping/camping sites) achieve High–High, reinforcing a High sensitivity rating.

Vehicle Receptors

12.6.99. **Susceptibility:**
Main roads (A-roads, strategic routes) have Low susceptibility, as views are quick, transient, and not the focus of travel. Rural roads, lanes, and banks have Medium susceptibility, where vehicle speeds are lower and the rural landscape contributes more to driver awareness.

12.6.100. **Value:**
Generally Low value on strategic roads and Medium value on rural roads.

12.6.101. Sensitivity:

There is Low sensitivity on main roads, combining Low susceptibility and Low value. Medium sensitivity has been considered for rural roads and fen-edge embankment routes, on the basis of Medium susceptibility and Medium value.

Outdoor / Agricultural Workers

12.6.102. **Susceptibility:**
Outdoor workers have low susceptibility, as their focus is on operational tasks rather than appreciation of the landscape.

12.6.103. **Value:**
Views experienced in the course of work are considered low value since they are not sought for amenity.

12.6.104. **Sensitivity:**
Low sensitivity, reflecting both low susceptibility and low value.

Table 12-6: Visual Receptors – Summary of Sensitivity

Receptor Group	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Residents	High	High	High
Recreational Users	High	Medium–High	High
Vehicle Users – Main Roads	Low	Low	Low
Vehicle Users – Rural Roads	Medium	Medium	Medium
Outdoor / Agricultural Workers	Low	Low	Low

Table 12-7: Residential Receptors – Sensitivity

Residential receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Residential properties on Martins Road	High	High	High
Residential properties on Langary Gate	High	High	High
Deeping St Nicholas	High	High	High
Hop Pole	High	High	High
Residential properties on Queen's Bank	High	High	High
Whaplode Drove	High	High	High
Holbeach Drove Gate	High	High	High
Residential properties on Roman Road	High	High	High
Residential properties on Hull's Drove	High	High	High
Residential properties on Back Bank	High	High	High

Residential receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Residential properties on Broadgate	High	High	High
Residential properties on Barrier Bank	High	High	High
Residential properties on Mill Lane, Gedney Hill	High	High	High
Residential properties on Dowsdale Bank, Shepeau Stow	High	High	High
Residential properties on Dowsdale Bank, south of Whale Drove	High	High	High
Residential properties on Lutton Gate Road	High	High	High
Holbeach St Johns	High	High	High
Crowland (northern edge)	High	High	High
Residents on River Bank	High	High	High
Throckenholt	High	High	High
Whaplode St Catherine	High	High	High
Low Fulney (residential)	High	High	High
Spalding	High	High	High
Residential properties of Pinchbeck	High	High	High
Residential properties of Surfleet	High	High	High
Surfleet Seas End	High	High	High
Residential properties off Marsh Drove	High	High	High
Residential properties on Carrington Road	High	High	High
Moulton Seas End	High	High	High
Moulton	High	High	High
Residential properties on Pipwell Gate	High	High	High
Residential properties on Hurdletree Bank	High	High	High
Weston Hills	High	High	High

Residential receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Residential properties on Daws Gate	High	High	High
Residential properties on Hall Gate	High	High	High
Residential properties on Austendyke Road	High	High	High
Residential properties on Fen Gate	High	High	High
Whaplode	High	High	High
Residential properties on Cob Gate	High	High	High
Residential properties on the junction of Raven's Bank and Mill Gate	High	High	High
Residential properties on Mill Drove North	High	High	High
Residential properties at junction of Nene Terrace Road/ B1040 and French Drove	High	High	High
Residential properties along French Drove	High	High	High
Sutton St Edmund	High	High	High
Sutton St James	High	High	High
Residential receptors within 5-10km	**Susceptibility**	**Value**	**Sensitivity**
Pode Hole	High	High	High
West Pinchbeck	High	High	High
Northgate	High	High	High
Gosberton Clough	High	High	High
Gosberton Risegate	High	High	High
Quadring	High	High	High
Gosberton	High	High	High
Sutterton	High	High	High
Fosdyke	High	High	High
Saracen's Head	High	High	High
Holbeach Clough	High	High	High

Residential receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Holbeach Bank	High	High	High
Holbeach	High	High	High
Fleet Hargate	High	High	High
Fleet	High	High	High
Holbeach St Marks	High	High	High
Deeping St James/Frognall	High	High	High
Parson Drove	High	High	High
Scattered residential and agricultural properties between Deeping Fen and Pinchbeck Common	High	High	High
Scattered residential properties in Pinchbeck South Fen	High	High	High
Scattered residential properties between Northgate and B1397/Clough Road	High	High	High
Quadring Eaudike – isolated residential buildings	High	High	High
Scattered residential properties between the A16 and River Welland, south of A17 and north-east of Surfleet Seas End	High	High	High
Scattered residential properties between A16 and River Welland, north of A17	High	High	High
Scattered residential properties south and west of Holbeach St Marks, throughout Moulton Marsh, Whaplode Marsh and Holbeach Marsh	High	High	High
Scattered residential properties between Holbeach Bank and Holbeach Hurn	High	High	High
Isolated residential property on Raven's Drove	High	High	High

Residential receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Scattered residential properties in Crowland Common between the River Welland and South Drive Drain	High	High	High
Scattered residential properties along the A47 (between Thorney Bypass roundabout and Bretts Transport) towards Thorney Toll	High	High	High

Table 12-8: Recreational Receptors – Sensitivity

Recreational receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Footpath Crow/7/1 / Bridleway Crow 17/2	High	Medium	High
National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 12/ Footpath DeeN/5/1	High	Medium	High
Footpath along Wash Bank Crow/17/1	High	Medium	High
Footpath, PRoW Cowb 1/1	High	Medium	High
Bridleways along the South Holland Main Drain, Flee 8/1 and Flee 6/1	High	Medium	High
Bridleway along the South Holland Main Drain at Eaugate Road, Crow 11/1	High	Medium	High
Bridleway east of Queen's Bank, Crow 11/1	High	Medium	High
Footpath between Queen's Bank and Back Bank, Crow 12/1	High	Medium	High
Bridleway east of Queen's Bank, Crow 11/1	High	Medium	High
Footpath between Queen's Bank and Back Bank, Crow 12/1	High	Medium	High
Footpath between Falls Drove and Dowsdale, Crow 5/1	High	Medium	High
Footpath between Broad Gate and Back Bank, Whap 1/1	High	Medium	High

Recreational receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Bridleways along the north and south side of the South Holland Main Drain, Whap 6/2 and Whap 7/2	High	Medium	High
Footpath west of Lutton Gate Road, SuSE 1/1	High	Medium	High
Bridleway west of The B1173, Spal 9/2	High	Medium	High
Public Bridleway at end of Matmore Gate, Spalding – PRoW (Public Bridleway Spal/6/2 on bank of River Welland. Banks are not defined PRoW but are known/ well-used walking routes	High	Medium	High
Public Bridleway Spal/8/1	High	Medium	High
Public Bridleway Spal/7/2	High	Medium	High
Public Bridleway Spal/7/3 between Fulney Drove and Childer's South Drove	High	Medium	High
Public Footpath Spal/1062/1 and Public Bridleway Spal/831/1/	High	Medium	High
Public Bridleway Spal/14/2 between Roman Bank and A16	High	Medium	High
Public Bridleway Spal/14/1	High	Medium	High
Public Footpath Spal/15/3	High	Medium	High
Macmillan Way/public footpath Pinc/5/3 and Pinc/5/2 alongside River Glen west of Crossgate	High	High	High
Public footpath Spal/986/1	High	Medium	High
Public bridleway Wstn/6/1 on east bank of River Welland	High	Medium	High

Recreational receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Macmillan Way/Public footpath at Surfleet, west of the A16	High	High	High
Macmillan Way/public footpath Pinc/8/2 at Surfleet Sluice	High	High	High
Footpath Wstn/8/1 south of Crowtree Farm	High	Medium	High
Public footpath Surf/2/1 just west of Coney Garth Lane	High	Medium	High
Public bridleway between River Welland and Bank House Farm, Moul/1/1, Wstn/4/1 and Surf/9/1	High	Medium	High
Public footpath between Crowtree Glamping and Crown Farm Wstn/7/1 and Moul/2/1	High	Medium	High
Footpath Moul/2/2 between Carrington Road and Mill Marsh Lane	High	Medium	High
Public footpath Wstn/3/1 at Lord's Drain	High	Medium	High
Public footpath Wstn/1/1to the east of Weston	High	Medium	High
Public footpath Moul/5/1, west of Moulton to East Gate	High	Medium	High
Public footpath Whap/4/1, Pipwell Gate to Broad Lane	High	Medium	High
Public footpath Moul/4/1 between A17 and Roman Bank	High	Medium	High
Public bridleway Holb/13/1 between Cranesgate North and Hurdletree Bank	High	Medium	High
Cluster of bridleways between the River Welland and New River, west of Cowbit	High	Medium	High

Recreational receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
(Cowb 8/2, Cowb 7/1, Cowb 6/2, Cowb 5/2, Cowb 4/2 and Cowb 3/2)			
PRoW surrounding Gedney Hill – Public footpaths, GedH1/1 leading on to, GedH/2/1, SuSE/3/1, SuSE/11/1	High	Medium	High
PRoW SuSE 6/1/ SuSE 6/2 leading onto SuSE 12/1	High	Medium	High
PRoW SuSE 7/1 leading onto SuSE 5/2 and SuSE 4/1	High	Medium	High
PRoW SuSE 8/1 leading onto Bridleway Tydd St Giles 13 and Byway Tydd St Giles 19, east of Sutton Saint Edmund	High	Medium	High
Bridleway between New Fen Dyke and Old Fen Dyke – PRoW SuSJ 1/1 and SuSJ 1/2	High	Medium	High
PRoW north and south of Bythorne Bank, Bottle Lane Byway, and bridleway Tydd/3/1	High	Medium	High
Recreational receptors within 5-10km	**Susceptibility**	**Value**	**Sensitivity**
PRoW connecting Pode Hole and Spalding along Vernatt's Drain – Public footpath Spal/2/2, Spal/2/1, Public bridleway Pinc/12/1	High	Medium	High
PRoW on banks of River Glen between West Pinchbeck and Guthram Gowt – Public footpaths Pinc/13/1 and Pinc/14/1 (including a section of the Macmillan Way)	High	Medium	High
PRoW south of Gosberton and Gosberton Clough – Public footpaths Gosb/6/1, Gosb/5/1, Gosb/7/1 and Gosb/4/1	High	Medium	High
PRoW to the north-east of Gosberton, up to Quaring – Public footpaths Quad 1/1,	High	Medium	High

Recreational receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Quad/3/1, Quad/2/1, Quad 5/1, Quad 4/1, Gosb/3/1 and public bridleway Gosb/8/1.			
PRoW within and to south of Sutterton to Sutterton Dowdyke – Public footpaths Sutt/5/1, Sutt/9/1, Alga/6/2, Alga/7/1, Sutt/7/1, Sutt/8/1.	High	Medium	High
PRoW along banks of River Welland, east and south of Fosdyke and the A17 – Public bridleways Fosd/2/2, Fosd/6/1, Fosd/4/2, Moul/6/1, Moul/9/1, Moul/6/2, Holb/24/4, Holb/24/3, Holb/24/2. Public footpaths Fosd/8/1, Kirt/2/5, Kirt/2/1, Kirt/1/5. Byway open to all traffic Fosd/3/1. Including a section of NCN Route 1 south and east of Fosdyke.	High	Medium	High
PRoW surrounding Holbeach St Marks – public bridleways Holb/19/4, Holb/19/5, Holb/2/1. NCN Route 1.	High	Medium	High
PRoW north of Holbeach and the A17, up to Holbeach Clough – Public footpath Hob/11/1, Holb/12/1, Holb/5/1	High	Medium	High
PRoW west of Holbeach and south of the A17 – Public footpaths Holb/7/1, Holb/1132/1, Holb/8/1, Holb/1133/1	High	Medium	High
PRoW south of Holbeach – Public footpaths Holb/9/1, Holb/9/3, Flee/2/1	High	Medium	High
PRoW south of Fleet and north of Raven's Bank– Public footpath Gedy/12/1, Gedy/11/3, Gedy/11/2, Gedy/11/1, Public bridleway Flee/5/1.	High	Medium	High
PRoW along banks of South Holland Drain (outwith 5km north-east of Sutton Saint James) Public bridleways SuSJ/3/1, SuSJ/12/1, Tydd/6/2, LgSu/11/1,	High	Medium	High

Recreational receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
LgSu/760/1, LgSu/10/1, LSut/2/1 and SuBr/3/1.			
Other Recreational receptors within 0-5km	**Susceptibility**	**Value**	**Sensitivity**
Gedney Hill Golf Club	Medium	Medium	Medium
Spalding Golf Club	Medium	Medium	Medium
Spalding Town Cricket Club (Moulton Seas End)	Low	Medium	Low
Peterborough and Spalding Gliding Club	Medium	Medium	Medium
Fenland Airfield EGCL	Medium	Medium	Medium
East of England Shooting Ground	Low	Low	Low
Crowland Wildlife Pond	High	High	High
Crowtree Glamping	High	High	High
The Hunters Lodge Caravan Site	High	Medium	High
Hagbeach Manor Caravan Park	High	Medium	High
Springfield Farm Campsite	High	Medium	High
Orchard View Caravan and Camping Park	High	Medium	High
Rosebay Naturist Camping/ Caravan Park	High	Medium	High
Heron Cottage Holiday Park	High	Medium	High
Light craft, canoes etc. along River Welland from southwest of Crowland to southwestern edge of Spalding	Medium	Medium	Medium
Light craft, canoes etc. along River Welland from southwestern edge of Spalding to A16 bridge	Medium	Medium	Medium
Light craft, canoes etc. along River Welland from A16 bridge to west of Fosdyke Bridge	Medium	Medium	Medium

Recreational receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Other Recreational receptors within 5-10km	**Susceptibility**	**Value**	**Sensitivity**
Moulton Marsh Nature Reserve	High	High	High
Willow Tree Fen Nature Reserve	High	High	High
Thorney Rugby Club	Low	Low	Low
Thorney Golf Centre / Thorney Lakes Golf Course	Medium	Medium	Medium
Light craft, canoes etc. along River Welland from Fosdyke Bridge towards Fosdyke Wash	Medium	Medium	Medium
Light craft, canoes etc. along River Welland from Deeping St James to southwest of Crowland	Medium	Medium	Medium

Table 12-9: Vehicle Receptors – Sensitivity

Vehicle receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
A16	Low	Low	Low
B1166	Low	Low	Low
B1173	Low	Low	Low
B1165	Low	Low	Low
A151	Low	Low	Low
A152	Low	Low	Low
B1357	Low	Low	Low
B1040	Low	Low	Low
B1167	Low	Low	Low
Vehicle receptors of main roads within 0-5km	**Susceptibility**	**Value**	**Sensitivity**
B1397	Low	Low	Low

Vehicle receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
A17	Low	Low	Low
A47	Low	Low	Low
Vehicle receptors of rural roads within 0-5km	**Susceptibility**	**Value**	**Sensitivity**
Wash Bank	Medium	Medium	Medium
Barrier Bank	Medium	Medium	Medium
Martins Road	Medium	Medium	Medium
Langary Gate	Medium	Medium	Medium
Eaugate Road	Medium	Medium	Medium
New Road	Medium	Medium	Medium
West Drove North	Medium	Medium	Medium
Queen's Bank	Medium	Medium	Medium
Back Bank	Medium	Medium	Medium
Chapel Hill	Medium	Medium	Medium
Gedney Hill Gate	Medium	Medium	Medium
Dowsdale Bank	Medium	Medium	Medium
Falls Drove	Medium	Medium	Medium
Lutton Gate Road	Medium	Medium	Medium
Lambert Bank	Medium	Medium	Medium
Cloot Drove	Medium	Medium	Medium
Cranegate South	Medium	Medium	Medium
Marsh Road	Medium	Medium	Medium
Carrington Road	Medium	Medium	Medium
East Gate	Medium	Medium	Medium
Cross Gate	Medium	Medium	Medium

Vehicle receptors within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Broad Gate	Medium	Medium	Medium

Table 12-10: Outdoor / Agricultural Workers – Sensitivity

Outdoor / Agricultural Workers within 0-5km	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Fields located within a 5km study area	Low	Low	Low
Outdoor / Agricultural Workers within 5-10km	**Susceptibility**	**Value**	**Sensitivity**
Fields located within a 5-10km study area	Very Low	Low	Low

Future Baseline

12.6.105. The majority of land within the study area is defined as Countryside within the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036[18]. Areas around a number of settlements within the study area are allocated for housing, notably around Holbeach, Spalding and Weston. Proposed Employment Areas are also identified to the east and north of Spalding.

12.6.106. In the absence of the Scheme, the future landscape and visual baseline across the study area is anticipated to remain broadly as stated above. However, built development within the study area would increase, in particular, the number of residential receptors, predominantly around the existing settlements, notably larger settlements identified as Sub-Regional and Main Service Centres within the Local Plan.

12.7. Embedded Mitigation

12.7.1. This section contains the mitigation measures relevant to this chapter that are already incorporated into the Scheme design, as described in **ES Chapter 2: The Scheme** (Doc Ref. 6.1). These mitigation measures are provided for under the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and the associated Outline Landscape Masterplan (Figure 1 of the **OLEMP**), and the **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12).

Construction phase

OCEMP

12.7.2. As set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), during construction, embedded mitigation measures proposed to mitigate the potential impacts and effects on landscape are as follows:

- Protect retained trees and vegetation which are not scheduled for removal via construction exclusion zones and tree protective fencing (see below bullet on Tree Works);
- Lighting at the minimal levels of lux and luminance as necessary for safe working practices, during the temporary construction lighting (see section below for further details);
- Landscape and biodiversity management and enhancement measures including replacement planting, as set out within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16);
- Landscape, arborists and ecological clerk of works (ECoW) to ensure that the landscape and ecology requirements of the detailed CEMP(s) are adhered to, and that the construction works are monitored;
- Tree works would be undertaken in accordance with the **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3);
- Fencing around the work areas within the Solar Development Area would be implemented early in the construction phase; and
- An implementation timetable for maintenance and management proposals would be developed, including an annual landscaping maintenance plan, as set out within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).

Construction Lighting

12.7.3. As set out in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10), during construction, construction temporary site lighting, in the form of mobile lighting towers would be required in areas where natural lighting is unable to reach (e.g. sheltered/confined areas) and during core working hours within winter months. Artificial lighting would be provided to maintain sufficient security and health and safety for the Order Limits and construction staff, whilst adopting mitigation principles to avoid excessive glare and minimise spill of light to nearby receptors (including ecology and residents) outside of the Order Limits as far as reasonably practicable.

12.7.4. All construction lighting would be deployed in accordance with the following recommendations to prevent or reduce the impact on human and ecological receptors:

- The use of lighting would be minimised to that required for safe site operations;
- Lighting would utilise directional fittings to minimise outward light spill and glare (e.g. via the use of light hoods/cowls which direct light below the horizontal plane, preferably at an angle greater than 20° from horizontal); and
- Lighting would be directed towards the middle of the Site rather than towards land outside of the Order Limits.

12.7.5. Further information can be found in the **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10)

Operational phase

Design Principles

12.7.6. Good design has been a key consideration for the Scheme from the outset. The LVIA has informed the iterative design process which has been guided by design principles and in response to policy requirements. The Scheme design principles cover a broad range of considerations. The design principles most relevant to landscape and visual matters are set out in the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) as well as in the **Design Approach Document** (Doc Ref. 7.3), and are summarised as follows:

- **Design Principle 2** - Seek to integrate the Scheme sensitively within the landscape to reduce the potential landscape and visual effects where practical;
- **Design Principle 3** - Seek to incorporate opportunities to enhance local recreation and access;
- **Design Principle 4** - Ensure responsible construction, ongoing maintenance, and decommissioning;
- **Design Principle 8** - Design the Scheme to align with existing field boundaries and existing landscape features and vegetation;
- **Design Principle 9** - Seek to avoid potential impacts on biodiversity and provide enhancement through the provision of habitat mitigation and enhancement areas to achieve a minimum 10% of BNG.

12.7.7. The **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) includes an Outline Landscape Masterplan (Figure 1) which shows one way which the landscape design can come forward in accordance with the design principles set out within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16).

Measures Embedded into the Scheme Design

12.7.8. With reference to the design principles and guidance described above, the overall objective of the landscape design is to sensitively integrate the Scheme into the landscape, avoiding or minimising adverse landscape and visual impacts as far as practicable. As such, the following mitigation has been embedded.

Careful Siting in the Landscape

12.7.9. Offsets from properties were included in the initial design following a review of the existing views experienced by residents in proximity to the four Solar Development Area Land Parcels A, B, C and D. The form and extent of these offsets have been adjusted through design development to respond to the existing character of views from residential properties.

12.7.10. With reference to the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and the **Works Plans** (Doc Ref. 2.3), the Scheme design has been carefully sited where it would appear in views experienced by residents to avoid or minimise adverse effects. Field numbering referenced below is illustrated on **ES Figure 1-2: Solar Development Area Field Numbers** (Doc Ref. 6.2). The Scheme is illustratively shown on the Outline Landscape Masterplan (refer to Figure 1 of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)).

Cloot House west of Cloot Drove / Washbank

12.7.11. An offset of PV panels of approximately 50m from the hedge along the southern boundary of the property in the north-eastern corner of field A-1-05 is proposed to maintain open south, south-westerly views from Cloot House, particularly from the first floor.

Dwellings at Martin's Farm / Martin's Farm Cottage west of Martin's Road

12.7.12. An offset from PV panels of a minimum 130m from the western boundary of Martins Farm in the eastern section of field C-2-02 and approximately up to 100m east from the eastern boundary of field C-1-01 & C-1-02 along Martins Road is proposed to retain the current vegetation patterns of the surrounding fields of Martins Farm / Martins Farm Cottage (refer to fields C-2-04 and C-2-05). In addition, advanced planting consisting of bands of shrubs and scattered trees is proposed along sections of Martins Road along the western

boundary of fields field C-1-01 & C-1-02 east of Martins Farm and Martins Cottages.

Dwellings off Hull's Drove / B1166 northwest of Shepeau Stow

12.7.13. An offset of PV panels of a minimum of 80m from the northern boundary of these properties is proposed (refer to field C-1-07). In addition, advanced planting consisting shrubs and scattered trees is proposed along the southern boundary and southeastern boundary of field C-1-07.

Residences along Queen's Bank

12.7.14. An offset of PV panels between 400m and 580m from the southern boundary of these properties is proposed (refer to fields B-1-07, B-1-09, B-1-13, B-3-01, B-3-02, B-1-12, B2, C-2-01, the northern section of C-2-02, and C-2-03). In addition, the current agricultural use of fields adjacent to Queen's Bank is proposed to be retained and sections are proposed to also become a Habitat Management Area (refer to fields C-1-01, C-1-03 and C-1-08). Habitat Management Areas have been identified across the Solar Development Areas in areas where only habitat management works are proposed.

Residences along Langary Gate Road

12.7.15. An offset of PV panels of minimum 50m from residences is proposed (refer to fields D-6 and D-5-01). In addition, Habitat Management Areas and Advanced Planting in selected locations would be established to retain the visual amenity in the vicinity of these properties and to reduce visual effects as well as glint and glare from the proposed Solar Development Areas. In addition, advanced planting consisting of bands of shrubs and scattered trees along sections of the PV Panels west of Langary Gate Road (refer to field D-6) is proposed.

Conserving existing vegetation patterns

12.7.16. The illustrative layout of the Scheme shown in **ES Figure 2-2 Indicative Solar Development Area and Inter-Array Connections Layout Plans** (Doc Ref. 6.2) has been designed to minimise the loss of, and minimise impacts on, existing vegetation.

12.7.17. A minimum offset of 5-10m from existing vegetation boundaries (trees and shrubs) has been incorporated. Tree constraints and arboricultural impacts associated with the Scheme (including mitigation measures) are described in **ES Appendix 12-8: Arboricultural Impact Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Creating new green infrastructure

12.7.18. The Scheme has been designed to integrate with the local green infrastructure network, improving ecological and recreational connectivity.

12.7.19. With reference to the Outline Landscape Masterplans (refer to Figure 1 the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)), new planting proposed as part of the Scheme would be delivered in two phases. Where it was found to be beneficial to undertake planting early, in order to maximise growth prior to the operation of the Scheme, it has been included as Advanced Mitigation Planting. Three proposed areas of Advanced Mitigation Planting are proposed and include bands of shrubs and scattered trees along sections of Martins Road, Langary Gate Road, and sections of the southern and southeastern boundary of Field C-1-07. Advanced planting is proposed to be carried out in the first available planting season prior to construction of the Scheme. In instances where planting required to mitigate adverse effects on people's views could not be undertaken in said planting season, it would be undertaken at the beginning of the construction phase. All remaining planting, referred to as Residual Mitigation Planting, would be undertaken at the end of the construction phase.

12.7.20. For details regarding proposed planting, please see the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16). The locations for proposed planting are illustrated on the Outline Landscape Masterplan (Figure 1 of the **OLEMP**).

Management Measures

12.7.21. The grassland and new planting that has been embedded into the Scheme to provide landscape and visual mitigation would require management and maintenance in order to provide the intended effect. The **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) demonstrates how successful establishment would be achieved.

Sensitive design of operational lighting

12.7.22. As set out within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16), the lighting scheme would be designed, where feasible, in accordance the ILP/BCT GN 08/23 (Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK)[28], using ecological constraints to maintain dark corridors and minimise disturbance to protected species. Where identified as being required on ecological grounds, lights would aim to have the following characteristics, which will also reduce effects on visual receptors:

[28] Institution of Lighting Professionals (2025) Bats and artificial lighting in the UK: Guidance Note 08/23.

- Use warm/amber light (≤2700 K), low blue content, no UV.
- Downward-facing, tightly focused light at low mounting heights; add shields if needed to stop spill.
- Set back from key features (trees with bat potential/roosts, hedgerows, treelines, watercourses) and keep dark corridors continuous.
- Lux targets:
    - Roosts: target 0 lux; verify ≤0.2 lux at roost faces/entrances (≤0.5 lux only with strong justification and extra mitigation).
    - Commuting/foraging corridors: ≤0.5 lux along the feature.
    - Other habitat edges (not key bat features): ≤1 lux.
- Apply the same thresholds to temporary lighting.
- Controls: default off, motion-activated with short dwell times, dimming and part night curfews; do not place sensors on wildlife routes.
- Temporary works: task only portable lighting, oriented away from sensitive habitats; minimise night working.
- Verify and adapt: dusk/night lux checks at receptors; if limits are exceeded, re aim, add shielding or dim and re check.

Decommissioning phase

12.7.23. The **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12) has been prepared as part of this DCO Application and includes measures to mitigate potential adverse LVIA impacts and effects. These measures are similar to those outlined for the construction phase.

12.8. Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

12.8.1. This assessment of likely significant effects has been undertaken for the construction, operational and decommissioning stages. It considers how the Scheme would impact landscape and visual amenity through the short, medium, and long-term as well as whether effects would be temporary or permanent.

12.8.2. The following terms have been used to determine the duration of the identified temporary effects:

- Short-term – up to 5 years;
- Medium-term – 5- 10 years; or

- Long-term – beyond 10 years.

12.8.3. Due to the nature of the Scheme, which would be operational for approximately 40 years, the majority of effects are considered to be long-term and temporary. Permanent effects are those remaining following decommissioning.

12.8.4. This section provides a summary of landscape and visual effects. More detailed information is provided in the following appendices:

- **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3); and
- **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

12.8.5. As no likely significant effects on landscape designations would arise as a result of the Scheme, these have not been reported further within the assessment. In summary, the closest National Landscape is the Norfolk Coast, located more than 24km north-east of the Scheme. Due to the distance from Scheme, intervening features and there being no intervisibility between the Scheme and this area, the Norfolk Coast would not be affected by the Scheme.

Factors Influencing landscape and visual susceptibility

Factors Increasing Susceptibility

12.8.6. The following factors were considered to increase susceptibility to landscape and visual effects:

- **Open, flat topography** creates high visibility for new built elements; scheme elements, in particular the overhead lines, would be widely perceivable.
- **Large-scale rural openness and big skies** are sensitive to further vertical or horizontal development that alters perceived spaciousness.
- **Strong sense of remoteness towards the coast**, where modern infrastructure is less common, this heightens sensitivity to additional structures.
- **Distinctive fenland drainage patterns** and formal field geometry could be disrupted by ground-level infrastructure.
- **Existing scenic value**, despite detractors, increases sensitivity to further change.
- **Presence of historic marshland** increases sensitivity to visual and physical intrusion.

Factors Decreasing Susceptibility

12.8.7. The following factors were considered to decrease susceptibility to landscape and visual effects:

- **Existing detracting features**, including 400kV overhead lines and road infrastructure, reduce the relative sensitivity to additional infrastructure.
- **Medium- to large-scale field patterns** can better accommodate ground-mounted such as PV modules and BESS structures without disproportionate scale conflict.
- **Agricultural land use** is already modified, reducing sensitivity to land-use change compared with more natural or intimate landscapes.
- **Raised roads, river and drain embankments and other linear features** provide a context for additional linear development such as overhead lines.
- **Presence of other vertical structures**, such as wind turbines or church towers, means additional verticality is not entirely alien to the landscape character and visual amenity.

Overall Level of Susceptibility

12.8.8. The following conclusions were made with regards to the overall level of susceptibility:

- **Solar Development Areas– *Medium Susceptibility***
  The flat, open character and wide visibility increases sensitivity, but the large field scale and already modified agricultural landscape moderate this. PV modules introduce horizontal, reasonably low-lying infrastructure that can be absorbed to some degree within the existing field structures, yet may still affect openness and tranquillity.
- **Grid Connection Route and Inter-Array Connections (overhead line elements) – *High Susceptibility***
  Given the landscape's openness, large skies, and the importance of uninterrupted views, tall vertical infrastructure is highly conspicuous. Although existing overhead lines are present, additional 400kV overhead lines would introduce prominent, skyline-breaking structures that can significantly affect perceived remoteness and local scenic qualities. The vertical scale and visibility of pylons make the landscape particularly sensitive to this form of change.

Construction Phase

12.8.9. During construction of the Scheme, landscape and visual receptors would likely be affected by the following:

- Excavations and storage of on-site material;
- Upgrade of existing tracks and construction of new access tracks;
- Temporary haul routes;
- Construction compounds;
- Increased vehicle activity, including plant;
- Erection and installation of proposed infrastructure; and
- Vegetation clearance.

12.8.10. Effects during the construction phase would be temporary and short-term in duration.

Summary of Landscape Effects during Construction

12.8.11. As set out within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), it is assessed that the Scheme would result in **moderate adverse (significant) effects** on the following regional level LCC Historic Landscape Character Areas (HLCA), which are partially covered by the Scheme:

- The Fens (HLCA 9); and
- The Wash (HLCA 10).

12.8.12. Similarly, at a local level, construction of the Scheme would also result in **moderate adverse (significant) effects** on the following two LCC Historic Landscape Character Zones (HLCZ), which are partially covered by the Scheme:

- FEN 2 – The Eastern Fens; and
- WSH 6 – Townlands.

12.8.13. This is due to the partial degradation of the key characteristics of these HLCAs/ HLCZs through the temporary loss of arable land and erection of features within the skyline, changing partially the key characteristic of 'openness', as a result of the erection of taller infrastructure in particular. Localised works along sections of roads adjacent to the Scheme would be required, along with the removal of limited areas of existing vegetation. There would be no change to topography, except for bunding proposed for flood protection. A number of additional crossings of existing watercourses /

drainage channels are proposed, resulting in localised small amendments to existing character of drainage channels. Indirect impacts would include the perception and influence of construction, including traffic movements, temporary night-time lighting and the gradual massing of the infrastructure, and reduced tranquillity arising from increased traffic around the entrance to construction compounds and along access tracks.

12.8.14. Further direct but not significant effects would occur at a local level on the following LCC Historic Landscape Character Zone (HLCZ), which is partially covered by the Scheme:

- HLCZ WSH 4 – Reclaimed Wash Farmland

12.8.15. The northern extremity of the Grid Connection Route extends just across the border of WSH6 into the southwestern section of HLCZ WSH4. There would be no change to the land use other than the footprint of the pylons. Given the scale and nature of the proposed 400kV overhead line, direct effects are not likely to be significant.

12.8.16. Although some indirect adverse effects on the following LCC HLCZs may be apparent, effects are not likely to be significant due to the indirect nature of these effects, distance from the Scheme and limited intervisibility:

- HLCZ FEN 1 – The Witham Fens;
- HLCZ WSH 1 – Reclaimed Coastal Fringe; and
- HLCZ WSH 5 – Bicker Haven.

12.8.17. Similarly, effects on the Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) identified within the Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment (i.e. Peterborough Fens LCT/ 3a Bedford North Level LCA and Fen Fringe LCT / 4b Eye Fen Edge LCA) and the Fenland Local Plan (The Fens LCA), located within the study area, were assessed as not significant, due to the indirect nature of the effects, distance from the Scheme and limited intervisibility.

12.8.18. For further details on effects associated with each element of the Scheme, sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of change, please refer to the assessment table within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Summary of Visual Effects during Construction

12.8.19. During construction of the Scheme, several visual receptors have potential to experience likely significant effects. These are most likely to arise for

receptors adjacent to, or in close proximity to, the Scheme, where open or partial views would be possible with changes occupying a larger proportion of the view, including a number of elements of the Scheme including the Solar Development Areas, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route. Where high sensitivity receptors may be located further afield, significant effects may also be likely due to availability of open views toward construction activities, changes to the full extent of the available view, or where the receptor may experience changes in views in multiple directions.

12.8.20. Significant visual effects during construction were identified for the following assessed representative viewpoints. For full details refer to **ES Appendix 12-6** (Doc Ref. 6.3), viewpoint locations **ES Figures 12-19 and 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and visualisations in **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2):

- Viewpoint 2: View northeast from Cloot Drove on the southern edge of Parcel A: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcels A and B;
- Viewpoint 3: View southeast from PRoW Crow/7/1 on the northwestern edge of Parcel A: **major adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcels A, B and C;
- Viewpoint 5: View south from Wash Bank on the northwestern edge of Parcel A: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel A and Underground Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 6: View northeast from A16 rest area southeast of Peak Hill: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works of the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound and Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 7: View south from Queen's Bank east of Queen's Bank Farm: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel B;
- Viewpoint 8: View west from Martins Road south of Martins Farm: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel B and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 9: View east from Martins Road at the junction with Hardy's Lane: **moderate to major adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;

- Viewpoint 10: View west from PRoW Crow/12/1 on the eastern edge of Parcel C: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 11: View northwest from Back Bank just east of Shepeau Stow: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel C, Overhead Inter-Array Connection and Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 12: View west from Green Bank at the junction with Farrow Road: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 13: View east from Holbeach Drove Gate/B1168 just north of the Inter-Array Connections: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel D and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 14: View southwest from Langary Gate Road south of Langary Gate Farm: **major adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel D;
- Viewpoint 15: View northwest from West Drove North just north of Gedney Hill Golf Club: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel D;
- Viewpoint 20: View southwest from Barrier Bank at the junction with Blackgate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 21: View northeast from Moulton Chapel Road/B1357 at the junction with Broad Gate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 27: View southeast from the River Welland eastern embankment just south of the junction between Marsh Road and The Chase: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 30: View southeast from PRoW Wstn/6/1 at River Welland eastern embankment: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 2-1: View northeast from Wash Bank at the junction with Barrier Bank: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of

construction works at Grid Connection Route and the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound;

- LCC 3: View southwest from PRoW Crow/11/1 just east of Queen's Bank: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcels B &C and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- LCC 8: View northeast from Swindler's Road just north of Low Fulney: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 9: View southwest from High Road at the junction with Begger's Bush Lane: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 10: View northwest from PRoW Wstn/3/1 just west of Wiseman's Gate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route.

12.8.21. For further details on effects associated with each element of the Scheme, sensitivity of the identified receptors and magnitude of change, please refer to the assessment tables within **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Operational Phase

12.8.22. During the operational phase, effects on landscape and visual receptors would be brought about by the new infrastructure across the Solar Development Areas, Inter-Array Connections and Grid Connection Route implemented during the construction stage. It is considered that activity during this stage of the Scheme would be limited to management of vegetation within the Scheme, equipment servicing, maintenance, replacement, and periodic inspection/monitoring of equipment. Staff presence would be relatively limited, with estimated 10 operational employees and 5 visitors weekly.

12.8.23. Effects during operation would be long-term and reversible. The effects associated with mitigation planting described within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) have been assumed to be permanent for a worst-case assessment of landscape change.

12.8.24. No mitigation planting is proposed for the overhead lines in the Overhead Inter-Array Connection and the Grid Connection Route. Given the scale and nature of the overhead lines, in combination with the flat and open landscape setting, landscape mitigation in the form of planting would not be effective for

these elements of the Scheme. However, landscape planting has been proposed around the Cable Sealing End Compounds which would provide screening of the lower elements of the infrastructure.

Summary of Landscape Effects during Operational Phase (Year 1 – Winter)

12.8.25. As set out within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), it is assessed that the Scheme would result in **moderate adverse (significant)** effects on the following regional level LCC HLCAs, which are partially covered by the Scheme:

- The Fens (HLCA 9); and
- The Wash (HLCA 10).

12.8.26. Similarly, at a local level, the operational phase of the Scheme would also result **in moderate adverse (significant)** effects on the following LCC HLCZs, which are partially covered by the Scheme:

- FEN 2 – The Eastern Fens; and
- WSH 6 – Townlands.

12.8.27. This is due to the degradation of key characteristics through the temporary loss of arable land and erection of features within the skyline, changing the key characteristic of 'openness'. There would be areas of mitigation planting and habitat management, however, proposed landscape planting would not have established by Year 1. Additional crossings of existing watercourses / drainage channels would remain. Indirect effects would include the perception and influence of the infrastructure with a partial alteration of the inherent characteristics of the open views. Such changes would largely be restricted to areas adjacent to the Scheme and recede with distance. Traffic movement along farm access tracks would change to occasional maintenance vehicles. Lighting would be limited to bird flight diverters along two sections of the Grid Connection Route, which would have a localised effect on the character of the LCA, albeit within the context of nearby road network and settlements, the On-Site Substation and BESS Compounds and the Cable Sealing End Compounds, and be operated through motion sensors, directed downwards and away from compound boundaries.

12.8.28. Direct but not significant effects would be experienced on the following LCC HLCZ:

- HLCZ WSH 4 – Reclaimed Wash Farmland.

12.8.29. Although some indirect adverse effects on the following LCC HLCZs may be apparent during this phase, effects are not likely to be significant due to the indirect nature of these effects, distance from the Scheme and limited intervisibility:

- HLCZ FEN 1 – The Witham Fens;
- HLCZ WSH 1 – Reclaimed Coastal Fringe; and
- HLCZ WSH 5 – Bicker Haven.

12.8.30. Similarly, effects on the LCTs and LCAs identified within the Peterborough Landscape Character Assessment (i.e. Peterborough Fens LCT/ 3a Bedford North Level LCA and Fen Fringe LCT / 4b Eye Fen Edge LCA) and the Fenland Local Plan (The Fens LCA), located within the study area, were assessed as not significant, due to the indirect nature of the effects, distance from the Scheme and limited intervisibility.

12.8.31. For further details on effects associated with each element of the Scheme, sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of change, please refer to the assessment tables within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Summary of Landscape Effects during Operational Phase (Year 15 – Summer)

12.8.32. By Year 15, mitigation planting around the Solar Development Areas would have established, enhancing and extending existing vegetation patterns along field boundaries and watercourses. This would increase the overall tree and shrub coverage within the two LCC HLCAs (The Fens (HLCA 9) and The Wash (HLCA 10) and the two LCC HLCZs (FEN 2 – The Eastern Fens; and WSH 6 – Townlands), where direct effects occur, reducing some of the 'openness' but still providing gaps in planting to retain long distance views. There would be a greater degree of enclosure in the vicinity of the Solar Development Areas but no change to perceptual qualities of the general openness of the HLCAs / HLCZs including large skies.

12.8.33. Overall the effect on the HLCAs / HLCZs is considered to remain **moderate adverse (significant).**

Summary of Visual Effects during Operational Phase (Year 1 – Winter)

12.8.34. During the operational phase of the Scheme, several visual receptors have potential to experience likely significant effects. Similarly to the construction stage, effects are most likely to arise for receptors adjacent, or in close proximity, to the Scheme. Where receptors may be located further afield,

significant effects may also be likely due to the openness of views toward the Scheme, changes to the full extent of the available view, or where the receptor may experience changes in views in multiple directions.

12.8.35. Significant visual effects during operation (year 1, winter) were identified for the following assessed representative viewpoints, shown on **ES Figures 12-19 and 12-20** (Doc Ref. 6.2) and illustrated in **ES Figures 12-21 and 12-22** (Doc Ref. 6.2):

- Viewpoint 2: View northeast from Cloot Drove on the southern edge of Parcel A: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcels A and B;
- Viewpoint 3: View southeast from PRoW Crow/7/1 on the northwestern edge of Parcel A: **major adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcels A, B and C;
- Viewpoint 5: View south from Wash Bank on the northwestern edge of Parcel A: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel A;
- Viewpoint 6: View northeast from A16 rest area southeast of Peak Hill: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound and Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 7: View south from Queen's Bank east of Queen's Bank Farm: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel B;
- Viewpoint 8: View west from Martins Road south of Martins Farm: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel B and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 9: View east from Martins Road at the junction with Hardy's Lane: **moderate to major adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 10: View west from PRoW Crow/12/1 on the eastern edge of Parcel C: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 11: View northwest from Back Bank just east of Shepeau Stow: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel C, Overhead Inter-Array Connection and Grid Connection Route;

- Viewpoint 13: View east from Holbeach Drove Gate/B1168 just north of the Inter-Array Connections: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel D and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 14: View southwest from Langary Gate Road south of Langary Gate Farm: **major adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel D;
- Viewpoint 15: View northwest from West Drove North just north of Gedney Hill Golf Club: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel D;
- Viewpoint 20: View southwest from Barrier Bank at the junction with Blackgate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 21: View northeast from Moulton Chapel Road/B1357 at the junction with Broad Gate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 27: View southeast from the River Welland eastern embankment just south of the junction between Marsh Road and The Chase: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 30: View southeast from PRoW Wstn/6/1 at River Welland eastern embankment: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 2-1: View northeast from Wash Bank at the junction with Barrier Bank: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route and the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound;
- LCC 3: View southwest from PRoW Crow/11/1 just east of Queen's Bank: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcels B &C and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- LCC 8: View northeast from Swindler's Road just north of Low Fulney: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;

- LCC 9: View southwest from High Road at the junction with Begger's Bush Lane: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 10: View northwest from PRoW Wstn/3/1 just west of Wiseman's Gate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route.

12.8.36. For further details on effects associated with each element of the Scheme, sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of change, please refer to the assessment tables within **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Summary of Visual Effects during Operational Phase (Year 15 – Summer)

12.8.37. With the maturing of mitigation planting, as described within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16), the magnitude of visual effects will reduce at Operation Year 15 relative to Operation Year 1. However, the following significant visual effects are considered to remain:

- Viewpoint 2: View northeast from Cloot Drove on the southern edge of Parcel A: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcels A and B;
- Viewpoint 3: View southeast from PRoW Crow/7/1 on the northwestern edge of Parcel A: **major adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcels A, B and C;
- Viewpoint 5: View south from Wash Bank on the northwestern edge of Parcel A: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel A;
- Viewpoint 6: View northeast from A16 rest area southeast of Peak Hill: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound and Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 8: View west from Martins Road south of Martins Farm: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel B and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 9: View east from Martins Road at the junction with Hardy's Lane: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 10: View west from PRoW Crow/12/1 on the eastern edge of Parcel C: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;

- Viewpoint 14: View southwest from Langary Gate Road south of Langary Gate Farm: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel D;
- Viewpoint 15: View northwest from West Drove North just north of Gedney Hill Golf Club: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcel D;
- Viewpoint 20: View southwest from Barrier Bank at the junction with Blackgate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 21: View northeast from Moulton Chapel Road/B1357 at the junction with Broad Gate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 27: View southeast from the River Welland eastern embankment just south of the junction between Marsh Road and The Chase: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 30: View southeast from PRoW Wstn/6/1 at River Welland eastern embankment: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 2-1: View northeast from Wash Bank at the junction with Barrier Bank: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route and the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound;
- LCC 3: View southwest from PRoW Crow/11/1 just east of Queen's Bank: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of infrastructure at Parcels B &C and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- LCC 8: View northeast from Swindler's Road just north of Low Fulney: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 9: View southwest from High Road at the junction with Begger's Bush Lane: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 10: View northwest from PRoW Wstn/3/1 just west of Wiseman's Gate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of the Grid Connection Route.

Decommissioning Phase

12.8.38. Decommissioning of the Scheme is anticipated to take place after 40 years of operation and would be undertaken over approximately 24 months. All above ground infrastructure, including pylons, would be dismantled and removed. In addition, concrete foundations to these elements would be removed to a depth agreed with the relevant landowner from the area within the Order Limits. If required, cabling can be removed by opening the ground at regular intervals and pulling the cable through to the extraction point, minimising the need to open up the entire length of the cable route.

12.8.39. During this time, landscape and visual receptors would likely be affected by the following:

- Temporary haul routes for transportation of dismantled infrastructure;
- Compound areas;
- Increased vehicle activity;
- Dismantling and removal of proposed infrastructure; and
- Vegetation clearance (where required to facilitate removal of large infrastructure).

12.8.40. Effects during decommissioning are likely to be similar to construction, however, would be partially screened by the landscape mitigation planting introduced by the Scheme. Effects would be short in duration and temporary. Permanent remaining elements of the Scheme would be limited to any underground elements (which would not adversely affect landscape and visual receptors) and planting.

Summary of Landscape Effects during Decommissioning

12.8.41. During the decommissioning phase of the Scheme, the significance of the effects on landscape receptors would be the same as reported during the construction stage, resulting in **moderate adverse (significant) effects** on the two LCC HLCAs (The Fens (HLCA 9) and The Wash (HLCA 10)) and the two LCC HLCZs (FEN 2 – The Eastern Fens and WSH 6 – Townlands), which cover the Site. Effects on all other landscape receptors are assessed as not significant.

12.8.42. For further details on effects associated with each element of the Scheme, sensitivity of receptor and magnitude of change, please refer to the assessment tables within **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Summary of Visual Effects during Decommissioning

12.8.43. With mitigation planting in place, the following significant visual effects during the decommissioning phase were considered to remain:

- Viewpoint 3: View southeast from PRoW Crow/7/1 on the northwestern edge of Parcel A: **major adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Parcels A, B and C;
- Viewpoint 5: View south from Wash Bank on the northwestern edge of Parcel A: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Parcel A and Underground Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 6: View northeast from A16 rest area southeast of Peak Hill: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works of the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound and Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 8: View west from Martins Road south of Martins Farm: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Parcel B and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 9: View east from Martins Road at the junction with Hardy's Lane: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of construction works at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 10: View west from PRoW Crow/12/1 on the eastern edge of Parcel C: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 12: View west from Green Bank at the junction with Farrow Road: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- Viewpoint 15: View northwest from West Drove North just north of Gedney Hill Golf Club: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Parcel D;
- Viewpoint 20: View southwest from Barrier Bank at the junction with Blackgate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route;

- Viewpoint 21: View northeast from Moulton Chapel Road/B1357 at the junction with Broad Gate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 27: View southeast from the River Welland eastern embankment just south of the junction between Marsh Road and The Chase: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route;
- Viewpoint 30: View southeast from PRoW Wstn/6/1 at River Welland eastern embankment: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 2-1: View northeast from Wash Bank at the junction with Barrier Bank: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route and the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound;
- LCC 3: View southwest from PRoW Crow/11/1 just east of Queen's Bank: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Parcels B &C and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection;
- LCC 8: View northeast from Swindler's Road just north of Low Fulney: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 9: View southwest from High Road at the junction with Begger's Bush Lane: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route;
- LCC 10: View northwest from PRoW Wstn/3/1 just west of Wiseman's Gate: **moderate adverse (significant)** effect due to the visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route.

12.8.44. For further details on effects associated with each element of the Scheme, sensitivity of the receptor and magnitude of change, please refer to the assessment tables within **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

Residential amenity

12.8.45. The relationship of RVAA to the visual assessment, with respect to TGN 2/19, is described in Section 12.4. The Scheme has been designed to reduce visual effects, including set-back from settlements and residential properties; and

detailed consideration of solar panel, substation, pylon locations, and mitigation planting.

12.8.46. TGN 2/19 is intended as guidance, but it notes:

12.8.47. *"…development types including potentially very large but lower profile structures and developments such as road schemes and housing are unlikely to require RVAA, except potentially of properties in very close proximity (50-250m) to the development. For example, when assessing effects of overhead transmission lines, generally only those properties within 100 – 150 metres of the finalised route are potentially considered for inclusion in a RVAA".*

12.8.48. While roadside vegetation is often sparse, the majority of residential properties along the edges of settlements with views towards the Scheme as well as scattered houses and farmsteads across the study area are surrounded by semi-mature and mature vegetation obscuring partially or fully views of the Scheme. More open views can then be obtained from entrance gates or from first floor / dormer windows (if in existence) if facing towards the Scheme. However, as detailed in Section 12.7 of this chapter, offsets from residential properties were included in the design of the Solar Development Areas Land Parcels A – D. In summary, these include the following dwellings:

- Cloot House west of Cloot Drove / Washbank
- Dwellings at Martin's Farm / Martin's Farm Cottage west of Martin's Road
- Dwellings off Hull's Drove / B1166 northwest of Shepeau Stow
- Residences along Queen's Bank
- Residences along Langary Gate Road.

12.8.49. Residential properties located within approximately 500m of the Grid Connection Route include:

- Barrier Bank a Peak Hill northwest of the 400kV substation, BESS compound, and Grid Connection Route, and west of the A16;
- Moulton Chapel Road / Broad Gate (refer to Viewpoint 21) as well as Moulton Chapel Road / Delgate Bank and along sections of Delgate Bank and Broad Gate;
- Sections along West Gate;
- Sections along Austendyke Road;
- Sections along Swindlers Drove and high Road (refer to Viewpoint 09);

- Sections along Runway, Cross Gate, and Wisenman's Gate;
- Sections of Stone Gate, Wykeham Lane; and
- Sections of Marsh Road.

12.8.50. It was considered that properties at that viewing range could experience significant effects due to the scale of the Grid Connection Route given their proximity. Predicted views from these properties have been examined from publicly accessible locations to determine whether the Scheme could be 'overwhelming' in views and reach threshold according to RVAA guidance.

- "Overwhelming - is where a proposed development would, by virtue of its scale and proximity "*blocking the only available view from a property', or 'overwhelming views in all directions'; and 'unpleasantly encroaching' or being 'inescapably dominant from the property'*[29]".

12.8.51. This depends on the layout and orientation of the property, the availability and nature of views from the property, intervening existing vegetation and the number, proximity, scale of the Grid Connection Route in these views.

12.8.52. When making judgements in relation to significant effects for the residential receptors and with reference to the visualisations for Viewpoints 6, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, LCC08, LCC09, LCC10, 27, 30, which provide an overview of the visibility to either side of the Grid Connection Route, even if some of these views are further than 500m away from the centre line, the following has been considered:

- Type of views – direct or oblique and relative elevation;
- Degree of screening (vegetation or built structures) – unscreened, partially screened, largely screened, or screened;
- Orientation of house and main views, number of floors, dormer windows;
- Distance to Grid Connection Route;
- Visibility of Grid Connection Route against the skyline;
- Degree of change in available views, i.e., level and type of obstruction; and

[29] LI Technical Guidance Note 2/19. Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA), Available at: https://landscapewpstorage01.blob.core.windows.net/www-landscapeinstitute-org/2019/03/tgn-02-2019-rvaa.pdf. [Accessed on 09/03/2026]

- Proximity to existing 400kV overhead lines and their prominence in existing views (relevant in and around of Wykeham, Weston Marsh, Weston, and sections of Spalding Marsh).

12.8.53. Based on the above, it is concluded that whilst significant effects will arise beyond Operation Year 15 for representative views that reflect the outlook for residential receptors, these would not result in major adverse effects during any phase of development and reach a threshold where residential visual amenity would be a consideration.

12.9. Additional Monitoring, Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

12.9.1. The Scheme has undergone a series of iterations to embed mitigation measures and provide habitat enhancement, described within Section 12.7, into the Scheme design.

12.9.2. The significant landscape and visual effects are due to the change in land use and the massing of the proposed infrastructure. Whilst long term, the significant effects will be temporary. It will not be possible to fully mitigate the significant landscape and visual effects due to the requirements of the Scheme. As such, no additional mitigation is proposed because the scale and functional requirements of the infrastructure preclude further screening or landform modification without compromising safety and operational integrity.

12.9.3. Monitoring requirements for the establishment of landscape planting are set out within the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16). Monitoring will confirm that the functions of the **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) are delivered and identify when remedial action is required.

12.10. Residual Effects

12.10.1. The reported likely significant residual effects for landscape and visual receptors will remain as reported in Section 12.8 of this chapter.

12.10.2. Summaries of all likely significant residual effects are provided below in Table 12-1111 to Table 12-144[30]. Non-significant effects are reported in **ES Appendix 12-4: Landscape Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-6: Visual Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).

[30] Note: There are instances where professional judgement has been used to derive the overall conclusion on the level of effect. Where the effects have been adjusted, reasoning for the assessment conclusions is set out within the assessment appendices.

Table 12-11: Summary of Significant Residual Effects – Construction (winter)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Landscape Effects					
HLCA 9 The Fens	Medium	**Direct effects:** Land disruption from the construction of PV modules, BESS, substations, cabling, haul routes, compounds, Overhead Inter-Array wooden poles, Grid Connection Route steel pylons, minor vegetation loss; land use change; localised changes to drainage channel character. **Indirect effects:** Reduced tranquillity from traffic, lighting, and visual intrusion of works.	Please refer to **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10)	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
HLCZ FEN 2 The Eastern Fens	Medium	**Direct effects:** Moderate land disruption for solar parcels; installation of PV modules, BESS, substations, cabling, haul routes, compounds, Overhead Inter-Array wooden poles, Grid Connection Route steel pylons, minor vegetation loss; land use change; localised changes to drainage channel character.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
		Indirect effects: Reduced tranquillity from traffic, lighting, and visual intrusion of works.			
HLCA 10 The Wash	Medium	**Direct effects**: Installation of Grid Connection Route steel lattice pylons, haul routes, compounds; minor vegetation removal; temporary land use change; intensification of industrial character. **Indirect effects**: Perceptual influence of works, traffic, night lighting; reduced tranquillity; intensification of overhead line prominence.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
HLCZ WSH 6 Townlands	Medium	**Direct effects**: Installation of Grid Connection Route steel lattice pylons, haul routes, compounds; minor vegetation removal; temporary land use change; intensification of industrial character. **Indirect effects**: Perceptual influence of works, traffic, night	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
		lighting; reduced tranquillity; intensification of overhead line prominence.			
Visual Effects					
Viewpoint 2: View northeast from Cloot Drove on the southern edge of Parcel A	Low	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcels A and B.	Please refer to **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and **OCEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.10)	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 3: View southeast from PRoW Crow/7/1 on the northwestern edge of Parcel A	Medium	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcels A, B and C.	As above	High	Major Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 5: View south from Wash Bank on the northwestern edge of Parcel A	Medium	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel A and Underground Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 6:	Low	Visibility of construction works of the On-Site 400kV Substation and	As above	High	Moderate Adverse

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
View northeast from A16 rest area southeast of Peak Hill		BESS Compound and Grid Connection Route.			(Significant)
Viewpoint 7: View south from Queen's Bank east of Queen's Bank Farm	Medium	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel B.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 8: View west from Martins Road south of Martins Farm	High	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel B and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 9: View east from Martins Road at the junction with Hardy's Lane	High	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above Advanced Planting	High Medium (assuming advanced planting has achieved 2 m by start of construction works)	Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 10:	High	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
View west from PRoW Crow/12/1 on the eastern edge of Parcel C		Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.			(Significant)
Viewpoint 11: View northwest from Back Bank just east of Shepeau Stow	High	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C, Overhead Inter-Array Connection and Grid Connection Route in the background.	As above	Low	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 12: View west from Green Bank at the junction with Farrow Road	High	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Low	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 13: View east from Holbeach Drove Gate/B1168 just north of the Inter-Array Connections	Low	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel D and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 14 View southwest from Langary Gate Road	Low	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel D.	As above	High	Major Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
south of Langary Gate Farm					
Viewpoint 15: View northwest from West Drove North just north of Gedney Hill Golf Club	High	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel D.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 20: View southwest from Barrier Bank at the junction with Blackgate	High	Visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 21: View northeast from Moulton Chapel Road/B1357 at the junction with Broad Gate	High	Visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 27: View southeast from the River Welland eastern embankment	Medium	Visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
just south of the junction between Marsh Road and The Chase					
Viewpoint 30 View southeast from PRoW Wstn/6/1 at River Welland eastern embankment	Medium	Visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 2-1 View northeast from Wash Bank at the junction with Barrier Bank	Medium	Visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route and the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 3 View southwest from PRoW Crow/11/1 just east of Queen's Bank	Medium	Visibility of construction works at Solar Development Area Parcels B & C and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 8	High	Visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
View northeast from Swindler's Road just north of Low Fulney					
LCC 9 View southwest from High Road at the junction with Begger's Bush Lane	Low	Visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 10 View northwest from PRoW Wstn/3/1 just west of Wiseman's Gate	Medium	Visibility of construction works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Table 12-12: Summary of Significant Residual Effects (Operation Year 1 Winter)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Landscape Effects					
HLCA 9 The Fens	Medium	**Direct effects:** Land use change; solar arrays, substations and BESS alter rural character; addition of Overhead Inter-Array and Grid	Please refer to **OLEMP**	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
		Connection Route intensifies industrial character; tall pylons dominate skyline. Mitigation planting not yet established. **Indirect effects:** Perception of reduced openness, increased visual clutter, occasional maintenance traffic, and limited lighting.	(Doc Ref. 7.16)		
HLCZ FEN 2 The Eastern Fens	Medium	**Direct effects:** Land use change; solar arrays, substations and BESS alter rural character; addition of Overhead Inter-Array and Grid Connection Route intensifies industrial character; tall pylons dominate skyline. Mitigation planting not yet established. **Indirect effects:** Perception of reduced openness, increased visual clutter, occasional maintenance traffic, and limited lighting.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
HLCA 10 The Wash	Medium	**Direct effects**: Addition of Grid Connection Route's 400kV overhead line infrastructure and Cable Sealing End Compounds.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
		Intensification of overhead line prominence. **Indirect effects**: Very limited intervisibility of substations and Overhead Inter-Array wooden poles.			
HLCZ WSH 6 Townlands	Medium	**Direct effects**: Addition of Grid Connection Route's 400kV overhead line infrastructure and Cable Sealing End Compounds. Intensification of overhead line prominence. **Indirect effects**: Very limited intervisibility of substations and Overhead Inter-Array wooden poles.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Visual Effects					
Viewpoint 2: View northeast from Cloot Drove on the southern edge of Parcel A	Low	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Parcels A and B.	Please refer to **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Viewpoint 3: View southeast from PRoW Crow/7/1 on the northwestern edge of Parcel A	Medium	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcels A, B and C.	As above	High	Major Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 5: View south from Wash Bank on the northwestern edge of Parcel A	Medium	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel A.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 6: View northeast from A16 rest area southeast of Peak Hill	Low	Visibility of On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound and Grid Connection Route.	As above	High	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 7: View south from Queen's Bank east of Queen's Bank Farm	Medium	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel B.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 8: View west from Martins Road south of Martins Farm	High	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel B and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Viewpoint 9: View east from Martins Road at the junction with Hardy's Lane	High	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above Advanced Planting	High Medium (assuming advanced planting has achieved 2 m by start of construction works)	Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 10: View west from PRoW Crow/12/1 on the eastern edge of Parcel C	High	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 11: View northwest from Back Bank just east of Shepeau Stow	High	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C, Overhead Inter-Array Connection and Grid Connection Route in the background.	As above	Low	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 13: View east from Holbeach Drove Gate/B1168 just	Low	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel D and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
north of the Inter-Array Connections					
Viewpoint 14 View southwest from Langary Gate Road south of Langary Gate Farm	Low	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel D.	As above	High	Major Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 15: View northwest from West Drove North just north of Gedney Hill Golf Club	High	Visibility infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel D.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 20: View southwest from Barrier Bank at the junction with Blackgate	High	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 21: View northeast from Moulton Chapel Road/B1357 at the	High	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
junction with Broad Gate					
Viewpoint 27: View southeast from the River Welland eastern embankment just south of the junction between Marsh Road and The Chase	Medium	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 30: View southeast from PRoW Wstn/6/1 at River Welland eastern embankment	Medium	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 2-1 View northeast from Wash Bank at the junction with Barrier Bank	Medium	Visibility of Grid Connection Route and the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 3	Medium	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Parcels B & C	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
View southwest from PRoW Crow/11/1 just east of Queen's Bank		and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection.			
LCC 8 View northeast from Swindler's Road just north of Low Fulney	High	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 9 View southwest from High Road at the junction with Begger's Bush Lane	Low	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 10 View northwest from PRoW Wstn/3/1 just west of Wiseman's Gate	Medium	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Table 12-13: Summary of Significant Residual Effects (Operation Year 15 Summer)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Landscape Effects					
HLCA 9 The Fens	Medium	**Direct effects:** Mitigation planting matures, increasing enclosure of Solar Development Area parcels. **Indirect effects:** Screening softens views but does not reduce prominence of tall structures.	Please refer to **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
HLCZ FEN 2 The Eastern Fens	Medium	**Direct effects:** Mitigation planting matures, increasing enclosure of Solar Development Area parcels. **Indirect effects:** Screening softens views but does not reduce prominence of tall structures.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
HLCA 10 The Wash	Medium	**Direct effects**: Similar to Year 1. **Indirect effects**: Similar to Year 1; mitigation planting adds screening.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
HLCZ WSH 6 Townlands	Medium	**Direct effects**: Similar to Year 1. **Indirect effects**: Similar to Year 1; mitigation planting adds screening.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Visual Effects					

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Viewpoint 2: View northeast from Cloot Drove on the southern edge of Parcel A	Low	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Parcels A and B.	Please refer to **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16)	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 3: View southeast from PRoW Crow/7/1 on the northwestern edge of Parcel A	Medium	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcels A, B and C.	As above	High	Major Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 5: View south from Wash Bank on the northwestern edge of Parcel A	Medium	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel A.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 6: View northeast from A16 rest area southeast of Peak Hill	Low	Visibility of On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound and Grid Connection Route.	As above	High	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Viewpoint 8: View west from Martins Road south of Martins Farm	High	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel B and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Low	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 9: View east from Martins Road at the junction with Hardy's Lane	High	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 10: View west from PRoW Crow/12/1 on the eastern edge of Parcel C	High	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Low	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 14 View southwest from Langary Gate Road south of Langary Gate Farm	Low	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel D.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Viewpoint 15: View northwest from West Drove North just north of Gedney Hill Golf Club	High	Visibility infrastructure at Solar Development Area Land Parcel D.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 20: View southwest from Barrier Bank at the junction with Blackgate	High	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 21: View northeast from Moulton Chapel Road/B1357 at the junction with Broad Gate	High	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 27: View southeast from the River Welland eastern embankment just	Medium	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
south of the junction between Marsh Road and The Chase					
Viewpoint 30 View southeast from PRoW Wstn/6/1 at River Welland eastern embankment	Medium	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 2-1 View northeast from Wash Bank at the junction with Barrier Bank	Medium	Visibility of Grid Connection Route and the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 3 View southwest from PRoW Crow/11/1 just east of Queen's Bank	Medium	Visibility of infrastructure at Solar Development Area Parcels B & C and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 8	High	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
View northeast from Swindler's Road just north of Low Fulney					(Significant)
LCC 9 View southwest from High Road at the junction with Begger's Bush Lane	Low	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 10 View northwest from PRoW Wstn/3/1 just west of Wiseman's Gate	Medium	Visibility of Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Table 12-14: Summary of Significant Residual Effects (Decommissioning)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Landscape Effects					
HLCA 9 The Fens	Medium	**Direct effects:** Removal of infrastructure; temporary works similar to construction; partial screening by established mitigation planting. **Indirect effects:** Reduced perceptual impact due to established planting; short-term disturbance.	Please refer to **OLEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.16) and **ODEMP** (Doc Ref. 7.12)	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
HLCZ FEN 2 The Eastern Fens	Medium	**Direct effects:** Removal of infrastructure; temporary works similar to construction; partial screening by established mitigation planting. **Indirect effects:** Reduced perceptual impact due to established planting; short-term disturbance.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
HLCA 10 The Wash	Medium	**Direct effects:** Removal of infrastructure; temporary works similar to construction.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
		Indirect effects: Reduced perceptual impact due to established planting; short-term disturbance.			
HLCZ WSH 6 Townlands	Medium	**Direct effects:** Removal of infrastructure; temporary works similar to construction. **Indirect effects:** Reduced perceptual impact due to established planting; short-term disturbance.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Visual Effects					
Viewpoint 3: View southeast from PRoW Crow/7/1 on the northwestern edge of Parcel A	Medium	Visibility of decommissioning works at Solar Development Area Land Parcels A, B and C.	As above	High	Major Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 5: View south from Wash Bank on the northwestern edge of Parcel A	Medium	Visibility of decommissioning works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel A and Underground Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Viewpoint 6: View northeast from A16 rest area southeast of Peak Hill	Low	Visibility of decommissioning works of the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound and Grid Connection Route.	As above	High	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 8: View west from Martins Road south of Martins Farm	High	Visibility of decommissioning works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel B and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Low	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 9: View east from Martins Road at the junction with Hardy's Lane	High	Visibility of decommissioning works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 10: View west from PRoW Crow/12/1 on the eastern edge of Parcel C	High	Visibility of decommissioning works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.	As above	Low	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 12:	High	Visibility of decommissioning works at Solar Development Area Land	As above	Low	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
View west from Green Bank at the junction with Farrow Road		Parcel C and Overhead Inter-Array Connection.			
Viewpoint 15: View northwest from West Drove North just north of Gedney Hill Golf Club	High	Visibility of decommissioning works at Solar Development Area Land Parcel D.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 20: View southwest from Barrier Bank at the junction with Blackgate	High	Visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 21: View northeast from Moulton Chapel Road/B1357 at the junction with Broad Gate	High	Visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Viewpoint 27: View southeast from the River Welland eastern embankment just south of the junction between Marsh Road and The Chase	Medium	Visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
Viewpoint 30 View southeast from PRoW Wstn/6/1 at River Welland eastern embankment	Medium	Visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 2-1 View northeast from Wash Bank at the junction with Barrier Bank	Medium	Visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route and the On-Site 400kV Substation and BESS Compound.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 3 View southwest from PRoW	Medium	Visibility of decommissioning works at Solar Development Area Parcels B	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

Receptors	Sensitivity	Summary of Effects	Embedded Mitigation	Magnitude of Change	Residual Effect
Crow/11/1 just east of Queen's Bank		& C and the Overhead Inter-Array Connection.			
LCC 8 View northeast from Swindler's Road just north of Low Fulney	High	Visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 9 View southwest from High Road at the junction with Begger's Bush Lane	Low	Visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)
LCC 10 View northwest from PRoW Wstn/3/1 just west of Wiseman's Gate	Medium	Visibility of decommissioning works at Grid Connection Route.	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse (Significant)

12.11. Cumulative Effects

Introduction

12.11.1. Schemes that would be included in the cumulative landscape and visual assessment were agreed in consultation with SHDC and LCC. An assessment has been made with reference to the methodology and guidance set out in **ES Appendix 12-2: LVIA Methodology** (Doc Ref. 6.3) and **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3) to determine if they give rise to cumulative landscape and visual effects.

12.11.2. According to the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3)[31], cumulative landscape and visual effects are those that:

"*result from additional changes to the landscape or visual amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments (associated with or separate to it), or actions that occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future*".

12.11.3. As stated in **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), guidance on how to assess inter-project cumulative effects is set out in Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3)[32]:

"*Additional cumulative effects are defined in GLVIA3 … as the additional effects of the project in conjunction with other developments of the same type. This is typically assessed as the effect arising from the proposed development when considered against a baseline containing the other developments in the scenario being considered (i.e. what the effect of adding the project under consideration would be if Development X was already built). An additional cumulative effect may be the same as the effect of the development being assessed as recorded in the LVIA, or it may be different. An example of where the additional cumulative effect*

[31] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2024). Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3), Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01. Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/LITGN-2024-01-GLVIA3-NC_Aug-2024.pdf [Accessed 04/12/2025]

[32] Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (2024). Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines on Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition (GLVIA3), Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01. Available at: https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/LITGN-2024-01-GLVIA3-NC_Aug-2024.pdf [Accessed 04/12/2025]

may be different is when the development being assessed would be seen behind another cumulative development. In this situation the effect of the proposed development may be less than the effect of the proposed development alone". Cumulative landscape impacts can change either the physical fabric or character of the landscape, or any special values attached to it. For example:

- Cumulative impacts on the physical fabric of the landscape arise when two or more developments affect landscape components such as arable land, hedgerows; or perceptual qualities such as tranquillity; and
- Cumulative impacts on landscape character arise when two or more developments introduce new features into the landscape. In this way, they can change the landscape character to such an extent that they create a different landscape character type.

12.11.4. Cumulative impacts on visual amenity can be caused by 'combined visibility' and/or 'sequential impacts':

- Combined visibility occurs where the observer is able to see two or more developments from one viewpoint, either in combination (where several developments are within the observer's arc of vision at the same time) or in succession (where the observer has to turn to see the various developments).
- Sequential impacts occur when the observer has to move to another viewpoint to see different developments, such as roads, railways or recreational routes including long-distance trails. The magnitude of sequential effects will be affected by speed of travel and distance between viewpoints.

12.11.5. The susceptibility and value of the landscape and visual receptors used for the cumulative assessment remains the same as adopted for the LVIA. The magnitude of effect is assessed using the same criteria as for the LVIA, taking into account the size/scale of additional effect and its duration/reversibility.

12.11.6. The list of cumulative developments has been agreed with SHDC and LCC and includes developments granted planning permission and those in the planning stage (with a screening/scoping/validated planning application). It excludes any proposals that are not yet validated or within the planning system.

12.11.7. For the purposes of the cumulative assessment any infrastructure related development progressing through the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) process which is beyond domestic scale and within a 5km radius of the Scheme, has been considered as a cumulative development.

12.11.8. Similarly, for the purposes of the cumulative assessment any infrastructure related development progressing through the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) process and within a 10km radius of the Scheme, has been considered as a cumulative development. The increased area of influence reflects the likely greater scale and potential effects of the NSIP projects compared to the more localised TCPA projects. Both of these radii were selected based on the likely visibility of the infrastructure of the schemes.

12.11.9. Developments considered to have the potential for cumulative effects include: solar farms, Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), and Overhead Lines (OHL) projects for electricity transmission. These developments have been selected because they are similar in nature and scale to the Scheme and are therefore considered to have the potential to contribute to cumulative landscape and visual effects when considered alongside it.

12.11.10. There is potential for construction activity for different development types to add to cumulative effects at the construction phase but not at the operational phase.

12.11.11. The full list of cumulative developments is included in **ES Appendix 4-1: List of Cumulative Schemes** (Doc Ref. 6.3). They are illustrated on **ES Figure 4-1: Short List of Cumulative Schemes** (Doc Ref. 6.2).

12.11.12. Other planned developments located within the study area have been reviewed; however, where they are not of a type or scale capable of interacting visually with the Scheme, or are unlikely to influence the same landscape or visual receptors, they have not been included in the cumulative LVIA. Where there is no potential for cumulative visual interaction with the Scheme during construction or operation, they are not considered within the cumulative LVIA.

12.11.13. The cumulative assessment is set out in **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3). The assessment should be read in combination with the following:

- **ES Figure 4-1: Short List of Cumulative Schemes** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 4-2: Short List of Cumulative Schemes Within 5km Radius** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-17: Barrier Earth Viewshed – Cumulative Overhead Line Developments** (Doc Ref. 6.2);

- **ES Figure 12-18: Barrier Earth Viewshed – Other Cumulative Developments** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-19: Viewpoint Locations on OS Mapping** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-20: Viewpoint Locations on Aerial Photography** (Doc Ref. 6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-21: Photosheets** (Doc Ref.6.2);
- **ES Figure 12-22: LCC Photosheets** (Doc Ref.6.2); and
- **OLEMP Figure 1: Outline Landscape Masterplans** (Doc Ref. 7.16).

Summary of Significant Cumulative Effects

12.11.14. Committed developments in the vicinity of the Scheme that have the potential to generate cumulative effects have been shortlisted. The shortlist takes into account the scale of the development and its potential to generate significant environmental effects, the location of the development, and how the development's programme relates to that of the Scheme.

12.11.15. This section summarises the assessment provided in **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3), which identified the significance of cumulative landscape and visual effects associated with the Scheme when considered alongside other proposed or consented developments within the study area at construction and operation phases. In accordance with established EIA and LVIA guidance, cumulative effects are reported where the contribution of the Scheme results in a significant (moderate or above) effect on landscape or visual receptors. Effects assessed as neutral, negligible, or minor have been excluded from this summary.

Construction Phase: Cumulative Landscape Effects

12.11.16. The construction phase assessment considered the potential for cumulative landscape change arising from overlap between construction activity associated with the Scheme and a range of other major infrastructure projects, including overhead line schemes, solar farms, battery storage projects, and offshore wind grid connection works.

12.11.17. Across all assessed landscape receptors—including National Character Areas (NCAs) and county-level Landscape Character Areas (LCAs)—the addition of the Scheme in combination with other individual cumulative schemes does not result in a notable or transformative degree of landscape change. All cumulative landscape effects for the construction phase were assessed as neutral, negligible, or minor as a result. However, the totality of effects,

considering the Scheme and all cumulative projects within the HLCA 10: The Wash, HLCZ WSH 6: The Townlands ,and HLCZ WSH 4 Reclaimed Wash Farmlands was considered to constitute a moderate adverse (significant) effect.

Construction Phase: Cumulative Visual Effects

12.11.18. Cumulative visual effects during construction were assessed for receptor groups where visibility of construction activities from multiple developments may occur.

12.11.19. The assessment concludes that additional combined or sequential construction visibility with other developments remains limited, and where present, does not give rise to effects greater than minor cumulative significance. This means that within the context of the cumulative schemes, the additional effect of the Scheme would be minor adverse (not significant). However, the assessment acknowledges that the totality of the effects of all the cumulative schemes considered alongside Scheme is moderate adverse (significant).

Operational Phase: Cumulative Landscape Effects

12.11.20. During operation, the Scheme forms part of a wider landscape containing existing and emerging energy and utility infrastructure. The assessment considers whether the addition of the Scheme, in combination with other developments, would contribute to a level of change capable of significantly altering the baseline landscape character.

12.11.21. Across all LCAs and NCAs assessed, operational cumulative landscape effects do not exceed minor significance. The addition of the Scheme in combination with other individual cumulative schemes does not combine with other operational infrastructure in a way that results in a notable or transformative degree of landscape change. However, the totality of effects, considering the Scheme and all cumulative projects within the HLCA 10: The Wash, HLCZ WSH 6: The Townlands, and HLCZ WSH 4 Reclaimed Wash Farmlands was considered to constitute a moderate adverse (significant) effect.

Operational Phase: Cumulative Visual Effects

12.11.22. Operational cumulative visual effects were evaluated at viewpoints and for a range of visual receptors where combined or sequential visibility with other energy or infrastructure developments may occur.

12.11.23. The assessment identifies that although some degree of combined visibility may arise, the effects remain within the neutral to minor range. This means

that within the context of the cumulative schemes, the additional effect of the Scheme would be minor adverse (not significant). However, the assessment acknowledges that the totality of the effects of all the cumulative schemes considered alongside Scheme is moderate adverse (significant).

12.11.24. No further mitigation is proposed to address cumulative effects. For further information, please see **ES Appendix 12-7: Landscape & Visual Cumulative Assessment** (Doc Ref. 6.3).