Light Valley Solar

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Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual

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Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual

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10 Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the findings of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). It summarises the likely significant effects arising from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on the landscape and people's views of the landscape.

10.1.2 The Applicant has employed an environmentally-led approach to the design of the Proposed Development from the outset, strongly influenced by the LVIA process. This has informed the design approach, vision and principles for the Proposed Development.

10.1.3 This chapter sets out the relevant legislation, policy, standards and guidance applied to the assessment process; consultation undertaken to inform the assessment; assessment methodology; the relevant baseline conditions upon which the assessment is based; embedded mitigation considered in place before the assessment is undertaken; the likely significant effects that may arise as a result of the Proposed Development considering embedded mitigation; further mitigation requirements to reduce or remove any identified likely significant effects; the remaining residual effects following further mitigation; and any monitoring required for remaining residual significant effects.

10.1.4 There are clear differences between landscape effects and visual effects and the following distinctions have been made:

1) **Landscape effects** relate to changes to the landscape as a resource, including physical changes to the fabric or individual elements of the landscape, its aesthetic or perceptual qualities, and landscape character.
2) **Visual effects** relate to changes to existing views of identified visual receptors ('people'), from the loss or addition of features within their view due to the Proposed Development.

10.1.5 Landscape effects and visual effects have therefore been assessed and reported separately.

10.1.6 The conclusions of the following topic assessments are considered relevant to the receptors considered within this assessment, and as such they have been taken into account in the LVIA:

1) Chapter 5: Agricultural Land and Soils (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.05**]
2) Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**]
3) Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.08**]

4) Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.01.11**]
5) Chapter 15: Water Resources and Flood Risk (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.01.15**]
6) Appendix 16.2: Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.02**]

10.1.7 This chapter is supported by the following figures (ES Volume 2):

1) Figure 10.1: LVIA Study Area [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.01**]
2) Figure 10.2: Environmental Designations [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.02**]
3) Figure 10.3.1: North Yorkshire Published Landscape Character Areas [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.03.01**]
4) Figure 10.3.2: Selby District Published Landscape Character Areas [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.03.02**]
5) Figure 10.4.1: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) – Bare Earth [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.01]**
6) Figure 10.4.2: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) – Screened [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.02**]
7) Figure 10.5: Viewpoints Plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.05**]
8) Figure 10.6: Topography [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.06**]
9) Figure 10.7: Tranquillity [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.07**]

10.1.8 This chapter is supported by the following appendices (ES Volume 3):

1) Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.01**]
2) Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**]
3) Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**]
4) Appendix 10.4: Photography and Photomontages [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.04**]

10.2 Scope of the assessment

10.2.1 The EIA Scoping Report (Appendix 1.1: EIA Scoping Report (ES Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.01**) submitted to Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 11 November 2024 set out the proposed scope for the assessment of LVIA impacts for the Solar Development Sites and the Cable Route Corridor Options Areas considered at that time.

10.2.2 Solar Development Site 5 was removed from the Order Limits after scoping, which resulted in reduction of receptors with potential significant effects. The change did not affect the landscape character areas scoped in and relates primarily to reduction of views and visual amenity receptors.

10.2.3 The scope of the LVIA assessment is summarised in Table 10-1 below.

Table 10-1 LVIA assessment scope

Receptor	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning	Summary comments
Landscape features within the Order Limits	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in for assessment of landscape features within the Order Limits across all phases.
Landscape character areas (LCA) within the Order Limits (LCA2, LCA3, LCA5, LCA7, LCA8, LCA11, LCA12, LCA13 and LCA14)	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	LCA8 and LCA14 have been scoped in for assessment during the operational phase, in addition to construction and decommissioning, because they coincide with Locally Important Landscape Areas (LILAs) designated in the Selby Local Plan.
LCA6, LCA10	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	LCA6 and LCA10 are scoped out for all phases, as agreed with the PINS (EIA Scoping Opinion 3.10.1), due to their distance from the Order Limits.
LCA15, LCA16	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	Both LCA15 and LCA16 agreed with the PINS (EIA Scoping Opinion 3.10.2) to be scoped out for construction and decommissioning for due to the distance from the Proposed Development and minimal intervisibility. Since the EIA Scoping Opinion, Solar Development Site 5 has been removed from the Order Limits as well as the southern Extent of Solar Development Site 4. These changes mean that LCA15 now lies fully outside the LVIA Study Area as shown in Figure 10.3.2: Published Landscape Character Areas

Receptor	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning	Summary comments
				[**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.03.02**]. Therefore, LCA15 has been subsequently scoped out for all phases, including operation. Fieldwork and analysis of LCA8, which lies between the Proposed Development and LCA16, which was undertaken subsequent to the EIA Scoping Opinion indicates there are unlikely to be any significant effects. While the ZTV indicates limited theoretical visibility within a small northern part of LCA16, these areas are distant and subject to a greater level of screening than anticipated at the EIA Scoping stage. Potential effects arising from this limited intervisibility are addressed through assessment at representative viewpoints VP25 and VP26 close to northern edge of LCA16, both located within LCA8. No infrastructure is proposed within LCA16. Therefore, LCA16 has been subsequently scoped out for all phases, including operation.
LCT28 (North of LCA2 at County level)	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	LCT28 has been scoped out for all phases as it lies outside the defined Study Area. As agreed with the PINS (EIA Scoping Opinion 3.10.1), the impacts on this receptor is not likely to result in significant effects and are scoped out.
Howardian Hill National Landscape	Scoped out	Scoped out	Scoped out	The Howardian Hill National Landscape has been scoped out for all phases, with the PINS agreeing that, with its location approximately 20km from the Order Limits, the

Receptor	Construction	Operation	Decommissioning	Summary comments
				potential for significant effects is negligible. (EIA Scoping Opinion 3.10.3)
Views and visual amenity for local communities/ residents and recreational receptors within the Study Area (canal and river users)	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in for all phases. Canal and river users included as sensitive receptors following consultation with the Canal and River Trust (EIA Scoping Opinion 3.10.6)
Views and visual amenity for transport receptors within the Study Area	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in	Scoped in for all phases. Potential road users that could be affected by glint and glare impacts have been identified in the Glint and Glare Assessment included as Appendix 16.4 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.04**], the Assessment concluded that no significant effects are predicted towards road receptors with no further mitigation required.

Study Area

10.2.4 The Study Area for the LVIA includes all land within the Order Limits and the area within which the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development may give rise to likely significant landscape and visual effects, as illustrated on Figure 10.1: LVIA Study Area (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.01**]. This Study Area was supported by North Yorkshire Council (NYC) in the EIA Scoping Opinion issued by PINS on 19 December 2024 and as their response to PEIR dated 26 June 2025.

10.2.5 The first stage of defining the Study Area was informed by detailed desk study, including the preparation of a computer-generated Zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV). A ZTV is defined in GLVIA3 as "*a map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which, a development is theoretically visible.*" ZTVs do not indicate how much of the Proposed Development will be visible. The purpose of the ZTV is to:

1) Identify the theoretical extents of visibility of the Proposed Development i.e. areas from which it will not be visible and areas from which it could potentially appear in existing views;
2) Assist in the identification of the Study Area;

3) Identify areas of landscape and visual receptors likely to be affected by the Proposed Development;

4) Identify locations that are representative of the views experienced by visual receptors at different locations within the Study Area (representative viewpoints); and

5) Inform the design, including the extent and type of proposed mitigation.

10.2.6 A set of ZTVs are shown in Figure 10.4.1 and Figure 10.4.2 (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.01]** and [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.02**]. These have been prepared to inform this ES, based on the design and as described in Chapter 2 (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**]. The ZTVs has been modelled using the 'Viewshed' tool in ESRI ArcMap GIS Software and shows areas from which the Proposed Development is theoretically visible or not visible.

10.2.7 Two sets of ZTVs have been prepared; one set as 'bare earth' (Figure 10.4.1 (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.01**]) and one with existing screening (Figure 10.4.2 (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.02**]). The bare earth ZTV was prepared using digital terrain model (DTM) data with a resolution of 1 m. This ZTV represents a worst-case scenario as it does not include features such as existing buildings or vegetation which can screen or filter views.

10.2.8 The second ZTV was prepared using digital surface model (DSM) data with a resolution of 1 m. The DSM includes heights of objects, such as buildings and vegetation, as well as the terrain surface where the first or only return was the ground. It assumes that all surface features are solid.

10.2.9 For both sets, the following have been modelled based on the maximum parameters, as shown in the Works Plans [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.03**] and as set out in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**] (and secured through the Design Parameters and Commitments Document [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.06**]:

6) A height of 4.5 m across the development area to represent the worst-case visibility for tracking solar panels (maximum tilt), conversion units, BESS battery enclosures, 33 KV switch rooms, and most other infrastructure.

7) A height of 13 m to represent the 275 KV substation locations. These are shown in a different colour.

8) An assumed viewing height of 1.7 m above ground level has been used to simulate the eye level of a person at the top of the range, as set out in paragraph 6.11 of GLVIA3, to represent the worst-case scenario.

10.2.10 The assessment has considered the likely effects of the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases. The definitions of these are presented below.

1) Construction (winter): this relates to all works associated with construction;

2) Year 1 of operation (winter) – reflective of the conditions that will be experienced in the year when the Proposed Development becomes operational.

3) Year 15 of operation (summer) – reflective of the conditions that will be experienced at a point 15 years after all mitigation measures have been implemented and the Proposed Development has been operating for 15 years.

4) Decommissioning (winter): this relates to effects of activities relating to the decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

10.2.11 Maintenance and replacement activities, which will be carried out in the context of an operational solar farm, will be similar and no worse than those carried out during construction. Furthermore, the solar panels and other infrastructure, existing vegetation and planting will largely screen such activities. These effects have therefore not been assessed in a separate scenario.

10.2.12 The detailed desk study and fieldwork carried out shows that intervening landform, buildings and vegetation generally limit the extent of views to within 3 km of the Order Limits for Solar Development Sites and 1km of the Order Limits for Cable Route Corridors (CRC) as the impacts arising will be temporary and reversible. This Study Area is shown on Figure 10.1: LVIA Study Area (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.01**]. Beyond this distance, significant landscape and visual effects are not likely. This judgement is informed by an understanding of the wider landscape character and views and is supported by experience of working on similar solar farm projects, including consented schemes.

10.3 Relevant legislation, policy, standards and guidance

10.3.1 The following section identifies the relevant legislation, planning policy, standards and guidelines which underpin the assessment methodology for LVIA and have informed the assessment, including the identification of mitigation.

International treaties

10.3.1 European Landscape Convention (ELC) is an international treaty signed into UK law in 2002. (Ref 2) Paragraph 2.1 of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) states that:

> *"The UK has signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention (ELC) since 2002, when the last edition of this guidance was published. The recognition that government has thus given to landscape matters raises the profile of this important area and emphasises the role that landscape can play as an integrating framework for many areas of policy. The ELC is designed to achieve improved approaches to the planning, management and protection of landscapes throughout Europe and to put people at the heart of this process." The ELC defines landscape as:"…an area, as perceived by*

people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors."

Legislation

Table 10-2 Landscape and visual - legislation

Legislation	Relevance to assessment
The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (Ref 3) Regulation 5. Environmental impact assessment process (2) The EIA must identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of the Proposed Development on the following factors— (d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape; Schedule 4. Information for inclusion in environmental statements 4. A description of the factors specified in regulation 5(2) likely to be substantially affected by the development… This includes landscape.	These regulations outline the EIA process and provide details for inclusion in an EIA. In accordance with the regulations, landscape and visual effects have been assessed and are presented in this chapter. Assessment of landscape and visual effects is included in Section 10.8.14 of this chapter and has been undertaken in accordance with the methodology described in Section 10.5 of this chapter.
Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 (Ref 4) The CRoW Act sets out the legal framework for public rights of way (PRoW).	Users of PRoW may be visual receptors of the Proposed Development and have been considered in the assessment of visual impacts.
Infrastructure Planning (Decisions) Regulations 2010 (Ref 5) and Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (Ref 6) These provisions provide specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest.	Listed buildings and conservation areas can contribute to the character of the landscape and have been referred to in assessing the value attached to the landscape and the time depth of relevant LCAs. A review of the online planning map of North Yorkshire Council indicates that none of the Solar Development Sites lie within a Conservation Area.
Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 (Ref 7) These regulations provide powers to local planning authorities to make and administer Tree Preservation Orders (TPO).	The AIA (Appendix 16.2, ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/ 06.03.16.02**] states that none of the trees within the Solar Development Sites Order Limits are subject to TPOs. One tree is within influencing distance of the wider Order Limits is covered by TPO 5/2003.

Legislation	Relevance to assessment
Hedgerows Regulations 1997 (Ref 8) These regulations provide protection for Important Hedgerows, which are hedgerows that meet certain criteria in respect of their length, location and importance.	Three potential Important Hedgerows, have been identified through ecological and historical research as detailed in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.08**. They are located within Solar Development Site 1 and Solar Development Site 6. Consideration to these hedgerows is included in the assessment of effects in this chapter.

Planning policy

Table 10-3 Landscape and visual - planning policy

Policy	Relevance to assessment
Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) for Energy (EN-1), 2025, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (Ref 9)	Section 4.6 of NPS EN-1 sets out polices with respect to environment and Biodiversity Net Gain. It requires applicants to submit a statement with applications for development consent, demonstrating how opportunities for delivering wider environmental net gains have been considered, and where appropriate, incorporated into proposals as part of good design of the Proposed Development. Section 4.7 of NPS EN-1 notes the need for careful siting and criteria for good design which takes account of potential impacts on landscape character and visual appearance in order to minimise negative effects and to recognise opportunities for enhancement. NPS EN-1 section 5.10 recognises that virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have adverse effects on the landscape. It sets out the requirements for applicants to carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment, including cumulative effects in accordance with relevant guidance. It sets out that assessments should cover effects on landscape character, landscape components and visibility during construction and operation.
National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), 2025, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (Ref 10)	NPS EN-3 sets out relevant considerations for applicants with regards to renewable energy infrastructure, including solar farm development and its potential impacts on landscape and visual amenity, including visual impacts from public rights of way, visual impacts of security and lighting measures and the need to mitigate these as far as possible. In the cases of solar farm development, it states in paragraph 2.10.87 that whilst it may be the case that the development covers a significant surface area, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography, the area of a zone of visual influence could be appropriately minimised.
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5), 2025, Department for	NPS EN-5 addresses policy for energy transmission, including the Holford Rules (paragraph 2.9.16), which provide guidelines for the routing of new overhead lines and the Horlock Rules (paragraph 2.9.18), which provide guidelines for the design and siting of substations.

Policy	Relevance to assessment
Energy Security and Net Zero (Ref 11)	
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), December 2024 (amended 7 February 2025) (Ref 12)	Section12 of the NPPF requires that planning decisions ensure developments *"…are sympathetic to local character...including the surrounding .... landscape setting"* (paragraph 135(c)) Section 15 requires planning decisions to *"contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment, by: a) [inter alia] protecting and enhancing valued landscapes…"* and *"b) recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and the wider benefits of natural capital...."* (paragraph 187(a)-(b)).
Selby District Core Strategy Local Plan - Adopted Version October 2013 (Ref 13)	SP17 Low Carbon and Renewable Energy outlines that new developments should be designed and located to protect the environment or demonstrate that the wider environmental, socioeconomic benefits outweigh any harm caused to the environment; local amenity and impacts on local communities should be minimised. SP18 Protecting and enhancing the environment outlines the importance of conserving historic assets, natural environment including the landscape character and protecting the district's wildlife. New developments should ensure protection against all types of pollution, minimise resource consumption, and enhance locally distinctive landscapes. Policy SP 19 Design Quality provides guidance for all new developments through having regard to local character, identity and the context of its surroundings.
Selby District Local Plan Adopted 2005 saved policies (Ref 14)	ENV1 sets out the parameters for understanding the impact on local amenity and integration within existing or proposed developments, in the context of the Local Plan which supports renewable energy, including solar power, as part of overall development design. ENV3 Light Pollution sets criteria for outdoor lighting, permitting it only if it represents the minimum level required for security or operations, minimises glare and spillage, does not compromise highway safety or local amenity, and does not detract from the rural character of the area. ENV6 Renewable energy policy allows renewable energy projects if they do not substantially affect the landscape, do not cause excessive noise, traffic, emissions or electromagnetic interface and meet high standards of design, materials and landscaping. ENV15 Conservation and enhancement of locally important landscape areas sets out that in locally important landscape areas, priority will be given to conserving and enhancing the landscape's character and quality. Attention should focus on design, layout, landscaping, and materials to minimize impact and enhance the area's traditional buildings and landscape. As part of ENV20 Strategic Landscaping, the District Council will require the incorporation of fully integrated landscaping proposals on a scale

Policy	Relevance to assessment
	which will provide effective screening and enhancement of development, particularly along the approaches to settlements. ENV21 Landscaping Requirements outlines that development proposals should incorporate landscaping, retaining existing trees and hedgerows, and planting native locally occurring species.

Standards and guidance

Table 10-4 Landscape and visual - Standards and guidance

Standards and guidance	Relevance to assessment
An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (2014), Natural England (Ref 16)	Informs the methodology for defining and describing the landscape character baseline.
Assessing landscape value outside national designations, Technical Guidance Note 02/21 (2021), Landscape Institute (Ref 17)	Informs the methodology for assessing the value attached to the landscape and whether a landscape can be considered *"valued landscape"* in the context of NPPF paragraph 187(a).
Design Principles for National Infrastructure (2020), National Infrastructure Commission (Ref 18)	This guidance has informed the development of Design Principles.
Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd edition (2013), Landscape Institute and The Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (Ref 19)	Underpins the methodology for undertaking LVIAs.
Landscape Institute (2024) Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third Edition. (Ref 20)	These notes and clarifications have been considered in developing and applying the LVIA methodology set out in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**].
Infrastructure, Technical Guidance Note 04/20 (2020), Landscape Institute (Ref 21)	This guidance has informed the environment-led design approach, underpinned by the character of the landscape, and technical aspects such as landscape integration and planting.
Planning Practice Guidance (PPG), Natural Environment (Landscape) (Ref 22)	Sets out the benefits of landscape character assessments and the importance of considering Green Infrastructure in the early stages of schemes.
Planning Practice Guidance, Renewable and Low Carbon Energy (Ref 23)	Sets out that planning has an important role in the delivery of new renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure. The PPG identifies several LVIA considerations, including visual impact, mitigation through screening and glint and glare.
Visual Representation of Development Proposals, Technical	The standards set out in this guidance have been applied in the preparation and presentation of visualisations used to

Standards and guidance	Relevance to assessment
Guidance Note 06/19 (2019), Landscape Institute (Ref 24)	inform the assessment of visual effects in section 10.9 of this chapter.
Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (Ref 25)	This guidance has informed the approach to assessing the impacts on the views of residents of local communities as set out within the methodology set out in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**].
Landscape Institute (2017) Technical Information Note 01/2017: Tranquillity – An Overview (Ref 26)	This note provides information on the definition of tranquillity and consideration of perceptual qualities that influence tranquillity within LVIA.
Planning Inspectorate (2025) Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on the Preparation and Submission of Application Documents (Ref 28)	This advice note has informed the preparation of the LVIA, the oLEMP and the Outline Environmental Masterplan published as part of the consultation documentation.

10.4 Stakeholder engagement and consultation

EIA Scoping opinion

10.4.1 An EIA Scoping Report (Appendix 1.1: EIA Scoping Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.01**]) was submitted to the PINS on 11 November 2024 and an EIA Scoping Opinion was received on 19 December 2024 (Appendix 1.2: EIA Scoping Opinion (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.01.02**]). A summary of key comments and how these have been addressed is presented below:

Table 10-5 Landscape and visual – EIA Scoping Opinion comments

EIA Scoping opinion ID	EIA Scoping Opinion comment	How is this addressed
PINS [3.6.5]	The PINS stated that the LVIA should include an assessment of the impact on designated heritage assets.	Impacts on designated heritage assets, including impacts to their visual setting, is addressed in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.08**]. The LVIA addresses the likely effects on people's views from public viewpoints, which are related to their visual amenity. Where there is public access of designated heritage assets and there are views towards the Proposed Development, these have been assessed in the LVIA.
PINS [3.10.5]	The PINS stated that the ZTVs should be based on maximum design	The ZTVs which accompany the ES (paragraph 10.2.7) are representative

EIA Scoping opinion ID	EIA Scoping Opinion comment	How is this addressed
	parameters to be permitted by the DCO Application. The ES should clearly evidence and justify the final extent of the ZTVs and ensure that any assessment of significance is based on this maximum extent.	of worst-case visibility, based on the maximum parameters of the Proposed Development. A bare earth ZTV (Figure 10.4.1, ES Volume 2 **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.01]**) shows theoretical visibility based only on the terrain, representing a worst-case scenario, while a screened ZTV (Figure 10.4.2, ES Volume 2 **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.02]**) includes existing buildings and vegetation, providing a more realistic indication of where the development will actually be visible (see Section 10.7 “Visual baseline”).
PINS [3.10.4]	The PINS noted that the need for an RVAA should be justified based on the conclusions of the LVIA presented in the ES and agreed with consultation bodies, where possible.	Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 01/24 explains in point 6(1) that “*views from houses and individual properties are a matter of private amenity, noting that it is an established planning principle that there is no right to a view.”* It goes on to state that “*it may be helpful for an LVIA to comment on changes to views that will be experienced from groups of properties, or in some cases individual properties, if these changes are likely to be significant*.” Further detail on the approach to assessing the potential impacts on the views of residents of local communities is provided in Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.01**]. This makes reference to the Landscape Institute’s Technical Guidance Note 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) (LI TGN 02/19) (Ref 25), which states that the aim of RVAA is to identify those residential properties whose visual amenity has the potential to be affected to such an extent that it may affect the living conditions of the occupants. The LVIA has not identified any significant adverse residual effects on the views of residents that will

EIA Scoping opinion ID	EIA Scoping Opinion comment	How is this addressed
		remain of major significance (the highest category) at Year 15 of operation, which may indicate that the living conditions could be affected. This is due to the minimum 30 m setbacks and mitigation planting embedded in the Proposed Development design. Therefore, in line with LI TGN 02/19 and the methodology presented in Appendix 10.1 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.01**], a RVAA has not been carried out.
PINS [3.10.6]	The PINS noted that the Canal and River Trust (CRT) request that canal and river users should be included as sensitive receptors with respect to Solar Development Sites 3, 4 and 5 given the potential for visibility of the Proposed Development from the canal and river network towards these Solar Development Sites.	These receptors have been included in the LVIA presented in this ES, with reference to Viewpoints 51 and 22. The potential impacts relating to Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 as well as CRC 1-4 have been considered in the LVIA. Solar Site 5 has been withdrawn from the Proposed Development since the EIA Scoping stage and has therefore not been considered further in this assessment.
CRT	CRT noted that canal and river users should be considered within the assessment with respect to Solar Development Sites 3, 4 and 5 given the potential for visibility from our network towards these Solar Development Sites.	These receptors have been included in the LVIA presented in this ES, through the identification of Viewpoints 51 and 22. Details are included in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**]
CRT	CRT stated that impacts on the Selby Canal need to be fully understood and if there is a potential impact to the setting of the canal, then CRT recommend that a Viewpoint assessment is taken from this waterway.	These receptors have been included in the LVIA presented in this ES, through the identification of (and consideration of impacts to) Viewpoint 51. Details are included in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**]
CRT	CRT highlighted that river users are especially vulnerable to glint and glare impacts, as they transverse the water at a slow pace, and need good sight in order to navigate. CRT requested that the assessment should specifically assess for and glare impacts for boaters.	Glint and glare assessment has been included as Appendix 16.4: Glint and Glare Assessment (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.04**]. This specifically includes consideration of impacts to users of waterways where low impacts are predicted, and no mitigation is required.

EIA Scoping opinion ID	EIA Scoping Opinion comment	How is this addressed
Chapel Haddlesey Parish Council	The loss of food production from the land used should be addressed in the ES in regard to the loss of visual amenity for the nearby households.	Visual effects relating to changes in land use have been included in the LVIA presented in this ES. Details are included in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**]. The implications for agricultural land quality and loss of productive land are addressed in Chapter 5: Agricultural Land and Soils (ES Volume 1) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.05]**.
National Highways	National Highways stated that they will expect any forthcoming application to be accompanied by a Glint and Glare Assessment which specifically considers impacts on the SRN.	Glint and Glare assessment has been included as Appendix 16.4: Glint and Glare Assessment (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.04**]. This includes consideration of impacts to users of the Strategic Road Network (SRN). The assessment has identified the potential for significant impacts on road receptors. Additional mitigation to reduce these effects is proposed, as described in Section 10.10 of this chapter.
North Yorkshire Council (NYC)	NYC stated that in order to understand scope for the LVIA and landscape strategy further explanation and understanding of the Solar Site selection process and significance of the grid connection points is required.	Information on how landscape and visual matters have informed Solar Development Site selection are presented in Chapter 3: Alternatives and Design Iteration (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.03**] and Appendix 3.1: Site Selection Assessment Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.03.01**].
NYC	NYC stated that given the scale of the Proposed Development and until further design of the development is clarified, NYC will wish to see night-time visual effects scoped into LVIA. NYC will wish to see clear assessment and consideration of how illumination of the Proposed Development will be reduced through good design, to reduce urbanising influence and prevent further erosion of the baseline.	Night-time effects have been considered in the ES. Details are included in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**]. It is anticipated that the Proposed Development will not be lit. The exception will be at the BESS and substations, where movement sensor-triggered lighting will be needed for security/safety reasons. The substations will generally not be occupied by personnel overnight, so the lighting will not be on continuously.

EIA Scoping opinion ID	EIA Scoping Opinion comment	How is this addressed
		Temporary construction lighting has been assessed in this LVIA.

Statutory consultation

10.4.2 A period of statutory consultation took place between 26 June to 7 August 2025 wherein consultees were able to respond to preliminary environmental information set out in the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR). Table 10-6 ~~Table 10-6~~ outlines the statutory consultation responses relating to landscape and visual and how these have been addressed through the ES.

10.4.3 Responses to the Statutory Consultation are outlined in the Consultation Report [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.01**].

Table 10-6 Statutory consultation comments

Consultee	Comments	How has this comment been addressed	Location of response in this ES
Escrick Parish Council	Councillors request the boundary be moved back *"at least a field"* from the road.	It is assumed that this comment relates to Solar Development Site 1. The LVIA recognises that the design incorporates measures to respect the setting of designated heritage assets and the wider York Fringe East LCA. This includes a setback of approximately one field width from the Escrick Conservation Area. In addition, the boundary of Solar Development Site 1 is set back a minimum of 10 m from Skipwith Road, with screening planting to soften views.	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) (ES Volume 1) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.10]** Outline Environmental Masterplan (OEM) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.12**]
Hillam Parish Council	Concern about proximity of industrial-scale solar infrastructure (Sites 2, 3, 4, and 6) to homes, affecting views, village	The LVIA acknowledges that there will be lasting changes to landscape character, tranquillity and views for the duration of the operation of the Proposed Development. This aligns with NPS EN-1 (paragraph 5.10.5), which recognises that significant energy	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.10**] Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**] Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**]

Consultee	Comments	How has this comment been addressed	Location of response in this ES
	character, and tranquillity.	infrastructure projects inevitably result in adverse landscape effects. The design of the Proposed Development includes extensive mitigation such as retaining and strengthening hedgerows and woodland, new planting around sensitive receptors and careful siting of infrastructure to reduce the landscape and visual effects.	
Burton Salmon Parish Council	Concern about delayed visual mitigation due to slow vegetation growth (benefits not realised until Year 15).	The LVIA acknowledges that the mitigation measures will not immediately be effective due to planting growth rates (assumed at approximately 30 cm per year). While residual effects have been assessed at Year 15 of operation, impacts will continue to reduce progressively from the beginning of operation and beyond this period as planting matures. The project design includes embedded mitigation such as the retention of existing vegetation within and along the edges of the Solar Development Sites and CRC.	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.10**] Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.05**]
NGET (National Grid)	Request for low-growing species near overhead lines to maintain statutory safety clearances	The request is incorporated into the outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan.	Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.05**]

Consultee	Comments	How has this comment been addressed	Location of response in this ES
North Yorkshire Council (NYC)	Seeking further agreement on quantity and location of representative viewpoints; seeking updates to ZTVs; request for clarification and for viewpoints to represent worst-case and likely parameters.	Further engagement undertaken with North Yorkshire Council to reach agreement on viewpoints and ZTVs with clarification provided. Further detail is included in Table 10-7~~Table 10-7~~.	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) (ES Volume 1) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.10]** Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02]** Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03]**
Canal and River Trust	Request that canal and river users should be included as sensitive receptors with respect to sites 3, 4 and 5 given the potential for visibility of the Proposed Development from the canal and river network towards these sites.	No construction compounds are proposed in proximity to the River Ouse. Construction works in this area are limited to the installation of underground cables, which will be undertaken using trenching techniques designed to minimise ground disturbance. This approach aligns with GLVIA3 paragraph 4.31, which recommends that significance of effects be assessed post-primary mitigation, including consideration of reversibility and duration. Further refinement of these design measures and their associated effects are provided in ES Volume 1, Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual.	Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) (ES Volume 1) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.10]**

Stakeholder engagement

10.4.4 Engagement with landscape officers of North Yorkshire Council (NYC) has continued since the publication of the EIA Scoping Opinion. The principal outputs of the engagement undertaken to date are presented in Table 10-7~~Table 10-7~~.

Table 10-7 Landscape and visual - engagement undertaken

Stakeholder	Date engaged	Main matters raised	Response
NYC	26 February 2025	Locally Important Landscape Area (LILA) designation status	NYC confirmed the development plan is the Selby District Local Plan Adopted in 2005 and LILA is covered by policy ENV15. NYC also highlighted the sensitivity of the LILA designation, referencing the Local Landscape Designation Review by LUC (2019) (Ref 36). Assessment of views within the two closest LILA designations and effects on the designations are included in Sections 10.8.14 and 10.11 of this Chapter.
NYC	6 March 2025	Representative viewpoints agreement	NYC confirmed broad agreement to the type of receptors and areas suggested for viewpoints by the Applicant reserving the right to request further viewpoints when the Proposed Development is fixed. NYC suggested some additional or amended viewpoints, which have been accepted and were included in PEIR.
NYC	10 July 2025	Preliminary feedback on viewpoint locations in relation to PEIR Proposed Development details	NYC provided feedback focusing on viewpoint locations and their alignment with published PEIR details. The Applicant noted feedback and committed to review and update ZTVs and viewpoint list accordingly.
NYC	29 July 2025	Review of updated ZTVs and viewpoint details	The Applicant shared updated ZTVs and viewpoint details in response to NYC's feedback. NYC acknowledged receipt and indicated further review before confirming agreement.
NYC	12 August 2025	Request for viewpoint agreement following ZTV review	NYC requested confirmation of viewpoint agreement after reviewing ZTV updates. The Applicant confirmed willingness to incorporate any final adjustments suggested by NYC.
NYC	5 September 2025	Confirmation of ES viewpoints and draft photography for Light Valley Solar viewpoints	The Applicant confirmed ES viewpoints and shared draft photography for NYC-requested viewpoints. NYC requested a call to discuss the questions about the viewpoints.

Stakeholder	Date engaged	Main matters raised	Response
NYC	24 September 2025	Queries on viewpoints and finalising agreement on viewpoints and photomontages	NYC raised final queries regarding viewpoint selection and photomontage outputs. The Applicant responded during meeting, agreeing to minor refinements and confirming readiness for ES submission.

Targeted consultation

10.4.5 A period of targeted consultation took place between 16 October 2025 and 20 November 2025, during which feedback was encouraged to comment on minor changes to the development boundary area, in relation to access points during construction and operation; visibility splays to ensure safe sightlines for vehicles entering and exiting the Proposed Development; passing places on narrow roads; access requirements for abnormal indivisible loads (less frequent but large delivery vehicles that have wider turner circles); cable route adjustments to avoid environmental and engineering constraints; and permissive paths to enable increased public access routes within the Solar Development Sites.

10.4.6 The feedback received during the targeted consultation was not relevant to LVIA and as such is not included in this chapter.

10.5 Methodology

Overview

10.5.1 The detailed methodology, including the criteria referred to in making judgements on the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors, the magnitude of impact and the significance of effects is set out in Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Assessment Methodology (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.01**].

10.5.2 The methodology for the LVIA involved the following stages:

1) A review of published landscape character assessments, studies, relevant supporting evidence base documents, aerial photography, mapping and fieldwork to define the baseline and to determine the extent of the Study Area within which there is potential for landscape and visual effects.
2) Defining the landscape and visual receptors and describe the landscape and visual baseline.
3) A review of the design to embed mitigation measures into the Proposed Development to avoid or minimise adverse landscape and visual effects and maximise opportunities for landscape integration and enhancement.
4) Determination of the sensitivity (nature of the receptor) of landscape and visual receptors, by considering the value attached to the landscape or views and susceptibility to change of the receptor.

5) Assessment of the magnitude of impact (nature of effect) of the Proposed Development in relation to size, scale, duration and reversibility.

6) Assessment of the significance of effects resulting by considering the relationship between the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of impact and determine which effects are significant.

10.5.3 The assessment of the likely landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development has been undertaken for the following scenarios:

1) Current baseline (winter and summer) – reflective of the conditions which exist at the time of gathering baseline environmental data and undertaking the LVIA.

2) Future baseline (winter and summer) – reflective of the conditions that will be experienced in the future, immediately prior to construction of the Proposed Development.

3) The peak of construction activity, in winter.

4) Year 1 of operation, in winter, to reflect a worst-case assessment scenario.

5) Year 15 of operation, in summer, to reflect the entirety of the Proposed Development in operation, when proposed planting has matured or achieved its design intention.

6) The peak of decommissioning activity, in winter.

Desktop sources

10.5.4 Table 10-8~~Table 10-8~~ outlines the desktop sources that have been used to inform the existing baseline conditions of the Study Area.

Table 10-8 Data sources

Data	Source
Ordnance Survey Mapping and Aerial Imagery (Ref 29)	Ordnance Survey
LiDAR Digital Terrain Model – 1m resolution (Ref 30) LiDAR Digital Surface Model – 1m resolution (Ref 31)	Environment Agency (2022)
National Character Area 28 Vale of York (Ref 32) National Character Area 30 Southern Magnesian Limestone (Ref 33) National Character Area 39 Humberhead Levels (Ref 34)	Natural England (2015)
North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project (Ref 35)	North Yorkshire County Council (2011)

Data	Source
Selby Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 36)	Selby District Council (2019)
Selby District Landscape Sensitivity Study (Ref 37)	Selby District Council (2021)
Selby District Local Landscape Designation Review (Ref 38)	Selby District Council (2019)
Public Rights of Way (Ref 39)	North Yorkshire Council (2025)

Fieldwork surveys

10.5.5 Winter fieldwork has been undertaken in January, February and March 2025, with summer fieldwork undertaken in August, September and October 2025, and fixed-point photography has been captured for each viewpoint. This information has been used to inform the existing baseline conditions assessed in this ES.

10.5.6 The LVIA has also been informed by Appendix 16.2: Arboriculture Impact Assessment (AIA) and Tree Protection Plan (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.02**], which includes arboricultural surveys recording the extent, type, and condition of trees within and surrounding the Order Limits. The LVIA has also been informed by habitat surveys (including hedgerow surveys) as set out in Appendix 6.1: Habitats Report (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.06.01**] and Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06]**, whereby landscape features which contribute to the mitigation and enhancement measures embedded in the design, have been considered.

10.6 Assumptions and limitations

10.6.1 This section sets out the assumptions which have been made and the limitations which inform the LVIA.

10.6.2 The assessment has been based on the information presented in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**] and the Illustrative Site Layout shown on Figure 2.1 (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.01**] and the Outline Environmental Masterplan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.12]**. It is based on the maximum parameters of the Proposed Development, taking account of embedded mitigation and Design Principles, to represent a reasonable worst-case.

10.6.3 As explained in Chapter 2, The Proposed Development **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02]** (ES Volume 1) Tracking Solar PV Tables (Option A) or Fixed Solar PV Tables (Option B) may be used. The LVIA has assessed Option A as the worst-case scenario, where the proposed solar panels will extend to up to 4.5 m above ground level in the tallest position during short periods of time near sunrise and sunset. The movement of tracking panels through the day is very slow and is not likely to be perceptible and has not therefore been considered within the LVIA.

10.6.4 In addition, the assessment assumed the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will be located within the BESS Compound in Solar Development Site 2 and 275 kV substations at Solar Development Sites 1, 2 and 4, as described in Section 2.4 and Table 2-1 of Chapter 2. The BESS Compound is assessed at its maximum parameters, including a compound area of up to 10.5 hectares and BESS noise barriers up to 5 m high. The 275KV substations are assessed at their maximum parameters of up to 13 m high to the top of busbars located within the area identified on Works Plans **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.03]**.

10.6.5 All fieldwork has been undertaken from publicly accessible locations. Professional judgement has been used to assess residents' views, aided by maps, aerial photography and fieldwork observations.

10.6.6 It is not possible to identify and assess every individual visual receptor within the ZTV extents. This limitation has been addressed by grouping receptors, where appropriate, and then identifying and assessing the greatest adverse effect within the group with reference to representative viewpoints. In adopting this approach, this assessment considers the most likely worst-case outcome for the receptors within the group and reports this as a single effect in the LVIA. In some cases, more than one representative viewpoint has been identified to help demonstrate how views vary, for example sequential views along a PRoW.

10.6.7 For the construction phase assessment, the assumptions are that construction activity will be undertaken across the Order Limits at the same time and during winter. This assumes that existing deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, thereby representing a worst-case assessment scenario. Beyond known permanent PRoW diversions within Site 1, affecting bridleways 35.28/1/1, 35.67/6/1, and footpath 35.28/3/1, to assess the worst-case scenario, the visual assessment assumes that PRoW will be accessible during the construction phase with only short-term closures anticipated.

10.6.8 Temporary site lighting will be used during construction to enable safe working during construction in hours of darkness. All construction lighting will be kept to the minimum quantity and levels needed for safety, directed towards work areas, and fitted with shields to prevent glare and light spill beyond site boundaries.

10.6.9 In general, it is anticipated that the Proposed Development will not be lit during operation. The exception will be at the BESS and substations, where movement sensor-triggered lighting will be needed for security and safety reasons. The substations will generally not be occupied by personnel overnight, so the lighting will not be on continuously.

10.6.10 The assessment of effects during construction and in Year 1 of operation assumes that all temporary land used for construction will be returned to its previous use and condition. Where vegetation will be removed to facilitate construction, this will be reinstated but will be generally below 1m in height and will not have established to mitigate landscape and visual effects. The effectiveness of screening provided by existing vegetation and planting incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development will be limited during winter, when deciduous vegetation is not in leaf.

10.6.11 For the assessment of effects at Year 15 of operation, the assumption is that all new planting will have successfully established, having increased in height by 4.5 metres since Year 1 of operation (i.e. 30 cm of growth per year). Plants that fail during the five-year establishment maintenance period will be replaced at the end of each growing season in accordance with the measures set out in the Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.05**].

10.6.12 For decommissioning works, it is assumed that the solar panels and associated above ground structures and equipment, including substations, will be removed in a manner similar to the construction phase, requiring machinery and localised excavation. The proposed green infrastructure is expected to be retained as part of decommissioning works, except where required for access. Therefore, the significance of effects on landscape and visual receptors will be the same or not greater than the construction phase. The conclusions of the construction assessment stand for the decommissioning effects as a reasonable worst-case scenario and there is therefore no separate decommissioning assessment. Post-decommissioning, landowners will choose how the land is to be used and managed. Therefore, landowners may return all of the land to arable use, although it is likely that established habitats such as hedgerows and woodland will be retained given their potential benefits to agricultural land and the wider farming estate.

10.6.13 The Glint and Glare Assessment included as Appendix 16.4 (ES Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.04]** has identified the potential for significant impacts on road and rail receptors, which may be relevant to the LVIA. Additional mitigation to reduce these effects is described in Section 10.10 of this chapter. This mitigation means these glint and glare impacts would not change the significance of the visual effects reported in this chapter. Refer to Appendix 16.4 (ES Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.04]** for further information.

10.6.14 An AIA and Tree Protection Plan is included as Appendix 16.2 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.02**]. The AIA has been used to inform the LVIA set out in this ES.

10.7 Baseline conditions

Existing baseline conditions

10.7.1 To provide an assessment of the significance of any new development proposal in terms of landscape and visual effects, it is necessary to identify and understand the baseline conditions in and around the Study Area. This provides a reference state against which any potential changes can be assessed.

10.7.2 This section provides:

1) An overview of the landscape and visual context within the Study Area for the LVIA, with further detail set out in Appendices 10.2 and 10.3 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02]** and **EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**].

2) Summaries of the landscape baseline and the sensitivity of landscape receptors.

3) Summaries of the visual baseline and the sensitivity of visual receptors.

Landscape designations

10.7.3 There are no statutory landscape designations (i.e. National Parks or National Landscapes) within the Order Limits or wider Study Area.

10.7.4 There are three areas covered by local landscape designations within the Study Area, known as Locally Important Landscape Areas (LILA). These areas were considered worthy of local recognition and are defined within policy ENV15 in the Selby Adopted Plan (2005) (Ref 13). The plan does not document the detailed rationale for their designation or the qualities that merit their protection.

10.7.5 In addition, existing areas were assessed in the Selby District Local Landscape Designation Review (2019) (Ref 37) as part of the Local Plan preparation (Ref 38) before the formation of the North Yorkshire Unitary Authority. Although this version of the Local Plan has since been withdrawn and carries no policy weight, the designation review remains relevant, and its content is accounted for in this ES as it provides the most up-to-date assessment of local landscape qualities.

10.7.6 The LILAs listed below are identified in the Selby Adopted Plan (2005) and overlap with the LVIA Study Area. The LVIA considers the potential effects of the Proposed Development on their integrity and how they contribute to the value attached to the landscape.

Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff LILAs

10.7.7 These are two areas in the south of the LVIA Study Area, located to the south-west of Selby as shown on Figure 10.2: Environmental Designations (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.02**]. Hambleton Hough LILA is situated 1.3 km to the east of Solar Development Site 2 and approximately 1 km to the north-east of Solar Development Site 4. Part of the Cable Route Corridor passes through the Hambleton Hough LILA, with associated Cable Construction Compound 4 directed approximately 120 m to the east. Brayton Barff LILA lies approximately 1.5 km further east of Hambleton Hough LILA, approximately 800 m south of Cable Route Corridor. The Selby Adopted Plan 2005 (Ref 13) states *'their significance is attributable to the outcropping of Triassic sandstone above the glacial till of the surrounding area. Both are extensively wooded, further enhancing their prominence.'* The LILA designation includes the fields immediately north of Hambleton Hough, east of Hough Lane.

10.7.8 The Selby Adopted Plan (2005) (Ref 13) states "*Two other landscape features are considered worthy of local recognition in an otherwise low lying landscape. These comprise Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff located to the south-west of Selby. Their significance is attributable to the outcropping of Triassic sandstone above the glacial till of the surrounding area. Both are extensively wooded, further enhancing their prominence.*"

10.7.9 The Designation Review (2019) (Ref 37), notes that the area around Hambleton Hough and Brayton Barff has two hills and is *"a popular recreational resource for the neighbouring settlements, offering a range of walking routes, cycle paths and golf."* and that "*Both summits offer views across the surrounding landscape, and form the only accessible elevated vantage points in the area".* Fieldwork carried out to inform this LVIA has demonstrated that views from these landforms are limited by the dense vegetation on their slopes. This is explained further with reference to a relevant representative viewpoint in Appendix 10.3 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**] and Section 10.8 of this chapter.

Limestone Ridge LILA

10.7.10 This is situated approximately 3 km to the west of Solar Development Site 2 and 1 km to the west of Solar Development Sites 6 and 7. The LILA lies wholly outside the Order Limits, separated by the A1, A63 and A162 roads.

10.7.11 The Selby Adopted Plan (2005) (Ref 13) states "*the landscape exhibits a more undulating topography and richer tree cover than that encountered elsewhere, including remnants of ancient woodland and parkland."*

10.7.12 The Designation Review (2019) (Ref 37), notes that this is a "*Large-scale rolling farmland, elevated above the low-lying plain to the east, and offering wide views across the adjacent landscape"*. Fieldwork carried out to inform this LVIA has demonstrated that views from these landforms are panoramic and expansive but with substantial detractors when looking eastward. This is explained further with reference to a relevant representative viewpoint in Appendix 10.3 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**] and Section 10.8 of this chapter.

Other relevant designations

10.7.13 Other relevant designations within the Study Area are listed in Table 10-9~~Table 10-9~~**.** Ecological, heritage and policy designations are included because of their contribution to landscape character and visual amenity, in particular their contribution to the value attached to the landscape. Further detail regarding these designations is provided in Chapter 6: Biodiversity (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.06**] and Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.08**].

Table 10-9 Other designations

Other designations and key landscape features within the Study Area	Direction and approximate nearest distance from the Order Limits
Conservation areas See Figure 8.1 (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.08.01]**	Escrick Conservation Area within 0.5 km, west of Solar Development Site 1. Thorganby Conservation Area within 3 km, east of Solar Development Site 1. Riccall Conservation Area within 0.5 km from CRC 1-4.

Other designations and key landscape features within the Study Area	Direction and approximate nearest distance from the Order Limits
and Figure 10.2: Environmental Designations (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.02**]	Monk Fryston Conservation Area within 0.5 km south of Solar Development Site 6, 1.5 km west of Solar Development Site 2 and 4. Hillam Conservation area within 1 km west of Solar Development Site 2, 3 and 4.
Listed buildings See Figure 8.1 (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.08.01**] and Figure 10.2: Environmental Designations (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.02**]	Two listed buildings within 0.5 km of Solar Development Site 1. Multiple listed buildings (primarily Grade II and II*, three Grade I) within 3 km of Solar Development Site 1, concentrated within the Escrick Conservation Area, Escrick Park, Thorganby Conservation Area, Wheldrake and Skipwith. One listed building (Grade II) across the road from Solar Development Site 2. One listed building (Grade II) across the road from Solar Development Site 7. Multiple listed buildings (primarily Grade II and II* and four Grade I) within 3 km of Solar Development Sites 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, concentrated within Hambleton, Monk Fryston Conservation Area and Hillam Conservation Area. Five listed buildings (four Grade II and one Grade I) within 1 km of Solar Development Site 4 in Birkin. Three listed buildings (Grade II) within 1.5 km from Solar Development Site 7 around South Milford. Multiple listed buildings (primarily Grade II, one Grade II* and one Grade I) in Riccall within 1 km from CRC 1-4. Four listed buildings (Grade II) within 0.5 km of CRC 1-4 near Thorpe Willoughby.
Ecological designations (SSSI, NNR, SCA, SPA) See Figure 6.1 and 6.2 (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.01**] / [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.02**] and Figure 10.2: Environmental Designations (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.02**]	Parts of River Derwent and Skipwith Common SSSI just within the Study Area, approximately 3 km from Solar Development Site 1 and within 1 km from CRC 1-4. Skipwith Common NNR/SCA/SPA approximately 3 km from Solar Development Site 1 and within 1 km from CRC 1-4. Sherburn Willows SSSI approximately 2 km west from Solar Development Site 7.
Ancient Woodland See Figure 6.5 (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.06.**	Little Moss Hagg (Bishop Wood) approximately 650 m north-east of Solar Development Site 8.

Other designations and key landscape features within the Study Area	Direction and approximate nearest distance from the Order Limits
05] and Figure 10.2: Environmental Designations (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.02**]	Manor Wood and Gilbertson's Wood within 0.5 km of Solar Development Site 1 located south-east of the Solar Development Site. Holly Carrs/Hart Nooking, Thorganby wood, Spring wood, Heron wood, Moreby/Moreby Far Wood, Naburn Wood, Hagg Wood within 2 to 3 km of Solar Development Site 1, located mostly around the west of the Solar Development Site with a few in the north and east. Barber Rain/Ash Rein Willoughby north of Thorpe Willoughby within 0.5 km from CRC 1-4. Brayton Barff south of Thorpe Willoughby within 1 km from CRC 1-4.

Site context

10.7.14 The seven Solar Development Sites and associated Cable Route Corridors are located in the Selby area of North Yorkshire, within the administrative boundary of North Yorkshire Council. The Solar Development Sites and Cable Route Corridors are generally characterised by a rural character with a strong sense of openness.

10.7.15 Solar Development Site 1 is located to the south-east of Escrick. The surrounding landscape is characterised by open arable farmland with an occasional mix of woodland areas. The A19 is located west of the Solar Site, and a minor rural road network connects the farmsteads and small villages across the wider landscape. The village of Esrick lies approximately 0.5 km from Solar Development Site 1; part of Escrick is designated a Conservation Area and contains several listed buildings.

10.7.16 Solar Development Sites 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8 lie between the settlements of South Milford and Thorpe Willoughby, within a low-lying area. The land around the Solar Development Sites is primarily used for intensive arable farming within large rectilinear fields.

10.7.17 The southern part of Solar Development Site 4 lies within 1 km from the River Aire, with its valley characterised by flat, low lying flood plains to the north and south of the meandering river and its densely vegetated riverbanks of shrub, natural grassland and trees.

10.7.18 Most of the Cable Route Corridor is associated with the context of the Solar Development Sites described above, with the exception of a long stretch of Cable Route Corridor 1-4 which connects Sites 1 and 4, approximately 18.5 km in length total. This cable route crosses the A19, the River Ouse, Selby Dam, railway lines, the A63 and other smaller roads through the low-lying agricultural landscape.

Topography and hydrology

10.7.19 The Study Area is characterised by a predominantly low-lying, gently undulating landform typical of the Vale of York. The elevation across most of the area ranges from approximately 0m above ordnance datum (AOD) to approximately 40 m AOD with much of the Study Area lying below 10 m AOD.

10.7.20 The highest point at approximately 50 m AOD is found to the west of the settlement of Lumby at the edge of the Study Area. Hambleton Hough at approximately 40 m AOD is another local high point surrounded by low-lying areas and is one of the few accessible elevated areas within the Study Area. The regenerated woodland next to the former Gascoigne Wood Colliery rises to approximately 35 m AOD and has presence in the local landscape but is not publicly accessible beyond footpaths as its perimeter.

10.7.21 The hydrological characteristics of the area are strongly influenced by the River Ouse, which flows through Selby, and the River Aire to the south. Selby Canal connects River Ouse and River Aire flowing from Selby to the south. The landscape includes floodplains and low-lying land prone to seasonal water retention, with an extensive system of drainage channels, ditches, and embankments that regulate water flow. Refer to Chapter 15: Water Resources and Flood Risk (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.15**] for further information.

Vegetation patterns

10.7.22 The Study Area is characterised by open arable farmland bordered by drainage channels with patches of woodland. There is a distinct lack of hedgerows in the area, largely due to agricultural intensification, that contributes to the sense of openness. Smaller semi-regular fields are found around the settlements such as Monk Fryston, Hillam, and Wistow with hedgerows and trees providing limited boundary definition. For further detail, see Appendix 16.2 Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) and Tree Protection Plan (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.02**].

10.7.23 In the south of the Study Area along the River Aire, the land use is predominantly wet grassland, characterised by seasonally waterlogged soils and a mosaic of grazing pasture, floodplain meadows, and drainage ditches. The presence of ditches and embankments reflects historical land drainage efforts, while areas of semi-natural grassland contribute to the ecological diversity of the river corridor. The land is primarily used for livestock grazing, with some areas such as Beal Carrs designated for nature conservation and biodiversity enhancement.

10.7.24 Tree cover across the Study Area is generally sparse, with most trees located along field boundaries or within woodland blocks. The AIA identifies 25 woodland blocks and 435 hedges within or near the Order Limits, with 1682 individual trees and 257 tree groups surveyed. Ancient woodland is limited, with Gilbertson's Wood (to the northeast of Solar Development Site 1) designated as ancient semi-natural woodland. Other notable ancient woodlands include Bishop Wood and Little Moss Hagg (c. 650 m northeast of Solar Development Site 8), Holly

Carrs/Hart Nooking Wood and Common Wood within Escrick Park Estate (c. 300 m southwest of Solar Development Site 1), and Moreby Wood (c. 2.3 km west of Solar Development Site 1).

10.7.25 There are also a small number of veteran Oak, Ash and Crack Willow trees in the vicinity of Solar Development Site 1. The AIA identifies nine veteran/ancient trees within the Order Limits, with additional trees exhibiting veteran characteristics. These trees are subject to enhanced protection measures.

10.7.26 The former Gascoigne Wood Mine is surrounded by slopes vegetated with mature woodland, which softens the appearance of the colliery and currently provide a prominent tree-covered landscape feature which is visible locally due to its elevation above the surrounding flat landscape. Gateforth Wood, located immediately north of Solar Development Site 4 is a former coniferous plantation currently being regenerated into broadleaf woodland.

Settlement patterns and land use

10.7.27 The area consists largely of open agricultural land interspersed with sparse, small settlements. Land use is primarily arable and pastoral farming. Strong linear settlement patterns are common along key transport routes in places such Hambleton and West Haddersley. Ribbon development along roads and infill housing within established village boundaries are typical of settlement growth in the area.

10.7.28 To the south of Escrick, much of the Escrick Park estate is dedicated to arable farming and pasture, with commercial and leisure activities, business units, holiday accommodation, and event spaces integrated within the landscape. The grounds also include the buildings of the former Queen Margaret's School.

10.7.29 Industrial land use is concentrated around South Milford, where the South Milford Recycling Plant and surrounding industrial facilities support waste processing, storage, and distribution activities. These industries, along with nearby commercial units, contribute to local employment and transport movements, particularly along the A162 and A63 corridors.

10.7.30 Drax Power Station in the east remains a dominant feature in the region, with its 259.3 m high chimney, generating approximately 5% of the UK's electricity and influencing infrastructure development across the area. Additionally, Ferrybridge and Eggborough have seen industrial redevelopment following the decommissioning of coal-fired power stations and closures of Kellingley Colliery and Gascoigne Wood, with new energy and infrastructure projects emerging in the area.

Movement and connectivity

10.7.31 The road network within the Study Area is extensive and varies in the amount and type of traffic. Major, busy roads include the A19, which is a key north-south route that runs through Escrick, providing a direct link between Selby and York, and the A63, which runs east-west through Selby, linking the town to the M62

motorway at Junction 37, providing connections towards Leeds, Hull and the national motorway network.

10.7.32 Beyond the primary routes, a network of B roads and local roads provides access to smaller settlements such as West Haddlesey and Birkin. The B1223 links West Haddlesey to Selby, providing an alternative route for local traffic, while the B1222 connects villages including Cawood and Stillingfleet to Escrick and the A19. Rural roads in the area are typically narrow, often bordered by hedgerows and agricultural land, contributing to the area's rural character.

10.7.33 Numerous minor roads and footpaths cross the rural landscape, connecting small villages, hamlets, and individual properties. The Trans Pennine Trail is a promoted walking and cycling route that runs in a north-south direction along the eastern edge of the Study Area, crossing east of Escrick towards the River Ouse, Selby and the River Aire. The National Cycle Network in the Study Area shares the same route as Trans Pennine Trail.

10.7.34 The Study Area is crossed by several busy railway lines. The Selby Line, part of the TransPennine route, links Selby to Leeds and Hull with regular services by Northern Trains and TransPennine Express. The East Coast Main Line (ECML) runs west of Escrick, offering high-speed services between London, York, and Edinburgh, with York and Doncaster as key stations nearby. The Hull to York Line connects Hull with York, serving smaller stations along its route. Both Selby and South Milford on Selby line have railway stations, with Selby being an important interchange for local and long-distance travel.

Tranquillity

10.7.35 A summary of the baseline relative tranquillity within the Study Area is described with reference to the CPRE: The Countryside Charity tranquillity mapping (Ref 40) as shown on Figure 10.7: Tranquillity (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.07**] and with reference to Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.11**]. Within the Study Area there are small pockets which could be classified as tranquil within rural areas but these are very limited in extent. Most of the Study Area, despite its relative remoteness, lacks a sense of tranquillity due to road traffic noise from the large number of busy A roads (A63, A19) and other signs of overt human impact such as overhead power lines and railway lines.

10.7.36 There is some contrast between the north and south of the Study Area with the countryside of the northern part of East Selby Farmland and eastern part of Skipworth Lowlands LCAs around Solar Development Site 1 generally exhibiting a stronger rural character, defined by the presence of woodland and a medium scale patchwork of farmland, with notably more tranquil areas including River Derwent and areas around Thorganby.

10.7.37 The landscape to the south, typified by the Sherburn and Haddlesey Farmland LCAs, is largely flat, arable farmland but is more influenced by industrial and transport elements such as A roads, railway lines, pylons and overhead transmission lines, making it less tranquil. Primary sources of road traffic noise

are the A19, A63 and M62 and further contributions to the overall sound environment arise from the railways running between Selby and Leeds, Selby and Doncaster and the ECML. Industry at Sherburn in Elmet, including its aerodrome and the looming presence on the skylines of Ferrybridge and Drax Power Stations with their tall chimneys and cooling towers, further reduces perceived tranquillity.

Night time lighting

10.7.38 The night time baseline is described as an overview, with reference to England's Light Pollution and Dark Skies map published by CPRE: The Countryside Charity (Ref 44). Within the Study Area most areas are influenced by some lighting sources and no part of the Study Area falls within the darkest night time sky category.

10.7.39 The northern part of the Study Area is generally darker than the south, although the settlements of Escrick and Riccall show brighter points along the A19 in an otherwise relatively dark rural area. Most of the area at Solar Development Site 1 is within a dark area.

10.7.40 The southern part of the Study Area is influenced by the settlements of Sherburn in Elmet and Monk Fryston in particular and there are brighter night skies in the vicinity of Solar Development Sites 2 to 4 and 6 to 8, generally falling within the map's middle categories of radiance (brightness values).

Landscape baseline

Introduction

10.7.41 This section summarises the information gathered and assessed to describe the landscape baseline, including published landscape character assessments at various scales. It defines which landscape receptors form the basis of the assessment landscape effects and summarises the effects on these receptors.

10.7.42 GLVIA3 defines landscape receptors as "*aspects of the landscape resource that have the potential to be affected by a proposal*" (Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013) (Ref 1).

10.7.43 Landscape character is defined by GLVIA3 as *"a distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse."*

10.7.44 The Study Area is large and diverse and has been studied at various scales by different bodies. Published landscape character assessments at the national, regional and district level have been reviewed to understand the landscape character area of the area, with reference to the following hierarchy:

1) National, with reference to National Character Area (NCA) profiles.
2) County, with reference to Landscape Character Types (LCT) defined by NYC.

3) District, with reference to LCAs defined by Selby.

10.7.45 The published LCAs are mapped in Figures 10.3.1 (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.03.01]** and 10.3.2 (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.03.02]**. Figure 10.3.1 maps the NCAs and LCTs which are relevant to the Study Area. Figure 10.3.2 maps the LCAs which are relevant to the Study Area. For landscape character in the north of the Study Area outside the district boundary, the relevant Landscape Character Type is LCT28 as shown on Figure 10.3.1.

10.7.46 Detailed descriptions of each District LCA receptor, its key characteristics, the value attached to the landscape and the likely impacts and effects of the Proposed Development are reported in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**]. This identifies the position of each District LCA receptor in the hierarchy and its relationship with other receptors at each scale with a summary provided.

Published landscape character assessments

10.7.47 The geographical extent of LCAs in published assessments at the national level are generally large and extend beyond the Study Area. As explained in paragraph 5.14 of GLVIA3, "*broad-scale assessments at national or regional level can be helpful in setting the landscape context but are unlikely to be helpful on their own as the basis for LVIA*". LCAs defined at the national and regional county scale have therefore been included to provide context but effects on these receptors have not been assessed.

10.7.48 The LCAs that have been referred to in the LVIA are listed in Table 10-10~~Table 10-10~~.

Table 10-10 Published landscape character assessments and relevant LCAs

Landscape character assessment	Relevant character areas	Relationship to the Proposed Development
National – Natural England National Character Area (NCA) profiles (Ref 34)	NCA28: Vale of York	Within the Order Limits – Solar Development Site 1
	NCA39: Humberhead Levels	Within the Order Limits – All Solar Development Sites
	NCA30: South Magnesian Limestone	Within the Order Limits – CRC 4-POC
County - North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project (2011) (Ref 35)	LCT6 Magnesian Limestone Ridge	Within the Order Limits – CRC 4-POC
	LCT23 – Levels Farmland	Within the Order Limits – Solar Development Sites 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8
	LCT24 – River Floodplain	Bordering Order Limits – Solar Development Site 4

Landscape character assessment	Relevant character areas	Relationship to the Proposed Development
	LCT28 – Vale Farmland with Plantation Woodland and Heathland	Within the Order Limits - Solar Development Site 1
District –Selby Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 36)	LCA2: York Fringe East	Within the Order Limits - Solar Development Site 1
	LCA3: Skipwith Lowlands	Within the Order Limits - Solar Development Site 1
	LCA5: Ouse Valley	Within the Order Limits – CRC 1-4
	LCA7: Aire Valley	Within the Order Limits – Solar Development Site 4
	LCA 8: West Selby Limestone Ridge	Within the Order Limits – CRC 4-POC
	LCA11: Sherburn Farmland	Within the Order Limits - Solar Development Sites 2, 6, 7, 8
	LCA12: North Selby Farmland	Within the Order Limits – CRC 1-4
	LCA13: Haddlesey Farmland	Within the Order Limits – Solar Development Sites 3 and 4
	LCA 14: Hambleton Sandstone Ridge	Within the Order Limits – CRC 1-4

National character areas

10.7.49 Natural England has divided the country into 159 National Character Areas (NCA), which are broad scale and provide context to more detailed studies of local landscape character.

10.7.50 As shown in Figure 10.3.1 (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.03.01**], the Proposed Development lies within NCA 28: Vale York; NCA 39: Humberhead Levels; and NCA 30: South Magnesian Limestone.

NCA 28: Vale of York

10.7.51 The key characteristics of NCA 28 are summarised as:

1) A predominantly flat, open, and low-lying landscape, making any large-scale development potentially prominent;
2) Agricultural land use with medium- to large-scale arable fields, typically enclosed by low hedgerows and sparse hedgerow trees, offering limited screening;
3) Wetland features and priority habitats, which could be sensitive to development and require careful integration;

4) Parkland landscapes with designed tree belts and avenues, contributing to visual character and historic setting considerations; and

5) Linear village settlements with traditional brick and pantile-roofed buildings, where visual impact on village edges and views from open countryside should be assessed.

NCA 39: Humberhead Levels

10.7.52 The key characteristics of NCA 39 are summarised as:

1) A low-lying, flat landscape with large, open arable fields, often without hedgerows, making developments highly visible;

2) Extensive drainage systems, including ditches and dykes, which are key ecological corridors and could be sensitive to disruption;

3) Expansive, unbroken views with big skies, where vertical structures such as power stations and wind turbines are already prominent, but new development could further alter the landscape character;

4) Important wetland habitats, including floodplains and traditionally grazed meadows, supporting wetland birds and requiring careful ecological considerations; and

5) Despite infrastructure and settlements, parts of the landscape retain a sense of remoteness, meaning any large-scale development may affect perceived tranquillity.

NCA 30: South Magnesian Limestone

10.7.53 The key characteristics of NCA 30 are summarised as:

1) Underlying limestone creates an elevated ridge with smoothly rolling landform; river valleys cut through the ridge, in places following dramatic gorges. There are also some dry valleys;

2) Fertile, intensively farmed arable land, with large fields bounded by clipped hawthorn hedgerows, creating a generally large-scale, open landscape;

3) Semi-natural habitats, strongly associated with underlying limestone geology, include lowland calcareous grassland and limestone scrub on the free draining upland and gorges with wetland habitats associated with localised springs and watercourses, but all tend to be small and fragmented;

4) Long views over lowlands to the east and west, and most prominent in the south;

5) Woodlands combining with open arable land to create a wooded farmland landscape in places, where traditionally coppiced woodlands support dormouse populations; and

6) Influenced by the transport corridor of the A1 which is apparent in an otherwise undisturbed rural countryside.

County landscape character assessment

10.7.54 The North Yorkshire and York Landscape Characterisation Project (2011) (Ref 35) defines a series of broad LCT. The main LCTs relevant to this Proposed Development are summarised as follows:

LCT23 – Levels Farmland

10.7.55 The key characteristics of LCT23- Levels Farmland is summarised as:

1) Predominantly flat low-lying landscape which encompasses a patchwork of arable fields;
2) Large scale, open, rectilinear field patterns;
3) Dykes or ditches often form field boundaries, with a general absence of hedgerows;
4) Industrial scale farm buildings, large embankments and drains, and major energy and transport infrastructure contribute human elements; and
5) Historical features such as windmills recording past attempts to drain the landscape.

LCT24 – River Floodplain

10.7.56 The key characteristics of LCT24 River Floodplain are summarised as:

1) A series of flat, low lying relatively narrow river corridors which flow through the different types of vale farmland landscape character types;
2) The 'Ings' flood meadows maintained by traditional hay making activities;
3) Landscape pattern comprises a mixture of flood meadows, neutral grasslands and flood plain mires;
4) Halls and Manor Houses are key landscape features;
5) River engineering features such as Levees exert a human influence over the landscape;
6) Power Stations, pylons and former collieries are present in parts; and
7) The A1(M) introduces a source of noise and visual intrusion in several places.

LCT28 – Vale Farmland with Plantation Woodland and Heathland

10.7.57 The key characteristics of LCT28 Vale Farmland with Plantation Woodland and Heathland are summarised as:

1) A patchwork of low lying, predominantly arable fields, often delineated by a network of mature hedgerows and interspersed with patches of regular-shaped mixed and coniferous plantation woodlands;
2) Large heathlands are key features on sandy soils;

3) Distant visual containment is provided by higher Landscape Character Types to the east and west;

4) Strong sense of openness throughout much of this Landscape Character Type;

5) Scattered settlement pattern of towns, villages and farmsteads within the landscape around the main historic City of York (which forms part of the Urban Landscapes Primary Landscape Unit); and

6) A network of trunk roads linking the larger settlements and towns.

LCT 6 – Magnesian Limestone Ridge

10.7.58 The key characteristics of LCT6 Magnesian Limestone Ridge are summarised as:

1) A low ridge of gently rolling landform which is covered by a pattern of fertile farmland and well wooded estates;

2) Landform is intersected by a series of relatively intricate dry valleys;

3) Wooded limestone gorges, caves and crags are key landscape features;

4) The prominent transport corridor of the A1(M) which runs through the southern section of this Landscape Character Type;

5) Large-scale arable fields dominate the landscape, facilitating long distance views;

6) Intimate scale and grain of the landscape derived from complex topography and land use patterns; and

7) Several historic country houses and associated designed landscapes, often containing mature veteran trees.

District Landscape Character Assessment

10.7.59 The Selby Landscape Character Assessment (2019) (Ref 36) provides a district-wide analysis of the landscape within the Selby District, identifying distinct LCA and their key characteristics. The Study Area covers several LCAs defined in this study and the key characteristics of each LCA are detailed in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**].

10.7.60 The information within the Selby Landscape Character Assessment has been reviewed, updated and expanded to determine the value attached to the landscape at this scale in line with current best practice.

10.7.61 The review of the Selby Landscape Character Assessment has identified nine LCAs which coincide with the Study Area. Table 10-11~~Table 10-11~~ below summarises the value attached to the landscape for each of the district-level LCAs within the scope of this assessment (refer to Table 10-1), with detail provided in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**].

Table 10-11 Landscape receptors

Landscape receptor	Value attached to the landscape
LCA2: York Fringe East	Medium
LCA3: Skipwith Lowlands	Medium
LCA 5: Ouse Valley	Low
LCA7: Aire Valley	Low
LCA 8: West Selby Limestone Ridge	Medium
LCA11: Sherburn Farmland	Low
LCA12 North Selby Farmland	Medium
LCA13: Haddlesey Farmland	Low
LCA 14 Hambleton Sandstone Ridge	High

Landscape features

10.7.62 Desk study of aerial photography, mapping and fieldwork have helped to identify the key physical landscape features of each Solar Development Site and associated Cable Route Corridors, which are described in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**].

Summary of landscape baseline

10.7.63 Most of the Study Area falls within the Humberhead Levels (NCA 39). This is generally a low-lying, flat landscape with large, open arable fields, often without hedgerows but with extensive drainage systems, including ditches and dykes. Expansive, unbroken views with big skies dominate the landscape and vertical structures such as power stations are prominent.

10.7.64 The northern edge of the Study Area falls with the Vale of York (NCA 28). This is also a predominantly flat, open, and low-lying landscape and largely agricultural land but typically with medium- to large-scale fields, enclosed by low hedgerows and sparse hedgerow trees, offering limited screening.

10.7.65 The western edge of the Study Area falls within the South Magnesian Limestone (NCA 30). This is different in character to the rest of the Study Area, with underlying limestone. The key characteristics of an elevated ridge with smoothly rolling landform and river valleys cutting through the ridge and in places following dramatic gorges are not found within the Study Area of this LVIA. The area is also intensively farmed, creating a generally large-scale, open arable landscape, which is common in the Study Area.

10.7.66 At a county level, much of the central and southern part of the Study Area are categorised as Levels Farmland (LCT 23), sharing many of the characteristics described for the Humberhead Levels NCA but cut through by the corridors of River Floodplain (LCT 24) of the river Ouse and Aire Valleys.

10.7.67 In the northern part of the Study Area, Vale Farmland with Woodland Plantation and Heathland (LCT 28) dominates, reflecting the greater presence of woodland and heathland on the sandy soils. The western part of the Study Area falls with the Magnesian Limestone Ridge (LCT 6), characterised by a low ridge of gently rolling landform and a pattern of fertile farmland and well wooded estates.

10.7.68 At a district level, the Study Area is covered by nine LCAs, which range in value from low to high, influenced by factors which range from local designations to the extent of agricultural intensification which has led to the loss of value.

Visual baseline

10.7.69 This section summarises the visual baseline and likely impacts identified within the Study Area through a review of ZTVs and fieldwork surveys. Detailed descriptions of the baseline and likely effects are provided in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**].

10.7.70 ZTVs have been used to help identify sensitive visual receptor groups and locate representative viewpoints. Fieldwork surveys have shown that other vegetation not modelled into the ZTV, for example along field boundaries and in private gardens, further reduces the extent of visibility. This is recorded in the baseline sections of Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**].

10.7.71 In accordance with GLVIA3, a 'bare earth' ZTV has been prepared (See Figure 10.4.1: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) – DTM (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.01**]) This represents a worst-case scenario as it is based on the terrain alone and does not include features such as existing buildings or vegetation which can screen or filter views. Due to the flat nature of most of the surrounding topography, the ZTV suggests very wide visibility although this is not the case when assessed in the field.

10.7.72 The ZTV with screening (See Figure 10.4.2: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) – Screened (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.02**]) gives an indication of the potential visibility of the Proposed Development. The ZTV includes heights of objects, such as buildings and vegetation, as well as the terrain surface where the first or only return was the ground and is more realistic to the experience from the field survey where visibility is reduced by intervening vegetation and features.

10.7.73 The ZTV Screened indicates that views of the Proposed Development are likely to be relatively contained in the vicinity of Solar Development Site 1. The Proposed Development will likely to be most visible near Solar Development Site 1 from surrounding roads and PRoWs.

10.7.74 The flatter and more open landscape around Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 mean that visibility of the Proposed Development is more extensive than Solar Development Site 1, and there may be views from nearby and more distant roads and public rights of way, individual houses, farms and farmsteads.

10.7.75 Solar Development Sites 2, 6, 7 and 8 are also surrounded by flat farmland and will be potentially widely visible from nearby local roads, public rights of way, individual houses, farms and farmsteads. Long-distance views from the north, east and west will be partially screened by raised infrastructure and areas of woodland, particularly near Gascoigne Wood.

10.7.76 Due to intervening vegetation and buildings, views from nearby villages are likely to be contained to those locations on the edges of the settlements including Escrick, Riccal, Wistow, Hambleton, Birkin, West Haddlesey, Chapel Haddlesey and South Milford.

10.7.77 The Cable Route Corridor traverses predominantly flat rural landscapes. The visual baseline for the Cable Route Corridor is characterised by enclosure and screening by dense roadside vegetation, hedgerows, and tree belts are the dominant screening elements, substantially limiting the extent of visibility from both roads and public rights of way. In many locations, such as along the A19 east of Riccall, the view is heavily enclosed and filtered, offering only fragmented glimpses of vegetation and tree canopies.

Visual receptor groups

10.7.78 Visual receptors are defined in GLVIA3 as "*individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal*". This includes, for example, residents, users of public rights of way and motorists. The assessment only includes receptors for which effects are anticipated.

10.7.79 Visual receptors likely to experience views of the Proposed Development have been identified through interrogation of the ZTV, desktop analysis of maps and aerial imagery, and fieldwork surveys and subsequently categorised into the following types:

1) Residents of local communities;
2) People travelling along PRoW which are promoted routes;
3) People travelling along PRoW which are not promoted routes;
4) People using public open spaces;
5) People travelling through the area on main roads; and
6) People travelling through the area on local roads.

10.7.80 A description of the baseline view experienced by each visual receptor group is provided in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**]. Where a collection of visual receptors in the same category is likely to experience similar views, they have been grouped. These are set out in Table 10-12~~Table 10-12~~ below.

Table 10-12 Visual receptors

Visual receptor type	Visual receptor or receptor group description	Related representative viewpoints
Solar Development Site 1		
Residents of local communities	▪ Residents of properties adjacent to the Site including Tileshed Farm, Mount Pleasant Farm, Winchat Hall and Whinchat Cottages on Skipwith Road. ▪ Residents along Wheldrake Lane including, Gilbertson House, The Granary, Wheldrake Grange, Keepers Cottage and East Lodge; ▪ Bridge Farm and Wake House within 500 m to the south; ▪ Village of Escrick within 1 km to the north-west.	VP3, VP4, VP5, VP7, VP8
People travelling along PRoW which are not promoted routes	▪ People travelling on PRoW including bridleway (35.28/1/1), bridleway (35.67/6/1), and footpath (35.28/3/1) within the Site. ▪ People travelling on PRoW footpath (35.28/2/1) north from the Site. ▪ People travelling on PRoW bridleway (35.58/1/1) at the southern edge, footpath (35.51/13/1). ▪ People travelling on PRoW footpath (35.67/5/1), footpath (35.67/8/1) footpath (35.67/7/1) east from the Site. ▪ Public travelling on PRoW bridleway (35.67/6/1), Southmoor Road ▪ People travelling along permissive paths of Escrick Park Estate west from the Site.	VP1, VP4, VP6, VP7, VP9, VP53, VP67
People travelling through the area on local roads	▪ Mill Hill/Skipwith Road, which runs north-south along the western edge of the Site; ▪ Wheldrake Lane, which runs east-west along the northern edge of the Site.	VP3, VP5, VP8, VP52
Solar Development Site 2		
Residents of local communities	▪ Siddle Farm House immediately to the north of the Site. ▪ Residents living south of A63 including Brexhaven within 50 m south; Breckswood within 50 m south-east; Green Lane Farm within 300 m south.	VP10, VP11
People travelling along PRoW which are not promoted routes	▪ People travelling on PRoW within proximity to Solar Development Site 2 including Public bridleway (35.48/4/1), Public bridleway (35.32/1/1). ▪ People travelling on publicly accessible trail at Hambleton Hough	VP13, VP41
People travelling through the area on main roads	▪ A63, going east-west south of Solar Development Site 2.	VP11, VP12, VP55
People travelling through the area on local roads	▪ Fryston Common Lane, which runs east-west, crossing northern part of Solar Development Site 2.	VP10, VP68

Visual receptor type	Visual receptor or receptor group description	Related representative viewpoints
Solar Development Sites 3 and 4		
Residents of local communities	▪ Residents of properties along Chapel Street/Hillam Common Lane, including Meadow Farm and Bower's House Farm within 100 m north of the Sites. ▪ Residents of Birkin and nearby properties including Birkin House, Woodhouse Farm within 300 m south-west from the Sites. ▪ Northfield Farm within 500 m west from the Sites. ▪ Residents of West Haddlesey within 2 km east from the Sites. ▪ Residents of Beal and Kellington within 2 km to the south.	VP14, VP16, VP17, VP19, VP23, VP25, VP26, VP56
People travelling along PRoW which are not promoted routes, people using the canal towpath	▪ People travelling on PRoW within Solar Development Site 4 including footpaths (35.10/7/1) and (35.10/2/1). ▪ People travelling on PRoW within close proximity to Solar Development Site 4 including footpath (35.10/10/1), footpath (35.10/6/1), footpath (35.10/3/1), footpath (35.37/7/1) and footpath (36.7/3/1). ▪ People travelling along Selby Canal Towpath east of Site 4. ▪ People travelling along River Aire south of Site 4.	VP15, VP16, VP17, VP20, VP21, VP22, VP25, VP26, VP27, VP51, VP56
People travelling through the area on local roads	▪ People travelling along the local road network including Hillam Common Lane, Roe Lane, Marsh Lane, Haddlesey/Birkin Road.	VP14, VP19, VP21, VP23, VP24, VP57, VP69, VP70
Solar Development Site 6 and 7		
Residents of local communities	▪ Residents of Milford Grange, Milford Lodge, Milford Lodge Cottage, Woodhaven adjacent to the Sites. ▪ Village of South Milford within 550 m.	VP42, VP43, VP46, VP47
People travelling along PRoW which are not promoted routes	▪ People travelling on PRoW (35.59/8/1) near South Milford. ▪ People travelling on PRoW (35.59/6/1) near Solar Development Site 6.	VP42, VP44, VP45, VP47
People travelling through the area on local roads	▪ Common Lane east of South Milford.	VP43
Solar Development Site 8		
Residents of local communities	▪ Resident of houses to the north of the Site, including Low Rest Park Farm, Melton Leys within 300 m, Fair View within 500 m.	VP49
People travelling along PRoW which are not promoted routes	People travelling on PRoW including: ▪ Footpath (35.59/1/1) on the western edge of the Site. ▪ Footpath (35.32/2/1) on the eastern edge of the Site. ▪ Footpath (35.59/4/1) to the north of the Site.	VP48, VP49, VP50

Visual receptor type	Visual receptor or receptor group description	Related representative viewpoints
CRC: CRC 1-4 (Solar Development Site 1-4)		
Residents of local communities	▪ Residents of Riccall and nearby properties on Selby Road. ▪ Residents of houses along Wistow Road.	VP58, VP61
People travelling along promoted routes	▪ Users of the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) adjacent to the A19.	VP58
People travelling along PRoW which are not promoted routes	▪ People travelling along bridleway (35.53/14/1) east of Riccall. ▪ People travelling along footpath (5.32/6/1) west of Hambleton Hough. ▪ People travelling along footpath 35.74/2/1 near Wistow.	VP59, VP60, VP65
People travelling through the area on main roads	▪ A19, east of Riccall.	VP58
People travelling through the area on local roads	▪ Dam Lane (west of Thorpe Wood). ▪ Mill Lane (south of Hambleton).	VP63, VP64
People using public open spaces	▪ People travelling through Moss Hagg.	VP62
CRC: CRC 4-POC (Monk Fryston Substation to Solar Development Site 4)		
People travelling along PRoW which are not promoted routes /road users	People travelling along Stocking Lane footpath (35.10/9/1) and footpath (35.37/6/2).	VP66

Representative viewpoints

10.7.81 Representative viewpoints have been used to assist in describing the baseline view and the effects likely to be experienced by visual receptor groups. These viewpoints have been selected on the basis that they cover a range of viewing distances, elevations and orientations from locations with different viewing experiences of the Proposed Development. In some cases, a viewpoint may therefore be representative of more than one visual receptor group.

10.7.82 The suggested viewpoints were included in the EIA Scoping Report for agreement. In addition, a draft viewpoint pack, showing detailed plans and photographic panoramas from the initial winter photography, was shared via email with NYC and discussed at an online meeting on 26 February 2025.

10.7.83 The landscape officer at NYC has agreed in principle with the suggested types of receptors and areas within which the proposed viewpoints are located. They have also requested additional representative viewpoints, which were incorporated into the LVIA that was presented in the PEIR. Following feedback received from the landscape officer at NYC following the Statutory Consultation, 5 additional representative viewpoints were added and some viewpoints were omitted where the PEIR assessment had identified that significant effects were unlikely. These representative viewpoints and associated visual receptor groups are set out in Table 10-13~~Table 10-13~~ below.

10.7.84 Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**] sets out in detail the baseline and assessment of effects relating to the visual receptors associated with each viewpoint. These viewpoints are set out in Table 10-13~~Table 10-13~~ and are shown in Figure 10.5: Viewpoints Plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.05**].

10.7.85 The final selection of representative viewpoints presented in this ES has been informed by the following criteria:

1) Accessibility to the public;
2) Number and sensitivity of people who may be affected;
3) Viewing direction, distance, openness and elevation; and
4) Nature of the viewing experience.

10.7.86 The numbering of viewpoints in this assessment follows the sequence established during the EIA scoping stage. As the assessment and consultation were progressed, some viewpoints were added, adjusted or omitted based on feedback and evolving design. To maintain consistency with earlier documentation and ensure clear cross-referencing throughout the LVIA, the original numbering has been retained. As a result, there are some gaps in the numerical sequence and the order does not strictly follow a geographical progression. Some viewpoints are also representative of more than one visual receptor group. In such cases they are listed more than once in Appendix 10.3 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**] to reflect differences in their susceptibility to change and sensitivity.

10.7.87 The value attached to views at each viewpoint has been ascribed with reference to the criteria set out in Table 1-7 of ES Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10**].

Table 10-13 Representative viewpoints and visual receptors – Solar Development Sites

Viewpoint number	Viewpoint location	Visual receptor type	Value attached to the view
VP1	Public footpath (35.28/1/1) near Escrick	People travelling along PRoW	Medium
VP3	Wheldrake Lane adjacent to East Lodge	Residents of local communities and people travelling on local roads	Medium
VP4	Public bridleway (35.28/1/1) adjacent to Tileshed Farm	Residents of local communities and people travelling along PRoW	Medium
VP5	Wheldrake Lane adjacent to Gilbertson House	Residents of local communities and people travelling on local roads	Low
VP6	Public bridleway (35.28/1/1) adjacent to Gray Reins woodland	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP7	Public bridleway (35.58/1/1) between Bridge Farm and Thornhill Farm	Residents of local communities and people travelling along PRoW	Low
VP8	Mill Hill at private driveway to Mount Pleasant Farm	Residents of local communities and people travelling on local roads	Low
VP9	Public footpath (35.28/3/1) south of Mount Pleasant Farm	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP10	Fryston Common Lane adjacent to Siddle Farm House	Residents of local communities	Low
VP11	East of Lowfield Road on A63	Residents of local communities and people travelling on local roads	Low
VP12	Junction of Fox Lane and A63	People travelling on local roads	Low
VP13	Public bridleway (35.32/1/1) east to Owlett Hall	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP14	Hillam Common Lane adjacent to Meadow Farm	People travelling on local roads and residents of local communities	Low
VP15	Public footpath (35.37/8/1) close to Hillam Common Lane	People travelling along PRoW	Low

Viewpoint number	Viewpoint location	Visual receptor type	Value attached to the view
VP16	Public footpath (35.37/7/1) adjacent to Bower's House Farm	People travelling along PRoW and residents of local communities	Low
VP17	Public footpath (35.10/7/1) at junction with Roe Lane	People travelling along PRoW and residents of local communities	Low
VP19	Haddlesey Road at eastern settlement edge of Birkin	People travelling on local roads, Residents of local communities	Low
VP20	Public footpath (35.10/2/1) adjacent to Gateforth Wood	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP21	Public footpath (35.10/3/1) at junction with Birkin Road	People travelling along PRoW and people travelling on local roads	Low
VP22	Public footpath (35.10/3/2) north of Humble Holme	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP23	Junction of Pale Lane and Birkin Road	People travelling on local roads and residents of local communities	Low
VP25	Public footpath (35.41/1/1) at the northern settlement edge of Kellington	People travelling along PRoW and residents of local communities	Low
VP26	Public footpath (35.7/12/1) close to the northern settlement edge of Beal	People travelling along PRoW and residents of local communities	Low
VP27	Public footpath (35.37/5/1) south of Hillam	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP41	Publicly accessible trail at Hambleton Hough	People travelling along PRoW and people using public open space	High
VP42	Public footpath (35.59/8/1) south of South Milford	People travelling along PRoW and residents of local communities	High
VP43	Common Lane next to Woodhaven, east of South Milford	People travelling on local roads	Low
VP44	Public footpath (35.59/6/1) east of Maltings Waste Processing Plant	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP45	Turpin Lane, Public footpath (35.59/6/1) next to Milford Common Drain	People travelling along PRoW	Low

Viewpoint number	Viewpoint location	Visual receptor type	Value attached to the view
VP46	Common Lane next to Milford Lodge	Residents of local communities	Low
VP47	Turpin Lane, Public footpath (35.59/6/1) next to Milford Grange	People travelling along PRoW and residents of local communities	Low
VP48	Public footpath (35.59/1/1) along Habholme Dike	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP49	Public footpath (35.59/4/1) south of Low Rest Park Farm	People travelling along PRoW and residents of local communities	Low
VP50	Public footpath (35.32/2/1), Philip Lane	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP51	Selby Canal north of Tankards Bridge	People travelling along PRoW	Medium
VP52	Wheldrake Lane north of Tileshed Farm	People travelling on local roads	Low
VP53	Escrick Park Temple Walk permissive footpath	People travelling along PRoW	Medium
VP55	A63 south of Siddle Farm House	People travelling on local roads	Low
VP56	Public footpath (35.10/10/1) near Northfield Farm	People travelling along PRoW and residents of local communities	Low
VP57	Birkin Road intersection with Royd's Road	People travelling on local roads	Low
VP67	Public bridleway (35.67/6/1)	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP68	Southmoor Road	People travelling on local roads	Low
VP69	Fryston Common Lane	People travelling on local roads	Low
VP70	Roe Lane	People travelling on local roads	Low

10.7.88 Further changes were made to the selection of representative viewpoints following changes to the design of the Proposed Development and engagement with stakeholders through the Statutory Consultation process. Table 10-14~~Table 10-14~~ below explains these changes.

Table 10-14 Changes to representative viewpoints following Statutory Consultation

Viewpoint number	Viewpoint location	Visual receptor type	Status
VP2	Public footpath (35.28/2/1) south of Spring House Farm	People travelling along PRoW	Omitted
VP18	Public footpath (35.10/9/2) south of Northfield Farm	People travelling along PRoW	Omitted
VP24	Marsh Lane south-west of West Haddlesey	People travelling along PRoW	Omitted
VP25	Public footpath (35.41/7/1) at the western settlement edge of Kellington	People travelling along PRoW and residents of local communities	Moved to a new location (added)
VP54	Skipwith road east of Common Wood	People travelling on local roads	Omitted
VP67	Public bridleway (35.67/6/1) Southmoor Road	People travelling along PRoW	Added
VP68	Fryston Common Lane	People travelling on local roads	Added
VP69	Hillam Common Lane	People travelling on local roads	Added
VP70	Roe Lane	People travelling on local roads	Added

10.7.89 Additional viewpoints relating to Cable Route Corridor and Cable Construction Compounds are shown in Table 10-15~~Table 10-15~~ below and Figure 10.5: Viewpoints Plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.05**]. These components are temporary but could potentially lead to adverse landscape and visual effects during the construction phase.

Table 10-15 Representative viewpoints and visual receptors – Cable Route Corridors and Cable Construction Compounds

Viewpoint number	Viewpoint location	Visual receptor type	Value attached to the view
VP58	A19 east of Riccall	People travelling on local roads and residents of local communities	Low
VP59	Bridleway 35.53/14/1 east of Riccal	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP60	PRoW (35.74/2/1) near Wistow	People travelling along PRoW	Low

Viewpoint number	Viewpoint location	Visual receptor type	Value attached to the view
VP61	Wistow Road	Residents of local communities	Low
VP62	Southern edge of Moss Hagg	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP63	Dam Lane west of Thorpe Wood	People travelling on local roads	Low
VP64	Mill Lane south of Hambleton	Residents of local communities	Low
VP65	Public footpath (35.32/6/1) west of Hambleton Hough	People travelling along PRoW	Low
VP66	Stocking Lane	People travelling along PRoW	Low

Visual representations

10.7.90 Baseline photography for each agreed viewpoint is included in Appendix 10.4: Photography and Photomontages (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.04**] to help demonstrate the nature of baseline views including the extent of existing screening. These photographs are presented as Landscape Institute Type 1 annotated photographs.

10.7.91 Landscape Institute Type 4 verifiable photomontages are provided in this ES for a selection of viewpoints that have been agreed with NYC. These illustrate the likely extent and nature of changes in baseline views.

Summary of the visual baseline

10.7.92 This section provides a summary of the visual context across the Study Area in relation to Cable Route Corridor and each Solar Development Site or group of Solar Development Sites in cases of adjacently located Solar Development Sites and should be read in combination with Appendix 10.3 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**], which provides a more detailed description of the view from each viewpoint.

Solar Development Site 1

10.7.93 Views from the PRoW that cross Solar Development Site 1 typically provide open panoramic views of arable fields, with a low, flat horizon defined by tree belts and woodland edges. Horizontal elements such as the fields and hedgerows dominate, and views are experienced in a sequence, with occasional woodland in the middle ground and distant trees and woodland forming the background.

10.7.94 Views from Wheldrake Lane to the north of Solar Development Site 1 are largely limited by roadside hedgerows and occasional hedgerow trees, with infrequent glimpses of the open arable field and tree lines beyond at gaps and field gates. Views from Wheldrake Lane at its western end, for users travelling east, are more

open as the land rises to the local ridge. Residents on Wheldrake Lane also have more open views from their curtilages looking south over Solar Development Site 1 from higher ground.

10.7.95 Views from the PRoW north of Solar Development Site 1 along the Halfpenny Dike are limited due to intervening tree lines and hedgerows. This contrasts with views from the PRoW south of the Solar Site, near Thornhill Farm, which has a more open view into Solar Development Site 1's arable fields.

10.7.96 Views into Solar Development Site 1 from Skipwith Road to the west of Solar Development Site 1 are largely curtailed by roadside hedgerows, apart from occasional gaps which afford views into the fields within the Order Limits. Views from Escrick Park are also limited by roadside woodland, hedgerows and trees within the parkland alongside.

Solar Development Site 2

10.7.97 Solar Development Site 2 is relatively open compared to Solar Development Site 1. There are open, uninterrupted views across the Order Limits from Fryston Common Lane and Siddle Farm House on the northern boundary of Solar Development Site 2. Vegetation along the A63 forms a simple low skyline in these views. Views from properties to the west of Solar Development Site 2 and Fryston Grange are largely screened by intervening hedgerows and tree lines. Views from the PRoW to the north are also largely screened by intervening vegetation.

10.7.98 Views from the A63 on Solar Development Site 2's southern boundary are limited by overgrown roadside hedge and boundary trees although there are gaps and sections where there are more open views, particularly along the centre of Solar Development Site 2, opposite the track leading to Siddle Farm House.

Solar Development Sites 3 and 4

10.7.99 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 share a similar flat, arable character which affords unbroken views with big skies, where vertical structures such as overhead pylon lines are dominant features, and low-lying vegetation typically forms the horizon. Views from Hillam Common Lane, which runs on the northern boundary of Solar Development Site 3 and close to the northern boundary of Solar Development Site 4 are open with limited roadside hedging or trees and people travelling on local roads experience uninterrupted, transient views of both Solar Development Sites. Similar open views are obtained from Roe Lane which runs through Solar Development Site 4, at its western edge and Haddlesey Road on Solar Development Site 4's southern boundary.

10.7.100 The PRoW which run in a north to south direction through Site 4 also have expansive panoramic views across the arable fields, only curtailed where they pass near the woodland copses and tree lines at Birkin and through Gateforth Wood on the northern boundary of the Site. Views from properties including Birkin and Bower's House Farm are also filtered or screened by trees, hedge lines and scrub.

Solar Development Sites 6, 7 and 8

10.7.101 This group of Solar Development Sites do not share the vast scale of Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 and are more semi-enclosed in nature, especially Solar Development Sites 7 and 8, with the woodland and vegetation along railway lines and Gascoigne Wood providing visual containment in views.

10.7.102 Views of Sites 6 and 7 are possible from the PRoW at Turpin Lane and people travelling on local roads of Common Lane. Views are typically of extensive, flat arable farmland with minimal field boundaries, small clusters of buildings, trimmed hedgerows and scattered mature trees with a wooded skyline to the north and east. Properties including Woodhaven, Milford Lodge, Milford Lodge Cottage and Milford Grange lie close to the Solar Site boundaries and people living here have similar views.

10.7.103 The open fields of Solar Development Site 8 are overlooked by the PRoW on the east and west boundaries. Woodland in its western and northern boundary provides some containment and intervening vegetation to the north of Solar Development Site 8 partially filters views from Low Rest Park farm to the north.

Cable Route Corridors

10.7.104 The Cable Route Corridor traverses a predominantly rural landscape, crossing existing road corridors, including major roads A19 and A63, River Ouse, field boundaries, and PRoW. In many locations, such as along the A19 east of Riccall and Dam Lane near Thorpe Wood, dense roadside hedgerows and trees create a sense of enclosure, heavily filtering or screening views of the corridor from both road users and recreational receptors. Where gaps in vegetation occur, more open views are afforded across the agricultural landscape, but these are generally fleeting and transient. For recreational users of PRoW, such as bridleways and footpaths crossing or running adjacent to the Cable Route Corridor, the experience is often sequential, with views alternating between open panoramas across arable fields and more enclosed sections where hedgerows and woodland blocks provide visual containment. In the more open sections, the skyline is typically low and uninterrupted, with distant tree lines, pylons, and occasional farm buildings forming the horizon. In areas where the cable route passes close to settlements or farmsteads, intervening vegetation and garden planting further filter and soften views.

Future baseline

10.7.105 The future baseline for LVIA is expected to evolve with multiple developments across the Study Area contributing to its change. It reflects a landscape in transition: still fundamentally rural and agricultural in many respects, but increasingly influenced by a range of energy, employment, and residential developments. This will result in a greater diversity in land use and built form, within the same landscape designations.

10.7.106 Historically, the area has been associated with coal-related industry, but this is now changing to a broader energy mix, including gas, hydrogen, and renewable. This is exemplified by major projects like the Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station, Eggborough Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power station, the Yorkshire GREEN transmission project, and several large-scale battery storage and renewable energy developments (e.g., Monk Fryston Battery Storage Facility, solar development with co-located Battery Energy Storage Systems and associated works south of Scalm Park, and a battery storage facility in Weeland Road, Hensall). These projects will alter the views and landscape, necessitating new transmission infrastructure and substations with its associated planting and screening across the landscape.

~~10.7.107 The future baseline for the LVIA incorporates two consented solar farm projects due to their scale and proximity to the Order Limits. These comprise the Scalm Park Solar and BESS scheme (planning application ZG2024/1129/FULM), located south of Scalm Park and in close proximity to Cable Construction Compound 1, and Hillham Solar Farm (planning application AP/2025/0037/REF), situated adjacent to Solar Development Sites 3 and 4. As these schemes are expected to form part of the established landscape by the time the Proposed Development becomes operational, they are considered as future baseline components rather than cumulative developments. Their presence has therefore been assumed to form part of the landscape and views, ensuring that predicted effects reflect the anticipated context in which the Proposed Development will be experienced.~~

~~10.7.108~~10.7.107 The scale and proximity of new employment allocations, such as the extensive redevelopment of the former Gascoigne Wood colliery at Sherburn-in-Elmet and the Eggborough employment site, will introduce increased transport activity, new access roads, and ancillary features into previously developed footprints. Pylons and transmission lines will continue to dominate the skyline, and power stations will remain prominent in distant views, reinforcing the industrial presence within the visual envelope. Residential growth will also contribute to the evolving baseline, with new allocations and permitted schemes in settlements such as Hambleton and across the wider Study Area introducing additional built form and extending settlement edges.

10.8 Embedded and good practice mitigation and enhancement measures

Embedded mitigation

10.8.1 Embedded measures are modifications to the design of a scheme, made during the pre-application phase, that are an inherent part of the design and do not require additional action to be taken. Good practice measures are standard approaches and actions undertaken to avoid or reduce environmental impacts in line with best practice guidance and legislative requirements.

10.8.2 The Proposed Development has evolved through an environmentally led iterative design process.

10.8.3 The LVIA has been key to achieving the criteria for good design set out in NPS EN-1 (Ref 9) and the NSIP Advice on Good Design (The Planning Inspectorate 2024) (Ref 42) and this has been a key consideration from the outset.

10.8.4 The LVIA has informed the iterative design process of the Proposed Development, specifically with regards to the siting and layout. The landscape design has helped to minimise their visibility and perceived scale and mass within the landscape, as well as identifying mitigation to reduce landscape and visual effects. The LVIA has also informed the identification of opportunities for new green infrastructure such as new habitats and permissive recreational routes, which are shown on the Outline Environmental Masterplan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.12]**. In this context, the LVIA has also informed the Design Principles, described in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**], and the Design Parameters and Commitments Document [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.06**].

10.8.5 The most effective mitigation for adverse landscape and visual effects is to avoid impacts at source as part of the design process, for example through the siting of infrastructure, which has been considered as part of the design development. Where effects cannot be avoided, the mitigation hierarchy requires that impacts should be minimised, rectified, reduced or finally offset/compensated. Most landscape mitigation is therefore considered embedded. This will be supported by a comprehensive post-construction reinstatement strategy and appropriate management measures for landscape and ecology, as detailed in Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.05**]. Beneficial outcomes will be maximised wherever practicable, for example through the design of multi-functional green infrastructure which seeks to provide a range of ecosystem services.

10.8.6 Mitigation principles to avoid or minimise potential construction effects have focussed on reducing the duration and footprint of construction activity, locating development in the least prominent positions and wherever practicable maximising the distance from nearby visual receptors. Other measures which have been considered include positioning the works to make use of existing natural features such as landform and vegetation to screen views.

10.8.7 The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid or minimise the loss of other existing landscape features of value, such as trees, woodland, and hedgerows wherever practicable. Any loss will be mitigated with replacement planting as close to the location, type and character of the existing vegetation, as far as reasonably practicable, to reduce effects resulting from such losses. The design also identifies opportunities for landscape restoration and enhancement, by introducing planting which repairs or reinforces existing vegetation patterns and contributes to biodiversity net gain.

10.8.8 Planting proposed to reinstate vegetation removed to facilitate construction or provided to mitigate other effects is embedded in the design of the Proposed

Development. However, it takes time for planting to establish. Therefore, the assessment of effects at Year 1 of operation represents the worst case and residual landscape and visual effects have been assessed at Year 15 of operation in Section 10.11 of this chapter.

10.8.9 Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**] estimates that the solar PV modules could require replacement once, and the batteries up to five times, during the operational phase of the Proposed Development. The effects of replacement activities, which will be carried out in the context of an operational solar farm, are anticipated to be no greater than the construction phase because effects will be controlled and managed through appropriate management plans. Furthermore, the solar panels and other infrastructure, existing vegetation and planting will largely screen such activities. Therefore, no separate assessment of the effects of replacement or maintenance during the operational phase has been carried out.

10.8.10 The next section summarises how the LVIA has informed the design of the Proposed Development to date. A range of measures have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development to avoid or reduce environmental effects on landscape and visual amenity and have been considered through consideration of options, preliminary appraisal and refinement. The measures and principles that the Applicant has developed respond to policy requirements, published landscape character assessments, good practice and fieldwork analysis, as explained in the Design Approach Document [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.05**].

10.8.11 Measures for the Proposed Development relevant to landscape and visual considerations committed include the following which are secured by the oLEMP **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.05]** and Works Plans **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.03]**:

Construction

1) Existing woodland and hedgerows will be retained wherever practicable. Vegetation removal will be minimised and limited to areas necessary for access points, cable routing, and fencing. Where removal is unavoidable, reinstatement will be undertaken within the technical constraints of cable easements.

2) Tree protection measures, which are identified in the Arboriculture Impact Assessment included as Appendix 16.2 to this ES (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.02**], to include the following:

   a. A minimum 15 m buffer or the Root Protection Area (RPA), whichever is larger, will be provided to all ancient woodland, except for potentially 20 m adjacent to Common Wood SINC.

   b. A buffer of 15 times the stem diameter, as measured at 1.5 m, will be put in place around ancient or veteran trees.

c. A minimum 10 m offset or the RPA, whichever is greater, will be maintained around non-ancient woodland (as identified in the National Forestry Inventory and site surveys). For all other non-ancient/non-veteran trees, a minimum 5 m offset or the RPA will be provided where practicable.

3) Installation of underground cables using trenching, wherever possible, will cause minimal disruption to the ground, by cutting, installing and back-filling in one operation.

4) The number of Avoidance Areas have been identified (refer to ES Volume 2, Figure 2.5 [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.05**] and Appendix 2.1: Cable Route Construction Method Statement (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.02.01**] where non-intrusive (trenchless) installation methods will be used to avoid impact to sensitive features such as watercourses, hedgerows and mature vegetation. Other crossings will be via trenchless solutions or open cut depending on the detailed design. The detailed CEMP will confirm the crossing technique that is proposed for the non-Avoidance Areas and confirm that no materially new or materially different effects to those reported in the ES will arise from the chosen technology. The Avoidance Areas comprise the crossing of the River Ouse, main rivers, IDB watercourses, and WER water body line watercourses. Trenchless solutions will also be utilised when crossing ditches that lead to the following designated sites: Common Wood SINC, Nightingale Wood SINC, Burr Closes SSSI, and Barber Rain SINC. Trenchless solutions will also be employed to pass beneath Ouse Bank-Westfield-Ricall Ings SINC that flanks the river Ouse, which will avoid direct impacts to the designated site. Trenchless solutions will also be used for railway crossings. Road crossings will be a combination of trenchless and open cut construction. When trenchless solutions are used the cable may be placed at greater depths.

Operation

1) Careful siting of the Proposed Development in the landscape to avoid or reduce the loss of existing vegetation and to relate to existing landform and vegetation patterns to maximise integration with the existing landscape.

2) Inclusion of wide offsets and setbacks at Solar Development Site 1 to respect the visual amenity, landscape sensitivity and openness of higher land on the northern edge of the Order Limits. At Solar Development Site 1, the Order Limits have been set back from Wheldrake Lane, with land removed from the Proposed Development to maintain visual amenity, landscape sensitivity and the openness of the higher land to the north.

3) Offsets from residential properties which respond to the existing landscape and extent of views, ranging from situations where existing retained vegetation in the curtilage of properties may filter some views to situations where views from a property are open.

4) Inclusion of offsets from existing landscape features, as described in Chapter 2: The Proposed Development (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**], including:

   a) Offsets from Ancient Woodland;
   b) Offsets from other woodland;
   c) Offsets from hedgerows; and
   d) Offsets from watercourses.

5) Inclusion of a minimum 15 m offset from all infrastructure, including fencing, to PRoW. This will allow opportunities to enhance the experience of users of PRoW as well as providing areas of screening to mask and soften the Proposed Development.

6) Inclusion of security fencing, designed to minimise its visual prominence. The fence is likely to be a deer fence or other mesh security fencing approximately 2.5 m to 3 m in height, as described in Chapter 2 (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.02**].

7) The colour and finish of infrastructure such as the BESS noise barrier will be subject to manufacturer specifications but will be carefully selected in subdued, non-reflective tones to be as discrete as possible within the landscape.

8) Inclusion of new green infrastructure measures to integrate with the local green infrastructure network, improving ecological and recreational connectivity across the Solar Development Sites.

Decommissioning

1) Reinstatement of the land following decommissioning, returning the land to its current use and condition as far as reasonably practicable.

2) Retention of established habitats such as hedgerows and woodland, except where required for decommissioning access. Beyond the life of the Proposed Development, the landowner may return all of the land to arable use, although it is likely that the established habitat will be retained given their potential benefits to agricultural land and the wider farming estate.

Management plans

10.8.12 A suite of management plans is included within the DCO Application, relevant to landscape and visual matters including:

1) Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**];

2) Outline Soil Resources Management Plan (oSRMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.14**];

3) Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (oLEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.05**];

4) Outline Public Rights of Way Management Plan (oPRoWMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.09**]; and

5) Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.04**].

10.8.13 These management plans incorporate embedded and good practice measures, including those listed above, as well as any further mitigation that is identified through the EIA process.

10.8.14 Outline versions of these management plans are submitted as part of the DCO Application to secure the commitments contained within. An appropriate Requirement will be included in the DCO Application to ensure detailed management plans will be developed to full versions substantially in accordance with the outline management plans and in consultation with relevant stakeholders. The detailed plans will be submitted to the relevant planning authority for approval prior to commencement of the relevant phase of development and the measures described in them are implemented.

10.9 Assessment of likely significant effects

10.9.1 This section presents the results of the assessment of likely significant effects with the embedded mitigation measures, described in the previous section, in place.

10.9.2 It should be read alongside the detailed assessment of effects on landscape receptors set out in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**], and visual receptors set out in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**]. The assessment has been set out by presenting a summary of the landscape effects from construction, operation and decommissioning, and followed by an assessment on the visual effects from construction, operation and decommissioning stages.

10.9.3 The likely significant effects of the Proposed Development have been assessed considering the mitigation proposals developed through multi-disciplinary design process, including in response to statutory consultation, surveys and stakeholder engagement.

Landscape effects

10.9.4 The following section provides a summary of the assessment of effects on landscape that will result from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development.

10.9.5 A detailed assessment of all landscape effects is reported in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**]. The assessment of landscape effects in this section addresses the following:

1) Effects on landscape designations (construction, operation and decommissioning).
2) Effects of construction on landscape elements and landscape character.
3) Effects of Year 1 of operation on landscape elements and character.
4) Effects of decommissioning on landscape elements and character.

Effects on landscape designations

10.9.6 This section considers the likely impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on designated landscapes that could harm the integrity of the designation.

Hambleton Hough LILA

10.9.7 As shown on Figure 10.2: Environmental Designations (Sheet 4) (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.02**], Cable Route Corridor 1-4 will run diagonally across the lower lying fields in the northern part of the LILA, for approximately 700 m, in a northeast to southwest direction. Although there will be some intervisibility, this will be very limited. This is evidenced with reference to VP41, where the magnitude of impact has been assessed as low to very low in all phases.

10.9.8 During construction, physical changes will arise within part of the LILA, due to works involving site clearance, the removal of short sections of hedgerow along the excavations of the cable trench and removal of approximately 50 m of hedgerow along the southern side of Field Lane to allow for a construction access. Temporary landscape impacts will occur due to the reduction in scenic quality and tranquillity in the Cable Route Corridor and this will cause localised changes to the setting of the land falling within the Hambleton Hough LILA.

10.9.9 The majority of the LILA designation and its key characteristics (wooded hills, panoramic views, and recreational value) will remain intact, as the Cable Route Corridor has been routed to avoid permanent impacts on these features.

10.9.10 It is assumed that access to Hambelton Hough from surrounding recreational paths will be maintained for most of the construction period, with only short-term closures with potential minimal localised diversion to accommodate Cable Route Corridor construction, allowing the hill to be accessed so that walkers will still enjoy the panoramic views from the higher areas.

10.9.11 At Year 1 of operation, effects resulting from the loss of existing hedgerows and trees will be reduced by the reinstatement of land above the underground cables. By Year 15 of operation, planting proposed to reinstate vegetation removed to facilitate construction will have established to restore the landscape pattern such that changes in the landscape of the Hambleton Hough LILA will be barely distinguishable from the baseline condition.

Limestone Ridge LILA

10.9.12 As shown on Figure 10.2: Environmental Designations (Sheet 4) (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.02**], Cable Route Corridor 4-POC will be located approximately 500 m south of the A63 and the nearest boundary of the LILA in a corridor between Monk Fryston substation and Hillam Lane. Although there will be some intervisibility, this will be very limited. This is evidenced with reference to VP42, where the magnitude of impact has been assessed as low to very low in all phases. Therefore, whilst there will be some changes within its setting, the integrity of the designation will be conserved.

Brayton Barff LILA

10.9.13 As shown on Figure 10.2: Environmental Designations (Sheet 4) (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.02**], Cable Route Corridor 1-4 will be located fully outside the LILA designated area, approximately 1.2km from the nearest boundary of the LILA. Additionally, as shown on Figure 10.4.2: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) – Screened [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.10.04.02**] no intervisibility is predicted within the LILA. Therefore, the integrity of the designation will be conserved.

Effects on landscape character

10.9.14 As agreed during EIA Scoping, the assessment has been undertaken using the district level character areas defined within the Selby Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 36).

10.9.15 This section provides a summary of the likely significant effects on the district Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) defined by Selby District Council that will result from the construction of the Proposed Development.

Construction effects

10.9.16 Of the nine district LCAs assessed within the Study Area, four LCAs (LCA 3: Skipwith Lowlands; LCA 11: Sherburn Farmland; LCA 13: Haddlesey Farmland; and LCA 14: Hambleton Sandstone Ridge) will experience likely significant effects, and these are summarised below. The other five LCAs (LCA 2: York Fringe East; LCA 5: Ouse Valley; LCA 7: Aire Valley; LCA 8: West Selby Limestone Ridge; and LCA 12: North Selby Farmland) will experience minor or negligible adverse effects. A detailed assessment of all effects is reported in Appendix 10.2 Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**].

10.9.17 For LCA3: Skipwith Lowlands, changes will arise in landscape character due to the reduction in openness and the temporary change of land use from agricultural farmland, caused by the construction of Solar Development Site 1. Construction activities will include enabling works, installation of solar panels, and construction of electrical infrastructure, including the proposed 275KV substation in Field 1.19 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2)

[**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**]). These activities, together with the presence of construction machinery, will affect the main area of Solar Development Site 1, which occupies the central part of the LCA towards its northern boundary. Additional effects will arise from construction traffic entering the LCA from the northern access point on Wheldrake Lane.

10.9.18 Further effects will be caused by the physical excavation of Cable Route Corridor 1-4, which will run diagonally across the LCA for approximately 5 km from Solar Development Site 1 to a point southwest of Riccall, where the corridor crosses the A19. This will result in temporary severance of field parcels, localised vegetation removal, and disruption caused by temporary soil storage and cable laying. Changes will also occur due to the establishment of Cable Construction Compound 3, which will be located east of Riccall.

10.9.19 Construction will cause a temporary reduction in the relative tranquillity experienced within the landscape. Construction noise, for short periods, as referenced in Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.11**] and night time lighting, where construction will take place in hours of darkness in winter will also reduce tranquillity within the northern part of the LCA and the central area of Cable Route Corridor 1-4. The duration of works is short-term and the impacts will be reversible.

10.9.20 The combined changes caused by the construction of Solar Development Site 1, Cable Route Corridor 1-4 and Cable Construction Compound 3 will occur across the central part of the LCA and the magnitude of impact will be high. This, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**.

10.9.21 For LCA11: Sherburn Farmland, construction activities such as ground preparation, construction traffic and machinery movement, temporary lighting and material storage, will change the rural character and reduce openness across Solar Development Sites 2, 6, 7 and 8. Works will include installation of infrastructure associated with the proposed 275KV substation and BESS on Solar Development Site 2 (Field 2.4 as shown on the Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**]). Changes will also occur due to construction traffic entering the LCA from the A63 for the construction of Solar Development Sites 2 and 8, the A162 for the construction of Solar Development Sites 6, 7 and 8 and B1222 for the construction of Solar Development Site 8.

10.9.22 Further effects will occur due to the excavation work along the Cable Route Corridor, as set out in detail in Appendix 10.2 (ES Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02]**. This will lead to a temporary loss of some farmland and hedgerows within the corridor, as detailed in Appendix 16.2: Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.02**]. Changes will also arise due to the setting up and activity related to Cable Construction Compounds 1 and 2 along Cable Route Corridor 1-4, located near Thorpe Willoughby and north of Selby respectively.

10.9.23 Construction will cause a temporary reduction in the relative tranquillity experienced within the landscape. High noise levels for short periods and night time lighting in winter months from the works will also reduce tranquillity across a large part of the southern and south-eastern leg of the LCA, albeit with the existing influence of the A63 in the south~~, the consented Scalm Park Solar and BESS project south of Scalm Park~~ and industry in the west. The duration of works will be short term and impact reversible.

10.9.24 The combined changes caused by the construction of the Solar Development Sites, Cable Route Corridor and associated construction compounds will occur over a large part of the southern and southeastern leg of the LCA and the magnitude of impact will be high. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**.

10.9.25 For LCA 13: Haddlesey Farmland, changes will arise in landscape character due to the reduction in openness and temporary change of land use from agricultural farmland, caused by the construction of Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 located in the western part of the LCA. Construction activities will include ground preparation, movement of construction traffic and machinery, temporary lighting, material storage, and the installation of solar panels and associated infrastructure. Works will also include the installation of the proposed 275KV substation on Solar Development Site 4 (Field 4.4 as shown on the Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03]**). Construction traffic will enter the LCA from the A63 and from the A162 for Solar Development Sites 3 and 4.

10.9.26 Further effects will occur due to the excavation work along the Cable Route Corridor, as set out in detail in Appendix 10.2 (ES Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02]**. This will lead to a temporary loss of some farmland and hedgerows within the corridor, as detailed in Appendix 16.2: Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.02**]. Changes will also arise due to the setting up and activity related to Cable Construction Compound 5 south of Hillam.

10.9.27 Construction will cause a temporary reduction in tranquillity within the landscape. Noise for short periods and temporary lighting during hours of darkness will also reduce tranquillity across the western area of the LCA, with the existing influence of the A63 in the south and industry in the west, albeit with the existing influence of the A63 in the north and overhead pylons presence. The duration of works will be short term and impacts reversible.

10.9.28 The combined changes caused by the construction of the Solar Development Sites, Cable Route Corridor and Cable Construction Compound 5 will occur over a large part of the LCA. The magnitude of impact will be high. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area, will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**.

10.9.29 For LCA 14: Hambleton Sandstone Ridge, changes will arise in landscape character due to the excavation of Cable Route Corridor 1-4. The corridor will

cross the north-western part of the LCA, involving temporary severance of field parcels, excavation and temporary earthworks/topsoil storage, removal of up to seven trees, and removal of approximately 50 m of hedgerow along the southern side of Field Lane to allow for construction access.

10.9.30 Cable Construction Compound 4 will also be set up within the Corridor alongside Hambleton Hough within 150 m from the LILA designation, west of Hough Lane. This will cause temporary changes to the setting of Hambleton Hough at a local level.

10.9.31 Construction will cause a temporary reduction in the relative tranquillity experienced within the landscape. Noise and night time lighting from the works will also reduce tranquillity across a corridor of land in the north-western part of the LCA. The duration of works is short term and impact reversible.

10.9.32 The effects will occur across a large part of the LCA and the magnitude of impact will be high. This, assessed against the high sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**.

10.9.33 Table 10-16~~Table 10-16~~ below provides a summary of the likely significant effects on LCAs during the construction of the Proposed Development, which will be short-term and reversible.

Table 10-16 Summary of LCAs with significant landscape effects during construction

LCA	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
LCA 3 Skipwith Lowlands	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
LCA 11 Sherburn Farmland	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
LCA 13 Haddlesey Farmland	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
LCA 14 Hambleton Sandstone Ridge	High	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Operational effects

10.9.34 Of the nine LCAs assessed within the Study Area, only one LCA - LCA 3 Skipwith Lowlands - will experience likely significant effects during Year 1 of operation. The other LCAs will experience minor or negligible effects, which are not significant. A detailed assessment of all effects is reported in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02]**

10.9.35 During Year 1 of operation, LCA 3: Skipwith Lowlands will experience **Moderate adverse (significant)** effects due to the permanent introduction of solar panels across the northern part of the LCA and the presence of the 275 KV substation in Field 1.19 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2)

[**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**], resulting in a change to landscape character and a reduction in openness and tranquillity. While the retained framework of existing hedgerows and trees will help to limit the impact, the loss of some vegetation required for the excavation of Cable Route Corridor 1-4 (as detailed in Appendix 16.2: Arboricultural Impact Assessment and Tree Protection Plan (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.02**], will not yet be fully mitigated by replacement planting. The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium and, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the area, will result in **moderate adverse effects** during the Year 1 of operation, **which is significant**.

10.9.36 The effects of the replacement of solar panels during the operational phase is expected to be no greater than the construction phase for the period of the replacement activity. This is because the remainder of the proposed infrastructure, structures and mitigation planting will provide a degree of screening and visual containment.

10.9.37 Table 10-17~~Table 10-17~~ below provides a summary of the likely significant effects on landscape character during Year 1 of the operation of the Proposed Development.

Table 10-17 Summary of LCAs with significant landscape effects during Year 1 of operation

Landscape Character Area	Sensitivity	Year 1 Magnitude of impact	Year 1 Significance of effect
LCA 3 Skipwith Lowlands	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Summary of landscape effects within Solar Development Sites

10.9.38 The likely significant effects on existing landscape features have been considered in assessing the effects on LCAs, which are set out in detail in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**] and are summarised above. This section provides a summary of the likely significant effects on landscape features which contribute to the character and value attached to the landscape within each Solar Development Site. This includes existing field boundaries and other vegetation such as hedgerows, trees and woodland, which may be directly affected by the Proposed Development.

10.9.39 The intention of assessing landscape effects on LCAs and the Solar Development Sites separately is to differentiate and draw distinctions between the likely significant effects at these different scales. Solar Development Sites have been assessed to consider direct physical changes to features that contribute to local distinctiveness at the local scale.

Construction effects

10.9.40 A detailed assessment of effects on the landscape features and characteristics of the seven Solar Development Sites is reported in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**]. Significant effects relating to the Solar Development Sites are summarised below.

Solar Development Site 1

10.9.41 Construction activities will temporarily alter the landscape character of Solar Development Site 1, primarily due to the change in land use from arable farmland to construction works, including enabling works, installation of solar panels, and construction of associated infrastructure including the proposed 275 KV substation in Field 1.19 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**]. The presence of construction machinery and traffic entering from Skipwith Road and Wheldrake Lane will further affect the site. Two hedgerows will be removed in the south for the creation of the Bird Mitigation Area. All other hedgerows will be retained, with only short sections (<10 m) removed for access tracks. Existing woodlands will remain, and works will be set back from Wheldrake Lane, limiting changes to landscape features and reducing overall impact magnitude. No veteran, ancient, or Category A trees, nor ancient woodland, will be removed. Two potentially Important Hedgerows as detailed in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.08**]) will be retained in full length. Construction will be set back from Wheldrake Lane, and offsets will protect retained features. The works will be short term and reversible.

10.9.42 Construction will temporarily reduce tranquillity through noise, short-term site lighting during dark hours, and construction traffic. The magnitude of impact will be high. This, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**.

Solar Development Site 2

10.9.43 Construction activities such as ground preparation, construction traffic and machinery movement, temporary lighting and material storage, will change the rural character and reduce openness across the Site. This will include the construction of 275 kV substation and BESS in Field 2.4 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**], coupled with the presence of construction machinery.

10.9.44 Construction will cause a reduction in relative tranquillity. Noise for short periods and temporary site lighting for construction in hours of darkness will also reduce tranquillity within the vicinity of the Site, albeit with the existing influence of the A63. The duration of works will be short term and impacts will be reversible.

10.9.45 The existing landscape features at Solar Development Site 2's boundary will be retained, offsets and root protection zones have been embedded to protect these features and secured within the Design Parameters and Commitments Document

[**EN0110012/APP/LVS/05.06**] and the oLEMP **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.05]**. However, there is a lack of existing landscape features within the main, central open part of Solar Development Site 2 to soften and mask the proposals and change to landscape character will occur across it, so the magnitude of impact will be high. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**.

Solar Development Site 3

10.9.46 Construction activities, including ground preparation, movement of machinery, temporary lighting, and material storage, will temporarily alter the rural character and reduce openness across Solar Development Site 3.

10.9.47 Works will be set back from Maspin Moor Drain and the road, with all existing trees within the Site and along boundaries retained, helping to minimise the magnitude of effect. No veteran, ancient, or Category A trees, nor ancient woodland, will be removed, and offsets and root protection zones have been implemented.

10.9.48 Construction will result in short-term noise and temporary lighting during hours of darkness, reducing tranquillity in the vicinity. The duration of works will be short term and effects will be reversible.

10.9.49 The magnitude of impact is assessed as high. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**.

Solar Development Site 4

10.9.50 Construction activities such as ground preparation, construction traffic arriving from south and west and machinery movement, temporary lighting and material storage, will change the rural character and reduce openness across the Site. This will include the proposed 275 KV substation on Field 4.4 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**], coupled with the presence of construction machinery. Offsets and root protection zones have been embedded in the design to protect the trees and retail vegetation.

10.9.51 Construction will cause a reduction in relative tranquillity including noise for short periods and temporary lighting for construction in hours of darkness within the vicinity of the Site. The duration of works will be short term and impacts will be reversible.

10.9.52 The magnitude of impact is assessed as high. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of Solar Development Site 4, will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**. The higher significance of effect is due to an overall lack of physical features such as strong boundary hedgerows to assist in integrating the Proposed Development within the landscape.

Solar Development Sites 6 and 7

10.9.53 Construction activities such as ground preparation, construction traffic and machinery movement, temporary lighting and material storage, will change the rural character and reduce openness across the Sites. Works will be set back within both Sites 6 and 7 from retained hedgerows and trees to reduce the magnitude of impact. Offsets and root protection zones have been embedded in the design to protect the trees and retail vegetation. One Important Hedgerows as identified in Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.08**]), will be retained with only a short section up to 10 m removed for access. Changes will also occur due to construction traffic arriving from Common Lane.

10.9.54 Construction will cause a reduction in relative tranquillity, including noise for short periods and temporary lighting for construction in hours of darkness. The duration of works will be short term and impacts will be reversible.

10.9.55 The magnitude of impact is assessed as high. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**. The higher significance of effect is due to the scale of proposed activities across the landscape receptor.

Solar Development Site 8

10.9.56 For Solar Development Site 8, construction activities such as ground preparation, construction traffic and machinery movement, temporary lighting and material storage, will change the rural character and reduce openness across the Site. Changes will also occur due to construction traffic accessing the site.

10.9.57 Construction will cause a reduction in relative tranquillity. Noise for short periods and temporary lighting for construction in hours of darkness will also reduce tranquillity within the vicinity of the Site. The duration of works will be short term and impacts will be reversible.

10.9.58 There is a lack of existing landscape features within the main, central open part of Solar Development Site 8 to soften and enclose and mask construction activity and change to landscape character will occur across most of it. Boundary features will be retained but overall, the magnitude of impact will be high. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during construction, **which is significant**.

10.9.59 Table 10-18~~Table 10-18~~ below provides a summary of the likely significant effects on each of the Solar Development Site's landscape features during the construction of the Proposed Development.

Table 10-18 Summary of Solar Development Sites with significant landscape effects during construction.

Solar Development Site	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
1	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
2	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
3	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
4	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
6 and 7	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
8	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Operational effects

10.9.60 All seven Solar Development Sites will experience likely significant effects at Year 1 of operation, which are summarised below. A detailed assessment of all effects is reported in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**].

10.9.61 The effects of the occasional replacement of solar panels and BESS during the operational phase is expected to be no greater than the construction phase for the period of the replacement activity.

Solar Development Site 1

10.9.62 For Solar Development Site 1, changes will arise in landscape character across Solar Development Site 1 due to the permanent introduction of solar panels and the 275 KV substation in Field 1.19 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**].

10.9.63 The proposed panels and infrastructure will be set within a retained framework of existing hedgerows and woodland. The existing field pattern and drainage channels will be retained. Works will also be substantially set back from Wheldrake Lane. A substantial area in the southern part of Site 1 will not be used for solar PV panels and instead be dedicated to the new Bird Mitigation Area with the principal objective of supporting wintering non-breeding birds. Consequently, the change to the existing landscape features and patterns will be limited and this will minimise the magnitude of impact overall. New planting along field boundaries will not yet have established.

10.9.64 The presence of the solar panels and substation in the rural landscape of Solar Development Site 1 will reduce the relative tranquillity.

10.9.65 The magnitude of impact is assessed as high. This, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the area, will result in **moderate adverse effects** during the Year 1 of operation, **which is significant**.

Solar Development Site 2

10.9.66 The permanent installation of solar panels, along with the proposed 275 KV substation and BESS at Field 2.4 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**] will result in a noticeable change to the landscape character and a reduction in openness across Solar Development Site 2. New planting along field boundaries and within setbacks will not yet have established, and the current lack of existing field boundaries means these changes will be visible throughout the site.

10.9.67 The introduction of solar panels and associated infrastructure will break up the previously open, arable landscape, introducing built elements into views that were once uninterrupted. This will alter the visual experience across the whole of Solar Development Site 2, diminishing the sense of rural tranquillity and creating a more developed appearance until the proposed planting matures and begins to integrate the Proposed Development into its surroundings. There is a lack of existing landscape features to soften and mask the proposals and change to landscape character will occur across most of the Site, resulting in a high magnitude of impact. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during Year 1 of operation **which is significant**.

Solar Development Site 3

10.9.68 For Solar Development Site 3, changes will arise in landscape character due to loss of openness caused by long-term installation of solar panels with associated infrastructure and fencing across Solar Development Site 3.

10.9.69 New planting along field boundaries and within setbacks will not yet have established. The presence of the solar panels will introduce structures into the landscape and the general tranquillity of the Site will reduce. The magnitude of impact will be high and this, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area, will result in **moderate adverse effects** during Year 1 of operation **which is significant**.

Solar Development Site 4

10.9.70 For Solar Development Site 4, there will be changes to landscape character and loss of openness due to long-term installation of solar panels with associated infrastructure and fencing, and the proposed 275 KV substation at Field 4.4 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**] across a large area of Solar Development Site 4.

10.9.71 New planting along field boundaries, PRoW and within setbacks will not yet have established. There is a lack of landscape features within the Site to offset the

magnitude of impact. The presence of the solar panels and substation will change the landscape character, and the general tranquillity of the Site will reduce.

10.9.72 There will be retained hedgerows and features within the Solar Development Site 4 boundary but given the scale of change and previous openness, the magnitude of impact will be high. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during Year 1 of operation, **which is significant**.

Solar Development Sites 6 and 7

10.9.73 The permanent installation of solar panels introduces a regular pattern of engineered structures, resulting in a notable change to landscape character and a reduction in perceived openness. At Year 1, mitigation through boundary and setback planting remains visually ineffective due to limited establishment. The loss of open field patterns and the introduction of built form diminish perceptual qualities such as tranquillity, particularly in western Site 6 and around Site 7, where existing infrastructure (rail corridors, industry) already compromises baseline conditions. These effects will be most pronounced in the western parts of Solar Development Site 6 and around Solar Development Site 7, where rail corridors and nearby industry enclose the area. Overall, the general tranquillity of the Sites will reduce.

10.9.74 The works will produce a high magnitude of impact. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during Year 1 of operation **which is significant**.

Solar Development Site 8

10.9.75 For Solar Development Site 8, changes will arise in landscape character and loss of openness due to long-term installation of solar panels with associated infrastructure, fencing and associated equipment. There is a lack of existing landscape features within Solar Development Site 8 to offset the magnitude of impact and new planting along field boundaries and within setbacks will not yet have established.

10.9.76 The presence of the solar panels will introduce structures into the landscape and the general tranquillity of the Site will reduce.

10.9.77 There is a lack of existing landscape features within the Solar Development Site 8 to soften and mask the proposals and change to landscape character will occur across it, resulting in a high magnitude of impact. This, assessed against the low sensitivity of the area will result in **moderate adverse effects** during Year 1 of operation **which is significant**.

Summary of landscape effects on Solar Development Sites during Year 1 of operation

10.9.78 Table 10-19~~Table 10-19~~ below provides a summary of the likely significant effects on landscape features and character within the Solar Development Sites during Year 1 of operation of the Proposed Development.

Table 10-19 Summary of Solar Development Sites with significant landscape effects during Year 1 of operation

Solar Development Sites	Sensitivity	Year 1 Magnitude of impact	Year 1 Significance of effect
1	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
2	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
3	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
4	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
6 and 7	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
8	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Visual effects

10.9.79 The following section provides a summary of the assessment of visual effects that will result from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development. A detailed assessment of all visual effects is reported in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**].

10.9.80 The visual effects assessment has been presented as follows:

1) Visual effects at construction;
2) Visual effects at Year 1 of operation; and
3) Visual effects at decommissioning.

10.9.81 The residual visual effects are summarised in Section 10.11 of this chapter.

Construction effects

10.9.82 This section provides a summary of the likely significant effects on visual amenity during construction. The construction of the Proposed Development will result in significant visual effects for the following visual receptor groups.

Residents of local communities

10.9.83 For residents of Tileshed Farm and nearby properties such as Mount Pleasant Farm (VP4), construction activity within Solar Development Site 1 will be visible directly in the middle ground of most views. After installation of fencing, activities associated with the installation of the proposed solar panels will be visible, including earthworks, presence of construction vehicles, temporary lighting, and removal of targeted sections of vegetation within the Order Limits. In the background, the construction of the proposed 275 KV substation will also be visible, temporarily changing the rural character within this view to a construction site. Although setbacks and intervening vegetation will mitigate some impacts, the overall magnitude of impact is assessed as high. When considered against the medium sensitivity of the receptors, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.84 For residents living in properties along Mill Hill/Skipwith Road (VP8) construction activity within Solar Development Site 1 will be visible directly in the view. After installing the fencing, the works associated with installation of solar infrastructure will be partially visible, including piling, localised excavation of foundations, storage of materials, presence of construction vehicles and temporary lighting and removal of targeted section of the vegetation within the Order Limits. In the background, the construction of the proposed 275 kV substation will also be visible approximately 700 m northeast, temporarily changing the rural character within this part of the view to a construction site. When considered against the medium sensitivity of the receptors, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.85 At Siddle House Farm (VP10), adjacent to Solar Development Site 2, residents will have open views of temporary disruption from construction and vehicle activity, including the installation of solar panels, BESS, and the 275 KV substation. The offset from the curtilage of the properties will help reduce and screen these elements, moderating the visual scale of construction activities. Nevertheless, the magnitude of impact is high, and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.86 Residents living south of A63 (VP11) will experience temporary visual disruption from construction of the cable route corridor, solar panels, BESS and 275 kV substation, including occasional construction lighting. The intervening vegetation and offset from the road and construction fencing will help screen the works and provide a small degree of filtering, although the taller parts of machinery such as piling rigs and cranes could still be visible from the properties. When considered against the medium sensitivity of the receptors, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.87 For residents of properties along Chapel Street/Hillam Common Lane, including Meadow Farm (VP14), Solar Development Site 3 construction activity will be visible in the middle ground and Site 4 in the far distance. Cable Route Corridor construction will be visible in the distance to the east and south across the

landscape. Construction activities such as ground preparation, construction traffic and machinery movement, temporary lighting and material storage, will change the rural character within parts of this view to a construction site for the duration of the construction works. The offset from the road will help mitigate these impacts. The magnitude of impact is medium, and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.88 For residents of Bower's House Farm (VP16), with views toward Solar Development Site 4, intermittent views of construction activity will be experienced through existing intervening vegetation, including hedgerows, boundary trees, and garden vegetation. Temporary fencing will be installed to demarcate working areas and secure active construction zones, contributing to visual change. Much of the lower-level construction activity may be partially or fully screened, depending on vegetation density and the precise location of the viewer, but taller equipment or machinery may still be seen above or through gaps in the vegetation. The magnitude of impact is high, and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.89 Residents of Birkin and nearby properties including Birkin House, Woodhouse Farm (VP19) with views toward Solar Development Site 4 will experience intermittent views of construction activity through existing intervening vegetation such as hedgerows, boundary trees, or garden planting. Temporary fencing will enclose active areas, contributing to visual change, though much of the lower-level construction activity may be partially or fully screened, depending on vegetation density and property location. Taller equipment or machinery may still be seen above or through gaps in the vegetation. The magnitude of impact is medium, and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**. VP17 also represents view of the residents of Birkin, but the effects at this viewpoint were not assessed as significant.

10.9.90 Residents at Milford Lodge and Milford Lodge Cottage (VP46) will experience temporary disruption to their open views from construction and vehicle activity in Solar Development Site 6. The offset from the properties means that the visual scale will be reduced, with intervening vegetation providing some visual screening. The magnitude of impact is high, and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.91 At Milford Grange (VP47) residents with views toward Solar Development Site 6 will experience a marked change during the construction phase, particularly where properties overlook open fields with no intervening vegetation. Construction activity will be clearly visible, including movement of machinery, piling equipment, and material storage. While temporary fencing will enclose construction areas, this will not substantially screen the construction activities or more mobile elements such as cranes or site traffic. The magnitude of impact is

high, and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.92 Residents of Rest Park Farm, Melton Leys and Fair View (VP49) will experience views of construction activities offset from their properties, including ground works, machinery movement, material delivery and storage. As the view is currently open and expansive, with mature trees only in the distant background, any temporary fencing around construction zones will be visually prominent, allowing views into the Site. The tops of taller plant such as cranes and piling rigs will be visible above. The magnitude of impact is high, and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.93 Residents of Northfield Farm (VP56) will view construction activity associated with Cable Route Corridor 4-POC at close distances, as well as construction of solar panels and the substation at Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 to the north, approximately 800m in the distance. The construction compound and associated vehicle movement will also be perceptible approximately 1 km to the west. Piling equipment and cranes will be visible but set within a view already containing linear infrastructure such as pylons and a wind turbine. The magnitude of impact is medium, and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.94 For residents of Hambleton (VP64) Construction activity and increased vehicular movement will be visible on the road, through gateways and occasional gaps in the hedgerow. Temporary fencing, plant, and soil storage will introduce noticeable but short-term elements into the view. Taller machinery could be visible above hedgerows, increasing prominence at times. Targeted vegetation trimming will increase visibility of the construction activities in limited parts of the route. The magnitude of impact is high, and when assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, this results in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

People using PRoW

10.9.95 For people travelling along bridleway 35.28/1/1 (VP4 and VP6), construction activity within Solar Development Site 1 will be visible directly in the middle ground. After installing the fencing, activities associated with the installation of the proposed solar panels will be visible, including earthworks, presence of construction vehicles, temporary lighting, and removal of targeted sections of vegetation within the Order Limits. In the background, the construction of the proposed 275 kV substation will also be visible, temporarily changing the rural character within this view to a construction site. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.96 People travelling along footpath 35.28/3/1 (VP9) will have uninterrupted views of construction activity across open farmland at Solar Development Site 1. Security fencing will define the construction boundary and remain visually permeable,

allowing views into the site. Earthworks and stored materials will be enclosed, temporary lighting may be seen beyond the fence, and taller elements such as cranes and piling rigs will remain visible above. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.97 People travelling along footpath 35.37/8/1 (VP15) will experience direct views of construction activities in the middle ground, including ground works, machinery movement, piling, and delivery vehicles at Solar Development Site 4. As the view is currently open and expansive, with no existing vegetation, the temporary fencing around construction zones will be visually prominent, allowing views into the site, although it may obscure some low-level works. Taller elements such as cranes and piling rigs will remain clearly visible. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.98 Further west at Solar Development Site 4, people travelling along footpath 35.37/7/1 (VP16) crossing open farmland will experience uninterrupted views of construction activities such as ground preparation, machinery movement, and material storage. Sections of Solar Development Site 4 will be enclosed by security fencing, which will remain visually permeable, allowing views into the site. Much of the lower-level construction activity may be partially or fully screened, depending on vegetation density and the precise location of the viewer, but taller equipment or machinery may still be seen above or through gaps in the vegetation. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.99 Further east at Solar Development Site 4, people travelling along footpath 35.10/2/1 (VP20) also cross open farmland and will experience uninterrupted, sequential views of construction activities, including ground preparation, movement of machinery, and material storage. Sections of Solar Development Site 4 will be enclosed by security fencing, which will remain visually permeable, allowing views into the site. Taller elements such as cranes and piling rigs will remain visible above the fence line. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.100 For people traveling along footpath 35.37/5/1 (VP27), parts of the landscape in the view will experience temporary disruption due to groundworks, material deliveries, and construction associated with the Cable Route Corridor construction. In the middle ground, the movement of heavy machinery, site compounds, storage areas, and the creation of access tracks will introduce prominent elements that contrast with the rural setting. ~~Construction activities associated with Solar Development Site 3, will be largely screened by the consented Hillam Grange solar farm together with ancillary development, which forms part of the future baseline.~~ The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects, which is significant**.

10.9.101 People travelling along footpath 35.59/6/1 (VP44, VP45, and VP47) will experience uninterrupted, sequential views of construction activities such as ground preparation, machinery movement, and material storage at Solar Development Site 6. The offset from the path, existing hedgerows, and security fencing will screen lower-level works, though taller elements such as cranes and piling rigs will remain visible. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.102 At Solar Development Site 8, people travelling along footpath 35.59/1/1 (VP48) will experience direct views of construction activities at an offset from the path, including ground works, machinery movement, piling, and delivery vehicles. As the view is currently open and expansive, with mature trees only in the far background, the temporary fencing around construction zones will be visually prominent, although it may obscure some low-level works. Taller elements such as cranes and piling rigs will remain clearly visible. Walkers travelling along footpath 35.32/2/1 (VP50) will experience similar close views. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.103 People travelling along footpath 35.59/4/1 (VP49) will experience obscured views of construction activities in the background, including ground works, machinery movement, piling, and delivery vehicles at Solar Development Site 8. As the view is currently open and expansive, with mature trees only in the background, the temporary fencing around construction zones will be visually prominent, although it may obscure some low-level works. Taller elements such as cranes and piling rigs will remain clearly visible. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.104 People travelling along footpath 35.32/2/1 (VP50) will experience direct views of construction activities offset from the path, including ground works, machinery movement, material delivery and storage. As the view is currently open and expansive, with mature trees only in distant background, any temporary fencing around construction zones will be visually prominent, allowing views into the site. The tops of taller elements such as cranes and piling rigs will be visible above. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.105 People travelling along footpath 35.10/10/1 (VP56) will have close, sequential views of construction activity associated with Cable Route Corridor 4-POC. The construction of solar panels and substations at Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 will be visible approximately 800m to the north. The Cable Construction Compound and associated vehicle movement will also be perceptible approximately 1 km to the west. Piling equipment and cranes will be visible but set within a view already containing linear infrastructure such as pylons and a wind turbine. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.106 For people travelling along PRoW (35.32/6/1) (VP65) construction activity will be clearly visible in the middle ground where the Cable Route crosses open farmland. Temporary fencing, plant, and soil storage will introduce prominent elements into an otherwise open and simple view. Taller machinery will be noticeable above the flat landform, increasing visual intrusion during construction. The visual disturbance will be short in duration and screened by intervening vegetation and hedgerows along most parts of the footpath, such that views will be intermittent. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.107 For people travelling along Stocking Lane (VP66) construction activity within Solar Development Site 3 will be visible in the middle ground and Site 4 in the far distance. Construction of the Cable Route Corridor will be visible to the south and west across the landscape. Construction activities such as ground preparation, construction traffic and machinery movement, temporary lighting and material storage, will change the rural character within large parts of this view to a construction site. The works will be experienced sequentially, particularly in the area to the south of Hillam, but the effects will be temporary and reversible~~. The construction will be seen within a context of the consented solar farm together with ancillary development at Hillam Grange, which would screen parts of the construction works.~~.. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

People travelling on local roads

10.9.108 For people traveling along Mill Hill/Skipwith Road (VP8) Construction activity within Solar Development Site 1 will be visible directly in the view at an offset from the road. After installing the fencing, the works associated with installation of solar infrastructure will be partially screened but still visible, including piling, localised excavation of foundations, storage of materials, presence of construction vehicles and temporary lighting and removal of targeted section of the vegetation within the Order Limits. In the background, the construction of the proposed 275 kV substation will also be visible approximately 700 m northeast, temporarily changing the rural character within this view to a construction site. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.109 People travelling along the A63 (VP11, VP12, VP55) will experience temporary visual disruption from construction of the Cable Route Corridor, solar panels, BESS and 275 kV substation, including occasional construction lighting. The offset from the road and construction fencing will help contain the works and provide a small degree of filtering, although the taller parts of machinery such as piling rigs and cranes could still be directly visible. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the low sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.110 Users of Common Lane (VP43) will experience direct views of construction traffic and activity at Solar Development Sites 6 and 7. All the views will be transient and largely oblique, even with the lower speeds of local roads. Where fencing is present, it will partially obscure construction areas. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.111 For people travelling along Dam Lane (VP63) construction activity and increased vehicular movement will be visible on the road, through the gateways and occasional gaps in the hedgerow. The targeted removal of up to four trees and two sections of hedgerow will temporarily increase the openness of the view along a short section of the road. Temporary fencing, plant, and soil storage will introduce noticeable but short-term elements into the view. Taller machinery could be visible above hedgerows and through the hedgerow gaps, increasing prominence at times. Targeted vegetation trimming will increase visibility of the construction activities along limited parts of the route. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.112 People travelling along Fryston Common Lane (VP68) near Solar Development Site 2 will experience temporary visual disruption from construction of the Cable Route Corridor, solar panels, and the 275 kV substation. The offset from the road will help mitigate these impacts, although taller parts of machinery such as piling rigs and cranes could still be visible. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.113 For people travelling along Hillam Common Lane (VP69) Solar Development Site 3 construction activity will be visible in the middle ground at an offset from the road and of Solar Development Site 4 in the far distance. Cable Route Corridor construction will be visible in the distance to the east and south across the landscape. Construction activities such as ground preparation, construction traffic and machinery movement, temporary lighting and material storage, will temporarily change the rural character within parts of the view to a construction site. The offset from the road will help reduce and contain these impacts. Sequentially, the works will be experienced intermittently at variety of distances from the lane. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.114 People travelling along Roe Lane (VP70) adjacent to Solar Development Site 4 will experience direct, transient views of construction activity in the middle ground, including ground preparation, machinery movement, and material storage. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.115 A summary of the significant visual effects during construction which have been identified by the assessment is presented below in Table 10-20~~Table 10-20~~.

Table 10-20 Summary of significant visual effects during construction

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
Residents of local communities				
Residents of Tileshed Farm and Mount Pleasant Farm	VP4	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents living in properties along Mill Hill /Skipwith Road	VP8	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Siddle Farm House	VP10	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents living south of A63	VP11	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of properties along Chapel Street/Hillam Common Lane, including Meadow Farm	VP14	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Bower's House Farm	VP16	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Birkin	VP19	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Milford Lodge and Milford Lodge Cottage	VP46	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Milford Grange	VP47	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Northfield Farm	VP56	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Hambleton	VP64	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along PRoW				
People travelling along bridleway 35.28/1/1	VP4 and VP6	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.28/3/1	VP9	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/8/1	VP15	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/7/1	VP16	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/2/1	VP20	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Significance of effect
People traveling along footpath 35.37/5/1	VP27	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/6/1	VP44, VP45 and VP47	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/1/1	VP48	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People traveling along footpath 35.59/4/1	VP49	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.32/2/1	VP50	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/10/1	VP56	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Public footpath (35.32/6/1)	VP65	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Stocking Lane	VP66	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling on local roads				
People traveling along Mill Hill /Skipwith Road	VP8	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along A63	VP11	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along A63	VP12	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Common Lane	VP43	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along the A63	VP55	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Fryston Common Lane	VP68	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Roe Lane	VP70	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Visual effects of Year 1 of operation

10.9.116 This section provides a summary of the likely significant effects on visual amenity during operation. The operation of the Proposed Development in Year 1 will result in significant visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:

1) Residents of local communities;
2) People using PRoW; and
3) People travelling on local roads.

10.9.117 The effects of the occasional replacement of solar panels and BESS during the operational phase is expected to be no greater than the construction phase for the period of the replacement activity.

Residents of local communities

10.9.118 For residents of Tileshed Farm (VP4) and Mount Pleasant Farm, the proposed panels at Solar Development Site 1 will introduce new built form into the middle ground of their view, with the 275 kV substation potentially discernible in the background. Although the area to the north of Tileshed Farm will remain undeveloped and there will be setbacks to the properties, the magnitude of impact will be high as new planting will not yet have established. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.119 Residents at Siddle Farm House (VP10) will have direct views of the Solar Development Site 2. They will experience a notable change in landscape character as the proposed panels will introduce new built form into a previously open view in the middle ground to background. The BESS and the 275 kV substation will be visible as taller elements in the distance. The very high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.120 For residents living south of A63 (VP11) after the installation of cables, the construction area for the cable trenches will have been reinstated. The solar panels, BESS and the 275 kV substation will be noticeable in in open views along the A63. The tops of taller structures will be visible above or through gaps in intervening existing hedgerows and vegetation within residential properties. Local residents will experience this view as more distant and more filtered when seen from their properties. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.121 For residents of properties along Chapel Street/Hillam Common Lane, including Meadow Farm (VP14), the proposed panels on Solar Development Site 3 will introduce new built form into the middle ground with the offset providing some set back to views of the Proposed Development. The substation and the panels will be new elements in the view with pylons and wind turbines as other elements of energy infrastructure. For residents of local communities, the infrastructure will introduce permanent elements into views. ~~It is possible that the solar panels and associated infrastructure will be perceived in combination with the consented Hillam Grange solar farm as planting for both developments would not have established to integrate the infrastructure.~~ The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.122 At Bower's House Farm (VP16), in the first year of operation, the installed solar panels and substation at Solar Development Site 4 will be partially visible through gaps in the existing vegetation. While the presence of existing hedgerows, trees,

and garden planting will filter and soften some views, the solar panels and infrastructure may still be glimpsed. Pylons in the background remain a consistent element of the visual baseline. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.123 Residents of Birkin and nearby properties including Birkin House, Woodhouse Farm (VP19) will experience partially screened views of solar panels at Solar Development Site 4 through gaps in existing vegetation. While the presence of hedgerows, trees, and garden planting will filter and soften some views, the solar panels and infrastructure may still be directly visible. The offset from panels to residential properties will provide further distance to reduce views. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**. VP17 also represents view of the residents of Birkin, but the effects at this viewpoint were not assessed as significant.

10.9.124 For Milford Lodge and Milford Lodge Cottage residents (VP46), direct views will be experienced and a noticeable change in landscape character at Solar Development Site 6. The proposed panels will introduce new built form into the existing open view. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.125 Milford Grange (VP47) will experience a similar change to Milford Lodge, the Proposed Development within Solar Development Site 6 will be seen as a strong addition to the landscape, introducing a built, geometric form into previously open views. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

People using PRoW

10.9.126 For people travelling along bridleway 35.28/1/1(VP4 and VP6), the proposed panels at Solar Development Site 1 will introduce new built form into the middle ground, with the 275 kV substation potentially discernible in places in the background. Although setbacks to the PRoW will reduce close views, the magnitude of impact will be high due to the extent of change, particularly before new planting had established. The section of PRoW to the north of Tileshed Farm will run through fields that remain undeveloped. Overall, the high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.127 Similarly, people travelling across Solar Development Site 1 along footpath 35.28/3/1 (VP9), will have direct, sequential views of the solar panels and fencing, with existing trees and hedgerows only partially screening or softening the view. Although located with a large offset from the path, the panels will add a linear, geometric element to the landscape, increasing the sense of enclosure in previously open fields. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the

medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.128 For users of footpath 35.37/8/1 (VP15), at Year 1, the proposed solar infrastructure at Solar Development Site 4 will be clearly visible in the open field context in the middle ground, with little screening until proposed planting establishes. Overhead pylons will remain in the background, contributing to a sense of infrastructure in the landscape, though the addition of solar development will introduce a broader spread of industrial elements. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.129 Similarly, for people travelling along footpath 35.37/7/1 (VP16), on the boundary of proposed Solar Development Site 4 will have direct views of the solar panels in the middle ground, including the panels and security infrastructure, with existing trees and hedgerows only partially screening the view. Although there will be a substantial offset from the path, the panels will add a linear, geometric element to the landscape, increasing the sense of enclosure in previously open fields. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.130 People travelling along footpath 35.10/2/1 (VP20), on the north-eastern edge of Solar Development Site 4 will have direct, sequential views of the solar panels, including the panels and security infrastructure. Although located with a large offset from the path, the panels will add a linear, geometric element to the open landscape. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.131 For users of footpath 35.59/6/1 (VP44, VP45 and VP47), people will have sequential views of the solar panels across Solar Development Site 6, with existing hedgerows only partially screening the view. Although located with a large offset from the path, the panels will add a linear, geometric element to the surrounding landscape, increasing the sense of enclosure in previously open fields. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.132 At Solar Development Site 8, people travelling along footpath 35.59/1/1 (VP48) will have direct views of the fully installed solar panels in the middle ground. The solar infrastructure will be clearly visible in the open field context, with little to no screening until proposed planting establishes. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**. Views from footpath 35.32/2/1 (VP50) will be similar.

10.9.133 For users of footpath 35.59/4/1 (VP49), views of Solar Development Site 8 will be similar to the above at Year 1, although the solar infrastructure will be partially obscured by vegetation at low level. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.9.134 For people travelling along footpath 35.32/2/1 (VP50), solar panels will be visible in the middle ground. The solar infrastructure will be clearly visible in the open field, with little screening. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects, which is significant.**

10.9.135 For people travelling along Stocking Lane (VP66), in the vicinity of Solar Development Site 3 and Cable Route Corridor 4-POC, at Year 1 of operation, the cable trenches will be buried and construction compounds reinstated, but the solar panels in the background and the 275 kV substation in the distance will be noticeable, with pylons as other elements of similar infrastructure. ~~It is possible that the solar panels and associated infrastructure will be perceived behind the consented Hillam Grange solar farm as planting for both developments will not have established to integrate the infrastructure. However, due to the distance from the path to Order Limits, the solar farm at Hillam Grange will screen large parts of the Proposed Development.~~ The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects, which is significant.**

People travelling on local roads

10.9.136 People travelling along the A63 (VP11, VP12 and VP55) will view the solar panels together with the substation and BESS on Solar Development Site 2 to the north of the A63, at close proximity where there are gaps in the roadside hedgerow, before new planting has established. The land to the south of the A63 will be largely returned to the baseline condition. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the low sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**. The effect will be transient for road users travelling at speed.

10.9.137 For users of Common Lane (VP43), the solar panels of proposed Solar Development Sites 6 and 7 will be directly visible in winter at Year 1 at close proximity. Travelling in a car, views will be transient for people travelling on local roads even with low speeds at a local road and not out of character with other structures in the wider landscape. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the low sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**. The effect will be transient for people travelling on local roads even with low speeds at a local road.

10.9.138 A summary of the likely significant visual effects during Year 1 of operation which have been identified by the assessment is presented below in Table 10-21~~Table 10-21~~.

Table 10-21 Summary of significant visual effects during Year 1 of operation

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Year 1 magnitude of impact	Year 1 significance of effect
Residents of local communities				

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Year 1 magnitude of impact	Year 1 significance of effect
Residents of Tileshed Farm and Mount Pleasant Farm	VP4	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Siddle Farm House	VP10	Medium	Very High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents living south of A63	VP11	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Meadow Farm	VP14	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Bower's House Farm	VP16	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Birkin	VP19	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse) (significant)**
Residents of Milford Lodge and Milford Lodge Cottage	VP46	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant**
Residents of Milford Grange	VP47	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along PRoW				
People travelling along bridleway 35.28/1/1	VP4 and VP6	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.28/3/1	VP9	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/8/1	VP15	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/7/1	VP16	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/2/1	VP20	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Year 1 magnitude of impact	Year 1 significance of effect
People travelling along footpath 35.59/6/1	VP44, VP45 and VP47	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/1/1	VP48	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People traveling along footpath 35.59/4/1	VP49	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.32/2/1	VP50	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Stocking Lane	VP66	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along local roads				
People travelling along A63	VP11	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along A63	VP12	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Common Lane	VP43	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along the A63	VP55	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

10.10 Additional mitigation

10.10.1 For landscape and visual amenity, all mitigation measures relating to construction and decommissioning effects are secured by the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**] and Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.04**] respectively.

10.10.2 For the landscape and visual effects of operation, all mitigation is embedded. Section 10.8.14 of this assessment explains this further and summarises key aspects of the design of the Proposed Development, which have been informed by the LVIA as part of the iterative design process. This includes the siting of infrastructure relative to existing features, which will be retained and setbacks from residential properties, for example.

10.10.3 It takes time for proposed planting to establish, and it is not possible to further mitigate the adverse effects on the landscape and people's views at Year 1 of operation. The assessment of residual landscape and visual effects summarised in Section 10.11 of this chapter has been carried out at Year 15 of operation to take account of this. The design of the proposed landscape and visual mitigation has been carried out iteratively with the assessment of likely effects and in response to consultation feedback, to consider opportunities to further reduce the magnitude of impact, for example by increasing setbacks or the depth of planting. Further changes to the design would not change the outcomes of the assessment and therefore, no additional mitigation measures are proposed.

10.10.4 Strategic opportunities to incorporate environmental enhancements have been identified through the design development. These are shown on the Chapter 3 Alternatives and Design Iteration (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.03]**.

10.10.5 In relation to the mitigation proposals in respect of Glint and Glare, discussion of this is set out in The Glint and Glare Assessment included as Appendix 16.4 **[EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.16.04]** (ES Volume 3).

10.11 Residual effects

10.11.1 This section presents a summary of the assessment of likely residual effects on the landscape and people's views of the landscape during construction and decommissioning, and after 15 years of operation following the application of additional mitigation measures. It should be read alongside the detailed assessment of effects on landscape receptors set out in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**], and Visual receptors set out in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**]. Table 10-24~~Table 10-24~~ and Table 10-25~~Table 10-25~~ provides a high-level summary of these effects.

Residual effects of construction and decommissioning

10.11.2 The mitigation measures embedded into the design of the Proposed Development, and those considered good practice during construction, to avoid or reduce environmental effects are described in Section 10.8. No additional mitigation is proposed or required, therefore, the residual landscape and visual effects of construction and decommissioning are the same as those reported in the earlier section of this assessment.

Residual effects of operation

Residual landscape effects at Year 15 of operation

10.11.3 By Year 15 of operation the planting carried out to reinstate or mitigate for vegetation removed to facilitate construction and to integrate the solar farm and associated infrastructure into the landscape will have fully established. Only

effects on the landscape within Solar Development Sites 2, 6 and 7 will remain significant at Year 15 of operation.

10.11.4 The effects of the occasional replacement of solar panels and BESS during the operational phase is expected to be no greater than the construction phase for the period of the replacement activity. This activity will be carried out in the context of an operational solar farm.

Effects on landscape character

10.11.5 Five of the nine LCAs assessed will experience residual effects at Year 15 of operation, which are not considered significant and are described below. The other four LCAs will return to the baseline condition. As there will be no perceptible changes to the landscape, therefore these are assessed as having no effects.

10.11.6 LCA 2: York Fringe East is subject to a very low magnitude of impact, resulting in negligible adverse effects, with reinstated vegetation making changes barely perceptible. LCA 3: Skipwith Lowlands and LCA 13: Haddlesey Farmland both experience low magnitude, minor adverse effects, as established trees and hedgerows provide screening and integration of solar panels, making the landscape more vegetated and ecologically rich, though openness is not fully restored and substations retain some detracting influence. LCA 7: Aire Valley sees a very low magnitude of impact, resulting in minor beneficial effects due to new hedgerow habitat. LCA 11: Sherburn Farmland also has a low magnitude, minor adverse effect, with improved screening and integration, but some detracting influence from infrastructure remains.

10.11.7 LCA 5: Ouse Valley, LCA 8: West Selby Limestone Ridge, LCA 12: North Selby Farmland, and LCA 14: Hambleton Sandstone Ridge are all assessed as having no effect at Year 15. In these areas, the planting to reinstate vegetation removed for construction will have matured, restoring field boundaries and blending the reinstated corridors with the surrounding landscape. As a result, there is no perceptible change in landscape character compared to the baseline, and the landscape resource is considered fully restored.

10.11.8 There will be no residual effects to Hambleton Hough LILA within LCA14: Hambleton Sandstone Ridge. At Year 15, there will be no perceptible change to the landscape as reinstatement landscape works and new planting will be established.

Solar Development Sites

10.11.9 At Solar Development Site 2, the open character will be substantially altered due to the permanent installation of solar panels, the proposed 275KV substation, and the BESS in Field 2.4 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**]. These interventions will result in a pronounced loss of openness and a noticeable reduction in tranquillity, as the presence of new tall infrastructure introduces overt human influence into the landscape. Although new planting along field boundaries and within setbacks will,

over time, establish a new landscape structure, these measures will only partially mitigate the overall impact. The combination of high magnitude of impact and low landscape sensitivity results in a moderate adverse effect, **which is significant**.

10.11.10 For Solar Development Sites 6 and 7, the installation of solar panels will substantially alter the landscape character and reduce openness, even though these sites are more enclosed within their setting by features such as the Hull railway, Normanton and Colton Junction railway line, and Milford Sidings. New planting and the retention of boundary trees and vegetation will help to reduce the perceived scale of the development and reduce its impact over time. The high magnitude of impact, combined with the low sensitivity of the receptor, results in **moderate adverse effects, which is significant**, due to the scale of the landscape changes.

10.11.11 For Solar Development Site 1, change to landscape character due to loss of farmland and openness will occur, caused by the permanent introduction of solar panels and a new 275 kV substation in Field 1.19 as shown on Figure 2.3: Field numbering plan (ES Volume 2) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.02.02.03**]. There will also be a reduction in tranquillity due to these signs of overt human impact and reduction in the relative tranquillity experienced within the landscape. The proposed panels and infrastructure will be set within a retained framework of hedgerows, fields, and existing woodland. By Year 15, new tree and hedgerow planting in field margins and hedgerow gaps will have established, reducing the magnitude of impact overall. The medium magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in minor adverse effects which are not significant. These effects are considered adverse due to the permanent introduction of industrial elements into a previously agricultural landscape, although the significance is reduced to minor by the successful establishment of mitigation planting by Year 15.

10.11.12 For Solar Development Site 3, Solar Development Site 4, and Solar Development Site 8, the operational effects at Year 15 are assessed as minor adverse and not significant. Across these sites, the permanent installation of solar panels and associated substations will result in changes to landscape character, primarily through a loss of openness and farmland. However, these effects are moderated by the establishment of new planting along field boundaries and within setbacks at all three sites. This planting will mature over time, creating a framework of vegetation that helps to reduce the perceived scale and visual prominence of the solar infrastructure. While there will be some reduction in tranquillity due to overt signs of human activity, these impacts are partly offset by the new landscape structure and habitat creation. Given the medium magnitude of impact and the low sensitivity of the receptor at each site, the resulting effects are considered minor adverse and not significant.

10.11.13 A summary of the residual landscape effects is presented below in Table 10-22~~Table 10-22~~.

Table 10-22 Summary of residual landscape effects in Year 15

LCA/ Solar Development Sites	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Residual significance of effect
Solar Development Site 1	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Solar Development Site 2	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 3	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Solar Development Site 4	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Solar Development Site 6	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 7	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 8	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
LCA 2 York Fringe East	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
LCA 3 Skipwith Lowlands	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA 5 Ouse Valley	Medium	No change	**No effect**
LCA 7 Aire Valley	Medium	Very low	**Minor beneficial**
LCA 8 West Selby Limestone Ridge	High	No change	**No effect**
LCA11 Sherburn Farmland	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA12 North Selby	Medium	No change	**No effect**
LCA13 Haddlesey Farmland	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA 14 Hambleton Sandstone Ridge	High	No change	**No effect**

Residual visual effects at Year 15 of operation

10.11.14 The operation of the Proposed Development in Year 15 will result in a small number of significant visual effects for the following visual receptor groups:

1) Residents of local communities; and
2) People travelling along PRoW.

10.11.15 The effects of the occasional replacement of solar panels and BESS during the operational phase is expected to be no greater than the construction phase for the period of the replacement activity. Furthermore, the solar panels and other infrastructure, existing vegetation and planting will largely screen such activities.

Residents of local communities

10.11.16 The residents of Siddle Farm House (VP10) will continue to experience a high magnitude of impact at Year 15 due to the extent and proximity of panels at Solar Development Site 2, and the presence of the 275 kV substation and BESS located at least 320 m from the property curtilage. Whilst the proposed woodland, scrub and hedgerow planting in leaf will provide screening and softening of the

infrastructure and panels, there will still be a change to large parts of the landscape within the view and permanent loss of openness. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

People travelling along PRoW

10.11.17 People using bridleway 35.28/1/1 (VP6) and footpath 35.28/3/1 (VP9) in Solar Development Site 1, will experience a series of views of the solar panels and fencing glimpsed behind established mitigation planting. Whilst existing trees and hedgerows and a new framework of planting within setbacks will provide substantial screening or softening of the view, there will still be a change to large parts of the landscape within the view in most directions. The openness of the views will remain reduced. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.11.18 People travelling along footpath 35.37/8/1 (VP15) and footpath 35.10/2/1 (VP20), along north-south of Solar Development Site 4 will have wide, sequential views of the solar panels and fencing on both sides. Although located with a large offset from the path, and whilst softened by new planting, the panels will add a linear, geometric element to the open landscape. The character and composition of large parts of the landscape will be changed. The high magnitude of impact, assessed against the medium sensitivity of the receptor, will result in **moderate adverse effects**, **which is significant**.

10.11.19 The effects on the rest of the visual receptors considered in this assessment across all sub-assessments are not considered significant. This is attributed to existing deciduous vegetation in leaf and the establishment of planting carried out to reinstate vegetation removed to facilitate construction and to integrate the Proposed Development into the landscape. Consequently, the character of views will largely be restored to baseline conditions, with localised perception of these changes in proximity to proposed solar panels and associated infrastructure.

10.11.20 Table 10-23 provides a summary of all visual receptors with residual effects, including those which are not significant.

Table 10-23 Summary of residual visual effects

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Year 15 magnitude of impact	Year 15 significance of effect
Residents of Local Communities				
Residents of Escrick and East Lodge, Wheldrake Lane	VP3	High	Very low	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Tileshed Farm and Mount Pleasant Farm	VP4	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Year 15 magnitude of impact	Year 15 significance of effect
Residents of Gilbertson House / The Granary	VP5	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
Resident of properties along bridleway 35.58/1/1	VP7	Medium	Very low	**Minor adverse**
People traveling along Mill Hill /Skipwith Road	VP8	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Siddle Farm House	VP10	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents living south of A63	VP11	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Meadow Farm	VP14	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Bower's House Farm	VP16	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Birkin and nearby properties including Birkin House, Woodhouse Farm	VP17, VP19	Medium	Very low to Low	**Negligible adverse to minor adverse**
Residents of West Haddlesey	VP23	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Kellington	VP25	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Beal	VP26	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of South Milford	VP42	High	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Milford Lodge	VP46	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Milford Grange	VP47	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Rest Park Farm, Melton Leys and Fair View	VP49	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Northfield Farm	VP56	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Riccal and nearby properties on Selby Road	VP58	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People using PRoW				
People travelling along footpath 35.28/1/1	VP1	Medium	Very low	**Minor adverse**

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Year 15 magnitude of impact	Year 15 significance of effect
People travelling along footpath 35.28/2/1	VP4, VP6	Medium	Medium to high	**Minor adverse to Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along bridleway 35.58/1/1	VP7	Medium	Very low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.28/3/1	VP9	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along bridleway 35.32/1/1	VP13	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/8/1	VP15	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/7/1	VP16	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/7/1	VP17	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/2/1	VP20	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/3/1	VP21	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/3/2	VP22	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.41/1/1	VP25	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.7/12/1	VP26	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/5/1	VP27	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along publicly accessible trail at Hambleton Hough	VP41	High	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/8/1	VP42	High	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/6/1	VP44, VP45, VP47	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/1/1	VP48	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/4/1	VP49	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.32/2/1	VP50	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Year 15 magnitude of impact	Year 15 significance of effect
People traveling along Selby Canal	VP51	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along Escrick Park Temple Walk	VP53	High	Very low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/10/1	VP56	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along bridleway 35.53/14/1	VP59	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along footpath 35.74/2/1	VP60	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling through Moss Hagg	VP62	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along Public footpath (35.32/6/1)	VP65	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along Stocking Lane	VP66	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along bridleway 35.67/6/1	VP67	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People using local roads				
People travelling along Wheldrake Lane	VP3, VP5, VP52	Low to Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along Mill Hill / Skipwith Road	VP8	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along A63	VP11, VP12, VP55	Low	High	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Hillam Common Lane	VP14, VP69	Low	Low to Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Haddlesey Road	VP19	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Birkin Road	VP21, VP23, VP57	Low	Very low to Medium	**Negligible adverse to Minor adverse**
People travelling along Common Lane	VP43	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along A19	VP58	Low	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along Dam Lane	VP63	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along Fryston Common Lane	VP68	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**

Visual receptor	Viewpoint number	Sensitivity	Year 15 magnitude of impact	Year 15 significance of effect
People travelling along Roe Lane	VP70	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**

10.12 Monitoring

Construction

10.12.1 As likely significant effects on landscape and visual receptors will occur during construction of the Proposed Development, monitoring of these effects will be undertaken. The retention of existing vegetation and the implementation of mitigation planting will be monitored by the Applicant during the works to ensure that best practice relating to ground preparation, plant handling and planting techniques is followed. This monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the measures set out within the oCEMP [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/07.02**], which are submitted with the DCO Application and developed further post-consent.

Operation

10.12.2 Monitoring of the growth and maintenance of planting will be undertaken by the Applicant during the first five years following planting to ensure its successful establishment. All planting incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development will be routinely inspected, managed and maintained during the contract period in accordance with the requirements as stipulated within the final LEMP. The content of the final LEMP developed post-consent will be in substantial accordance with the Outline LEMP and will be approved by NYC. Such maintenance and management practices will include inspecting and, where necessary, replacing defective plants to ensure that all planting establishes and achieves its intended environmental functions and objectives, as illustrated by the Outline Environmental Masterplan [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/02.12]**.

10.13 Summary

10.13.1 Table 10-24~~Table 10-24~~ presents a summary of the residual effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape and on people's views and visual amenity.

10.13.2 The Proposed Development will avoid impacts on nationally designated landscapes. Although there will be some harm to locally designated landscapes, these impacts will be temporary and will be reversed once mitigation planting has established.

10.13.3 The LVIA has identified no significant residual effects at the national level. Significant residual effects have been identified for four LCAs defined at the district level during construction, but effects on these receptors will not be significant by Year 15 of operation. Whilst there will be disruption to people views during construction, resulting in significant effects, this will reduce substantially

by Year 15 of operation when five visual receptor groups are predicted to experience residual visual effects.

Table 10-24 Summary of residual effects on landscape receptors

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Residual effect and significance
Landscape receptors – construction and decommissioning			
LCA 2 York Fringe East	Medium	Very Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA 3 Skipwith Lowlands	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
LCA 5 Ouse Valley	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA 7 Aire Valley	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
LCA 8 West Selby Limestone Ridge	High	Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA11 Sherburn Farmland	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
LCA12 North Selby	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA13 Haddlesey Farmland	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
LCA 14 Hambleton Sandstone Ridge	High	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 1	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 2	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 3	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 4	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 6	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 7	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 8	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Landscape receptors - Year 15 of operation			
LCA 2 York Fringe East	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
LCA 3 Skipwith Lowlands	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA 5 Ouse Valley	Medium	No change	**No effect**
LCA 7 Aire Valley	Medium	Very low	**Minor beneficial**
LCA 8 West Selby Limestone Ridge	High	No change	**No effect**
LCA11 Sherburn Farmland	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA12 North Selby	Medium	No change	**No effect**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Residual effect and significance
LCA13 Haddlesey Farmland	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**
LCA 14 Hambleton Sandstone Ridge	High	No change	**No effect**
Solar Development Site 1	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Solar Development Site 2	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 3	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Solar Development Site 4	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Solar Development Site 6	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 7	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Solar Development Site 8	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**

Table 10-25 Summary of residual effects on visual receptors at construction and decommissioning

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Residual effect and significance
Visual Receptors – construction and decommissioning			
Residents of local communities			
East lodge VP3	High	Low	**Minor adverse**
Tileshed Farm and Mount Pleasant Farm VP4	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Gilbertson House /The Granary VP5	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Resident of properties along bridleway 35.58/1/1, including Bridge Farm and Wake House VP7	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Residents living in properties along Mill Hill /Skipwith Road VP8	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Siddle Farm House VP10	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents living south of A63 VP11	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Meadow Farm VP14	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Bower's House Farm VP16	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Birkin and nearby properties VP17	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Residual effect and significance
Residents of Birkin and nearby properties VP19	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of West Haddlesey VP23	Medium	Low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Kellington VP25	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Beal VP26	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of South Milford VP42	High	Low	**Minor adverse**
Milford Lodge and Milford Lodge Cottage VP46	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Milford Grange VP47	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Rest Park Farm, Melton Leys and Fair View VP49	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Northfield Farm VP56	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents of Riccal and nearby properties on Selby Road VP58	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Residents of houses along Wistow Road VP61	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Hambleton VP64	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling on PRoW			
People travelling along footpath 35.28/1/1 VP1	Medium	Very low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along bridleway 35.28/1/1VP4	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along bridleway 35.28/1/1 VP6	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along bridleway 35.58/1/1 VP7	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.28/3/1 VP9	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People traveling along bridleway 35.32/1/1 VP13	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/8/1 VP15	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/7/1 VP16	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/7/1 VP17	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/2/1 VP20	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Residual effect and significance
People travelling along footpath 35.10/3/1 VP21	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/3/2 VP22	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.41/7/1 VP25	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.7/12/1 VP26	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.37/5/1 VP27	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along publicly accessible trail at Hambleton Hough VP41	High	Low	**Minor adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.59/8/1 VP42	High	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/6/1 VP44	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People traveling along footpath 35.59/6/1 VP45	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/6/1 VP47	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/1/1 VP48	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People traveling along footpath 35.59/4/1VP49	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.32/2/1 VP50	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People traveling along Selby Canal VP51	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along Escrick Park Temple Walk VP53	High	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/10/1 VP56	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along bridleway 35.53/14/1 VP59	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling through Moss Hagg VP64	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Public footpath (35.32/6/1) VP65	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Stocking Lane VP66	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Residual effect and significance
People travelling along bridleway 35.67/6/1 VP67	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling on roads			
People travelling along Wheldrake Lane VP3	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along Wheldrake Lane VP5	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**
People traveling along Mill Hill /Skipwith Road VP8	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along the A63 VP11	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along the A63 VP12	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Hillam Common Lane VP14	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Haddlesey Road VP19	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Birkin Road VP21	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Birkin Road VP23	Low	Low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along Common Lane VP43	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Wheldrake Lane VP52	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along the A63 VP55	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Birkin Road VP57	Low	Low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along A19 VP58	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Dam Lane VP63	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Fryston Common Lane VP68	Medium	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Hillam Common Lane VP69	Low	Medium	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along Roe Lane VP70	Low	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**

Table 10-26 Summary of residual effects on visual receptors at Year 15 of operation

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Year 15 Residual effect and significance
Visual Receptors - Year 15 of operation			
Residents of local communities			
East lodge VP3	High	Very low	**Minor adverse**
Tileshed Farm and Mount Pleasant Farm VP4	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Gilbertson House /The Granary VP5	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
Resident of properties along bridleway 35.58/1/1, including Bridge Farm and Wake House VP7	Medium	Very low	**Minor adverse**
Residents living in properties along Mill Hill /Skipwith Road VP8	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Siddle Farm House VP10	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Residents living south of A63 VP11	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Residents of properties along Chapel Street/Hillam Common Lane VP14	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Bower's House Farm VP16	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Birkin VP17	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Birkin VP19	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Residents of West Haddlesey VP23	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Kellington VP25	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Beal VP26	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of South Milford VP42	High	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
Milford Lodge and Milford Lodge Cottage VP46	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Milford Grange VP47	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
Residents of Rest Park Farm, Melton Leys and Fair View VP49	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
Northfield Farm VP56	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
Residents of Riccal and nearby properties on Selby Road VP58	Medium	No change	**No effect**
Residents of houses along Wistow Road VP61	Medium	No change	**No effect**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Year 15 Residual effect and significance
People travelling on PRoW			
People travelling along footpath 35.28/1/1 VP1	Medium	Very Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along bridleway 35.28/1/1VP4	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along bridleway 35.28/1/1 VP6	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along bridleway 35.58/1/1 VP7	Medium	Very Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.28/3/1 VP9	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People traveling along bridleway 35.32/1/1 VP13	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/8/1 VP15	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.37/7/1 VP16	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/7/1 VP17	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/2/1 VP20	Medium	High	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/3/1 VP21	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.10/3/2 VP22	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.41/7/1 VP25	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.7/12/1 VP26	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.37/5/1 VP27	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along publicly accessible trail at Hambleton Hough VP41	High	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.59/8/1 VP42	High	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/6/1 VP44	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.59/6/1 VP45	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Year 15 Residual effect and significance
People travelling along footpath 35.59/6/1 VP47	Medium	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.59/1/1 VP48	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People traveling along footpath 35.59/4/1 VP49	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along footpath 35.32/2/1 VP50	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People traveling along Selby Canal VP51	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along Escrick Park Temple Walk VP53	High	Very low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along 35.10/10/1 VP56	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along bridleway 35.53/14/1 VP59	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along footpath 35.74/2/1 VP60	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling through Moss Hagg VP62	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along public footpath (35.32/6/1) VP65	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along Stocking Lane VP66	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along bridleway 35.67/6/1 VP67	Medium	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling on roads			
People travelling along Wheldrake Lane VP3	Medium	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along Wheldrake Lane VP5	Low	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People traveling along Mill Hill/Skipwith Road VP8	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along the A63 VP11	Low	High	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along the A63 VP12	Low	High	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Hillam Common Lane VP14	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Haddlesey Road VP19	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Birkin Road VP21	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Birkin Road VP23	Low	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**

Receptor	Sensitivity	Magnitude of Impact	Year 15 Residual effect and significance
People travelling along Common Lane VP43	Low	Medium	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Wheldrake Lane VP52	Low	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along the A63 VP55	Low	High	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Birkin Road VP57	Low	Very low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along A19 VP58	Low	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along Dam Lane VP63	Medium	No change	**No effect**
People travelling along Fryston Common Lane VP68	Medium	Very Low	**Negligible adverse**
People travelling along Hillam Common Lane VP69	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**
People travelling along Roe Lane VP70	Low	Low	**Minor adverse**

10.14 Cumulative assessment

10.14.1 This section presents an assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects between the Proposed Development and other proposed and committed plans and projects of a similar scale and nature as shown on Figure 17.1: Location of Short List Cumulative Schemes (ES Volume 2) **[EN0110012/APPP/LVS/06.02.17.01]**.

10.14.2 This assessment has been made with reference to the methodology and guidance set out in Chapter 17: Cumulative and In-Combination Effects (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.17**] and the shortlist of cumulative plans and projects identified within. In-combination effects assessment is included in Chapter 17.

10.14.3 For individual receptors, this cumulative effects assessment identifies where the predicted effects of the Proposed Development could interact with landscape and visual effects arising from other plans or projects based on a spatial or temporal basis.

10.14.4 Plans and projects identified within Chapter 17 (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.17**] which have the potential to result in cumulative effects on landscape and visual receptors are set out in Table 10-27~~Table 10-27~~ below. The projects identified are focussed on other developments which are of a similar type and scale in comparison to the Proposed Development.

10.14.5 The remaining plans and projects identified within Chapter 17 (ES Volume 1) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.01.17**] have been reviewed in relation to the landscape and visual receptors identified in this assessment and no further potential for significant cumulative effects are identified due to the temporary

nature of construction and anticipated limited impacts from operation and maintenance.

10.14.6 For the plans and projects with the potential to result in cumulative effects, an assessment of cumulative landscape and visual effects is outlined in Table 10-28 and Table 10-29 respectively.

Table 10-27 Plans and projects relevant to the landscape and visual amenity cumulative assessment

ID/ Application reference	Description	Distance from the Proposed Development	Potential cumulative effects
5 Yorkshire Green	A proposed reinforcement project comprising a new 400 kV and 275 kV electricity transmission connection and associated development.	300 m south of Solar Development Site 3, overlap with CRC 4-POC due to works at Monk Fryston substation.	Construction and decommissioning effects. Operational effects.
7 Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station	A generating station of up to 1.2 GW output capacity designed to run on 100% hydrogen and able to run on 100% natural gas and associated infrastructure including a gas pipeline of up to 10 km to connect with the existing Feeder 29 of the National Grid transmission system; water supply and electricity connections; above ground installations; utilities connections; construction and operational laydown areas; access(es); and other associated and ancillary development.	The Pipeline corridor crosses Solar Development Site 4 and CRC 4-POC.	Construction and decommissioning effects. Operational effects.
43 ZG2024/1101/ FULM	Erection and operation of a mushroom and algae cultivation facility, ancillary structures and associated scheme of landscaping and biodiversity enhancement.	11 m south of Solar Development Site 7 and 50 m west of CRC 6-7.	Construction and decommissioning effects. Operational effects.
67 Erection of a Solar Farm AP/2025/0037 /REF	Hillam Solar Farm Noventum Power Limited Erection of a solar farm together with ancillary development.	Adjacent to boundary of Solar Development Sites 3 and 4, intersects with CRC 3-4a and CRC 3-4.	Construction and decommissioning effects. Operational effects.
69 ZG2024/1129/ FULM	Scalm Park Solar & BESS Solar development with co-located Battery Energy Storage System.	Adjacent to CRC 1-4, 1.4 km from Solar Development Site 2	Construction and decommissioning effects. Operational effects.

ID/ Application reference	Description	Distance from the Proposed Development	Potential cumulative effects
		(north of Thorpe Willoughby).	
70 ZG2024/1099/SCN	EIA Screening Opinion in relation to the development of Battery Energy Storage System ('BESS') and associated infrastructure.	1.8 km southwest of Solar Development Site 6, intersects CRC 4-POC (on A63 near Monk Fryston substation)	Construction and decommissioning effects. Operational effects.
88 ZG2023/0481/SCN	EIA Screening Opinion in relation to the construction and operation of a solar farm together with all associated works, equipment, necessary infrastructure, and landscaping.	50 m east of Solar Development Site 7, 10 m east of CRC 6-7, next to former Gascoigne Wood Mine.	Construction and decommissioning effects. Operational effects.
92 Gascoigne Wood Power Plant. ZG2025/0529/REMM Also, local plan land allocation SHERBURN/028	Reserved Matters application including layout of planning permission 2021/1531/EIA Outline application for the demolition of existing colliery buildings and the construction of up to 1,460,000 sq ft of employment floorspace comprising Use Classes B2, B8 and E(g) to include access (with all other matters reserved)	60 m from Solar Development Site 7, 660 m north of CRC 2-6, location of former Gascoigne Wood Mine	Construction and decommissioning effects. Operational effects.
160 NY/2024/0200/FUL	Development of an Agricultural Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Facility and associated plant and equipment and soft landscaping	70 m northwest of Solar Development Site 7, 400 m northwest of CRC 6-7. Location near Sherburn in Elmet.	Construction and decommissioning effects. Operational effects.

10.14.7 Table 10-28 provides an assessment of potential cumulative landscape effects associated with the Proposed Development and those Cumulative Developments identified for inclusion within the LVIA of cumulative effects: ID numbers 5, 7, 43, 67, 69, 70, 88, 92, 160 (as set out above in Table 10-27~~Table 10-27~~). Refer to Appendix 17.1 (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.17.01**] for the full longlist of cumulative plans and projects identified. The following represents a worst-case assessment in that it is based upon all of the included Cumulative Developments that are located in the same LCA.

10.14.8 The Cumulative Developments are located outside of the Solar Development Sites and will not impact upon landscape fabric or features. No potential effects for these receptors are identified for any scenario of assessment.

10.14.9 No additional effects are identified for LCA 2 York Fringe East, LCA 3 Skipwith Lowlands and LCA 5 Ouse Valley due to the intervening distance (over 7 km) between the nearest cumulative developments (ID 92) and these LCAs.

10.14.10 For LCA12 North Selby Farmland and LCA 14 Hambleton Sandstone Ridge no additional effects are predicted due to the intervening distance (over 1.5 km) between the nearest cumulative development (ID 92).

10.14.11 The landscape receptors identified as experiencing additional cumulative effects are listed in the Table 10-28 below. Full details of baseline for each landscape receptor are provided in Appendix 10.2: Landscape Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.02**].

Table 10-28 Assessment of cumulative development landscape effects

Landscape Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
LCA 7 Aire Valley	Additional adverse effects due to proposed Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7). There is potential for in combination effects relating to the proposed underground pipeline to Above Ground Infrastructure at Gateforth, but the additional effects from the Proposed Development would be negligible due to very small scale of change within the LCA.	**Negligible adverse**	**Minor neutral**	**Minor beneficial**
LCA 8 West Selby Limestone Ridge	There will be additional effects due to the works at Monk Fryston experienced in combination with associated with infrastructure projects (ID 5, 7 and 70) but there will be no change to the significance of effect on LCA 8, due to the works associated with the Proposed Development being localised in the same area as ID 70 (Monk Fryston substation).	**Minor adverse**	**Minor adverse**	**No effect**
LCA11 Sherburn Farmland	Cumulative adverse effects would arise from the addition of cumulative developments in close proximity to Solar Development Sites 6, 7 and 8, including a mushroom and algae cultivation facility (ID 43), a solar farm with BESS (ID 69), a solar farm (ID 88), an employment allocation (ID 92)	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Minor adverse**

Landscape Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
	and an anaerobic digestion facility (ID 160), within the southern part of the LCA. During construction, the magnitude of cumulative impact will increase. However, the overall significance will not exceed the threshold for the next category because the effects would be localised and large parts of LCA 11 would not be affected. At Year 1 of operation, prior to the full establishment of landscape mitigation, cumulative effects increase the significance of effect. By Year 15 of operation, landscape mitigation would be established, and cumulative effects would remain not-significant, with beneficial contributions arising from the provision of new landscape structure and resources.			
LCA13 Haddlesey Farmland	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with Yorkshire Green (ID 5) ~~and~~, Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7) and Hillam Solar Farm (ID67). The additional effects relate mostly to the construction phase, as the larger part to the east of the LCA will be affected. ~~However,~~ However, in reality construction of Yorkshire GREEN is likely to be complete in 2028, before construction of the Proposed Development commences, and its proposed above-ground infrastructure would be approximately 2.8 km from the closest part of SDS 3, beyond the village of Hillam. The northern underground pipeline corridor of Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station crosses the centre of SDS 3 and has been considered during construction. The proposed works are not predicted to increase the	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Minor adverse**	**Minor adverse**

Landscape Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
	significance because the other parts would not be affected effects and will remain as moderate adverse. ~~There will be no change to the significance of effect on LCA 13 during operation as the ID 5 and ID 7 infrastructure will be largely underground or replacing existing infrastructure, which would limit the extent of change.~~There will be no cumulative change arising from Yorkshire GREEN (ID 5) or Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7) to the significance of effect on LCA 13 during operation, as the Yorkshire GREEN above-ground infrastructure is located beyond Hillam and the Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station infrastructure within LCA 13 is assumed to be underground. Hillam Solar Farm (ID 67) is therefore the only other scoped-in development within LCA 13 which could interact with the Proposed Development during operation. In combination with the Proposed Development, it would create a larger, contiguous area of solar farm development and could increase the magnitude of impact, as a larger proportion of LCA 13 would be laid out with solar panels. However, even if the magnitude of impact at year 15 of operation were to increase from low to medium, the cumulative effect would remain minor adverse and not significant because of the extensive planting proposed as mitigation that would strengthen the landscape framework.			

10.14.12 Table 10-29 provides an assessment of potential cumulative visual effects associated with the Proposed Development and those Cumulative Developments

identified for inclusion within the Landscape and Visual Assessment of Cumulative Effects: ID numbers 5, 7, 43, 67, 69 70, 88, 92, 160 (as set out above), at the Viewpoints where the Proposed Development and those Cumulative Developments will be able to be seen. The following represents a worst-case assessment in that it is based upon all of the Cumulative Developments being built out.

10.14.13 All other viewpoints have been excluded from the cumulative assessment on the basis that they are not predicted to experience any further change beyond that assessed for the Proposed Development alone. This judgement reflects intervening distances, scale of other developments, and screening by vegetation, which together limit visibility and reduce the potential for combined or sequential views. Full details for each viewpoint's baseline are provided in Appendix 10.3: Visual Baseline and Effects (ES Volume 3) [**EN0110012/APP/LVS/06.03.10.03**].

Table 10-29 Assessment of cumulative development visual effects

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
Viewpoint ~~13~~VP13 Solar Development Site 2 PRoW users	Additional adverse effects associated with the Proposed Development seen together with new hub within the former Gascoigne Wood Mine (ID92). The effect will be largely screened by intervening landform and vegetation, and localised to a small part within the background to the west, therefore there will be no change in the significance of effects.	**Minor adverse**	**Negligible adverse**	**Negligible adverse**
Viewpoint ~~14~~VP14 Solar Development Site 3 residents and people travelling on local roads	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with Yorkshire Green (ID 5~~) and~~), Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7) and Hillam Solar Farm (ID 67) caused by the size and geographic extent infrastructure works, viewed in combination and increasing the magnitude of impact. It is possible that the solar panels and associated infrastructure would be perceived as extension of solar	**Moderate adverse (significant)** for residents of local communities Minor adverse for people travelling on local roads ~~Minor adverse for residents~~	**Moderate adverse (significant)** for residents of local communities Minor adverse for people travelling on local roads ~~Minor adverse for residents~~	**Minor adverse**

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
	infrastructure together with the Hillam Solar Farm (ID 67) at Year 1 of operation as planting for both developments would not have established to fully screen the infrastructure. By Year 15 of operation, the planting around the boundaries of the Proposed Development will assist in creating visual separation between the cumulative developments and the Proposed Development and no additional mitigation is proposed. There will be no change to the significance of effect as works will be largely screened by intervening vegetation and seen in the distance. Additionally, during operation, infrastructure within ID 5 and ID 7 will be largely underground or replacing existing infrastructure, which would limit the extent of change.			
Viewpoint ~~17~~VP17 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 PRoW users and residents	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7), primarily during construction stage. During operation, the planting around the boundaries of the Proposed Development will assist in creating visual separation between the cumulative developments and the Proposed Development and no additional mitigation is proposed. Additionally, during operation, infrastructure associated with ID 7 will be largely underground, which would limit the extent of change. There will be no	**Minor adverse**	**Minor adverse**	**Minor adverse** for PRoW users Negligible adverse for residents

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
	change to the significance of effect as works will be largely screened by intervening vegetation and seen in the background of the view.			
Viewpoint ~~19~~VP19 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 Road users and residents	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with the Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7), primarily during construction stage. There will be no change to the significance of effect as works will be largely screened by intervening vegetation and seen in the far background of the view. During operation, infrastructure associated with ID 7 will be largely underground, which would limit the extent of change.	**Moderate adverse (significant)** for residents Minor adverse for road users	**Moderate adverse (significant)** for residents Minor adverse for road users	**Minor adverse**
Viewpoint ~~20~~VP20 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 PRoW users	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7), primarily during construction stage. There will be no change to the significance of effect as the boundary of works within the view is largely overlapping and therefore it is unlikely the construction will be concurrent. During operation, infrastructure associated with ID 7 will be largely underground, which would limit the extent of change.	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Moderate adverse (significant)**
Viewpoint ~~21~~VP21 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with the Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7), primarily during the construction stage.	**Moderate adverse (significant)** for PRoW users Minor adverse for road users	**Minor adverse**	**Minor adverse**

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
PRoW users and road users	There will be a change to the significance of effect for PRoW users from minor adverse to **moderate adverse (significant)** as the construction works for ID 7 are proposed closer and at longer stretches of the PRoW. For road users, the construction will be glimpsed for a short time and there will be no change to the significance of effects. During operation, infrastructure associated with ID 7 will be largely underground, which would limit the extent of change and there will be no change to the significance of effect.			
Viewpoint ~~22~~VP22 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 PRoW users	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7), primarily during construction stage. There will be a change to the significance of effect for PRoW users from negligible adverse to minor adverse as the construction works for ID 7 are proposed closer to the PRoW but only for short stretches of the path. During operation, infrastructure associated with ID 7 will be largely underground, which would limit the extent of change and result in no change of significance of effect.	**Minor adverse**	**Negligible adverse**	**Negligible adverse**

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
Viewpoint ~~23~~VP23 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 Road users and residents	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7), primarily during construction stage. There will be no change of significance due to intervening distance from the residential receptors and short duration of construction works being visible for road users. During operation, infrastructure associated with ID 7 will be largely underground, which would limit the extent of change and result in no change in the significance of effect.	**Negligible adverse**	**Negligible adverse**	**Negligible adverse**
Viewpoint ~~26~~VP26 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 PRoW users and residents	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7), primarily during construction stage. There will be no change in the significance of effect due to the intervening distance from the residential receptors. There will be a change to the significance of effect for PRoW users from negligible adverse to minor adverse as the construction works for ID 7 are proposed closer to the PRoW, extending the part of views affected. During operation, infrastructure associated with ID 7 will be largely underground, which would limit the extent of change and result in no change of significance of effect.	**Minor adverse** for PRoW users **Negligible adverse** for residents	**Negligible adverse**	**Negligible adverse**

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
Solar Development Site 3 and 4 Viewpoint ~~27~~VP27 PRoW users	Adverse cumulative effects associated with Yorkshire Green (ID 5) and Hillam Solar Farm (ID 67) are anticipated, predominantly during the construction phase. While these effects would increase the magnitude of impact, this increase is not considered sufficient to alter the overall significance of effect. During operation~~,~~ the additional effect would be primarily due to Hillam Solar Farm (ID 67), caused by the size and geographic extent of solar developments, viewed in combination and increasing magnitude of impact. The additional cumulative infrastructure visible in views would replace existing infrastructure of a similar scale and in a similar location. As a result, there would be no change in the significance of operational effects.	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Minor adverse**	**Negligible adverse**
Viewpoint ~~43~~VP43 Solar Development Sites 6 and 7 Road users and residents	Additional impacts due to proposed mushroom and algae cultivation facility (ID 43), solar development (ID 88) and employment allocation (ID 92), on either side of Common Lane in combination with the Proposed Development. No change to overall significance category, as the change will be localised to small extent of the view and short in duration for road users.	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Minor adverse**

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
Viewpoint ~~56~~VP56 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4, CRC 4-POC PRoW users and residents	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with Yorkshire Green (ID 5~~) and~~), Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7) and Hillam Solar Farm (ID 67). The additional effects relate mostly to the construction phase, with works potentially visible together with the construction of the Proposed Development. However, the proposed works are not predicted to reach over the threshold to the next level of significance and will remain as **moderate adverse**. It is possible that the solar panels and associated infrastructure would be perceived as an extension of solar infrastructure together with the Hillam Solar Farm (ID 67) at Year 1 of operation as planting for both developments would not have established to fully screen the infrastructure. By Year 15 of operation, the planting around the boundaries of the Proposed Development would assist in creating visual separation between the cumulative developments and the Proposed Development and no additional mitigation is proposed. There ~~will~~would be no change to the significance of effect ~~on~~as works would be largely screened by intervening vegetation and seen in the distance. Additionally, during operation ~~as the~~ , infrastructure within ID 5 and ID 7 ~~infrastructure will~~would be largely	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Minor adverse**	**Negligible adverse**

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
	underground or ~~replacing~~would replace existing infrastructure, which would limit the ~~extent~~scale of change ~~within the view.~~.			
Viewpoint ~~57~~VP57 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4, Road users	Adverse cumulative effects arising from the works associated with Ferrybridge Next Generation Power Station (ID 7), primarily during construction stage. There will be no change in the significance of effects due to short duration of construction works being visible for road users. During operation, infrastructure associated with ID 7 will be largely underground, which would limit the extent of change and result in no change of significance of effect.	**Negligible adverse**	**Negligible adverse**	**Negligible adverse**
CRC 1-4 People travelling along PRoW Viewpoint 62	Adverse cumulative effects would arise due to the proposed solar farm with battery energy storage system (ID 69), within close proximity to the viewpoint (130 metres south of the viewpoint) and the geographic extent of solar and associated infrastructure. ID 69 would reduce visibility of CRC 1-4 works during construction but there could be concurrent visibility. The magnitude of impact would reduce but the significance of effects would remain minor adverse. During operation, any visibility of reinstatement of works would be further reduced with ID 69 introducing more visible infrastructure within the view.	Minor adverse	Negligible adverse	No effect

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
CRC 1-4 People travelling along PRoW Viewpoint 63	Adverse cumulative effects would arise due to the proposed solar farm with battery energy storage system (ID 69) caused by the proximity (approx. 420–500 m east of the viewpoint) and the geographic extent of solar and associated infrastructure, viewed in combination. During construction, the construction compound and cable construction works seen in combination would increase the magnitude of impact but would not change the magnitude of impact from high. Evidence of reinstatement would be still visible during the Year 1 of operation and returning to baseline by Year 15 of operation with ID 69 being more visible infrastructure within the background of the view.	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	Negligible adverse	No effect
Viewpoint VP66 Solar Development Site 3, CRC 4-POC People travelling along PRoW	Additional effects would arise due to Hillam Solar Farm (ID 67), caused by the size and geographic extent of solar developments viewed in combination, with ID 67 reducing the overall visibility for people travelling along PRoW when experienced in sequence. By year 15 of operation, the proposed planting would have established, and the effects would remain as reported with no change to the significance category.	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	Minor adverse

Visual Receptors	Commentary	Construction (and Decommissioning)	Year 1	Year 15
Viewpoint VP69 Solar Development Sites 3 and 4 People travelling on local roads	Adverse cumulative effects during construction would arise from the works associated with Hillam Solar Farm (ID 67) caused by the size and geographic extent infrastructure works, viewed in combination with the Proposed Development and increasing the magnitude of impact. During operation it is possible that the solar panels and associated infrastructure would be perceived as an extension of solar infrastructure at Year 1 of operation as planting for both developments would not have established. However, these features would be experienced only for a short duration when travelling along the road. By Year 15 of operation, the planting around the boundaries of the Proposed Development would assist in creating visual separation between the cumulative developments and the Proposed Development. There would be no change to the significance of effect as works would largely be screened by intervening vegetation and seen in the distance.	**Moderate adverse (significant)**	Minor adverse	Minor adverse

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