THE DROVES
SOLAR FARM

The Droves Solar Farm

Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual (Tracked)

Prepared by: LDA Design
Date: October 2026
PINS reference: EN0110013
Document reference: APP/6.2.2 (Revision 2)
APFP Regulation Reg 5(2)(a)
Planning Act 2008
Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009



List of Contents

6 Landscape and Visual 1
6.1 Introduction 1
6.2 Consultation 2
6.3 Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance 3
6.4 Assessment Assumptions and Limitations 3
6.5 Assessment Methodology 7
6.6 Baseline Conditions 18
6.7 Embedded Mitigation 41
6.8 Assessment of Likely Effects 47
6.9 Additional Mitigation Measures 80
6.10 Residual Effects 80
6.11 Cumulative Effects Assessment 80
6.12 Conclusion 85
References 100

~~6 Landscape and Visual ..... 1~~
~~6.1 Introduction ..... 1~~
~~6.2 Consultation ..... 1~~
~~6.1 Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance ..... 3~~
~~6.2 Assessment Assumptions and Limitations ..... 3~~
~~6.3 Assessment Methodology ..... 7~~
~~6.4 Baseline Conditions ..... 18~~
~~6.5 Embedded Mitigation ..... 41~~
~~6.6 Assessment of Likely Effects ..... 47~~
~~6.7 Additional Mitigation Measures ..... 77~~
~~6.8 Residual Effects ..... 77~~

6.9 Cumulative Effects Assessment 77
6.10 Conclusion 82
References 131

List of Tables

Table 6-1 Landscape Susceptibility 11
Table 6-2 Landscape Value 11
Table 6-3 Landscape Sensitivity 12
Table 6-4 Visual Receptor Sensitivity 13
Table 6-5 Scale 14
Table 6-6 Duration 14
Table 6-7 Extent 15
Table 6-8 Visual Receptor Groups taken forward for assessment 36
Table 6-9 Representative Viewpoints 57
Table 6-10 Short List Developments/Allocations relevant to Landscape and Visual 81
Table 6-11 Summary of landscape and visual effects 86
Table 6-1 Landscape Susceptibility 11
Table 6-2 Landscape Value 11
Table 6-3 Landscape Sensitivity 12
Table 6-4 Visual Receptor Sensitivity 13
Table 6-5 Scale 14
Table 6-6 Duration 14
Table 6-7 Extent 15
Table 6-8 Visual Receptor Groups taken forward for assessment 36
Table 6-9 Representative Viewpoints 56
Table 6-10 Short List Developments/Allocations relevant to Landscape and Visual 78

~~Table 6-11 Summary of landscape and visual effects ..... 83~~

List of Diagrams

Image 6-1 Significance of effect 10

Image 6-2 Magnitude of effect..... 16

~~Image 6-1 Significance of effect ..... 10~~

~~Image 6-2 Magnitude of effect..... 16~~

List of Figures

Figure 6.1 Local Context

Figure 6.2 Environmental Policy Context

Figure 6.3 Landform

Figure 6.4 Landscape Character

Figure 6.5 Zone of Theoretical Visibility - DTM

Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility - DSM

Figure 6.7 Visual Receptor Groups

Figure 6.8 Amenity and Recreation

Figure 6.9 Residential Properties

Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels (Part A-D)

Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels (Part A-D)

Figure 6.12 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Winter Photowires (Part A-D)

Figure 6.13 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Summer Photowires (Part A-D)

Figure 6.14 (PM8, PM12 and PM14): Winter Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme (Part A-C)

Figure 6.15 (PM8, PM12 and PM14): Summer Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme (Part A-C)

List of Appendices

Appendix 6.1: Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance

Appendix 6.2: Glossary

Appendix 6.3: Supporting Information to the Assessment Methodology

Appendix 6.4: Methodology for Zone of Theoretical Visibility Studies and Visualisations

Appendix 6.5: Evaluation of Landscape Value

Appendix 6.6: Extracts from Relevant Landscape Character Assessments

Appendix 6.7: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

Appendix 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Assessment

6 Landscape and Visual

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This Chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of effects on Landscape and Visual as a result of the Scheme.

6.1.2 This Chapter identifies and proposes measures to address the potential impacts and likely significant effects on landscape and visual, during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

6.1.3 The information presented within this Chapter has been informed by the Scheme information provided in **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**.

6.1.4 The following aspects have been considered within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) process:

- An assessment of potential effects upon landscape character during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme
- An assessment of potential visual effects during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme
- An assessment of potential effects upon residential visual amenity during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme; and
- An assessment of potential effects upon amenity and recreation during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

6.1.5 This Landscape and Visual Chapter has been prepared by LDA Design (see **ES Appendix 1.1: Statement of Competence [APP/6.4]**).

~~6.1.5~~6.1.6 This document has been updated at Deadline 5~~Pre-examination Additional Submission~~ to consider the PAR Mitigation (as detailed in **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1.3]** and the **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8.5]**) in the assessment of landscape and visual impacts on the relevant receptors. The updated assessment has introduced no new significant effects to those previously assessed.~~correct references to the Digital Terrain Model and Digital Surface Model, correct figure references in text, finish an incomplete sentence, and correct heading numbering.~~ The document references have not been updated from

the original submission. Please refer to the **Guide to the Application [APP/1.3.47]** for the list of current versions of documents.

6.2 Consultation

Scoping Opinion

6.2.1 On 8 November 2024, the Applicant submitted a Scoping Opinion Request to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) (see **ES Appendix 2.1: EIA Scoping Opinion Request [APP/6.4]**) in support of a request for a Scoping Opinion from PINS on behalf of the Secretary of State (SoS) pursuant to Regulation 10 of the EIA Regulations.

6.2.2 A Scoping Opinion (see **ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion [APP/6.4]**) was adopted by PINS on 18 December 2024.

6.2.3 The issues raised in the Scoping Opinion relating to Landscape and Visual are summarised and responded to within **ES Appendix 6.1: Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance [APP/6.4]** which demonstrates how the matters raised in the Scoping Opinion are addressed in this ES.

Statutory Consultation and Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR)

6.2.4 Statutory consultation was held between 21 May 2025 and 9 July 2025. Relevant responses to the PEIR relating to Landscape and Visual and how these have been addressed through the ES are set out within **ES Appendix 6.1: Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance [APP/6.4]**.

6.2.5 Further engagement has been undertaken as part of stakeholder engagement specific to Landscape and Visual this, as detailed within **ES Appendix 6.1: Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance [APP/6.4]**.

6.2.6 A further round of targeted consultation was undertaken between 3 September 2025 and 1 October 2025 following changes to the development boundary area of the Scheme presented in the PEIR and during Stage Two Statutory Consultation. Further detail regarding the targeted consultation is provided in **ES Chapter 1: Introduction [APP/6.1].**

6.3 Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance

6.3.1 A summary of applicable legislation, planning policy and other guidance documents against which the Scheme would be considered relating to assessment of Landscape and Visual is set out in **ES Appendix 6.1: Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance [APP/6.4]**.

6.4 Assessment Assumptions and Limitations

6.4.1 The Landscape and Visual assessment has considered the following assumptions and limitations:

Desk-Study

6.4.2 The baseline conditions of the Site and Study Area are described in Section 6.6 of this Chapter. They have been informed by a desk-based study that has reviewed known and published policy and guidance documents available at the time of writing.

6.4.3 The desk-based study was informed by a number of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) studies modelled on the Scheme's maximum height and extent of infrastructure as outlined on **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP6.3]**. The proposed maximum parameters of the Scheme demonstrate the maximum extent of proposed infrastructure, associated development and ancillary development, all of which has been assessed within the LVIA, **ES Appendix 6.7: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [APP/6.4]** and **ES Appendix 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Assessment Facilities [APP/6.4]**. Two ZTV figures have been produced to demonstrate potential worst-case visibility.

6.4.4 **ES Figure 6.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DTM) [APP/6.3]** is a ZTV figure that does not take account for obstructions and instead is modelled on a 'bare earth' digital terrain model.

6.4.5 **ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3]** is a ZTV figure that takes account the screening effect of existing intervening vegetation and built development – recorded in the digital surface datasets available at the time of assessment – in the Scheme's surrounding landscape.

6.4.6 Further details of the ZTVs used to inform the LVIA are provided in Section 6.6.

Fieldwork

6.4.7 Fieldwork was undertaken in May and November 2024, with verified viewpoint photography taken in January and June 2025. This approach ensures photography captures both the 'summer' conditions, when vegetation would be in-leaf and a greater degree of screening would likely occur, and also 'winter' conditions of the landscape, when there would be the greatest degree of visibility, which represents the 'worst-case scenario' that the main assessment of visual impacts have been

assessed against. Where relevant to this assessment, consideration has been given to the 'summer' conditions as set out in this chapter and its supporting figures.

6.4.8 New hedgerow planting within the Site has been identified during fieldwork. Baseline viewpoint photography illustrates newly planted hedgerow within winter viewpoint photographs 2 and 5. An assumption of this new planting is that it would form part of the future baseline, and the newly planted hedgerow would have grown and established by operation phase year 1, at the below growth rates. Short and medium term visual effects reflect this assumption within the assessment section of this LVIA.

Visualisations

6.4.9 A range of visualisations have been prepared in support of the LVIA within this ES Chapter. These visualisations are based on the verified viewpoint photography captured. They have been generated on the maximum development parameters set out within **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]**.

6.4.10 Two types of visualisations have been produced to support the assessment within this LVIA. Firstly, the parameter based photowire visualisations represent a simple 3D wireline block model of the areas that could be developed, correctly placed in its photographic context. This demonstrates the scale and siting of the maximum development parameters, without the screening effects of new mitigation planting. These parameter based visualisations are presented in:

- **ES Figure 6.12: (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Winter Photowires [APP/6.3];** and
- **Figure 6.13 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Summer Photowires [APP/6.3].**

6.4.11 Secondly, fully rendered illustrative photomontages have also been produced. These are Type 3 photomontages which demonstrate potential views of the Scheme, from two separate viewpoint locations, during summer and winter, at both year 1 (demonstrating visual effects in the short term, following construction) and year 15 (demonstrating medium and long term effects once any proposed mitigation planting has matured and established). Visualisations are presented in:

- **ES Figure 6.14: (PM8, PM12 and PM14): Winter Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3]**; and
- **ES Figure 6.15: (PM8, PM12 and PM14): Summer Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3].**

6.4.12 **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]** shows the siting of the larger infrastructure, such as the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure, as well as the smaller elements such as the Solar PV and BESS Units. To fully consider the worst-case scenario, the parameter based photowires and illustrative photomontage visualisations have both been modelled to show the full extent of the indicative siting zones. The indicative size of the Customer

and new National Grid Substation compounds are approximately 4 hectares (ha) per substation as outlined within **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**.

6.4.13 The Grid Connection Infrastructure has been modelled within both the parameter based photowire visualisations and Illustrative Photomontages. The Grid Connection Infrastructure has been modelled within the Illustrative Photomontages to demonstrate their scale, appearance and potential siting. The Grid Connection Infrastructure has been accounted for and assessed within the main body of the assessment later in this chapter. The primary design option for the Grid Connection Infrastructure is considered as part of the assessment of **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]**, detailed within Section 6.8.

6.4.14 Within the ES photomontages, the assumed vegetation growth rate is 300mm/year for the first five years and 400mm of growth per year thereafter. This is based on Predicting Trees and Hedgerow Growth (Ref 6-1) growth rates which have been adjusted down to err on the side of caution to reflect local variation in discussion with the Applicant's arboriculturist and based on project experience. This would be applicable to all elements of the proposed vegetation within the Site and has been taken into account for the year 15 visualisations of the Scheme.

6.4.15 Further details of the visualisations are provided in ES Appendix 6.4: Methodology for Zone of Theoretical Visibility Studies and Visualisations [APP/6.4].

Consideration of Climate Change

6.4.16 The landscape is sensitive to gradual changes in climate and to more abrupt changes caused by extreme weather events. This could affect the resilience of existing landscape / habitat features within the Site, in particular tree health which may be impacted by water stress, temperature change and pathogens and viruses.

6.4.17 While climate change has the potential to alter the landscape in the longer term overall, it is considered that such changes would not influence the baseline landscape to such a degree that it would alter the judgements made in the LVIA.

Parameters Based Assessment and the Rochdale Envelope

6.4.18 The various assessments undertaken within the LVIA, RVAA and ARA reports, which are included within this Landscape and Visual Chapter, are based upon the Scheme parameters shown on **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]**.

6.4.19 In order to fully consider the worst-case scenario and assess the Scheme, which currently has some degree of flexibility currently built into the **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]** and **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]**, **ES Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment** within this Chapter, **ES Appendix 6.7: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [APP/6.4]** and **ES Appendix 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Assessment [APP/6.4]** reports and their subsequent conclusions, are based upon the worst-case scenarios of the Scheme, for each receptor. This approach clearly identifies where adverse effects may arise for each

receptor and clearly states which siting zone(s) and element(s) of the Scheme could lead to potentially significant adverse effects.

Study Area

6.4.20 For the purposes of this LVIA, the Study Area includes the Site itself and 3km from its boundary, and is deemed appropriate to cover all potentially material landscape and visual impacts. Further detail on the ZTV study used to inform this LVIA is set out below within Section 6.5.

6.4.21 Where responses were received during consultation, they are included within **ES Appendix 6.1: Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance [APP/6.4]**.

6.4.22 16 representative viewpoints have been selected to assess the effects on visual receptors. These viewpoint locations have been selected based upon the ZTV figures, extensive fieldwork and additional viewpoints requested by KLWN.

6.4.23 In addition, 'illustrative viewpoints' have been identified to "demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues, which might, for example, be the restricted visibility at certain locations" (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para 6.19); and 'specific viewpoints' where there are key promoted viewpoints within the Study Area.

6.4.24 For the purpose of this LVIA, 7 illustrative viewpoints have been identified to demonstrate particular effects or issues. No specific viewpoints were identified.

6.4.25 Additional viewpoints requested by KLWN have also been considered as either representative or illustrative viewpoints, depending on the visibility towards the Site. These viewpoint locations include:

- Views from Priory Road and Castle Acre
- Views from the high points of River Road and Petticoat Drove, within the Site
- Views from the Grade II Listed temple at Narford Lane; and
- Any of the 'Important Views' listed within the Castle Acre Neighbourhood Plan, where the Site may be visible.

6.5 Assessment Methodology

6.5.1 This Section sets out the scope and methodology for the assessment of the impacts of the Scheme in relation to LVIA.

Sources of Information

6.5.2 The following sources of information that have been consulted in the preparation of this chapter, reflecting the approach and terminology used in the following published guidance and accepted good practice:

- Published documentary information from a variety of sources, including historical and contemporary records
- Numerous site visits throughout 2024 and 2025
- Survey information
- Aerial photography
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA) 3rd Edition (LI and IEMA (now ISEP), 2013) (Ref 6-2)
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014) (Ref **6-3**~~**Ref 6-3**~~)
- Technical Information Note 05/2017: Townscape Character Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2017, revised April 2018) (Ref 6-4)
- Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2019) (Ref 6-5)
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, 2021) (Ref 6-6)
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019) (Ref 6-7)
- **ES Appendix 6.3: Supporting Information to Assessment Methodology [APP/6.4]** contains supporting information concerning the LVIA methodology; supplementing the information provided in this section; and
- **ES Appendix 6.4: Methodology for Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Studies and Visualisations [APP/6.4]** sets out the approach to the production of ZTV studies and visualisations.

Potential Impacts

6.5.3 Embedded mitigation measures being incorporated into the design and construction of the Scheme are set out in Section 6.7 below. Prior to the implementation of any mitigation (embedded or additional), the Scheme has the potential to have an effect

on landscape and visual receptors (beneficial or adverse), during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases in the following ways.

Potential Impacts on Landscape Character

6.5.4 The operational phase effects on landscape character consider how the introduction of new landscape elements physically alters the landform, landcover, landscape pattern, and perceptual attributes or how visibility of the Scheme changes the way in which landscape character is perceived.

6.5.5 The landscape character of the Site would generally change from agricultural land and pasture to a solar PV development comprising a number of new built elements as outlined within **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**. The effects on landscape character would be influenced by the physical and visual containment provided by the landform, woodlands and hedgerows together with any built form or intervening features in the local landscape.

6.5.6 There is potential for adverse effects upon those landscape character areas (LCAs) identified within the Study Area that are either situated within, adjacent to or would have views towards the Site (perceptual impacts).

Potential impacts on Visual Amenity

6.5.7 The visual effects consider the changes in views arising from the Scheme in relation to visual receptors (or people) within the surrounding towns and villages, motorists using local roads, walkers using public footpaths, or equestrians using bridleways, etc.

6.5.8 With the exception of specific viewpoints, each route, settlement or location encompasses a range of possible views, which might vary from no view of the Scheme to very clear, close views. From outside of the Order limits, the predicted visibility of the Scheme is limited. Visibility towards the Site is well contained due to a combination of the local plateau and valley topography, the presence of scattered woodland blocks within and close to the Site and the well vegetated nature of local lanes and highways; all of which serve to filter views and restrict direct visibility into the centre of the Site. Potential visual effects are likely to be experienced to varying degrees from:

- Public highways and transport routes within or adjacent to the Site such as Castle Acre Road, Narford Lane, River Road, South Acre Road, Fincham Drove, Petticoat Drove and Washpit Drove
- Local public footpaths within the Site and wider landscape context such as PRoW West Acre RB3 and RB7, South Acre RB1and RB2, Swaffham RB2, Narborough RB7a, South Acre BR8 and Sporle with Palgrave BR2
- National Trails and Promoted Routes within 1.5km of the Site such as The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path, The Nar Valley Way, The Castle Acre Circular Walk and Rebellion Way cycling route; and

- Other local accessible landscapes to the north and northeast of the Site such as Castle Acre Priory and Castle Acre Castle.

Impact Assessment Methodology

6.5.9 The LVIA follows the general approach to undertaking EIA, explained in **ES Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology [APP/6.1]**, albeit it has been modified in accordance with, and to align with, published guidance and accepted good practice. Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition, LI and IEMA (now ISEP), 2013) ('GLVIA') (Ref. 6-2) is the key guidance document for the Landscape and Visual assessment. It sets out at paragraph 1.1 that:

> *"Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is a tool used to identify and assess the significance of and the effects of change resulting from development on both the landscape as an environmental resource in its own right and people's views and visual amenity."*

6.5.10 Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.22 of the same guidance indicate that the two components (the assessment of landscape effects and the assessment of visual effects) are:

> *"related but very different considerations".*

6.5.11 GLVIA3 explains how to assess the landscape and visual baseline, the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors, and the magnitude of change and significance of effect that would be caused by a development.

6.5.12 The methodology for attributing sensitivity of receptors, magnitude of effects and the significance of effects in relation to the LVIA is described further below in this Chapter of the ES and **ES Appendix 6.3: Supporting Information to the Assessment Methodology [APP/6.4]**.

6.5.13 The key terms used within this assessment are:

- Susceptibility and value – which contribute to the sensitivity of the receptor
- Scale, duration and extent – which contribute to the magnitude of effect; and
- Significance.

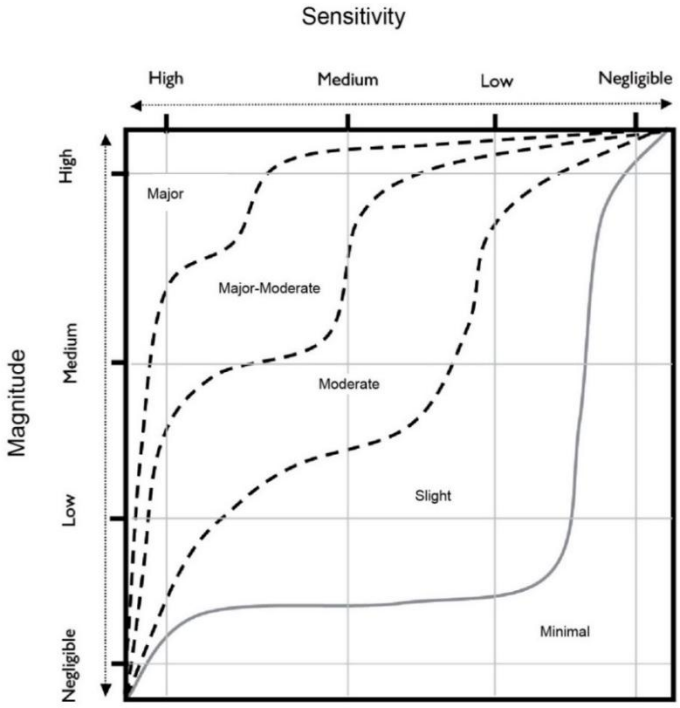
6.5.14 These terms are described in more detail below. A full glossary of assessment terms are provided in **ES Appendix 6.2: Glossary [APP/6.4]**.

Determining Significance of Effect

Significance indicates the importance or gravity of the effect. The process of forming a judgement as to the degree of significance of the effect is based upon the assessments of magnitude of effects and sensitivity of the receptor to come to a

professional judgement of how important this effect is. This judgement is illustrated by Image 6-1~~Image 6 1~~.

Image 6-1 Significance of effect



6.5.15 The significance ratings indicate a 'sliding scale' of the relative importance of the effect, with Major being the most important and Minimal being the least. Effects that are Major or Major-Moderate are considered significant and "*likely to influence the eventual decision*" whilst those that are Slight or below are judged Not Significant and "*of lesser concern*" (GLVIA3, para 3.35) (Ref 6-2). Moderate effects are considered to be potentially significant and professional judgment is used to determine whether the effect in question is Significant or Not Significant, with analysis provided to justify the rating.

6.5.16 An effect is likely to be assessed as significant where the sensitivity of the receptor combined with magnitude of change results in a degree of effect that is towards the higher end of the Moderate range (illustrated in Image 6-1~~Image 6 1~~ of Effect above) and is therefore judged more *"likely to influence the eventual decision*". It should be noted that whilst an effect may be assessed as significant, it does not necessarily mean that such an impact would be unacceptable or should necessarily be regarded as an "undue consequence" (GLVIA3, para 5.40) (Ref. 6-2).

6.5.17 Where intermediate ratings are given, e.g. Moderate-Slight, this indicates an effect that is both less than Moderate and more than Slight, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases, the higher rating would always be given first; this does not mean that the impact is closer to that higher rating but is done to facilitate

the identification of the more significant effects within tables. Intermediate judgements may also be used for judgements of magnitude.

Sensitivity of Receptor

6.5.18 Susceptibility indicates the ability of a landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the type of development proposed:

> *"without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies."* (GLVIA3, para. 5.40) (*Ref 6-2).*

Table 6-1 Landscape Susceptibility

High	Changes to the baseline situation are likely to arise from the type of development proposed.
Medium	Changes to the baseline situation may arise from the type of development proposed.
Low	Changes to the baseline situation are unlikely to arise from the type of development proposed.

6.5.19 The susceptibility of landscape character areas or types are influenced by the ability of the overall character; quality/condition; elements and/or features; or particular aesthetic and perceptual aspects, to accommodate change. Reference is made to published landscape character assessments and/or sensitivity and capacity studies where relevant (where susceptibility can sometimes be documented as sensitivity).

6.5.20 The susceptibility of designated or defined landscapes is influenced by the nature of the natural beauty, special qualities and purposes of designation/definition and/or the valued elements, qualities or characteristics.

6.5.21 Landscape value is *"the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society"* (GLVIA3, page 157) (Ref 6-2).

Table 6-2 Landscape Value

National/International	Designated landscapes which are nationally or internationally designated for their landscape value.
Local / District	Locally designated landscapes; areas which documentary evidence and/or site observation indicate as being more valued than the surrounding area.
Community	'Ordinary' landscape which is appreciated by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value.
Limited	Despoiled or degraded landscape with little or no evidence of being valued by the community.

6.5.22 National Planning Policy Framework (Ref 6-8) (NPPF) paragraph 187 states that:

> *"Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environments by (…) protecting and enhancing valued landscapes".*

6.5.23 Areas of landscape of greater than Community value may be considered to be 'valued landscapes' because National and Local value landscapes are designated on a national or local scale due to their landscape value (greater than ordinary) and therefore could be deemed a valued landscape depending on their intrinsic qualities.

6.5.24 The evaluation draws on existing assessments, policies, strategies, guidelines, site-specific survey and analysis to determine whether a landscape (entirely or part of it) should be considered 'valued' under NPPF paragraph 187.

6.5.25 As defined within paragraph 5.39 of GLVIA3 (Ref 6-2), Landscape Sensitivity is assessed by combining the considerations of susceptibility and value described above.

Table 6-3 Landscape Sensitivity

Landscape Sensitivity		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National/ International	High	High-Medium	Medium
	Local/District	High-Medium	Medium	Medium-Low
	Community	Medium	Medium-Low	Low
	Limited	Low	Low-Negligible	Negligible

6.5.26 For visual receptors, susceptibility and value are closely linked - the most valued views are also likely to be those where viewer's expectations would be highest. Susceptibility of visual receptors is primarily a function of the expectations and occupation or activity of the receptors (GLVIA3, para 6.32) (Ref 6-2).

6.5.27 The value attributed relates to the value of the view, e.g. a National Trail is nationally valued for access, not necessarily for the available views. Consequently, separate criteria for susceptibility and value are not provided, and instead, typical examples of visual Receptor sensitivity are indicated in Table 6-4 Visual Receptor Sensitivity~~Table 6-4 Visual Receptor Sensitivity~~ below. These typical examples may be varied based

on specific factors relevant to the type of development proposed or the Site and its context.

Table 6-4 Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Visual Receptor Sensitivity		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National/ International	High (1)	High-Medium (4)	Medium (8)
	Local/District	High-Medium (2)	High-Medium (5)	Medium (8)
	Community	High-Medium (3)	Medium (6)	Medium-Low (9)
	Limited	Medium	Medium-Low (7)	Low (10)

Typical Examples:

(1) Visitors to valued viewpoints or routes, which people might visit purely to experience the view, e.g. promoted or well-known viewpoints, routes from which views that form part of the special qualities of a designated landscape can be well appreciated; key designed views; panoramic viewpoints marked on maps.

(2) People in locations where they are likely to pause to appreciate the view, such as from local waypoints such as benches; or at key views to/from local landmarks. Visitors to local attractions, heritage assets or public parks where views are an important contributor to the experience, or key views into/out of Conservation Areas.

(3) People in the streets around their home, or using Public Rights of Way, navigable waterways or accessible open space (public parks, open access land).

(4) Users of promoted scenic rail routes.

(5) Users of promoted scenic local road routes.

(6) Users of cycle routes, local roads and railways.

(7) Outdoor workers.

(8) Users of A-roads which are nationally or locally promoted scenic routes.

(9) Users of sports facilities such as cricket grounds and golf courses.

(10) Users of Motorways and A-roads; shoppers at retail parks, people at their (indoor) places of work.

Magnitude of Impact

6.5.28 The magnitude of effect is informed by combining the scale, duration and extent of an effect. The criteria for the assessment of magnitude are set out below.

6.5.29 Scale of effect is assessed for all landscape and visual receptors and identifies the degree of change which would arise from the Scheme.

Table 6-5 Scale

Large	Total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline would be fundamentally changed.
Medium	Partial alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline would be noticeably changed.
Small	Minor alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline would be largely unchanged despite discernible differences.
Negligible	Very minor alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline would be fundamentally unchanged with barely perceptible differences.

6.5.30 Duration of effect is assessed for all landscape and visual receptors and identifies the time period over which the change to the receptor as a result of the Scheme would arise.

Table 6-6 Duration

Long-term	The change is expected to be in place for more than 25 years.
Medium to Long-term	The change is expected to be in place for 10 – 25 years.
Medium-term	The change is expected to be in place for 5 – 10 years.
Short-term	The change is expected to be in place for 0 – 5 years.

6.5.31 Effects arising from most types of development and Associated Infrastructure and mitigation would typically be Long-term. It is reasonable to also expect these changes to be permanent and irreversible.

6.5.32 Some forms of development, such as solar arrays, may also result in Long-term effects. Still, the intention is that the Scheme (excluding the National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure which are the responsibility of National Grid) would be decommissioned at the end of its defined operational period, and effects

would, therefore, no longer occur beyond that timeframe. These are assessed to be Long-term but reversible.

6.5.33 Medium or Short-term effects may be identified where mitigation planting is proposed, or local factors would result in a reduced duration of effect where, for example, new woodland planting would screen views of the Scheme once fully established.

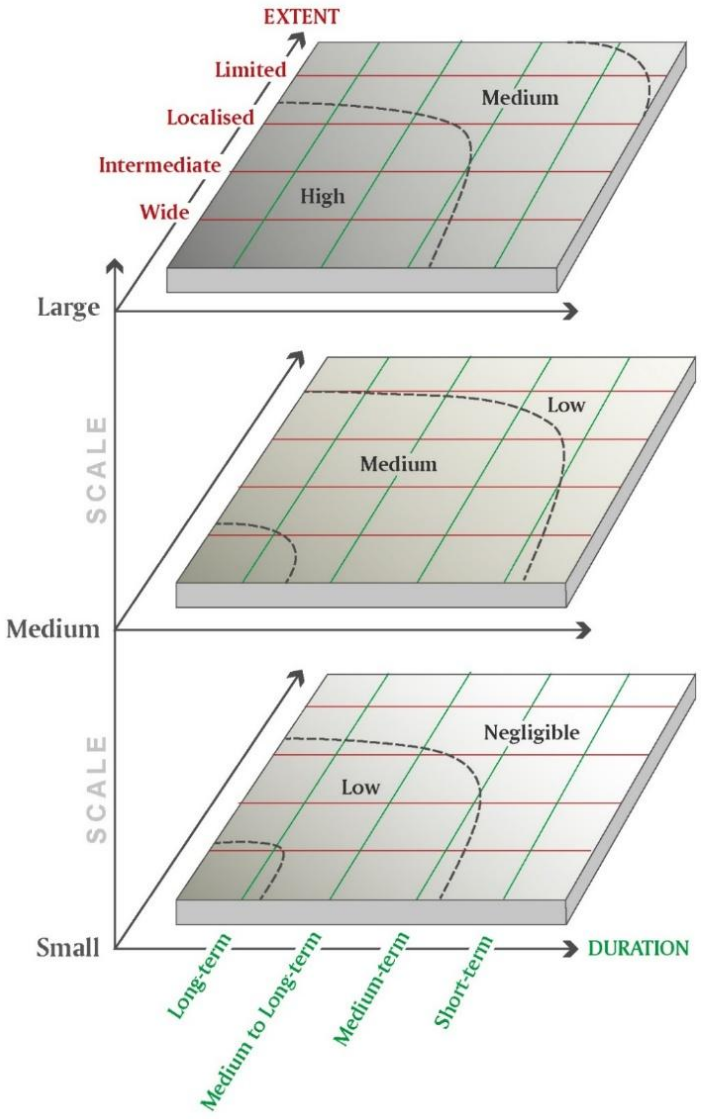
6.5.34 The effects arising from the construction and decommissioning of the Scheme would usually be Short-term.

6.5.35 The extent of effects is assessed for all receptors and indicates the geographic area over which the effects would be felt.

Table 6-7 Extent

Wide	More than half of a receptor area; linear route as it passes through the Study Area; or of the field of view from a specific viewpoint.
Intermediate	Up to approximately half of a receptor area; linear route as it passes through the Study Area; or of the field of view from a specific viewpoint.
Localised	Up to approximately a quarter of a receptor area; linear route as it passes through the Study Area; or of the field of view from a specific viewpoint.
Limited	Site, or part of Site, or up to approximately a tenth of a receptor area; linear route as it passes through the Study Area; or of the field of view from a specific viewpoint.

Image 6-2 Magnitude of effect



6.5.36 As can be seen from the illustration above, scale (shown as the layers of the diagram) is the primary factor in determining magnitude; most of each layer indicates that magnitude would typically be judged to be the same as scale but may be higher if the effect is particularly widespread and long lasting, or lower if it is constrained in geographic extent or timescale. Where the scale of effect is judged to be Negligible the magnitude is also assumed to be Negligible, and no further judgement is required.

Beneficial / Neutral / Adverse

6.5.37 Effects are defined as Beneficial, Neutral or Adverse. Neutral effects are those which overall are neither Adverse nor Beneficial but may incorporate a combination of both.

6.5.38 The decision regarding the significance of effect and the decision regarding whether an effect is beneficial or adverse are entirely separate. For example, a rating of Major and Beneficial would indicate an effect that was of great significance and on balance positive, but not necessarily that the proposals would be extremely beneficial.

6.5.39 Whether an effect is Beneficial, Neutral or Adverse is identified based on professional judgement.

6.5.40 GLVIA 3rd edition indicates in paragraph 2.15 that this is a "*particularly challenging*" aspect of assessment, particularly in the context of a changing landscape.

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

6.5.41 The Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 02/19 (TGN 02/19) (para. 1.2) defines Residential Visual Amenity as:

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

6.5.42 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is a separate assessment to LVIA, as stated within GLVIA3 para. 6.17, and focuses solely on private views and private visual amenity. It requires assessors to determine whether the effects of a Scheme reach the 'Residential Visual Amenity Threshold', described as the point at which a Scheme would be of

"...such nature and/or magnitude that it potentially affects 'living conditions' or Residential Amenity" (TGN 02/19, para. 2.1).

6.5.43 The guidance note further indicates in para 1.6 that:

"*It is not uncommon for significant adverse effects on views and visual amenity to be experienced by people at their place of residence as a result of introducing a new development into the landscape. In itself this does not necessarily cause particular planning concern. However, there are situations where the effect on the outlook / visual amenity of a residential property is so great that it is not generally considered*

to be in the public interest to permit such conditions to occur where they did not exist before."

6.5.44 This Landscape and Visual Chapter includes a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) in **ES Appendix 6.7: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [APP/6.4]**. The scope of the RVAA comprises an assessment of residential properties situated within 800m of the Site.

Amenity and Recreation Assessment

6.5.45 An Amenity and Recreation Assessment (ARA) is a separate assessment to the LVIA, included in **ES Appendix 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Assessment [APP/6.4]**. The ARA relates to the impacts on users of recreational resources comprising Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including public footpaths; bridleways; restricted byways; and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT); permissive footpaths; open access and common land; cycle routes, recreational facilities, nature reserves, parks and waterbodies used for recreation. The ARA assesses any physical changes (e.g. PRoW diversions or closures) and other environmental impacts, including visual amenity, noise, traffic movements, dust and other emissions, and traffic movements which may affect the overall experience of the amenity and recreational resources.

6.5.46 **ES Figure 6.8: Amenity and Recreation [APP/6.4]** identifies a number of amenity and recreational resources in the surrounding context. These comprise a variety of PRoW, open access land, nature areas, cycle trails, walking routes and formal and informal recreation areas. The ARA considers the effects to the amenity and recreation resources within the same 3km Study Area as the LVIA.

6.5.47 The ARA is provided as a separate appendix to the LVIA (as **ES Appendix 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Assessment [APP/6.4]**). There is no universally recognised guidance for the ARA, although the methodology follows the principles of the LVIA methodology and is informed by relevant policy and guidance, as well as the outcomes of relevant assessments such as transport and access, noise, air quality, and glint and glare.

Distances

6.5.48 Where distances are given in the assessment, these are approximate distances between the nearest part of the Site and the nearest part of the Receptor in question, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

6.6 Baseline Conditions

The Order limits

6.6.1 The Scheme is located within the administrative areas of Norfolk County Council (NCC) and Breckland Council (BC) who are the Host Authorities. The Scheme is located adjacent to the administrative boundary of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk

Council (KLWN). A full description of the Order limits is provided in **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**.

6.6.2 This section presents an overview of the baseline study, covering a review of the key local guidance documents and all the landscape and visual receptors identified within the Study Area, this including an initial assessment of all the identified receptors. Receptors which merit further detailed consideration are referred to in Section 6.8, as effects:

> *"have been judged unlikely to occur or so insignificant that it is not essential to consider them further" (GLVIA3, para. 3.19)* (*Ref 6-2*).

6.6.3 Both this baseline section and Section 6.8 describe landscape character and visual receptors before considering any designated landscapes within the wider Study Area. It is common for designations to encompass both character and visual considerations within their special qualities or purposes of designation. It therefore makes a more natural reading sequence to draw together those aspects of character and views which relate to the designation if they have been described earlier in the chapter. The baseline section was informed by a desk study, surveys, ZTVs and a Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI) summarised below.

Desk Study

6.6.4 A comprehensive desk study was undertaken to inform the existing and future baseline. This included reviewing key data sources referred to in this document and supporting appendices.

Surveys

6.6.5 As described in Section 6.4 Assessment Assumptions and Limitations, fieldwork was undertaken in May and November 2024, with verified viewpoint photography undertaken in January and June 2025.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

6.6.6 A ZTV study was generated and modelled based on the maximum parameters available at the time of assessment for the Scheme and has been used as a tool to inform the professional judgements made in this LVIA during the iterative masterplan process and stages. The ZTV was produced using the viewshed routine in the ESRI ArcGIS Suite.

6.6.7 A detailed ZTV, hereafter also referred to as 'DSM ZTV', has been produced which accurately identifies potential visibility considering local obstructions to views such as existing woodland, utilising a Digital Surface Model (DSM) within. The areas shown are the maximum theoretical visibility, taking into account topography, vegetation and buildings which have been included in the model with the heights obtained from a LiDAR digital surface model. Due to its resolution, the surface model does not take into account every localised feature (such as walls, small hedgerows, small trees etc.) and therefore only gives an impression of the extent of visibility. As a result, the extent

of actual visibility experienced on the ground would be less than suggested by the ZTV study.

6.6.8 As requested by PINS in **ES Appendix 2.1: EIA Scoping Opinion Request [APP/6.4]**, a 'bare earth' ZTV has been included within this ES chapter, as **ES Figure 6.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DTM) [APP/6.3]**. The 'bare earth' ZTV utilises a Digital Terrain Model (DTM); and therefore, only demonstrates potential visibility with regard to topography and changes in local landform. Landform is shown on **ES Figure 6.3: Landform [APP/6.3]**.

6.6.9 As noted above, the DSM ZTV utilises DSM data and is included within **ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3]**. The proposed maximum development parameters have been modelled separately to demonstrate the theoretical visibility of the Solar PV Arrays, BESS Units and Customer and National Grid Substations.

6.6.10 The ZTVs include an adjustment that allows for Earth's curvature and light refraction and are based on LiDAR terrain data with a $2m^2$ resolution. It is notable that the existing overhead lines within the northern area of the Order limits are incorrectly included within DSM data, which locally presents a screening effect by the existing overhead lines and pylons. This ES Chapter notes the inaccuracy in DSM data and uses professional judgement to take account of the slightly increased area of visibility afforded to the north-east of the Order limits, which is not presented on the DSM ZTV.

6.6.11 The Grid Connection Infrastructure parameters have not been modelled within the ZTVs due to the limits of deviation and optioneering regarding location of new and existing overhead pylons. Modelling a parameter with a number of potential outcomes within the ZTV and Type 3 parameter based photowire visualisations would not be useful in determining the likely significant landscape and visual effects for the ES, so instead, the likely effects of the Grid Connection Infrastructure are shown on the illustrative photomontages and also outlined within the main body of text within the assessment.

6.6.12 As outlined within **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**, the parameter areas for the Solar PV Arrays, BESS Units and the Customer and National Grid Substation within the Order limits are shown indicatively on **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]**. The Works Areas set out on the **Works Plans [APP/2.3]** represent the maximum extent of the Scheme presented on the ZTV.

6.6.13 This ES assessment is based upon the parameters as outlined within **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**. The maximum parameters have been modelled within the ZTVs (**ES Figure 6.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DTM)** and **ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3]**) as follows:

- Indicative Area for Solar PV Site - Maximum height of 4.5m (at the greatest inclination)
- Indicative siting zone for Customer Substation and BESS Units – Maximum height of 13m; and
- Indictive siting zone for National Grid Substation – Maximum height of 13m.

6.6.14 With regard to the 'indicative siting zone for Customer Substation and BESS Units, the BESS Units is proposed to have a height of 3.5m when compared to the 13m high Customer Substation, therefore the entirety of this area of the **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]** on the ZTVs has been modelled at 13m, in order to demonstrate potential visibility of the Customer Substation at any given location within that designated area.

6.6.15 As outlined within **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**, both the Customer Substation and the National Grid Substation require an approximate footprint of 4ha per substation. As such, the actual visibility and siting zones for both substations would likely be smaller in reality when compared to the theoretical modelling detailed within this ES Chapter.

6.6.16 The ZTV study was used to determine which landscape and visual receptors are likely to be affected by the Scheme and would therefore merit detailed consideration in the assessment of effects, and receptors unlikely to have visibility of the Scheme.

ZTV and Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI)

6.6.17 The ZTV studies shown on both ES Figure 6.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DTM) [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3], indicates the theoretical visibility of the Scheme; with the DTM ZTV only considering terrain and the DSM ZTV considering terrain as well as physical visual obstructions such as buildings and vegetation etc.

6.6.18 The Grid Connection Infrastructure has not been modelled within the ZTV's shown within ES Figure 6.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DTM) [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3]. This is primarily due to the height parameter skewing the theoretical visibility of the Scheme, and 'overshadowing' localised visibility of smaller elements such as the Solar PV Arrays, BESS Units and Customer Substation and National Grid Substation within the Study Area.

6.6.19 The 'bare earth' ZTV, (**ES Figure 6.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DTM) [APP/6.2]** indicates potential visibility across the entirety of the Site, extending beyond the Site in some areas. Based upon the bare earth model, potential visibility is generally confined to around 3km to the south and east, with sporadic potential visibility beyond this. To the north, potential visibility extends beyond 3km but is sporadic in places, which accounts for the local undulations in topography and landform associated with the River Nar and wider Nar Valley. To the west, theoretical visibility is more wide spread beyond the Site and Study Area however this is not realistic given the wooded context of the local landscape and, as noted above, the bare earth DTM modelling approach to understanding the zone of theoretical visibility in this instance, is not the most useful approach given the wooded context of the Site and surrounding landscape. The Site and surrounding landscape is well-wooded and includes a variety of tree belts, woodland blocks and tall hedgerows with trees along

agricultural field boundaries; all of which serve to filter and restrict visibility towards the Site. The bare earth model does not take these characteristics into account.

6.6.20 The DSM ZTV for the Scheme (**ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3]** shows that potential visibility is confined to within approximately 1km to the south and west, an area defined by the plateau landscape with generally flat landform and well vegetated field boundaries with scattered woodland blocks. Potential visibility extends beyond approximately 1km to the north, to the northern side of the Nar Valley, and east, towards Palgrave. There is very limited potential visibility within the Nar Valley and settlements such as West Acre, Castle Acre and South Acre.

6.6.21 Woodland cover in the Study Area has an effect on visibility, breaking it up and resulting in gaps in several areas potential visibility to the north and east.

6.6.22 The anticipated main area of visibility, hereafter referred to as the 'Zone of Visual Influence' ('ZVI'), is described below and shown on **ES Figure 6.7: Visual Receptor Groups [APP/6.3]**.

6.6.23 Site observations confirm that extensive vegetation within the wider landscape would significantly reduce the extent of visibility of the Scheme from that illustrated by the bare earth ZTV. The anticipated main area of visibility, based on site observations, is annotated on the ZTV study as the 'Zone of Visual Influence'. Across the Study Area vegetation cover is much more extensive than indicated by the DSM ZTV; field boundaries are typically formed from large, mature hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees and there is extensive tree cover within settlements, particularly so to the north of Swaffham and around South Acre, West Acre and Castle Acre. Realistically, views of the Scheme would generally be confined to the more open fields to the north and east of the Site, extending as far as Palgrave to the east (up to 1km) and Castle Acre to the north (up to 2km). Views from Castle Acre are generally limited to higher ground at Castle Acre Castle and from Priory Road, Castle Acre Priory and East Green at its settlement edge.

6.6.24 There would also be visibility from the A1065, which runs along the Site's eastern boundary, where the Scheme would be seen within fields located in the eastern Site area beyond gappy field boundary hedgerow and hedgerow trees.

6.6.25 Based on fieldwork observations, it is judged that effects on landscape and visual receptors outside the ZVI described above would be Negligible and, as such, are not assessed in further detail in this ES Chapter. This does not mean that there would be no potential visibility outside the ZVI indicated, but rather that any visibility beyond the ZVI would be minimal or at such a distance that visibility would not affect views. This approach was agreed with KLWN during a consultation meeting dated 20 January 2025.

Landscape Character

6.6.26 Paragraphs 5.13-5.15 of GLVIA, 3rd edition (Ref 6-2) indicates that landscape character studies at a national or regional level are best used to *"set the scene"* and understand the landscape context *"but may be too generalised to be appropriate for*

the particular purpose" (paragraph 5.13 of GLVIA). GLVIA indicates that LPA assessments provide more detail and that these should be used to form the basis of the assessment of effects on landscape character with (appropriately justified) adaptation, refinement and interpretation where required. GLVIA goes on to state that "*ideally both should be used together;"* broad scale assessments to set the scene and reference and local authority assessments to provide more detail (paragraph 5.14 of GLVIA.).

6.6.27 In the context of the Scheme and the 3km Study Area, the district landscape character assessments (though dated) are still relevant noting that GLVIA paragraph 5.13 states that "*justification should be provided for any departure from the findings of an existing established LCA."* GLVIA para 5.15 continues adding that *"existing assessments may need to be reviewed and interpreted to adapt them for use in LVIA - for example by drawing out more clearly the key characteristics that are most relevant to the proposal (…) Completely new supplementary Landscape Character Assessment work covering the whole Study Area would only be required when there are no existing assessments or when they are available but either have serious limitations that restrict their value or do not provide information at an appropriate level of detail".*

6.6.28 For the purposes of this assessment, the LVIA considers that there are no serious limitations within the published landscape character assessments outlined below and further detailed character assessment is not required. However, where appropriate, more specific site observations drawn from detailed site surveys of the Site and immediate surroundings, are also included below, as prescribed in paragraph 5.15 GLVIA.

6.6.29 Relevant assessments are outlined below:

- The Natural England National Character Areas Assessment: NCA85 The Brecks (2013) (Ref 6-9) provides a broad context at a national level, highlighting the distinctive features of The Brecks. The Site is situated within National Character Area (NCA): The Brecks
- The Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (2013) (Ref 6-10~~Ref 6-10~~) identifies and describes the Landscape Character on a regional scale
- The Breckland Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment (2022) (Ref 6-11~~Ref 6-11~~) describes and analyses the character of Breckland's landscape and settlements, drawing upon relevant information from older landscape character assessments outlined below, as well as expanding the assessment to cover existing settlements within the district
- The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007) (Ref **6-12**~~Ref **6-12**~~) is the primary document that assesses landscape character within the district. This assessment covers the Site and large parts of the Study Area, to the south, east and northeast; and
- The King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007) (Ref **6-13**~~Ref **6-13**~~) includes landscape character areas (LCA) within the wider Study Area, outside of the Site, which have been characterised.

6.6.30 Copies of relevant maps and character assessment descriptions of areas taken forward for assessment in Section 8 of this ES Chapter are included in **ES Appendix 6.6: Extracts from Relevant Landscape Character Assessments [APP/6.4]** with the extent of National and District / Borough Landscape Character illustrated on **ES Figure 6.4: Landscape Character [APP/6.3]**.

National Landscape Character Profiles

6.6.31 The key characteristics of Natural England's National Landscape Character Area NCA 85 (Ref 6-14~~Ref 6-14~~) are listed as follows, with those directly observed within the Site and Study Area emboldened:

- *"A largely open, gently undulating landscape with a low-lying, dry plateau that rises to the north. Subtle long slopes lead to alluvial flats containing shallow, meandering wooded river valleys*
- *Vast commercial conifer plantations form a forest landscape, unique in lowland England. The regular geometric shape and form and the repeated occurrence of plantations and shelterbelts unify the land cover pattern, forming wooded horizons and framing views into adjacent landscapes*
- *Predominantly agricultural land use focused on arable production, with planned courtyard farmsteads and large, regular 18th- and 19thcentury enclosure fields often clearly defined by Scots pine and beech shelterbelts or neat hawthorn hedges, indicative of large estate enclosure. The regular field layouts combine with long, straight, undulating roads to create a geometric landscape character*
- *Outdoor pigs and intensive indoor and outdoor poultry-rearing units are also characteristic.*
- *Narrow and meandering lush shallow river valleys (some of which contain unusually fast-flowing streams) form a marked but limited contrast to the dry, extensively arable upland catchment which they drain. All flow westward and are fed by nutrient-poor calcareous groundwater and support important wetland habitats*
- *A high concentration of important archaeological features, resulting from a long continuity of human settlement, include Neolithic flint mines, medieval churches, priories and rabbit warrens, 18th- and 19th-century designed parklands and estate villages, Second World War defence features and 20th-century abandoned settlements in the military training area known as the Stanford Training Area (STANTA)*
- *The main population centre is Thetford with road and rail links radiating out from the town. The settlement pattern is sparse with nucleated villages scattered along the river valleys. Farm buildings and churches have considerable impact, but elsewhere the landscape is very empty. Large military air bases are a feature*
- *Traditional knapped flint, clunch (a form of impure chalk) and 'white' brick are characteristic building materials; and*
- *Away from the main A-road transport corridors where traffic is consistently busy including the A11, A1065 and A134, the area remains still and peaceful. On the approach roads to*

Swaffham, Watton and Thetford, vertical structures, including communications masts and the Swaffham and North Pickenham wind turbines, dominate the landscape."

6.6.32 Due to the scale of the NCA and the presence of more detailed character areas at a local level, effects on this NCA are not assessed within this LVIA. This NCA has been scoped out from a detailed assessment as agreed with PINS in **ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4].**

Regional Landscape Character

Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (2013)

6.6.33 At the regional level, the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (2013) (Ref. 6-10) focusses on The Brecks. The assessment describes the region as:

"a unique landscape of heaths, conifer plantations and farmland on part of the chalk plateau in south-west Norfolk and north-west Suffolk"

6.6.34 The Site is situated within an area characterised as 'Rolling Clay Farmland', which encompasses land to the north, northeast and south of Swaffham. This assessment would inform consideration of baseline landscape character within this LVIA, where relevant, but the landscape character types identified in the more comprehensive District scale landscape character assessments listed below would form the basis of the assessment of effects on landscape character for the ES.

6.6.35 Due to the scale of the regional character area and the presence of more detailed character areas at a local level, effects on this regional character area are not assessed within this LVIA. This regional character area has been scoped out from a detailed assessment as agreed with PINS in **ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4].**

Local Landscape Character

The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007)

6.6.36 The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007) (Ref. 6-12) is the primary landscape character assessment used to inform the LVIA. **ES Figure 6.4: Landscape Character [APP/6.3]** illustrates the location of each LCA (and their corresponding and overarching LCTs).

6.6.37 This assessment covers the Site and large parts of the 3km Study Area, to the south, east and northeast. The landscape character assessment was published in 2007 and identifies 6 no. Landscape Character Types (LCTs) across the district. Specifically, the Site is situated across two LCTs: (D) The Brecks – Heathland with Plantation and (E) Plateau Farmland.

6.6.38 The aforementioned LCTs are divided into more area specific LCAs. Regarding the more specific LCAs, the Site is largely situated within parts of both (D1) Swaffham Heath and (E6) North Pickenham Plateau. A small part of the north-eastern site area

is situated within the (B7) River Nar Tributary Farmland. Extracts relating to LCA D1, E6 and B7 are included in **ES Appendix 6.6: Extracts from Relevant Landscape Character Assessments [APP/6.4]**.

6.6.39 As agreed with PINS in ES Appendix 2.2: Scoping Opinion Response [APP/6.4] and referred to in ES Appendix 6.1: Consultation and Legislation, Planning Policy and Guidance [APP/6.4], one LCT and its constituent LCA, within The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007), is scoped out of this LVIA on the basis that there would be no impact on the wider LCA; primarily due to the fact that only works taking place within it are very localised temporary highways works that have been included within the Order limits. The LCT and LCA scoped out of this LVIA are as follows:

(B) Settled Tributary Farmland LCT; (B5) River Wissey Tributary Farmland LCA

6.6.40 The below LCTs and LCAs are scoped into this LVIA and are taken forward for detailed assessment in Section 6.8 of this ES Chapter.

D1: Swaffham Heath LCA (LCT The Brecks – Heathland with Plantation)

6.6.41 The majority of the Site is located within the D1: Swaffham Heath LCA, which extends across the northern and eastern edge of the Site. This LCA is described as

> *"a large area of the Breckland Heathland with Plantation landscape type located to the north-west, west and south west of Swaffham, with character defined primarily by the land use of arable farmland, historic parklands and plantation woodland and distinctive Scot's pine belts. To the north the character area boundary is marked by the adjacent River Nar character area and to the west by the district boundary and a change in character to a more settled area of farmland and plantations. To the south and east the landform falls towards the River Wissey."*

6.6.42 Relevant extracts from the overall description of D1: Swaffham Heath LCA are as follows, with those most relevant to the Site and Study Area emboldened below:

- *"Drift deposits of sand, clay and gravel create a gently undulating landscape, with topography ranging from 10-70m AOD across the character area*
- *Free draining sandy soils support the functional land cover of arable cultivation, pig farming and plantation woodland*
- *Ancient, contorted scots pine shelterbelts and screening belts of trees provide shelter to the easily eroded brown soils and are a prominent landscape feature*
- *At Cockleycley Heath and Swaffham Heath, the woodland plantation blocks create a visually prominent feature in the landscape*
- *The large scale arable fields are delineated by hedgerows in variable condition from occasional species rich intact hedgerows with hedgerow trees, thorn hedges and pine lines*

- *Breckland Farmland SSSI covers a large part of the character area – the cultivated land proving a habitat for stone curlew. A smaller area of Breckland Forest SSSI also covers part of the area*
- *A large scale landscape, with an open, windswept character, quiet and seemingly remote in places*
- *Historic parklands and parkland features such as lodge houses, rides/long vistas and parkland species are evident in the landscape*
- *Sparsely populated - the settlement pattern is characterised by scattered Halls, farm buildings and a small number of nucleated villages and hamlets. Churches are often isolated*
- *Distinctive building materials of knapped flint, clunch and brick; and*
- *The areas of open access land associated with plantations at Swaffham Heath and Coldharbour Wood provide opportunities for recreation."*

6.6.43 Regarding its perceptual and visual qualities, the LCA states that:

> *"views both within the character area and to adjacent character areas are variable. In places views are distant, to the wooded skylines, to the elevated North Pickenham Plateau and to the Wissey Valley. However in other locations views are framed or contained by woodland blocks…views to the wind turbines north of Swaffham in the North Pickenham Plateau character area add a sense of movement and activity. Some noise disturbance from RAF Marham (within the adjoining Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk) is apparent."*

6.6.44 The LCA details a strategy to conserve the remote, open, sparsely settled character of the heathland with plantation landscape. The landscape management guidelines are as follows:

- *"Encourage take up of agri-environment schemes to improve the ecological value of arable farmland and to create habitat connectivity*
- *Conserve and enhance the historic contorted pine wind break hedgerows through appropriate management*
- *Consider opportunities for heathland creation on areas where it has been lost, for example areas of plantation woodland*
- *Ensure that any further recreation provision does not conflict with the sensitive species and habitats within the Breckland Farmland and Breckland Forest SSSI; and*
- *Conserve the rides within parklands and plantations which provide attractive vistas to historic features, including those designated as Historic Parks and Gardens."*

6.6.45 The Site displays some of the published characteristics of this LCA, as emboldened above. Fieldwork has confirmed that the descriptions in this published document are generally representative of the Site. The plantation woodland shelter belts, views

towards existing wind turbines proximal to Swaffham and the nearby historic parklands are present within the Study Area.

6.6.46 Within the central and southern areas of the Site, where topography forms a plateau, as shown on **ES Figure 6.3: Landform [APP/6.3]**, there is a relatively high degree of visual enclosure, with views generally contained to internal field parcels. This is due to the presence of mature woodland shelter belts, tall field boundary hedgerow and trees within the Site and its immediate context. Within the north of the Site, topography within this LCA begins to become more undulating and slopes northwards towards the River Nar, forming the southern slope of the Nar Valley. As landform falls northwards, visual enclosure reduces and gives way to medium and longer distance views, from within the Site, to the north and north-east.

6.6.47 Site observations have also indicated that there are a number of other key characteristics present within the Study Area such as a number of open access land areas to the north east of the Site and also the presence of nearby residential buildings within close proximity to the Site utilising characteristic building materials such as knapped flint, clunch and brick, as reflected in the published landscape character assessment descriptions.

6.6.48 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is reflective of The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007), with existing solar farm and wind turbine renewable energy development present within the LCA. The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium-low sensitivity for the LCA.

E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA (LCT Plateau Farmland)

6.6.49 A large section of the Site is situated in the LCA E6: North Pickenham Plateau, from the south-eastern corner, extending into the centre of the Site. The LCA:

> *"encircles Swaffham from the northwest to the south, creating an elevated, arable plateau backdrop to the settlement. This largely flat, open landscape contrasts with the more undulating Wissey Settled tributary farmland and more wooded Swaffham Heath character areas that bound it."*

6.6.50 Relevant extracts from the overall description of E6: North Pickenham Plateau LCA are as follows, with those most relevant to the Site and Study Area emboldened:

- *"Thick Lowestoft Till glacial deposits underlie the character area creating its elevated position*
- *A largely flat landscape defined by 70-75m contours*
- *Due to the elevated position affords views across the adjacent Settled tributary farmland and Heathland with Plantation landscape types are possible. Church towers within adjacent character areas are distinctive and prominent in views across the character area*
- *The turbines on the ridge directly north of Swaffham are visually prominent vertical structures*

- *Predominantly arable agricultural land cover, with some areas of mature mixed plantation woodland in the southern part of the character area*
- *Geometric/rectilinear field pattern, of large scale, defined by low, flailed hedges, with more extensively treed hedges to the network of lanes traversing the character area.*
- *Former marl pits are a feature of the plateau.*
- *Occasional osier beds are interspersed with the field network*
- *Remote character with little evidence of settlement, other than isolated farms and network of semi enclosed and enclosed rural roads and lanes*
- *The character area is defined by muted colour and is strongly rural. The landscape of the character area is relatively remote and peaceful, with little movement; and*
- *The historic way marked route of the Peddars Way bisects the character area in the east, together with other waymarked routes such as Procession Lane. There is a network of footpaths and bridleways across the character area."*

6.6.51 Regarding its perceptual and visual qualities, the LCA states that:

- *"Opportunities are created for extensive and panoramic views across the plateau due to the openness of the landscape, and intervisibility with other landscape character areas is high*
- *The character area as a whole is a generally simple landscape with a muted palette of colours, due to the predominantly arable agricultural land use, although with considerable seasonal variation depending on the crops planted. It is an essentially tamed rural landscape and is generally tranquil. It is remote in character due to its isolated settlement pattern*
- *In terms of visual unity and perceptual/visual character, this is interrupted, with overhead power lines and pylons apparent, in addition to road noise and light glare from the A47. The wind turbines adjacent to Swaffham are prominent vertical structures in views across the south of this character area; and*
- *In terms of use, much of the character area is a productive, working agricultural landscape. Opportunities for recreational access are however provided by a network of rights of way."*
- *Key landscape sensitivities which are fundamental to its character include:*
- *"Dense, well treed hedgerows concentrated on the network of rural roads and lanes, in addition to localised enclosed lanes and hedgebanks with veteran trees, which impart an historic character to these parts of the landscape and provide evidence of the former landcover pattern*
- *Mature trees (predominantly oak/ash) within isolated woodland blocks on the plateau are of significant landscape, biodiversity and amenity value*
- *The gently undulating landform and marl pits/clay ponds which dot the plateau*

- *Presence of occasional osier beds interspersed within the field network providing local variation; and*
- *Pine wind breaks – outgrown former hedgerows composed of Scots Pine are a locally occurring feature across the plateau and impart a sense of place and historic landcover pattern."*

6.6.52 The LCA also identifies the key visual sensitivities of the LCA, which centre around the elevated plateau resulting in high intervisibility with other LCA's. Vertical infrastructure is prominent in the skyline, such as overhead lines and wind turbines on the edge of Swaffham.

6.6.53 The LCA strategy is to conserve the peaceful and rural character of the plateau with plantation landscape. The landscape management guidelines are as follows:

"Conserve and enhance existing network of hedgerows and mature/over mature hedgerow trees, with appropriate additional and new native planting to ensure continuity of existing tree cover where it exists;

Create new areas of set asides to field boundaries, to enhance biodiversity of cereal field margins, subject to the provisions of agri-environment schemes;

Consider the creation of new areas of broadleaf woodland to reinforce existing farm woodlands, providing continuity of tree cover and habitat connectivity; and

Where possible, create new areas of heathland to satisfy the requirements of the EcoNet Project, by restoring some areas of farmland or plantation to this landscape type, when plantations have reached the end of their productive life."

6.6.54 The strategy also refers to the following relevant development considerations:

"Maintain the historically sparse development pattern and unsettled character of the plateau;

Avoid the use of bunding and dense woodland screen planting, which would be uncharacteristic elements within this landscape, in proposals for screening development; and

Consider the effects of further tall structures on the remote character and simple uninterrupted views."

6.6.55 Site observations have also indicated that there is some degree of remoteness exhibited within this area of the Site due to the lack of development and generally agricultural character. Existing development is largely limited to isolated farmsteads, as highlighted within the published landscape character assessment. The areas of this LCA within the Site are visually separate from the settlement of Swaffham to the south-east.

6.6.56 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is reflective of the published assessment within The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007). The LCA is deemed

to be of Community value and have a medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium-low sensitivity for the LCA.

B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA (LCT Settled Tributary Farmland)

6.6.57 The north-eastern edge of the Site lies adjacent to LCA B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland. It is characterised as a "a gently sloping landform, formed by glacial drift deposits of sand, gravel, clay and silt".

6.6.58 It is described as being "bounded to the north by Whissonsett Plateau and to the south by North Pickenham Plateau, with the landscape type extending into the neighbouring authority of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk to the west and into North Norfolk District to the north".

6.6.59 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is reflective of the published assessment within The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007) and no further site observations have been added. The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium sensitivity for the LCA.

F1 River Nar Valley LCA (LCT Chalk Rivers)

6.6.60 One section of the F1: River Nar Valley LCA lies slightly within and adjacent to the northern part of the Site, at South Acre. The LCA is described as

> *"located in the western part of Breckland District and is comprised of the floodplain and valley sides of the River Nar. The Nar is fed by springs rising from the chalk rather than the tributaries which feed the other Breckland rivers, and is therefore classified as a separate landscape type. The south westerly draining Nar rises from springs to the south west of Mileham and flows westwards into the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk"*

6.6.61 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is reflective of the published assessment within The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007) and no further site observations have been added. The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium sensitivity for the LCA.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007)

6.6.62 The King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007) (Ref. 6-13**)** includes surrounding landscape areas which have been characterised within the wider 3km Study Area. A number of LCTs and LCAs detailed within this assessment abut the Site, as shown on **ES Figure 6.4: Landscape Character [APP/6.3]**.

6.6.63 Whilst the LCTs and LCAs within this assessment are not situated within the Site itself, they are situated within the Study Area. The DSM ZTV, as shown on **ES Figure**

6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3], indicates potential visibility from a number of LCAs outlined within this assessment.

6.6.64 As agreed with PINS, several LCTs and LCAs within the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007) are scoped out of this LVIA on the basis that there is little to no visibility towards the Site. The LCTs and LCAs scoped out of this LVIA are as follows:

- (E) The Fens LCT; (E2) Saddlebow and Wormegay LCA
- (H) Settled Farmland with Plantations LCT; (H2) Fincham LCA; and
- (J) Plateau Farmland LCT; (J3) Great Massingham LCA.

6.6.65 The below LCTs and LCAs are scoped into this LVIA and are taken forward for detailed assessment in Section 6.8 of this ES chapter.

G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA (LCT Farmland with Woodland and Wetland)

6.6.66 This LCA lies adjacent to a section of the north of the Site and contains the village of West Acre. The LCA is described as encompassing:

> *"a fairly inconsistent gently undulating landscape of farmland, (plantation) woodland and wetland".*

6.6.67 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is reflective of the published assessment within the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007). The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium sensitivity for the LCA.

I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA (LCT Rolling Open Farmland)

6.6.68 This LCA is located close to the north eastern and northern part of the Site and comprises elevated land to the north of the Nar Valley.

6.6.69 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is reflective of the published assessment within the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007) and no further site observations have been added. The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium sensitivity for the LCA.

Visual Receptors

6.6.70 Visual receptors are *"the different groups of people who may experience views of the development"* (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para 6.3) (Ref 6-2). A number of different ZTV studies comprising bare earth and obstructed modelling, baseline desk studies and site visits have been used to identify those groups who may be significantly affected.

6.6.71 The different types of groups assessed within this ES chapter encompass local residents; people using key longer distance routes such as roads, cycle ways,

recreational routes and navigable waterways; people within accessible or recreational landscapes; people using PRoW; or people visiting key viewpoints. In assessing areas of settlement, PRoW and local roads, receptors are grouped into areas where effects might be expected to be broadly similar, or areas which share particular factors in common. Longer distance routes and specific viewpoints are not included within these groupings, to allow the sequential experience of travelling along the routes or the key elements that make up a specific view to be considered in a coherent way.

Visual Environment of the Site

6.6.72 As shown on **ES Figure 6.1: Local Context [APP/6.3]** the Site is located to the north of the A47 and the settlement of Swaffham. A number of smaller villages and hamlets are situated within the wider context of the Site and Study Area, such as West Acre, South Acre, Castle Acre, Narford and Great Palgrave.

6.6.73 The extent of the Site runs along West Acre Road and Narford Lane to the west before tracking eastwards along Three Sisters and Twenty Acre Plantation. These areas of woodland broadly represent the edge of the plateau landscape, to the south of the River Nar. The eastern extent of the Site largely aligns the A1065, with an additional area of agricultural land included within the Site to the east of the junction between the A1065 and South Acre Road. The Site excludes Keepers Cottage, which is accessed off Petticoat Drove, in the northern site area. A separate RVAA has been undertaken, and is provided for as **ES Appendix 6.7: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [APP/6.4]**, to assess the potential effects of the Scheme on all residential properties within 800m of the Site.

6.6.74 The Site comprises several agricultural fields of varying geometries, most of which are delineated by existing mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees. There are larger woodland blocks situated within or close to the Site, which form part of the wider landscape fabric. These are predominantly plantation woodland and are named as follows: Round Covert, Bartholomew's Hills Plantation, Twenty Acre Plantation, Three Sisters, Washpit Plantation, Fingerhill Plantation, Blakeneyhill Plantation, Clayhole Plantation and Eight Acre Plantation.

6.6.75 Visibility towards the Site from its local context to the west and south is generally well contained due to a combination of the local plateau and valley topography, the presence of scattered woodland blocks within and close to the Site and the well vegetated nature of local lanes and highways; all of which serve to filter views and restrict direct visibility into the more central site areas. The centre of the Site is referred to as those field parcels set away from the Site and between Round Covert woodland and Keepers Cottage.

6.6.76 Along the periphery of the Site there are direct views towards existing development within the immediate context of the Site such as highway infrastructure and associated passing traffic along the A1065, to the east. There is sporadic isolated development close to the Site elsewhere, such as Keepers Cottage, Fingerhill

Cottage, development at Walnut Grove to the west and development within South Acre to the north.

6.6.77 Within the centre of the Site, there is a relatively high degree of visual enclosure between the internal field parcels, predominantly due to the presence of existing mature woodland, hedgerow and hedgerow trees within the Site. The existing vegetation serves to screen or restrict visibility towards neighbouring parcels. Droves and footpaths within the centre of the Site, such as PRoW South Acre RB6, exhibit varying degrees of visual containment. The central and eastern lengths of PRoW South Acre RB6 are well enclosed by hedgerow and trees, however along lengths of this PRoW to the west there are more open views north and south close to River Road, predominantly due to the complete loss of some aligning hedgerow.

6.6.78 The southern Site area also exhibits some degree of visual enclosure, south of Round Covert. However, where there are gaps in hedgerows and local undulations in landform, such as Site land proximal to the A1065, there are mid to longer distance views out of the Site to the east towards Palgrave.

6.6.79 The northern Site area is also generally visually well contained upon the plateau landscape due to the plantation woodland and taller mature hedgerows that align field boundaries, PRoW and various droves within the Site. PRoW South Acre RB7 connects Fincham Drove to South Acre Road, along the Rebellion Way Cycle Route, and is well vegetated along the western extent of the PRoW. The plantation woodland shelter belts situated within the northern Site area form an effective visual screen and restrict intervisibility between the Site and the valley landscape to the north. As such, intervisibility between the plateau landscape within the Site and existing settlements to the north of the Site, within the Nar Valley, such as Castle Acre, West Acre and South Acre is generally limited. From sections of PRoW South Acre RB2, Petticoat Drove and Washpit Drove, all of which fall within the Site, there are views of existing farming infrastructure including housing, barns/sheds, farm vehicles and boundary fencing associated with the farming of poultry and pigs. There are a limited number of glimpsed middle distance views towards the Site from rising landform north of the Nar Valley and West Acre. From this location within the Study Area, the well-wooded plateau edge within the Site is a prominent feature on the skyline. It is noted that there are visual gaps between the woodland blocks from certain viewing angles, however visibility does not extend much further into the Site due to the levelling of topography and other vegetation associated with field parcels beyond the woodland.

6.6.80 From PRoW South Acre RB2, views northwards across the valley landscape are in most part restricted due to the aligning hedgerow north of the PRoW. The intactness and condition of this hedgerow is generally good and therefore restricts views northwards effectively. Occasional filtered or glimpsed views to the north are available where there are gaps in hedgerow or site access points to connected field parcels. The southern extent of this PRoW is less enclosed due to it only being partly vegetated by varying lengths of woodland, hedgerow and hedgerow trees. Relatively long stretches of this PRoW have no vegetation directly to the south and therefore

views across adjacent field parcels are available and contained by the next vegetated field boundary along.

6.6.81 An additional route within the Site, known as NK/South Acre/RB7, has been formally assigned as a PRoW by Norfolk County Council in 2025. This PRoW is shown on **ES Figure 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Facilities [APP/6.3]**. The PRoW connects to South Acre Road at Grid Reference 581178, 313998 and runs south connecting to Fincham Drove, adjacent to Bartholomew's Hills Plantation. Visual effects upon users of this route are assessed as part of the ES.

Visual Receptor Groups

6.6.82 Visual effects, other than those experienced from longer distance routes and specific viewpoints, are assessed for groups of visual receptors within close proximity of each other and that are judged to experience similar visual effects arising from the Scheme. These are referred to as 'visual receptor groups' and include motorists on local roads, users of rights of way and local residents or visitors to settlements.

6.6.83 Visual Receptor Groups (VRGs) taken forward for assessment in Table 6.10 below describes the VRGs that are taken forward for detailed assessment in Section 6.8, based on the DSM ZTV (**ES Figure 6.5: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DTM) [APP/6.3]**) and fieldwork which indicates that there is the potential for views of the Scheme from within each of these VRG. VRGs are illustrated within **ES Figure 6.7: Visual Receptor Groups [APP/6.3]**.

6.6.84 VRGs include a number of different types of receptors which are likely to experience a similar scale of effect. Similarly, visual receptors within the Site are grouped with those that are likely to experience a similar scale of effect depending on which area of the Site they are located. Where receptors overlap with one or more VRGs, i.e. PRoW within the Site that extend across both VRG 1 and VRG 2, they are considered within both VRG's. This approach highlights any variations in effect upon a Receptor across the Site which may occur due to proximity to new development and the type of new development proposed at certain points along a route, for example.

6.6.85 This LVIA has been undertaken with cross-referencing to ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [APP/6.2]. ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [APP/6.2] outlines that there are designated heritage assets and archaeological monuments of medieval origin focused within and immediately surrounding the settlement of Castle Acre, to the north-east of the Site. This includes the remains of Castle Acre Castle, a Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building. These publicly accessible heritage assets have been considered within this LVIA as part of VRG 5, as outlined below in Table 6.10.

6.6.86 **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [APP/6.2]** outlines that Castle Acre Castle and Castle Acre Priory are assets of high sensitivity. Both heritage assets are publicly accessible and are therefore assessed within this LVIA as part of VRG5, with regard to potential visual impact from these locations, to the north-east of the

Site. The sensitivity of visitors to these heritage assets, in landscape terms, have also been assessed as high sensitivity visual receptors as detailed below.

6.6.87 It is judged that for the remaining receptors outside of the VRGs listed below, there would be little to no visibility of the Scheme and that effects would therefore be Negligible at most, which is not significant in EIA terms, and these are not assessed in detail.

Table 6-8 Visual Receptor Groups taken forward for assessment

Visual Receptor Group		Location/Description
(1)	Central Site Area (High-Medium sensitivity)	Users of PRoW within the Site such as PRoW South Acre RB1 (also shown as Petticoat Drove), South Acre RB2, South Acre RB5, and Swaffham RB1 (also shown partly as Fincham Drove). Road users along Narford Lane, River Road and stretches of the A1065. A single residential dwelling known as Keepers Cottage. Cyclists along a short section of the Rebellion Way Cycle Route. Walkers along a short section of the Castle Acre Circular Walk.
(2)	North-Eastern Site Area (High sensitivity)	Users of PRoW within the Site such as PRoW South Acre RB6 (also shown partly as Fincham Drove), PRoW South Acre RB7 and Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path National Trail. Cyclists along a short section of the Rebellion Way Cycle Route. Road users along South Acre Road and the A1065.
(3)	Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre (High-Medium sensitivity)	Users of PRoW West Acre RB7, South Acre RB1 (also shown as Petticoat Drove) and the Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path. Road users along South Acre Road. Cyclists along a short section of the Rebellion Way Cycle Route. Residential dwellings along the southern settlement edge of South Acre.
(4)	Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave (High sensitivity)	Users of PRoW east of the Site within the Study Area and Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path. Residential dwellings at Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave.
(5)	Castle Acre (High sensitivity)	Residential dwellings and users of PRoW within and around Castle Acre with views towards the Site.

Visual Receptor Group		Location/Description
		Walkers along National Trails such as the Nar Valley Way and Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path. Visitors to Castle Acre Priory and Castle Acre Castle. Road users along Priory Road and other roads along the settlement edge of Castle Acre with views towards the Site.
(6)	West Acre and Nar Valley Northern Slope (High-Medium sensitivity)	Walkers along the Nar Valley Way and PRoW upon rising ground north of West Acre.
(7)	Agricultural land immediately south and west of the Site (High-Medium sensitivity)	PRoW users of Narford RB1 and Swaffham RB2.

Roads and Rail

6.6.88 **ES Figure 6.1: Local Context [APP/6.3]** shows that there are two A roads situated within the Study Area outlined below, with approximate distances from the Order limits also shown. These are as follows:

- A47 (0km, south); and
- A1065 (0km, east).

6.6.89 Users and motorists using the key routes are assessed to have low sensitivity (low susceptibility and limited value) (see Table 6.6).

6.6.90 The DSM ZTV study (**ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3]** indicates that there would be theoretical visibility from parts of all the routes identified above. However, fieldwork has shown that there would be little to no visibility of the Scheme from the A47 due to the combination of intervening vegetation, landform and buildings, which would merge to restrict views towards the Scheme. Should visibility of the Scheme be possible, it is judged that they would be glimpsed at most and seen within the developed context of the surrounding settlements of Swaffham and alongside existing renewable energy infrastructure in the local landscape such as wind turbines north of the A47 at Sporle Road and wind turbines west of North Pickenham. These existing renewable energy developments are visible along stretches of the A47 between Narborough and Swaffham, and Swaffham and

Necton. The potential effects on users of the A47 would be Negligible, and not significant in EIA terms, and are not assessed in further detail in this report.

6.6.91 Fieldwork has indicated that visibility of the Scheme would be available from sections of the A1065 as they pass close to the Scheme along the Site's eastern boundary, with a decreasing degree of visibility with distance from the Site. receptors along the A1065 are assessed in further detail in Section 6.8.

6.6.92 No railways have been identified from Ordnance Survey mapping in the Study Area.

Long Distance Walking Routes

6.6.93 **ES Figure 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Facilities [APP/6.3]** shows that there are a number of national trails and locally promoted walking routes within the Study Area outlined below, with approximate distances from the Order limits also shown. These are as follows:

- National Trail – The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path (0km, north-east); and
- Long Distance Trail – The Nar Valley Way (0.83km, north).

6.6.94 Users of National Trails are assessed of be of high sensitivity (high susceptibility and national value) (see Table 6.6).

6.6.95 The ZTV (**ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3]**) and field survey indicates that users of sections of these routes would experience potential views of the Scheme. They are therefore assessed in further detail in Section 6.**8**.

National, Regional and Local Cycles Routes

6.6.96 **ES Figure 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Facilities [APP/6.3]** shows that there is one regional cycle route in the Study Area, as follows:

- Rebellion Way Cycle Route (0km, north).

6.6.97 Users of this cycle route are assessed to be of medium sensitivity (medium susceptibility and community value) (see Table 6.6).

6.6.98 The ZTV study (**ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3]**) and field survey indicates that users of the Rebellion Way Cycle Route would experience views of the Scheme given that the route passes through the centre of the Site. Users of this route are assessed in further detail in Section 6.8.

Accessible and Recreational Landscapes

6.6.99 **ES Figure 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Facilities [APP/6.3]** shows areas of registered common land and open access land situated within the Study Area, with

approximate distances from the Order limits also shown. Accessible and recreational landscapes scoped into the assessment are as follows:

- Castle Acre Common (0.43km, north)
- Castle Acre Priory (0.66km, north); and
- Castle Acre Castle (0.98km, north).

6.6.100 Users of Accessible and Recreational Landscapes are assessed of be of high-medium sensitivity (high susceptibility and local/district value) (see Table 6.6).

6.6.101 The DSM ZTV (**ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3])** indicates that there would be visibility within from Castle Acre Priory and Castle Acre Castle to the north.

6.6.102 These two areas of accessible landscapes overlap with other visual receptors using publicly accessible routes and areas within this part of the landscape. Consequently, visual receptors within these two accessible landscapes are assessed as part of Visual Receptor Group 5 Castle Acre, in Section 6.8.

6.6.103 The ZTV also indicates that would be no visibility from Castle Acre Common. Fieldwork observations indicate that actual visibility on the ground, during both the construction, decommissioning and operational phases, would be minimal. Therefore, effects upon visual receptors at Castle Acre Common are not assessed further.

Specific Viewpoints

6.6.104 No specific viewpoints were identified within the Site or Study Area. As referred to in Section 6.4, Assessment Assumptions and Limitations 'specific viewpoints' are where there are key promoted viewpoints within the Study Area.

Landscape Designations and Value

Designated Landscapes

6.6.105 No national or locally designated landscapes are situated within the Site or Study Area.

Local Landscape Value

6.6.106 Paragraph 5.19 of GLVIA states that:

> *"...a review of existing landscape designations is usually the starting point in understanding landscape value, but the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape- such as trees, buildings or hedgerows -may also have value. All need to be considered where relevant."*

6.6.107 An assessment of landscape value is made based on the following factors outlined in Table 1 of the LI's 'Technical Guidance Notes 02-21: Assessing landscape

value outside national designations' (Ref. 6-6): natural heritage; cultural heritage; landscape condition; associations; distinctiveness; recreational; perceptual (scenic); perceptual (wildness and tranquillity); and functional.

6.6.108 Within the Study Area there are a number of features that contribute to the value of the local landscape. These features include:

- PRoW network
- Variation in topography associated with the plateau landscape and Nar Valley undulating landform
- The distribution of woodlands, and well-treed and established network of field boundaries; and
- Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings.

6.6.109 A full assessment of the landscape value of the Site and its surrounding context in accordance with TGN 02-21 is presented in **ES Appendix 6.5: Evaluation of Landscape Value [APP/6.4]**. On the basis of the evaluation in **ES Appendix 6.5: Evaluation of Landscape Value [APP/6.4]**, only two of the factors have been evaluated as being of a 'Local' value, with most of the criteria assessed as either of 'Community' value or 'Limited' value. The landscape value of the Site and its immediate context should be considered of a 'Community' value, which is defined as an *"everyday landscape which is appreciated by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value".*

Future Baseline

6.6.110 This section considers changes to the baseline conditions as far as changes can be established, described above, that might occur in the absence of the Scheme coming forward during the time period over which the Scheme would be in place. The future baseline scenarios are set out in **ES Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology [APP/6.1]**.

6.6.111 New hedgerow planting within the Site has been identified during fieldwork. Baseline viewpoint photography illustrates newly planted hedgerow within winter viewpoint photographs 2 and 5, along River Road and Fincham Drove PRoW. This new hedgerow planting forms part of the future baseline and would have grown and established by operation phase year 1, at the growth rates detailed within the Assumptions and Limitations section of this LVIA. Short and medium term visual effects reflect this assumption within the assessment section of this LVIA.

6.6.112 With regard to the consideration of Ash Dieback and the presence of ash trees in the future, the Applicant's arboriculturist has advised that ash is present as a minor component of some woodlands across the site, many of which are more recent plantations. Overall, ash is less prevalent within woodlands than within hedgerows. Ash within woodlands tend to be isolated mature individuals, or self-seeded trees, rather than a more significant component of the species mix. No woodlands were assessed as being dominated by ash, or featuring ash as a major component of the

species mix. None appeared to be in a condition which could be expected to deteriorate significantly as a result of ash dieback. Of the 165 number of individual ash trees across the site, just 25 are assessed as category U, and therefore are expected to have under 10 years remaining life expectancy. Common ash is not listed as a component of the woodland to the north of Field 26 and therefore is not expected to be present in any significant numbers at all.

6.7 Embedded Mitigation

6.7.1 Likely environmental effects have been or would be avoided, minimised, mitigated or reduced through design measures and/or management of the Scheme, as outlined in this section. Proposed environmental enhancements are also described where relevant.

6.7.2 The consideration of embedded mitigation measures within the Scheme are also outlined within the **Design Approach Document [APP/5.7]**. At detailed design, there would be consideration of detailed elements of the Scheme, which are not included at this stage, which could be considered embedded mitigation measures. An example of this would be with regard to the specification and colour of built elements within the Scheme, such as fencing, gates, facades structures (etc.). The exact details of proposed buildings and infrastructure would be approved by the host authorities pursuant to the relevant requirements in the **draft Development Consent Order (DCO) [APP/3.1]**. For instance, in terms of colour this may include post consent the implementation of a colour study in line with Landscape Institute's recommendations in Technical Information Note 04/2018.

Embedded Construction and Decommissioning Phase Mitigation

6.7.3 The following embedded mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Scheme's design for the construction and decommissioning phases and are detailed in the documents below noting that the exact details of proposals would be approved by the host authorities pursuant to the relevant requirements in the **draft DCO [APP/3.1]**.

Night-Time Effects

6.7.4 Temporary lighting during construction may be required to enable safe working during in the hours of darkness will be designed as far as reasonably practical to avoid light spill onto areas beyond the Order limits. Construction lighting will include directional

fittings and will be restricted to the construction working hours sets out in **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1].**

Design Approach Document

6.7.5 The **Design Approach Document [APP/5.7]** sets out project level design principles (hereby referred to as 'Project Principles') to facilitate the practical application of IGP's Global Design Principles at the project level.

6.7.6 The Project Principles, detailed within section 5.3 of the **Design Approach Document [APP/5.7]**, were developed during early engagement with local stakeholders, communities and technical specialists, as part of the Co-Design consultation and feedback received during statutory consultation.

6.7.7 The Project Principles have and will continue to be used where relevant to drive design-related decision-making throughout the lifecycle of the Scheme to secure the best outcomes at detailed design.

6.7.8 The Project Principals relevant to the consideration of landscape and visual effects and subsequent inclusion of embedded mitigation measures are:

- 2.1 - Respond to the character of the Site, informed by the Breckland Local Landscape Character Assessment.
- 2.2 - Retain and enhance existing vegetation wherever possible to retain the fabric of the Site and aid integration of the Scheme into its context
- 2.3 - Support objectives of Norfolk's Green Infrastructure Strategy
- 2.4 - Improve soil health during the lifetime of the Scheme
- 2.5 - Respect setting of heritage assets along the Nar Valley
- 2.7 - Respect residential amenity.
- 2.8 - Consider experience of people travelling along adjacent roads, including the A1065, South Acre Road, River Road and Narford Lane.
- 2.9 - Consider experience of people using the Public Rights of Way
- 3.1 - Integrate the Scheme into the local environment and allow the movement of wildlife through the Site.
- 3.4 - Deliver a Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 10%
- 4.1 - Design for resilience and adaptation to future climate change
- 5.3 - Engage openly, transparently and meaningfully with stakeholders, using feedback to inform the Scheme
- 5.4 - Identify opportunities for wider community benefits in consultation with local stakeholders
- 5.6 - Provide clear lines of communication between the developer and the local community

- 5.7-Provide education and interpretation of the Scheme and Site
- 5.8 - Collaborate with High Grove Solar
- 5.10 - Retain all PRoWs on the existing alignment during the operational phase.
- 5.11-Improve connectivity and accessibility through the Site.
- 7.2 - Allow existing woodland blocks to continue to be managed sustainably
- Mitigation is encapsulated within the project principles set out above.

Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan:

6.7.9 An **outline Landscape and Environment Management Plan (oLEMP) [APP/7.11]** is submitted as part of the DCO Application. It sets the framework for the planting, management and monitoring of landscaping and ecological mitigation and enhancement habitats during construction, decommissioning and operational phases. The **oLEMP [APP/7.11]** includes **Appendix 1: Green Infrastructure Plan**, **Appendix 2: Vegetation Removal Plan** and **Appendix 3: Advanced Planting Plan**.

6.7.10 **Appendix 2**: **Vegetation Removal Plan** to the **oLEMP [APP/7.11]** details the extent of vegetation removal and advanced planting areas within Field 27 and along the western edge of the A1065. One of the aims of the advanced planting is to increase visual screening from year 1 of the operational phase, with such works intended to take place in winter 2025/2026 (see **Appendix 3: Advanced Planting Plan** of the **oLEMP [APP/7.11]**).

6.7.11 The **oLEMP [APP/7.11]** sets out specific strategic landscape and ecological opportunities and creation and management prescriptions linking where appropriate to Design Principles and Project Level Design Principles; **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]**. Such opportunities and prescriptions measures would be put in place to create and enhance habitats, protect and enhance existing landscape/ ecological features, strengthen Green Infrastructure across the Order limits and provide visual screening whilst aligning with local conservation priorities.

6.7.12 Linking with **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**, the **oLEMP [APP/7.11]** specifies buffers / offsets to guide construction work, ensuring valued landscape features and habitats are protected.

Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan

6.7.13 An outline Construction Environmental management plan (oCEMP) [APP/7.6] is submitted as a part of the DCO Application. Construction and demolition works would be undertaken in accordance with a detailed Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which would be secured as a requirement of the draft DCO [APP/3.1]. The CEMP would be agreed prior to construction works commencing

on Site. Any alterations to the measures set out in the CEMP would be agreed in advance of constructions works commencing on Site.

6.7.14 The CEMP would include the following mitigation measures in relation to landscape and visual effects which are included in the **oCEMP [APP/7.6]:**

- A pre-construction tree survey would be required prior to starting construction works to re-establish the baseline. This survey would inform the tree protection zones to be applied during construction. Site hoarding and construction exclusion zones would be introduced around retained vegetation in accordance with the requirements of BS 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction'. An approved Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) would be adopted incorporating best practice guidance set out in British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction which would ensure retained trees and other vegetation are not adversely affected during the construction process
- The use of visual screening, such as hoardings, would be implemented for more sensitive visual receptors in proximity to the Site, including residential and PRoW receptors that have the greatest potential to be affected by the Scheme
- Ensuring a tidy and neat working environment and covering stockpiles in accordance with best practice measures
- Temporary lighting during construction required to enable safe working in the hours of darkness would be designed as far as reasonably practical to avoid light spill onto areas beyond the Site. Construction lighting would include directional fittings and would be restricted to the construction working hours sets out in **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**; and
- Construction works which create dust would be kept to a minimum within proximity to existing pedestrian routes and residential properties, and dust prevention measures, such as damping, would be undertaken to reduce the impact on users of the PRoW network.

Outline Decommissioning Strategy

6.7.15 Prior to the commencement of any phase of decommissioning, a Decommissioning Strategy (DS), which will incorporate a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan, would be submitted to and approved by the relevant local planning authority and secured by a requirement in the **draft DCO [APP/3.1]**. The DS must be in accordance with the **outline Decommissioning Strategy (oDS) [APP/7.10]**. This would ensure the potential decommissioning impacts associated with landscape character and visual amenity are minimised.

6.7.16 Following removal of the Solar PV Arrays, Customer Substation, Conversion Units, 33kV Sub-distribution Switch Substations, fencing, BESS Units and other Ancillary Infrastructure, the Site would be reinstated to its original use as far as practicable and

in accordance with the Decommissioning Strategy (DS). The new National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure would not be decommissioned and would remain in situ.

Embedded Operational Phase Mitigation

6.7.17 The following embedded mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Scheme's design for the operational phase:

6.7.18 An understanding of the mitigation measures embedded in the design of the Scheme is fundamental to an assessment of the potential landscape and visual effects. A key principle of landscape assessment is that *"the assessment should take account of the effect of any proposed mitigation"* (GLVIA3, para 6.45, Ref 6-2).

6.7.19 The avoidance of effects is always challenging when there is a physical change to land use. However, the landscape and visual sensitivities of the Site have influenced masterplanning through an iterative design process. Thus, the Site incorporates a degree of integral (or embedded) mitigation measures designed to avoid or reduce potential landscape and visual effects.

6.7.20 The hierarchical approach toward mitigation has been:

- First to avoid where possible, any effects through the overall design and layout of the Scheme and disposition of its elements; this constitutes primary mitigation by preventing effects occurring through sensitive design and layout
- Subsequently reducing effects arising through the careful siting of strategic landscape mitigation measures and careful consideration of the siting of each of the different elements of the Scheme; and
- Additional mitigation is achieved through the compensation of potential losses.

6.7.21 During the operational phase, the Scheme will generally remain unlit with the exception of the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and BESS which have motion-detection lighting utilised for operational and security purposes. The lighting design will seek to limit any impacts on sensitive receptors through directional cowls, as secured through the **oOEMP [APP/7.8]**.

6.7.22 The following elements comprise key design landscape and visual embedded mitigation measures:

- Retention of the majority of existing landscape features within and around the boundaries of the Site, namely mature hedgerows and tree cover which contribute to the landscape character of the local context. These landscape features serve to restrict, filter and enclose visibility within the Site and Study Area south of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation. There is some loss of vegetation proposed as part of the Scheme to allow for the Grid Connection Infrastructure, Site and internal field access

- Offset and buffering of the Scheme with new, woodland, hedgerow and tree planting to mitigate potential views from the nearby PRoW, roads and residential dwellings both within and in close proximity to the Site
- In addition to the establishment of new hedgerow and hedgerow trees, the embedded mitigation also includes the retention, gapping up and enhancement of existing hedgerow within the Site. New planting species would be native, locally prevalent and also include a mixture of deciduous and evergreen species to provide year-round screening. Alongside the existing hedgerow and trees within the Site's context, the gapping up of hedgerow with native trees and whips would provide visual screening of the Scheme from visual receptors within the wider Study Area, and from PRoW and droves within the Site itself
- The long-term management and maintenance of existing and new vegetation is an embedded mitigation measure which ensures vegetation would be actively managed in the long term, as secured and detailed within the **oLEMP [APP/7.11]**. The prescribed maintenance height of hedgerow at 3m is an embedded mitigation measure which aims to screen views towards taller elements of the Scheme from nearby PRoW. The active management and maintenance of trees and woodland within the Order limits, both newly planted and existing, aims to ensure they not only survive but reach maturity and establishment in the medium and long term durations. In turn, these landscape features are primary mechanisms for filtering and screening views towards the Scheme from nearby PRoW, roads and residential dwellings
- Setting back the Scheme from key landscape features within and adjacent to the Site, such as trees, hedgerow and woodland. The minimum offsets/buffers included within the Concept Masterplan, from existing landscape features are outlined fully in **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**. The Scheme would be offset from existing PRoW by a minimum of 15m, to respect the amenity and experience for PRoW users along existing routes and allow for the sowing of extensive areas of new grassland along the margins of the Scheme. New grassland/wildflower areas are also proposed to be sown underneath the Solar PV Arrays which would enhance biodiversity within the Site; and
- As referred to within the **oLEMP [APP/7.11]**, recreational enhancements such as interpretation boards and the potential for new publicly accessible amenity space within the north-western site area, that is connected to the existing PRoW network. In addition to this, a number of new permissive routes are proposed, of approximately 3.5km in total, which would link to the existing PRoW network within the Study Area to provide recreational benefits.

6.7.23 With regard to the consideration of lighting and subsequent mitigation measures, it is not considered likely that that the Scheme would result in any significant effects through additional lighting. A detailed lighting strategy could be prepared and secured

through an appropriate DCO requirement, as part of an embedded mitigation measure. The Scoping Report proposed to scope out an assessment of night-time effects and a lighting impact assessment for the operational phase on the basis of limited lighting requirements within the Scheme. **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme** [APP/6.1] states that:

"lighting is not required within the Solar PV Site during the operational phase of the Scheme and that all routine maintenance activities would be scheduled for daylight hours as far as is practicable. Focussed task specific lighting would only be required in the event of emergency works or equipment failure requiring night-time working. Motion sensing security lighting would be provided within the Customer Substation, the National Grid Substation, and within the BESS compound to maintain safe working conditions in winter months, for security purposes, and for maintenance activities. The lighting commitments for the operational phase are set out in the **oOEMP [APP/7.8]**, including details on lighting design to minimise light spill."

6.8 Assessment of Likely Effects

6.8.1 This section identifies and characterises potential impacts arising during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme.

6.8.2 Taking into account the embedded mitigation measures as detailed in Section 6.7, the potential for the likely effects of the Scheme on Landscape and Visual receptors was assessed using the methodology as detailed in Section 6.5 of this ES chapter. In the sections below, effects during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme are assessed for Landscape and Visual receptors scoped into this ES Chapter.

6.8.3 Potential Landscape and Visual effects are assessed during the following stages and summarised in Table 6.13:

- Construction (anticipated to be 24 months) and decommissioning phases (approximately 12-24 months) – Short term
- Operational phase – Short term (duration of 0-5 years)
- Operational phase – Medium term (duration of 5-10 years); and
- Operational phase – Long term (duration of more than 25 years).

6.8.4 Each "scoped in" landscape and visual receptor has been assessed, taking account of their judged sensitivity, magnitude of effect and significance over the various durations outlined above. This section is supported by a set of annotated photograph panels and illustrative visualisations in the form of photowires and photomontages:

- **ES Figure 6.10: (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]**
- **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]**
- **ES Figure 6.12 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Winter Photowires [APP/6.3]**

- **ES Figure 6.13 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Summer Photowires [APP/6.3]**
- **ES Figure 6.14 (PM8 and PM14): Winter Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3]; and**
- **ES Figure 6.15 (PM8 and PM14): Summer Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3]**

6.8.5 The above visualisations, along with extensive fieldwork and consideration of embedded mitigation measures, have informed the judgements of potential effects for both individual viewpoints that have been selected for modelling and also for wider visual receptor groups, in which those visualised viewpoints are situated. The specific detail on what models and plans the visualisations are modelled upon are included on individual figures. All visualisations are modelled in accordance with **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]**. The photomontages are illustrative visualisations which are an interpretation of the development parameters shown on the **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]** and based upon the technical information included within **ES Appendix 5.1: Illustrative Technical Information [APP/6.4]**.

6.8.6 As outlined within section 6.5 of this ES, Moderate effects are considered to be potentially significant and professional judgment is used to determine whether the effect in question is Significant or Not Significant, with analysis provided to justify the rating.

6.8.7 Given that **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]** is illustrative and set within wider parameters, the exact siting of the larger infrastructure, such as the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure, are yet to be defined. To fully consider the worst-case scenario, the parameter based photowire visualisations have been modelled to show the full extent of the indicative siting zones, despite the fact that, in reality, a much smaller area would only be required to accommodate the substations, given that the indicative size of the Customer Substation and National Grid Substation compounds are a maximum of 4 ha each, as detailed within **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**.

6.8.8 It should be noted that 'scale of effect' text included upon the Photopanels, within ES **Figure 6.10: (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and ES **Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]**, only considers operational phase scale of effects in winter, in order to take account of the worst case scenario during winter months, in the short, medium and long terms. Summer months are assumed to present either the same or lesser scale of effect due to greater leaf coverage on vegetation within views.

6.8.9 Any additional mitigation required to reduce these effects is set out in Section 6.9 below. Thereafter, an assessment is made of the significance of any residual effects after all mitigation measures have been accounted for.

6.8.10 The effects outlined within this section assume that the new National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure would not be decommissioned and therefore

retained within the Site during decommissioning and beyond. These elements of the Scheme would remain in place alongside the activities present on Site during the decommissioning of the surrounding Solar PV Arrays, BESS Units and Customer Substation. Long term effects upon landscape and visual receptors associated with the retention of the new National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure would be no greater than those effects assessed within this section. If the existing pylons and overhead lines were to be decommissioned following the construction of the Grid Connection Infrastructure, the subsequent scale of effect would reduce.

Construction and Decommissioning Phase

6.8.11 Likely impacts during the construction and decommissioning phases have been assessed to include the visual effect of construction/decommissioning vehicles and traffic, moving within the Site and in its surrounding areas; alongside other components typical of construction/decommissioning activities, including the presence of workers' accommodation, stockpiles of materials, temporary hoarding lighting of specific areas, such as construction compounds; and the gradual modification of landscape character as part of a phased programme of works.

6.8.12 Effects during the construction and decommissioning phases have been assessed to be temporary and short term and more often are of a lower magnitude than those during the operational phase, and so most of the embedded mitigation proposed is focussed on managing operational impacts.

6.8.13 There are 6 temporary construction compounds situated within the Site during the construction phase (as illustrated on **ES Figure 5.2: Construction Masterplan [APP/6.3]**). Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL), Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) and Light Goods Vehicle (LGV) movements associated with deliveries and construction worker arrivals and departures. Typical construction vehicles have been detailed within **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**.

6.8.14 The construction/decommissioning activities that would potentially cause landscape and visual impacts include:

- Clearance of vegetation within the construction zone, where necessary
- Earthworks and temporary storage of topsoil
- Removal of unwanted waste from the Site
- Erection of Site hoarding and fencing around vegetation (tree protection scheme)
- Erection of temporary structures within the main contractor's construction compound, plus materials stockpiling and lay-down areas
- Potential lighting and noise of the works (during winter)
- Erection of scaffold structures
- Movement of construction vehicles
- Partially completed built form

- Works associated with the implementation of the landscape scheme; and
- Removal of temporary construction facilities.

6.8.15 This assessment has assumed a scenario based on conventional best practice approaches for LVIA. All landscape mitigation is embedded mitigation and therefore all effects are residual.

Landscape Character

6.8.16 The baseline section in Section 6.6 sets out the LVIA's initial assessment of all the LCAs identified within the LVIA Study Area; with those identified as meriting further detailed consideration assessed in this section.

6.8.17 The following LCA's, as shown on **ES Figure 6.4: Landscape Character [APP/6.3]**, would likely be affected by the Scheme:

- D1: Swaffham Heath LCA (LCT The Brecks – Heathland with Plantation)
- E6: North Pickenham Plateau LCA (LCT Plateau Farmland)
- B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA (LCT Settled Tributary Farmland)
- F1 River Nar Valley LCA (LCT Chalk Rivers)
- G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA (LCT Farmland with Woodland and Wetland); and
- I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA (LCT Rolling Open Farmland)

6.8.18 Descriptions for the LCAs within the Site have been included within the baseline section, with the other LCAs detail included within **ES Appendix 6.6: Extracts from Relevant Landscape Character Assessments [APP/6.4]**.

D1: Swaffham Heath LCA (LCT The Brecks – Heathland with Plantation)

6.8.19 This LCA which covers the northern part of the Site has been assessed as having a medium – low sensitivity *(community value and medium susceptibility).*

6.8.20 The Scheme would generate large scale effects on the LCA (total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline would fundamentally changed) within the Site, with the land use changing from undeveloped agricultural land to a construction/decommissioning site comprising site wide activities within a rural setting. The landscape pattern of existing hedgerows/hedgerow trees forming boundary features would be largely retained.

6.8.21 Existing tall and mature field boundary vegetation, woodland blocks and hoarding within and bounding the Site would contain construction and decommissioning activity, limiting the scale of effect and the extent of intervisibility beyond the Site extent.

~~6.8.21~~6.8.22 Temporary landscape effects would arise during construction from the presence and movement of construction vehicles and plant, together with the

progressive construction and installation of the Scheme. Construction activities would result in a temporary increase in movement and activity within the Site and disturbance to landscape fabric, including earthworks associated with the formation of proposed bunds and/or construction of fences associated with the PAR Mitigation. These activities would result in changes to the landscape character of the Site during the construction period. During decommissioning, temporary landscape effects would arise from the presence and movement of vehicles and plant associated with the dismantling and removal of the Scheme. Decommissioning would also include the removal of the bunds and/or fences and reinstatement of the affected land, resulting in further temporary disturbance to landscape fabric. Decommissioning effects would generally be similar in character to those arising during construction and would be temporary.

6.8.226.8.23 The scale of effect on this LCA would be large, over a short-term duration and limited in extent across the wider LCA. Whilst the scale of effect would be large, there would be some differences in scale within the Site depending on the activity present. Areas within the Site with the greatest scale of effect would be the earthworks associated with any such bunds and construction of the Grid Connection Infrastructure, new National Grid Substation and Customer Substation in Field 27. Other areas such as agricultural land associated with Curlew and Skylark mitigation would not experience any construction/decommissioning activities.

6.8.236.8.24 Beyond the Site extent, within the wider LCA, it is assessed that the construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of Moderate significance and Adverse in nature based on a medium magnitude. Given the extensive area of the LCA compared to the Site, effects upon the landscape situated within the wider LCA beyond the Site would be **Not Significant** and temporary diminishing with distance as the extent of intervisibility reduces.

6.8.246.8.25 Within the Site itself, the construction and decommissioning effects upon the LCA would be of high to medium magnitude, Major-Moderate significance and Adverse in nature. This effect would be **Significant** and temporary and limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself. The effect would be judged significant because there would be a physical change to the landscape characteristics of the LCA landscape. Whereas outside of the development areas, adverse effects are mostly related to the perceptual dimension of landscape character.

E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA (LCT Plateau Farmland)

6.8.256.8.26 This LCA which roughly covers the southern half of the Site has been assessed as having a medium – low sensitivity *(community value and medium susceptibility).*

6.8.27 There would be large scale effects on the LCA wherever construction/decommissioning activity is located within the Site, given that it is

changing from undeveloped agricultural land to a construction / decommissioning site comprising site wide activities within a rural setting north of Swaffham.

6.8.266.8.28 Temporary landscape effects would arise during construction from the presence and movement of construction vehicles and plant, together with the progressive construction and installation of the Scheme. Construction activities would result in a temporary increase in movement and activity within the Site and disturbance to landscape fabric, including earthworks associated with the formation of proposed bunds and/or construction of fences associated with the PAR Mitigation. These activities would result in changes to the landscape character of the Site during the construction period. During decommissioning, temporary landscape effects would arise from the presence and movement of vehicles and plant associated with the dismantling and removal of the Scheme. Decommissioning would also include the removal of the bunds and/or fences and reinstatement of the affected land, resulting in further temporary disturbance to landscape fabric. Decommissioning effects would generally be similar in character to those arising during construction and would be temporary.

6.8.276.8.29 The development being constructed and decommissioned within this LCA varies from the above D1: Swaffham Heath LCA, primarily because there is no Grid Connection Infrastructure or substation development proposed. However, large scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character (total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline would be fundamentally changed) would still occur. Field boundary vegetation and woodland blocks along with hoarding within and adjacent to the Site and north and east of Swaffham would provide containment to construction and decommissioning activity within the south and centre of the Site reducing intervisibility across the wider LCA.

6.8.286.8.30 The scale of effect on this LCA would be large, over a short-term duration during construction/decommissioning and across a limited extent of the wider LCA.

6.8.296.8.31 Beyond the Site extent, within the wider LCA, the construction and decommissioning effects upon this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of medium magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse in nature.

6.8.306.8.32 Within the extent of the Site the effect upon the LCA would be of high to medium magnitude, Major-Moderate significance and Adverse in nature. This effect would be **Significant** and temporary and would only be limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself. The effect would be judged significant because there would be a physical change to the landscape characteristics of the LCA landscape. Whereas

outside of the development areas, adverse effects are mostly related to the perceptual dimension of landscape character.

~~6.8.31~~6.8.33 Given the extensive area of the LCA compared to the Site itself, effects upon the landscape situated within the wider LCA and beyond the Site would be **Not Significant** and temporary.

B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA (LCT Settled Tributary Farmland)

~~6.8.32~~6.8.34 This LCA lies to the northeast of the Site with a very small part of the southwestern edge of the LCA falling within or adjacent to the north-eastern area of the Site. The LCA's sensitivity has been assessed as medium (community value and high susceptibility).

~~6.8.33~~6.8.35 No built development is proposed within this LCA and there would be small scale effects on the LCA associated with adverse perceptual impacts upon tranquillity, where the Scheme is visible. This would occur where the construction and decommissioning of the Scheme is visible from within the LCA. Undulations in local topography and the existing woodland situated within the north-eastern area of the Site and adjacent to the Site, would partially screen nearby construction and decommissioning activities and reduce the extent of effect upon the wider LCA, to the north-east.

~~6.8.34~~6.8.36 The scale of effect on this LCA would be small, over a short-term duration during construction and decommissioning and across a limited extent of the wider LCA.

~~6.8.35~~6.8.37 Beyond the Site extent, within the wider LCA, construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of low magnitude, Slight significance and Adverse in nature.

~~6.8.36~~6.8.38 Within the extent of the Site the effect upon the LCA would be of low magnitude, Slight significance and Adverse in nature. This effect would be **Not Significant** and temporary and would only be limited to the LCA covering the Site itself.

~~6.8.37~~6.8.39 Given the extensive area of the LCA compared to area of the Site, effects upon the landscape situated within the wider LCA and beyond the Site would be **Not Significant** and temporary.

F1 River Nar Valley LCA (LCT Chalk Rivers)

6.8.386.8.40 This LCA lies to the north of the Site and has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity (community value and high susceptibility).

6.8.396.8.41 The LVIA has assessed that there would be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primarily associated with adverse perceptual impacts upon tranquillity where the Scheme is visible.

6.8.406.8.42 There would be medium to small scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character, associated with construction/decommissioning activity of Solar PV Arrays north of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and the construction of Grid Connection Infrastructure. Activity south of this woodland block would be largely screened by the existing vegetation, reducing perceptual impacts on the LCA.

6.8.416.8.43 The scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small scale, over a short-term duration during construction and over a localised extent of the wider LCA, predominantly to the south-west of Castle Acre. Construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of medium-low magnitude, Moderate-Slight significance and Adverse in nature. This effect is the same for LCA areas both within and outside of the Site and would diminish with distance from the Site. This effect is **Not Significant** and temporary.

G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA (LCT Farmland with Woodland and Wetland)

6.8.426.8.44 This LCA lies to the north and northwest of the Site and has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity (community value and high susceptibility).

6.8.436.8.45 The LVIA has assessed that there would be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primarily associated with adverse perceptual impacts upon tranquillity where the Scheme is visible.

6.8.446.8.46 There would be medium to small scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character, associated with construction/decommissioning activity of Solar PV Arrays north of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and the construction of Grid Connection Infrastructure. Existing tree and hedgerow planting along the northern edge of the Site would screen some of the construction and decommissioning activities.

6.8.456.8.47 The scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small scale, over a short-term duration during construction and decommissioning and over a limited extent of the wider LCA.

6.8.466.8.48 Construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be

of low magnitude, Slight significance and Adverse in nature. The effect would diminish with distance from the Site. This effect is **Not Significant** and temporary.

I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA (LCT Rolling Open Farmland)

6.8.476.8.49 This LCA lies to the north of the Site and has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity (community value and high susceptibility).

6.8.486.8.50 It is to be expected there would be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primarily associated with adverse perceptual impacts upon tranquillity where the Scheme is visible.

6.8.496.8.51 There would be medium to small scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character, associated with construction/decommissioning activity of Solar PV Arrays north of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and the construction of Grid Connection Infrastructure, potentially visible on local high ground to the south of the River Nar. Activity further south of this woodland block would be largely screened by the vegetation.

6.8.506.8.52 The scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small, over a short-term duration during construction/decommissioning and over a limited extent of the wider LCA.

6.8.516.8.53 Construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of low magnitude, Slight significance and Adverse in nature. The effect would diminish with distance from the Site. This effect is **Not Significant** and temporary.

Visual Amenity

Visual Aids

6.8.526.8.54 To inform the LVIA, three sets of visual aids were prepared; annotated photographs, illustrative photowires and illustrative photomontages.

Annotated photographs

6.8.536.8.55 Annotated photographs are shown on figures supporting this LVIA:

- **ES Figure 6.10 [APP/6.3] (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels**
- **ES Figure 6.11 [APP/6.3] (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels**

6.8.546.8.56 The method of presentation for each viewpoint has been informed by Landscape Institute Technical Note 06/19 'Visual representation' (Ref. 6-7). The viewpoint description, description of effects and scale of effect for each viewpoint

(see **ES Figure 6.6: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3]** for locations) is set out on the relevant photograph and reflects the worst case scenario.

6.8.556.8.57 The worst case scenario is considered to be views of the Scheme, where the existing pylons and overhead lines are retained, during winter months when the screening effect of intervening vegetation is reduced compared to summer months.

6.8.566.8.58 The scale of effect during the operational phase, at each viewpoint, is summarised in Table 6.11 below:

6.8.576.8.59 The selection of representative and illustrative viewpoint locations has been undertaken in coordination with the Applicant's Heritage consultant, considering the assessment undertaken within **ES Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [APP/6.2]**.

Visualisations:

6.8.586.8.60 Representative viewpoints 6, 8, 12 and 14 have been prepared as Type 3 parameter based photowires drawing on the parameters in Table 5.1 of **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**. The photowires have been produced utilising both summer and winter baseline photography, to demonstrate the scale and siting of the maximum development parameters during different seasons, but without the screening effects of new mitigation planting:

- **ES Figure 6.12 [APP/6.3]** includes the Parameter based Winter Photowires; and
- **ES Figure 6.13 [APP/6.3]** includes the Parameter based Summer Photowires.

6.8.596.8.61 In addition to the parameter based photowires, Type 3 Photomontages of viewpoints 8, 12 and 14 have been prepared illustrating the scheme within the context of the surrounding landscape, during both winter and summer, at year 1 and year 15. All visualisations utilise the baseline photography captured for this ES chapter for consistency:

- **ES Figure 6.14 [APP/6.3]** includes Winter Photomontages of an illustrative scheme at year 1 and year 15; and
- **ES Figure 6.15 [APP/6.3]** includes Summer Photomontages of an illustrative scheme at year 1 and year 15.

~~6.8.606~~6.8.62 It should be noted that new pylons associated with the proposed diversion route leading to and from the National Grid Substation are illustrated on both the photowires and photomontages.

Table 6-9 Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint Reference & Location	Distance, direction	Scale of effect during operational phase		
		Beneficial/Neutral/Adverse		
		Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term
Representative Viewpoint 1 - PRoW Swaffham RB55 at A1065	4m south east	Medium to Small (Adverse)	Medium to Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 2 - Fincham Drove, Swaffham	0m, south west	Medium to Small (Adverse)	Medium to Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 3 (looking east) - Petticoat Drove and PRoW South Acre RB1	0m (within Site)	Large~~-Medium~~ (Adverse)	Large to Medium (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 4 - PRoW Swaffham RB2	685m, south west	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 5 - River Road, Narford	0m (within Site)	Medium ~~to Small~~ (Adverse)	Medium ~~to Small~~ (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 6 - PRoW South Acre RB2, South Acre	0m, north west	Large (Adverse)	Large (Adverse)	Medium (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 7 - South Acre Road and Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path	6.4m, north east	Medium (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 8 - South Acre Road and Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path	1229m, east	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 9 - River Road, West Acre	1724m, north west	Negligible (Adverse)	Negligible (Adverse)	Negligible (Adverse)

Viewpoint Reference & Location	Distance, direction	Scale of effect during operational phase		
		Beneficial/Neutral/Adverse		
		Short-term	Medium-term	Long-term
Representative Viewpoint 10 - Narford Lane, Narford	1238m, north west	Negligible to None (Adverse)	Negligible to None (Adverse)	Negligible to None (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 11 - PRoW Narford RB1, Narford	1205m, west	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 12 - Castle Acre Priory, Castle Acre	843m, north east	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 13 - Priory Road and Nar Valley Way, Castle Acre	888m, north east	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 14 - Castle Acre Castle, Cuckstool Lane, Castle Acre	990m, north east	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 15 - East Green, Castle Acre	1311m, north east	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)	Medium-Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 16 - West Acre Road, Castle Acre	1387m	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)

~~6.8.61~~6.8.63 Each of the viewpoints is a 'sample' of the potential effects, representing a wide range of receptors – including not only those actually at the viewpoint, but also receptors nearby, at a similar distance and/or direction.

Visual Receptor Groups

~~6.8.62~~6.8.64 This part of the assessment of visual effects focuses on effects on groups of visual receptors, incorporating effects on views from public spaces and streets within settlements (or around the houses in areas with isolated dwellings), and the local routes and accessible and recreational landscapes in the surrounding countryside.

~~6.8.63~~6.8.65 The assessment of effects on settlements focuses on the visual amenity of public spaces, though views from groups of dwellings would also be noted in the

descriptions. Effects on private residential amenity are a separate matter and considered separately within **ES Appendix 6.7: Residential Visual Amenity [APP/6.4]**.

Visual Receptor Group 1: Central Site Area (High-Medium sensitivity)

6.8.646.8.66 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 (ES Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

6.8.656.8.67 Construction and decommissioning phases would be directly visible for this receptor group. Receptors within this VRG are detailed within Table 6.10.

6.8.68 Short term visual effects on this receptor group would be large scale over a wide extent of the receptor group. There would be direct views of construction and decommissioning associated with the Solar PV Arrays. Within the eastern area of the VRG there would likely be visibility towards construction activity of the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure and BESS Units.

6.8.69 Within the western and central area of this VRG, along short stretches of Narford Lane, River Road and Petticoat Drove, there would likely be some visibility towards the construction associated with the formation of the PAR Mitigation (bunds and/or fences). This activity may be visible in between gaps in existing vegetation or where there are stretches of no existing aligning hedgerow or scrub. Decommissioning would also include the removal of the bunds and/or fences and reinstatement of the affected land; however, this would likely be screened by the mature mitigation planting.

6.8.666.8.70 Decommissioning effects of the Customer Substation and BESS Units would be very limited due to the presence of mature woodland and tree mitigation planting. These effects would be high to medium magnitude, Major ~~Moderate~~ significance and Adverse. This effect is **Significant** and temporary.

Visual Receptor Group 2: North-Eastern Site Area (High sensitivity)

6.8.676.8.71 Effects on these visual receptors are partially represented by viewpoint 7 (ES Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

6.8.686.8.72 Construction and decommissioning phases would be directly visible from PRoW and stretches of road within this receptor group. Receptors within this VRG are detailed within Table 6.10. There would be direct views of construction and

decommissioning associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations, Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS Units and Solar PV Arrays.

~~6.8.69~~6.8.73 Short term visual effects on this receptor group would be large scale over a wide extent of the receptor group. These effects would be medium magnitude, Major-Moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **Significant** and temporary.

Visual Receptor Group 3: Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre (High-Medium sensitivity)

~~6.8.70~~6.8.74 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 7 (ES Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

~~6.8.71~~6.8.75 Construction and decommissioning phases would be visible from within this receptor group. Visibility (between gaps in existing woodland, hedgerow and trees) would mainly be associated with the Grid Connection Infrastructure and a small area of the Solar PV Site, in the northern site area – specifically Fields 33 and 34.

~~6.8.72~~6.8.76 The construction phase of the Scheme, where visible, would be seen alongside existing and proposed pylons; the latter feeding into the National Grid Substation. During decommissioning views would remain unchanged of existing pylons, Grid Connection Infrastructure and the National Grid Substation. The most visible change would be associated with the construction phase of the Grid Connection Infrastructure.

~~6.8.73~~6.8.77 Short term visual effects on this receptor group would be medium to small scale over a wide extent of the receptor group. These effects would be medium to low magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **significant** and temporary.

Visual Receptor Group 4: Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave (High sensitivity)

~~6.8.74~~6.8.78 Effects on these visual receptors are partially represented by viewpoint 8 (Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

~~6.8.75~~6.8.79 Construction and decommissioning phases would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would mainly be associated with the construction of the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS Units and Solar PV Arrays, in the northern and eastern site area – specifically within Fields 19-27, 29 and 30. Solar PV Arrays and BESS Units decommissioning would also be visible within these same field parcels. Decommissioning of the Customer Substation would be partially screened by mature woodland mitigation planting in Field 27.

~~6.8.76~~6.8.80 Short term visual effects on this receptor group would be medium-small scale over a localised extent of the receptor group. These effects would be low

magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

Visual Receptor Group 5: Castle Acre (High sensitivity)

~~6.8.77~~6.8.81 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 as well as Illustrative viewpoints a, c, d and e (**Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]**).

~~6.8.78~~6.8.82 Construction and decommissioning phases would be partially visible from within this receptor group. Visibility would mainly be associated with the Grid Connection Infrastructure being constructed and visible upon the skyline alongside existing pylons. There would also be glimpsed views of construction and decommissioning of Solar PV Arrays, however this element of the Scheme would be less prominent than the Grid Connection Infrastructure for this VRG. There would be very limited to no visibility of construction activity associated with the National Grid Substation and Customer Substation due to the screening effect of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and other tree and woodland blocks within the Site and Study Area.

~~6.8.79~~6.8.83 Short term visual effects on this receptor group would be medium-small scale over an intermediate extent of the receptor group. These effects would be medium-low magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

Visual Receptor Group 6: West Acre and Nar Valley Northern Slope (High-medium sensitivity)

~~6.8.80~~6.8.84 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 9 as well as Illustrative viewpoint G (Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

~~6.8.81~~6.8.85 The construction phase of the Grid Connection Infrastructure would be partially visible from within this receptor group, from a limited number of vantage points. During the decommissioning phase, views would remain unchanged of existing pylons, Grid Connection Infrastructure and the National Grid Substation.

~~6.8.82~~6.8.86 Short term visual effects on this receptor group would be small scale over a localised extent of the receptor group. These effects would be low-negligible

magnitude, Slight-Minimal significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

Visual Receptor Group 7: Agricultural land immediately south and west of the Site (High-medium sensitivity)

6.8.836.8.87 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 4 and 11 (Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

6.8.846.8.88 Construction and decommissioning phases would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would be associated with the construction and decommissioning of the Solar PV Arrays in the western site area, within Fields 3, 6, 7 and 8.

6.8.856.8.89 Short term visual effects on this receptor group would be, in the worst case, small scale over a localised extent of the receptor group. These effects would be low to negligiblemagnitude, Slight significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

Roads and Rail – A1065 (Low sensitivity)

6.8.866.8.90 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 1 (Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

6.8.876.8.91 Construction and decommissioning activities would be clearly visible from this route, as it passes through the eastern edge of the Site. Whilst existing vegetation along the western edge of the A1065 would screen some oblique views westwards into the Site, there would be views of the Scheme between gaps in hedgerow and trees. Visibility of the Scheme would be of construction/decommissioning activity of Solar PV Arrays within Fields 20, 21, 24, 25 and 26 and construction activity associated with both the National Grid Substation and Customer Substation. Construction of the Grid Connection Infrastructure would also be visible from along this road. During decommissioning views would remain unchanged of existing pylons, Grid Connection Infrastructure and the National Grid Substation.

6.8.886.8.92 Short term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, medium scale over a limited extent of this route, where the route runs through/adjacent to the

Site. These effects would be medium to low magnitude, Slight significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

6.8.896.8.93 As outlined above, no railways have been identified from Ordnance Survey mapping in the Study Area.

Long Distance Walking Routes – The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path (High sensitivity)

6.8.906.8.94 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 7 and 8 (Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

6.8.916.8.95 Viewpoints along this route have also been visualised within Figure 6.12 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Winter Photowires [APP/6.3], Figure 6.13 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Summer Photowires [APP/6.3], Figure 6.14 (PM8, PM12 and PM14): Winter Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3], and Figure 6.15(PM8, PM12 and PM14): Summer Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme[APP/6.3]

6.8.926.8.96 Construction and decommissioning activities would be partially visible from this route, as receptors pass through and adjacent to the north-eastern edge of the Site. Existing hedgerow, trees and woodland along the northern and eastern field parcel boundaries serve to partially screen oblique short distance views of lower level construction/decommissioning activity from this PRoW, in close proximity or within the Site. Construction/decommissioning activity associated with the taller elements of the Scheme in the north of the Site, such as the Grid Connection Infrastructure, would be directly visible from this route, presenting a medium scale effect.

6.8.936.8.97 Short term visual effects on this route would be medium scale over a limited extent of this route, where it runs through/adjacent to the Site. These effects would be low magnitude, Moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant** and temporary, primarily due to the sensitivity of the receptor and potential visibility towards the construction of proposed large development within a relatively close proximity to the route as it passes through the Order limits.

Long Distance Walking Routes – The Nar Valley Way (High sensitivity)

6.8.946.8.98 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 9 and 13 (Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

6.8.956.8.99 Construction and decommissioning activities associated with Solar PV Arrays in the north of the Site would be partially visible from this route as it passes through Castle Acre. There would also be views southwards, of construction activity associated with the Grid Connection Infrastructure, presenting a medium to small scale effect. Construction activity would be visible alongside existing pylons.

6.8.966.8.100 There would be no visibility of construction activity associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations due to the screening effect of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and other tree and woodland blocks within the Site and Study Area. The Customer Substation and BESS Units would not be visible during decommissioning.

6.8.976.8.101 Short term visual effects on this route would be medium to small scale over a limited extent of this route, where it runs through Castle Acre. Effects would be medium-low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. Construction and decommissioning of the Scheme, where visible, would be seen alongside existing pylons during construction, and alongside existing pylons and Grid Connection Infrastructure during decommissioning given that these elements would not be decommissioned. This effect is not significant and temporary given that the activities would form part of a much wider view.

Local Cycle Routes – The Rebellion Way (Medium sensitivity)

6.8.986.8.102 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 2 and 7 (Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

6.8.996.8.103 Construction and decommissioning phases would be directly visible from this cycle route given that the cycle route runs through the Scheme. However, the length of the route with views towards the Scheme is very limited when compared to the total length of The Rebellion Way; therefore, reducing the extent of the effect.

6.8.1006.8.104 During the decommissioning phase, views would remain unchanged of existing pylons, Grid Connection Infrastructure and the National Grid Substation though mitigation measures.

6.8.1016.8.105 Short term visual effects on this route would be large scale over a limited extent of the route as it passes through the Site. These effects would be medium magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **significant** and temporary**,** where the cycle route passes through the Site and adjacent to

construction/decommissioning activities for larger elements within the Scheme – where views of such would lead to major alterations to qualities of the cycle route.

Operational Phase

~~6.8.102~~6.8.106 Operational effects are assessed during the period between the construction and decommissioning phases. The operational phase of the Scheme is proposed to be 60 years. During the operational phase of the Scheme, onsite activities would include routine servicing, maintenance activities, and the replacement of equipment such as Solar PV Arrays and BESS Units, as and when required, as well as management of vegetation, as outlined within **ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**.

~~6.8.103~~6.8.107 Operational effects are as assessed based on the following durations:

- Short-term operational effects are assessed between 0-5 years following completion, when construction is complete
- Medium-term effects are assessed for a more extended period of time following completion, when construction is complete but before proposed planting has fully established; and
- Long-term effects are assessed once the vegetation has established and matured.

~~6.8.104~~6.8.108 As discussed above in Section 6.7 Embedded Mitigation, an **oLEMP [APP/7.11]** has been prepared in support of the DCO Application. The **oLEMP [APP/7.11]** contains the framework for the management of the landscape and ecological features includes commitment to retaining and enhancing planting within the Site. A detailed LEMP will be secured through a requirement of the **draft DCO [APP/3.1]**, which will be prepared in accordance with the **oLEMP [APP/7.11]**. The maturity of the proposed planting would be beneficial in the longer-term – helping integrate the Scheme into the landscape and providing additional screening. All existing and proposed landscape features within the Site would be subject to appropriate management such that the amenity and/or screening benefits of the vegetation is maintained during the operational lifetime of the Scheme.

~~6.8.105~~6.8.109 As outlined earlier, to aid the assessment of the parameters-based **ES Figure 5.1: Concept Masterplan [APP/6.3]**), a number of visualisations have been prepared to accompany this ES chapter.

~~6.8.106~~6.8.110 Viewpoints 6, 8, 12 and 14 have been modelled within Figure 6.12 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Winter Photowires [APP/6.3] and Figure 6.13 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Summer Photowires [APP/6.3].

~~6.8.107~~6.8.111 In addition to the parameter based photowires, photomontages have been prepared of viewpoints 8, 12 and 14 during both winter and summer, at year 1 and year 15. These are included within **Figure 6.14 (PM8, PM12 and PM14): Winter**

Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3], and **Figure 6.15(PM8, PM12 and PM14): Summer Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3]**

Landscape Character

~~6.8.108~~6.8.112 This section assesses the operational phase effects of the Scheme on landscape character noting that large scale adverse effects upon LCA's within the Site would be reversible following the decommissioning phase of the Scheme and the restoration of most of the Site back to its baseline condition.

~~6.8.109~~6.8.113 The extensive planting proposed throughout the Site, as part of the green infrastructure strategy (**ES Chapter 5: The Scheme [APP/6.1]**), would provide long term beneficial effects upon the landscape fabric of the Site itself. New planting and maintenance regimes outlined within the **oLEMP [APP/7.11]** would both serve to increase the sense of enclosure within the central plateau landscape. In the long term, hedgerow would be maintained to 3m in height as a minimum, with gaps infilled and additional trees planted within them, where appropriate. In the long term, the droves would become more enclosed as new planting matures and serves to reinforce the existing hedgerow and tree belts within the Site.

~~6.8.110~~6.8.114 The principal effects on the landscape character would occur within the Site, while indirect effects would be contained within the extent of the ZVI, as depicted in **Figure 6.4 Landscape Character** [**APP/6.3**]. In general, the scale of effect on landscape character would vary from Large in the Site to Negligible in the outer regions of the ZVI, as outlined below:

- Large-scale effects would occur within the Site. Field parcels proposed to include development would see a major alteration to key elements and characteristics of their baseline. The larger elements of the Scheme located within the north of the Site would be most visually prominent from a wider extent, such as the Grid Connection Infrastructure, and have the potential to cause adverse perceptual effects on nearby LCAs
- Medium-scale effects would occur in the surrounding landscape (beyond the Site and within the ZVI) to the Site's north-east, where there would likely be views towards the Grid Connection Infrastructure and other elements of the Scheme such as Solar PV Arrays, National Grid Substation and Customer Substation; and
- Beyond the Site and the land to its immediate north-east (as described above), it has been found that visibility of the Scheme would be at such a distance as to present a medium to small scale of effect. Where intervisibility is possible, it has been assessed that the Scheme would be partly perceptible, particularly in relation to visibility of the Grid Connection Infrastructure alongside existing pylons. Medium to small scale effects would not significantly affect any of the surrounding LCAs key visual characteristics. As such, the intrinsic and prevailing characteristics of the surrounding LCAs would remain intact.

~~6.8.111~~6.8.115 For a renewable energy development on a greenfield site, over short, medium and long-term durations, it is to be expected that there would be large-scale

effects on the character of the Site, given that it is changing from predominantly undeveloped landscape to containing built form. How rapidly effects diminish beyond the Site depends on the scale and siting of development, the wooded context and visibility of the Scheme from the wider Study Area.

D1: Swaffham Heath LCA (LCT The Brecks – Heathland with Plantation

~~6.8.112~~6.8.116 This LCA, which includes the northern half of the Site, has been assessed as having a medium – low sensitivity (community value and medium susceptibility).

~~6.8.113~~6.8.117 There would be large scale operational phase effects on landscape character (total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline would be fundamentally changed). Tall and mature field boundary vegetation and woodland blocks within the Site would provide some visual containment to the Solar PV Arrays within the central, southern and western areas and the PAR Mitigation within the central and western areas of the Site.

~~6.8.114~~6.8.118 The larger elements of the Scheme situated in the north-east of the LCA, such as the Grid Connection Infrastructure, Customer Substation, and National Grid Substation, would have a largescale effect on the LCA, with the potential for wider reaching adverse perceptual effects on adjacent LCAs.

~~6.8.115~~6.8.119 During the operational phase in the short term, the scale of effect on this LCA would be large scale and over a limited extent of the wider LCA. Short term operational effects on this LCA would be of high ~~medium~~ magnitude, Major-Moderate significance and Adverse in nature within ~~the extent of~~ the Site. This~~Within the extent of the Site the~~ effect upon the character of the landscape would be **significant** but only limited to the landscape within the Site itself. Short term operational effects on the wider LCA, outside of the Site, would be of medium magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse in nature ~~within the wider LCA.~~ This adverse effect upon the wider LCA is **not significant**, ~~for the wider LCA~~ with levels of intervisibility diminishing with distance.

~~6.8.116~~6.8.120 During the operational phase in the medium term, the scale of effect on this LCA would be large scale and over a limited extent of the wider LCA. Medium term operational effects on this LCA would be of high~~medium~~ magnitude, Major-Moderate significance and Adverse in nature within the Site. This effect upon~~Within the extent of the Site the effect upon~~ the character of the landscape~~LCA~~ would be **significant** but only limited to the landscape within the Site itself. Medium term operational effects on the wider LCA, outside of the Site, would be of medium magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant** for the wider LCA.

~~6.8.117~~6.8.121 During the operational phase and over a long term duration the scale of effect would remain large over a limited extent of the wider LCA. Long term operational effects on this LCA, would be of ~~medium~~high magnitude, Major-M~~m~~oderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect would be **significant** and would only be limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself. Long term operational effects on the wider LCA, outside of the Site, would be of medium

magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant** for the wider LCA outside of the Site.

E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA (LCT Plateau Farmland)

~~6.8.118~~6.8.122 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium – low sensitivity (community value and medium susceptibility).

~~6.8.119~~6.8.123 There would be large scale operational effects on landscape character (total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline would be fundamentally changed. Tall and mature field boundary vegetation and woodland blocks, such as Round Covert within the Site, would provide some visual containment to the Solar PV Arrays within the southern and western areas and PAR Mitigation within the central and western areas of the Site. Woodland blocks north of Swaffham would also contain perceptual large scale adverse effects to within the Site. Beyond the Site the scale of effect associated with intervisibility would reduce with distance.

6.8.124 During the operational phase, the scale of effect on this LCA would be large, over both short and medium term durations and over a limited extent of the wider LCA. Medium term operational effects on this LCA, would be of high~~medium~~ magnitude, Major-Moderate significance and Adverse in nature. Within the extent of the Site the effect upon the character of the landscape would be **significant** but only limited to the landscape within the Site itself.

~~6.8.120~~6.8.125 Outside of the Site during the operational phase, the scale of effect on this LCA would be medium, over both short and medium term durations and over a limited extent of the wider LCA. Medium term operational effects on this LCA would be of medium magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant** for the wider LCA, beyond the Site with intervisibility diminishing with distance.

~~6.8.121~~6.8.126 During the operational phase and over a long term duration, the scale of effect would remain large across a limited extent of the wider LCA. Long term operational phase effects on this LCA, would be of high~~medium~~ magnitude, Major-M~~m~~oderate significance and adverse in nature. Mitigation measures would not reduce the overall adverse effects upon the LCA within the Site given that the Scheme is a renewable energy development on a greenfield site with predicted large-scale effects on its character; given that it is changing from predominantly undeveloped landscape to containing built form. Despite the fact that the LCA still experiences effects over a 60 year operational duration, the only development parameter present within the LCA are the Solar PV Arrays; which are of a smaller height and comprise a lighter touch construction method on the fabric of the landscape. Effects on this LCA are also tempered by the perceptual sense of enclosure and industrial influence from adjacent LCAs due to intervisibility with energy infrastructure such as pylons and wind turbines. This effect would be **significant** and would only be limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself. Outside of the Site during the operational phase, the scale of effect on this LCA would be medium, over the long term and over a limited extent of the wider LCA. Medium

term operational effects on this LCA would be of medium magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant** for the wider LCA, beyond the Site with intervisibility diminishing with distance.

B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA (LCT Settled Tributary Farmland)

6.8.1226.8.127 This LCA is predominantly situated outside of the Scheme's development areas, to the north-east of the Site, with very small part of the LCA situated within the north-eastern area of the Site has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity (community value and high susceptibility). No built development is proposed within this LCA.

6.8.1236.8.128 There would be small scale effects on the LCA primary associated with adverse perceptual impacts on the character of the LCA.

6.8.1246.8.129 There would be small scale operational effects on landscape character limited to the south-western edge of the LCA, where it lies partly within and adjacent to the Site. These potential effects are limited to perceptual impacts, where the Scheme may be visible from within the LCA. Grid Connection Infrastructure would be visible from within the western area of the LCA, however, undulations in local topography and the existing woodland situated within the north-eastern area of the Site and adjacent to the Site, would reduce the extent of effect upon the wider LCA, to the north-east.

6.8.1256.8.130 In the short, medium and long term, the scale of effect on this LCA would be small, over a limited extent of the wider LCA. This would give rise to a potential effect that is of low magnitude, Slight significance and Adverse in nature. Given the extensive area of the LCA compared to area of the Site, effects upon the landscape situated within the wider LCA and beyond the Site would be **not significant**.

6.8.1266.8.131 Within the extent of the Site the short, medium and long terms effect upon the LCA would be of low magnitude, minimal significance and adverse in nature. This effect would be **not significant** and limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself.

F1 River Nar Valley LCA (LCT Chalk Rivers)

6.8.1276.8.132 This LCA which is situated primarily outside of the Site to the north has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity *(community value and high susceptibility*).

6.8.1286.8.133 There would be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primarily associated with adverse perceptual impacts. There is limited predicted visibility within the LCA as shown on the DSM ZTV in **ES Figure 6.6 Zone of Theoretical Visibility (DSM) [APP/6.3].**

6.8.1296.8.134 There would be medium to small scale operational effects on landscape character, associated with potential visibility of Solar PV Arrays north-west of

Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and the Grid Connection Infrastructure visible alongside existing pylons.

~~6.8.130~~6.8.135 During the operational phase, the scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small, over the short, medium and long term durations and over a localised extent of the wider LCA, predominantly to the south-west of Castle Acre. Operational effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded mitigation measures, would be of medium-low magnitude, Moderate-Slight significance and Adverse in nature. This effect is the same for LCA areas both within and outside of the Site and would diminish with distance. This effect is **not significant**.

G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA (LCT Farmland with Woodland and Wetland)

~~6.8.131~~6.8.136 This LCA which is situated outside of the Site to the north and northwest has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity *(community value and high susceptibility*).

~~6.8.132~~6.8.137 There would be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primarily associated with adverse perceptual impacts. There is limited predicted visibility from within the LCA.

~~6.8.133~~6.8.138 There would be medium to small scale operational effects on landscape character, associated with visibility towards Solar PV Arrays north of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and the Grid Connection Infrastructure.

~~6.8.134~~6.8.139 During the operational phase, the scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small, over a short, medium and long term durations and over a limited extent of the wider LCA.

~~6.8.135~~6.8.140 Operational effects on this LCA over the short, medium and long term following the implementation of embedded mitigation, would be of low magnitude, Slight significance and Adverse in nature and would diminish with distance. This effect is **not significant**.

I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA (LCT Rolling Open Farmland)

~~6.8.136~~6.8.141 This LCA, which is situated outside of the Site to the north at Castle Acre, has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity (community value and high susceptibility).

~~6.8.137~~6.8.142 There would be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primary associated with adverse perceptual impacts upon tranquillity where visible.

~~6.8.138~~6.8.143 There would be medium to small scale operational effects on landscape character, associated with potential visibility of Solar PV Arrays north of

Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and also of Grid Connection Infrastructure potentially visible on the skyline alongside existing pylons.

~~6.8.139~~6.8.144 During the operational phase the scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small scale, over the short, medium and long term durations and over a limited extent of the wider LCA.

~~6.8.140~~6.8.145 Operational effects on this LCA over the short, medium and long term, following the implementation of embedded mitigation, would be of low magnitude, Slight Significance, Adverse in nature and would diminish with distance. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

Visual Amenity

~~6.8.141~~6.8.146 This section considers the operational effects of the Scheme on visual amenity. Where applicable, representative viewpoints located within the respective VRGs are outlined below. The scale of effect noted for each representative viewpoint, as outlined above in **Table 6.13**, is only applicable for that viewpoint location and therefore may differ from the overall scale of effect noted below for the wider visual receptor group area.

Visual Receptor Group 1: Central Site Area (High-Medium sensitivity)

~~6.8.142~~6.8.147 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 (**ES Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]**).

~~6.8.143~~6.8.148 Viewpoints within this VRG have also been visualised within **Figure 6.12 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Winter Photowires [APP/6.3**], **Figure 6.13 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Summer Photowires [APP/6.3].**

6.8.149 In the short term, the operational phase of the Scheme would be directly visible from within this Receptor group given that receptors, such as those along PRoW, would be spatially surrounded by the Scheme. Visual effects upon this receptor group would be large scale over a wide extent of the Receptor group. Some visual screening of the Scheme is already provided by the existing woodland and hedgerows present within the Site alongside advanced planting in winter 2025/2026 (as shown in the **Appendix 3 (Advanced Planting Plan)** to the **oLEMP [APP/7.11]**).

6.8.150 Within the western and central area of this VRG, along short stretches of Narford Lane, River Road and Petticoat Drove, there would likely be some visibility towards the PAR Mitigation (bunds and/or fences). The PAR Mitigation may be visible in between gaps in existing vegetation or where there are stretches of no existing aligning hedgerow or scrub.

~~6.8.144~~6.8.151 Adverse effects would be tempered by the Scheme's development offsets from PRoW. Additional tree planting, new hedgerows, hedgerow gapping up, new woodland and scrub planting would only screen views of the Scheme in the medium

and long terms, once established. Short term operational effects would be high-~~medium~~ magnitude, Major ~~Moderate~~ significance and Adverse. This effect is **significant**.

~~6.8.145~~6.8.152 Medium term visual effects on this receptor group would be, in the worst case, large ~~to medium~~ scale over a wide extent of the Receptor group; primarily where mitigation planting may not have fully established and therefore glimpsed views of nearby PAR Mitigation, Solar PV Arrays and BESS Units may still be possible. There may be glimpse filtered views of the upper extents of the Customer Substation from PRoW within the eastern area of this VRG. The PAR Mitigation would only likely be visible along short stretches of Narford Lane, River Road and Petticoat Drove. These effects would be high-medium magnitude, Major-Moderate ~~to Moderate~~ significance and Adverse. This effect is **significant**.

~~6.8.146~~6.8.153 In the long term, the scale of effect would lessen as new mitigation planting and landscape management regimes provide enhanced visual screening of the Scheme, for nearby receptors. PRoW and the droves would be well screened from nearby PAR Mitigation and Solar PV Arrays due to development offsets combined with the maturation of hedgerow and tree planting. New hedgerow proposed within Field 4 would be fully established and heavily filter visibility of nearby Solar PV Arrays situated near to PRoW South Acre RB2 and RB5. New hedgerow planting aligning PRoW within Field 4 would mean visibility across Field 4 is greatly reduced, when compared to the baseline view, however mitigation planting is required for screening and preventing direct short distance views of Solar PV Arrays adjacent to the nearby PRoW. Long term visual effects on the wider VRG would be, in the worst case, medium-small scale over a wide extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be medium to low magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

Visual Receptor Group 2: North-Eastern Site Area (High sensitivity)

~~6.8.147~~6.8.154 Effects on these visual receptors are partially represented by viewpoint 7 **(Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).**

~~6.8.148~~6.8.155 In the short term, the Scheme would likely be directly visible from within this receptor group. There would be views from along nearby PRoW towards the new National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS Units and Solar PV Arrays. Substations would visible above existing hedgerows, where new mitigation planting has not yet matured. Grid Connection Infrastructure would be prominent features within the immediate vicinity of the receptor group. Solar PV Arrays and BESS Units would likely be partially visible in filtered views beyond existing hedgerow and trees, where present. Short term visual operational phase effects on this receptor group would be large scale over a wide extent of the receptor group. These effects would be medium magnitude, Major-Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **significant**.

~~6.8.149~~6.8.156 In the medium term, there would be some visibility of the middle to upper extents of the substations, Solar PV Arrays and BESS Units , from nearby PRoW,

where new woodland, scrub and hedgerow infill planting has not yet matured. Medium term visual operational phase effects on this receptor group would be large to medium scale over a wide extent of the receptor group. There would be filtered views of the National Grid and Customer Substations from PRoW South Acre RB6 and the A1065. These effects would be medium magnitude, Major-Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **significant**.

~~6.8.150~~6.8.157 In the long term, the Grid Connection Infrastructure would remain visible. the remaining elements of the Scheme would be mostly screened by new mitigation planting once established. New woodland blocks adjacent to the substations would provide effective visual screen from nearby PRoW South Acre RB6 and the A1065. Other mitigation measures include offsetting development from PRoW, providing extensive infill planting of existing hedgerows along with new hedgerow trees and scrub. The extent of the effect would reduce due to the maturation of tree and woodland canopies as well as the managed hedgerow heights of 3m alongside PRoW. The Grid Connection Infrastructure would remain partially visible where pylons and overhead lines may be seen above vegetation.

~~6.8.151~~6.8.158 Potential effects would be tempered by the predicted maturation and enlargement of tree and woodland canopies as well as the managed hedgerow heights of 3m alongside PRoW. The Grid Connection Infrastructure would remain partially visible where pylons and overhead lines may be seen above vegetation. The remaining elements of the Scheme would be sufficiently screened from receptors by woodland, hedgerow and trees.

~~6.8.152~~6.8.159 In the long term, visual effects on this receptor group would be medium scale over a localised extent of the receptor group. These effects would be medium to low magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant** primarily due to the extent of the effect reducing in the long term.

Visual Receptor Group 3: Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre (High-Medium sensitivity)

~~6.8.153~~6.8.160 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 7 **(Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).**

~~6.8.154~~6.8.161 In the short term, visibility of the Scheme would mainly be associated with the Grid Connection Infrastructure and a small area of Solar PV Arrays in the northern site area – specifically Fields 33 and 34; glimpsed between gaps in existing woodland, hedgerow and trees. Grid Connection Infrastructure would be clearly visible on the skyline alongside existing pylons. Short term visual effects on this receptor group would be medium scale over a wide extent of the receptor group. These effects would be medium to low magnitude, of Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **significant**.

~~6.8.155~~6.8.162 In the medium and long term, the scale of effect would lessen slightly as mitigation planting matures along the periphery of Fields 33 and 34. The gapping up and infilling of existing hedgerow with whips and trees would further filter views

towards the Solar PV Arrays as they mature over time. The Substations and BESS Units would not be visible from within this receptor group. The upper extents of the pylons, which form part of the Grid Connection Infrastructure, would be clearly visible in the long term and, where visible, would be seen alongside existing pylons. Existing development of a different type would also be visible from within this VRG, primarily residential dwellings and farmsteads.

6.8.1566.8.163 In the medium and long term, the scale of effect would be medium to small, over an intermediate extent. These effects would be medium to low magnitude, of moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant** primarily due to the reduction in extent and scale of effect as a result of matured mitigation planting within the north of the Site.

Visual Receptor Group 4: Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave (High sensitivity)

6.8.1576.8.164 Effects on these visual receptors are partially represented by viewpoint 8 **(Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).**

6.8.1586.8.165 Views are also demonstrated within type 3 Photowire visualisation **PM8 (Figure 6.12 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Winter Photowires [APP/6.3], Figure 6.13 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Summer Photowires [APP/6.3], Figure 6.14 (PM8, PM12 and PM14): Winter Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3], and Figure 6.15(PM8, PM12 and PM14): Summer Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme[APP/6.3].**

6.8.1596.8.166 In the short and medium term, there would be some views associated with the National Grid Substation, Customer Substation, Grid Connection Infrastructure, Units BESS and Solar PV Arrays, in the northern and eastern site area – specifically within Fields 19-27, 29, and 30. Depending on the exact siting of both the National Grid Substation and Customer Substation within the parameter areas, there would likely be potential visibility of the upper extents of the substations above intervening vegetation and landform.

6.8.1606.8.167 Short and medium term visual effects on this receptor group would be medium-small scale over a localised extent of the receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant** due to the context of the wider wooded view forming a backdrop to the Scheme, and existing infrastructure situated on the skyline, such as turbines and pylons.

6.8.1616.8.168 In the long term, the mitigation woodland and tree planting would have established fully and matured enough to screen views towards the substations from many areas within the VRG, to the east. The mid to upper extents of the Grid Connection Infrastructure would remain visible on the skyline, alongside existing pylons. The scale of effect would reduce to small over a localised extent due to the maturation of mitigation planting serving to better screen areas of the Scheme. These

effects would be low-negligible magnitude, Moderate-Slight significance and Adverse. This effect remains **not significant**.

Visual Receptor Group 5: Castle Acre (High sensitivity)

6.8.1626.8.169 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 as well as Illustrative viewpoints a, c, d and e (**Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]**).

6.8.1636.8.170 Views are also demonstrated within visualisations included within **Figure 6.12 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Winter Photowires [APP/6.3], Figure 6.13 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Summer Photowires [APP/6.3], Figure 6.14 (PM8, PM12 and PM14): Winter Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3], and Figure 6.15(PM8, PM12 and PM14): Summer Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme[APP/6.3].**

6.8.1646.8.171 Visibility of the Scheme would mainly be associated with the Grid Connection Infrastructure situated upon the skyline, alongside existing pylons. There would also be glimpsed views of Solar PV Arrays within the northern area of the Site, though this element of the Scheme would be much less prominent than the Grid Connection Infrastructure with visibility reducing over time due to the maturation of mitigation planting.

6.8.1656.8.172 The new pylons proposed as part of the Grid Connection Infrastructure, situated alongside the existing pylons, would present a partial alteration to the view. The baseline however would remain largely unchanged due to the existing views of pylons situated upon the wooded skyline. The scale of effect would therefore be medium-small scale. Mitigation planting would have a very limited effect on reducing visibility of the Grid Connection Infrastructure over time due to their size.

6.8.1666.8.173 There would be very limited to no visibility of the National Grid and Customer Substations due to the screening effect of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and other tree and woodland blocks within the Site and Study Area.

6.8.1676.8.174 In the short, medium and long term, visual effects on this VRG would be medium-small scale, over an intermediate extent. These effects would be medium-low magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant** primarily due to the visual prominence of multiple existing pylons upon the wooded skyline experienced in south facing views from within this VRG.

Visual Receptor Group 6: West Acre and Nar Valley Northern Slope (High-medium sensitivity)

6.8.1686.8.175 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 9 as well as Illustrative viewpoint G (**Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph**

Panels [APP/6.3] and ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).

6.8.1696.8.176 The Grid Connection Infrastructure would be partially visible within this VRG albeit from a limited number of locations due to a lack of publicly accessible viewpoints. Where visible, the additional pylons proposed as part of the Grid Connection Infrastructure, would be seen alongside the existing pylons on the wooded skyline.

6.8.1706.8.177 There would be no visibility of the National Grid and Customer Substations due to the screening effect of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and other tree and woodland blocks within the Site and Study Area.

6.8.1716.8.178 Over the short, medium and long term durations, visual effects upon this receptor group would be small scale over a localised extent of the VRG. These effects would be low-negligible magnitude, Slight-Minimal significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

Visual Receptor Group 7: Agricultural land immediately south and west of the Site (High-medium sensitivity)

6.8.1726.8.179 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 4 and 11 **(Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).**

6.8.1736.8.180 In the short and medium term, there would be potential visibility of the Solar PV Arrays in the western site area, within Fields 3, 6, 7 and 8.

6.8.1746.8.181 There would be no visibility of the National Grid Substation and Customer Substation due to the screening effect of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and other tree and woodland blocks within the Site and Study Area.

6.8.1756.8.182 Short and medium term visual effects on this VRG would be small scale over a localised extent of the receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, Slight significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

6.8.1766.8.183 In the long term, once mitigation planting has matured and landscape management regimes prescribe hedgerow to grow taller at a minimum of 3m, visual effects would lessen. Long term visual effects on this VRG would be small-negligible scale over a localised extent of the VRG. These effects would be low-negligible magnitude, Slight-Minimal significance and, Adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

Roads and Rail – A1065 (Low sensitivity)

6.8.1776.8.184 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 1 **(Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).**

6.8.1786.8.185 In the short and medium term, the Scheme would be clearly visible from this route, as it passes through the eastern edge of the Site. Existing vegetation along the

western edge of the A1065 would serve to screen some oblique views westwards into the Site. There would be limited views of the Scheme between gaps in hedgerow and trees. Visibility of the Scheme would comprise Solar PV Arrays within Fields 20, 21, 24, 25, and 26 and potentially the upper extents of both the National Grid Substation and Customer Substation. Green hoarding and/or advanced planting along the western side of the A1065 would partly limit visibility towards the Scheme from the road. The Grid Connection Infrastructure would be directly visible from along this road. Short and medium term visual effects on this route would be medium scale over a limited extent of this route, where the route runs through/adjacent to the Site. These effects would be medium to low magnitude, Slight significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

6.8.1796.8.186 In the long term, new mitigation planting along the eastern edge of the Site would further screen views of nearby Solar PV Arrays, from along this route. New woodland and tree planting within Field 27 would have also matured to form effective visual screens alongside the substations. Long term visual effects on this route would be medium-small scale over a limited extent. These effects would be low-negligible magnitude, Slight-Minimal significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

Long Distance Walking Routes – The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path (High sensitivity)

6.8.1806.8.187 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 7 and 8 **(Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).**

6.8.1816.8.188 Views along this route are also demonstrated within visualisations included within **Figure 6.12 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Winter Photowires [APP/6.3], Figure 6.13 (PM6, PM8, PM12 and PM14): Parameter Based Summer Photowires [APP/6.3], Figure 6.14 (PM8, PM12 and PM14): Winter Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme [APP/6.3], and Figure 6.15(PM8, PM12 and PM14): Summer Photomontages: Illustrative Scheme[APP/6.3].**

6.8.1826.8.189 In the short and medium term, the Scheme would be visible to the west of the route, as receptors pass through the north-eastern corner of the Site. Existing hedgerows, trees and woodland along the northern and eastern field parcel boundaries serve to partially screen oblique short distance views of the Scheme from this PRoW, in close proximity or within the Site. There would likely be glimpsed views of the Solar PV Site amongst existing tree lines and hedgerows. Depending on the exact siting of both the National Grid Substation and Customer Substation within the parameter areas, there would likely be potential visibility of the upper extents of the substations above intervening vegetation and landform. The Grid Connection Infrastructure would be directly visible from this route, presenting a combined medium scale effect. Short and medium term visual effects on this route would be medium scale over a limited extent of this route, where it runs through/adjacent to the Site. These effects would be low magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. The

visual effect upon this route would be significant, in the short and medium term, where it runs through the Site and up to approximately 300m beyond the Site.

~~6.8.183~~6.8.190 In the long term, matured mitigation planting and landscape management regimes for existing vegetation within the Site would partially filter short to medium distance views of Solar PV Arrays and BESS Units , from this route. The mitigation woodland and tree planting within and around Field 27 would have established fully and matured enough to screen views towards the substations from along this PRoW. Short distance views of the Grid Connection Infrastructure would remain and be partially visible alongside existing and pylons proximal to the route. Long term visual effects on this route would be medium to small scale over a limited extent of the route. These effects would be low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**. The long-term visual effects along this route are deemed to be not significant when taking into account the mitigation for nearby views from this PRoW, however in middle to longer distance views along this route, the Grid Connection Infrastructure would be remain partially visible alongside existing and pylons.

Long Distance Walking Routes – The Nar Valley Way (High sensitivity)

~~6.8.184~~6.8.191 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 9 and 13 **(Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).**

~~6.8.185~~6.8.192 There would be no visibility of the National Grid and Customer Substations due to the screening effect of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation and other tree and woodland blocks within the Site and Study Area.

~~6.8.186~~6.8.193 In the short, medium and long term there would be visibility of the Grid Connection Infrastructure, presenting a medium to small scale effect, alongside existing pylons. The medium to small scale effects would occur over a limited extent of this route, where it runs through Castle Acre. Effects would be medium-low magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant** given that the Grid Connection Infrastructure would be seen alongside existing pylons.

Local Cycle Routes – The Rebellion Way (Medium sensitivity)

~~6.8.187~~6.8.194 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by viewpoint 2 and 7 **(Figure 6.10 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Winter Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]** and **ES Figure 6.11 (PP1-16 and PPa-g): Summer Photograph Panels [APP/6.3]).**

~~6.8.188~~6.8.195 In the short and medium terms, the Scheme would be directly visible from this cycle route given that the cycle route runs through the Site. However, the length of the route with visibility towards the Scheme is very limited when compared to the total length of The Rebellion Way. This reduces the extent of the effect. Short and medium term visual effects on this route would be large scale over a limited extent of the route as it passes through the Site. These effects would be medium magnitude, Moderate significance and Adverse. This effect is **significant** where it passes

through the Site and adjacent to the Scheme – where views of such would lead to major alterations to elements of the view along the cycle route.

~~6.8.189~~6.8.196 In the long term, the scale of effect would lessen as mitigation planting matures and landscape management regimes of vegetation provide enhanced visual screening of the lower level elements within the Scheme. Long term visual effects on this route would be medium scale over a limited extent of the route. These effects would be medium-low magnitude, Moderate-Slight significance and Adverse. This effect is **not significant**, primarily due to the establishment of mitigation planting within the central and western areas of the Site which would predominantly screen the Substations, Solar PV Arrays and BESS Units from views along this section of the route.

6.9 Additional Mitigation Measures

6.9.1 Mitigation for LVIA involves planting throughout the Site which is embedded into the Scheme and secured in the design, meaning additional mitigation is not available. No additional mitigation measures for the Scheme are proposed.

6.10 Residual Effects

6.10.1 In the absence of any additional mitigation, the residual effects are the same as the potential effects set out in Section 6.8.

6.11 Cumulative Effects Assessment

6.11.1 This section presents an assessment of cumulative effects between the Scheme and other existing and/or approved developments.

6.11.2 As set out in **ES Chapter 2: EIA Process and Methodology [APP/6.1]**, a Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) has been undertaken as part of the EIA in accordance with PINS Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (September 2024) and has considered two types of cumulative effects.

- In combination effects: the combined effect generated by individual effects on a particular receptor (presented within **ES Chapter 17: In-Combination Effects [APP/6.2]**; and
- Cumulative effects: effects generated by the Scheme and other planned or approved developments on the same receptor (presented in **ES Chapters 6 to 16 [APP/6.2]**).

In-Combination Effects

6.11.3 In-combination effects occur when receptors are subject to effects under more than one environmental topic. As such, the effects presented in other chapters (regardless of whether they are classed as significant or not significant) have been reviewed to identify receptors subject to one or more types of effect to ensure that the interrelationship between each of the aspects of the environment likely to be affected by the Scheme has been properly evaluated and considered.

6.11.4 The assessment of in-combination effects is presented in **ES Chapter 17: In-Combination Effects [APP/6.2]**.

Cumulative Effects

6.11.5 Cumulative effects may arise as a result of effects associated with the Scheme combining with effects associated with other developments. The list of developments has been narrowed down to focus on those developments which are most likely to give rise to cumulative effects. A long-list was generated which was then refined

following consultation with relevant local planning authorities, this short-list forms the basis of this assessment.

6.11.6 A short list of cumulative developments/allocations can be found in **ES Appendix 2.4: Cumulative Schemes [APP/6.4]**.

Relevant Developments

6.11.7 Only one development, High Grove Solar, has the potential to result in cumulative effects on Landscape and Visual within the associated Study Area, set out in Table 6-10.

Table 6-10 Short List Developments/Allocations relevant to Landscape and Visual

Short List Ref	Planning Ref	Description	Distance from the Scheme
1	DCO EN0110010	"High Grove Solar - RWE Renewables UK Solar and Storage Ltd The Scheme comprises the installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) generating panels, on-site energy storage facilities, grid connection infrastructure and ancillary works. The Scheme would have a generating capacity of approximately 720MW."	Adjacent

Introduction

6.11.8 Cumulative effects are assessed on the same groups of Landscape and Visual receptors as the assessment of effects for the Scheme in isolation. Landscape and Visual receptors that are considered to experience effects of low-negligible or negligible magnitude (both localised and overall) from the Scheme are not included in this assessment, as an effect of such low magnitude manifestly adds nothing or very little regardless of the effects of other developments. If significant cumulative effects arise on those receptors, they would be as a result of other developments and as such are not relevant for consideration as part of this application. Only receptors that could experience potentially significant effects are detailed below.

6.11.9 As detailed above, the scope for potential cumulative effects of the Scheme includes only:

- High Grove Solar (NSIP Ref: EN0110010) (0km, adjacent to the Site)

6.11.10 The High Grove Solar cumulative scheme comprises the installation of solar PV generating panels, on-site energy storage facilities, grid connection infrastructure and

ancillary works. The Scheme would have a generating capacity of approximately 720MW.

Cumulative effects upon Landscape Character

E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA

Construction/Decommissioning

6.11.11 Taking into account High Grove Solar Farm, it is noted that the Scheme and High Grove Solar Farm are both partially situated within the E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA. If the Scheme were to be constructed/decommissioned whilst High Grove Solar Farm is operational, or both developments were to come forward at the same time (i.e. with overlapping construction and decommissioning phases), the overall cumulative scale of change during construction and decommissioning for the LCA would be large, over a short duration and Intermediate extent. The construction and decommissioning activity associated with High Grove Solar, when coupled with the Scheme, would increase construction and decommissioning activity in the local landscape. Activities would present a large-scale change to the characteristics of the LCA for the duration of the construction and decommissioning periods of the Scheme and High Grove Solar.

6.11.12 There would be a potentially greater number of vehicular movements, an increase in construction/decommissioning noise, greater visibility of machinery and other perceptual construction elements that would adversely affect the landscape character of the LCA.

6.11.13 This gives rise to a potential cumulative effect of medium magnitude, of moderate significance and adverse. The significance would be moderate given the increase in construction and decommissioning activity associated with upcoming renewable energy development schemes present within the context of the existing area of the LCA. Construction and decommissioning cumulative effects would be of Moderate significance, they would be deemed **significant** and temporary.

Operational

6.11.14 In the medium and long term during the operational phase, if both developments were to come forward at the same time, the overall cumulative scale of change for the LCA would be high over an intermediate extent. The area of new development associated with renewable energy would increase and would change the characteristics of the LCA for the lifetime of the cumulative schemes, in the long term.

6.11.15 This would gives rise to a potential cumulative effect of high magnitude, of moderate significance and adverse. This demonstrates an increase in magnitude of effect as a result of the cumulative schemes coming forward. The significance would be mMderate given the increase in renewable energy development schemes present

within the context of the existing area of the LCA. This effect would be **significant** over the lifetime of the two developments.

Cumulative effects upon visual amenity

6.11.16 High Grove Solar is proposed to be situated in several different locations throughout the wider landscape within the Study Area and beyond. Existing woodland blocks, vegetated field boundaries and local undulations within the landscape to the north and north-east of Swaffham would largely mitigate potentially significant in combination cumulative visual effects as a result of the Scheme and High Grove Solar.

6.11.17 The only location where potentially significant in combination cumulative visual effects may occur is adjacent to the east of the Scheme within VRG 4, specifically north of Swaffham and west of Sporle. Within this area, High Grove Solar is located partially within VRG 4. Further detail on potential significant cumulative visual effects is provided below.

Visual Receptor Group 4: Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave (High sensitivity)

6.11.18 As outlined above in the main body of the LVIA, within Section 6.8, VRG 4 is judged to be of high sensitivity to the Scheme. This remains the case when also considering High Grove Solar given their similarities in development type.

6.11.19 The Scheme would be partly visible during the construction, decommissioning and operational phases from PRoW and roads within this VRG. Existing woodland blocks, vegetated field boundaries and local undulations within the landscape to the north and north-east of Swaffham, serve to break up views towards both the Scheme and High Grove Solar Farm for many of the receptors within VRG 4, particularly along South Acre Road. The only receptor within this VRG that could experience potentially significant visual effects are PRoW users of PRoW Sporle with Palgrave BR5, shown on **ES Figure 6.8: Amenity and Recreation Facilities [APP/6.3]**. Potential significant cumulative visual effects on this VRG would be over a limited extent.

Construction/Decommissioning

6.11.20 During construction and decommissioning phases, activities within the Site would be visible alongside new solar PV development within High Grove Solar, to the east of the A1065. Potential significant cumulative effects would be present along this route if the construction and decommissioning of the Scheme were to be undertaken during the same period as High Grove Solar being operational, constructed or decommissioned.

6.11.21 There would be greater visibility of general activities associated with the movement of construction decommissioning vehicles and tall construction/decommissioning machinery for users at the western end of this PRoW.

Mitigation planting along the A1065 would not have matured sufficiently to provide any meaningful screening in the short term.

6.11.22 During the construction and decommissioning phases, the short term temporary in combination effect upon this VRG would be of medium-low magnitude. The overall effect would be of Moderate significance. This effect would be adverse and **significant** for users of PRoW Sporle with Palgrave BR5.

6.11.23 Elsewhere within this VRG, there would be **no significant** sequential or in combination cumulative visual effects for users of the Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path.

Operational

6.11.24 During the operational phase, the magnitude of in combination effects would lessen, when considering the mitigation planting within both the Scheme and High Grove Solar. Proposed tree belt mitigation planting south of Great Palgrave, proposed as part of High Grove Solar, would filter views southwards from VRG 4 and reduce in combination effects.

6.11.25 In the long term during the operational phase, if both developments were to come forward at the same time (i.e. with overlapping construction and decommissioning phases), the overall cumulative scale of change for this VRG and specifically PRoW users of PRoW Sporle with Palgrave BR5 would reduce to low magnitude. The overall effect would be of Moderate significance. This effect would be adverse and **not significant.**

6.11.26 It is judged that there would be no other significant cumulative in combination or sequential visual effects on the remaining visual receptors within the Study Area, as a result of both the Scheme and High Grove Solar.

6.12 Conclusion

6.12.1 This chapter has set out and assessed the likely effects of the Scheme in relation to Landscape and Visual. Likely effects have been assessed for the construction and operational and decommissioning phases of the Scheme. Following the implementation of embedded mitigation as detailed in Section 6.7, residual effects have been identified in relation to landscape and visual during the construction and operational phases.

6.12.2 Table 6-11 sets out a summary of the Landscape and Visual environmental effects, based on the methodology outlined above.

Table 6-11 Summary of landscape and visual effects

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
Construction and Decommissioning Phases									
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA **Within the Site only.**	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium-Low	Large, Short-Term, Limited	High-Medium	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-Moderate Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium-Low	Large, Short-Term, Limited	Medium	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA **Within the Site only.**	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium-Low	Large, Short-Term, Limited	High-Medium	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium-Low	Large, Short-Term, Limited	Medium	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA **Within the Site only.**	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium	Small, Short-Term, Limited	Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium	Small, Short-Term, Limited	Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
F1 River Nar Valley LCA **Within the Site only.**	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Limited	Medium-Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate-Slight Adverse	None	Moderate-Slight	None
F1 River Nar Valley LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Localised	Medium-Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate-Slight Adverse	None	Moderate-Slight	None
G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Limited	Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Limited	Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
VRG1: Central Site Area	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	High-Medium	Large, Short-Term, Wide	High-Medium	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-~~Moderate~~ Adverse	None	**Major-~~Moderate~~ (Significant)**	None
VRG2: North-Eastern Site Area	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	High	Large, Short-Term, Wide	Medium	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-Moderate Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
VRG3: Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	High-Medium	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Wide	Medium - Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	**Moderate (Significant)**	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
VRG4: Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	High	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Localised	Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
VRG5: Castle Acre	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	High	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Intermediate	Medium - Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
VRG6: West Acre and Nar Valley Northern Slope	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	High-Medium	Small, Short-Term, Localised	Low-Negligible	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight-Minimal Adverse	None	Slight-Minimal	None
VRG7: Agricultural land immediately south and west of the Site	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	High-Medium	Small, Short-Term, Localised	Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
A1065	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Low	Medium, Short-Term, Limited	Medium to Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path **Over a limited extent only. Within and up to 300m**	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	High	Medium, Short-Term, Limited	Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	**Moderate (Significant)**	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
from the Site.									
The Nar Valley Way	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	High	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Limited	Medium-Low	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
Rebellion Way Cycle Route **Over a limited extent only. Within the Site.**	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	Medium	Large, Short-term, Limited	Medium	oCEMP, oLEMP, oDS development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	**Moderate (Significant)**	
Operational Phase – Short Term									
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA **Within the Site only.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Short-Term, Limited	High-Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-Moderate Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Short-Term, Limited	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA **Within the Site only.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Short-Term, Limited	High-Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-Moderate Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Short-Term, Limited	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
B7: River Nar Tributary	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Small, Short-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
Farmland LCA **Within the Site only.**					within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.				
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Small, Short-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
F1 River Nar Valley LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Localised	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate-Slight Adverse	None	Moderate-Slight	None
F1 River Nar Valley LCA **Within the Site only.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Limited	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate-Slight Adverse	None	Moderate-Slight	None
G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
VRG1: Central Site Area	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Large, Short-Term, Wide	High~~-Medium~~	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major~~-Moderate~~ Adverse	None	**Major~~-Moderate~~ (Significant)**	None
VRG2: North-Eastern Site Area	Presence of Scheme	High	Large, Short-Term, Wide	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and	Major-Moderate Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
					measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.				
VRG3: Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Medium, Short-Term, Wide	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter. .	Moderate Adverse	None	**Moderate (Significant)**	None
VRG4: Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Localised	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
VRG5: Castle Acre	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Intermediate	Medium - Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
VRG6: West Acre and Nar Valley Northern Slope	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Small, Short-Term, Localised	Low-Negligible	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight-Minimal Adverse	None	Slight-Minimal (	None
VRG7: Agricultural land immediately south and west of the Site	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Small, Short-Term, Localised	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
A1065	Presence of Scheme	Low	Medium, Short-Term, Limited	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
					6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.				
The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path **Over a limited extent only. Within and up to 300m from the Site.**	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium, Short-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	**Moderate (Significant)**	None
The Nar Valley Way	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium to Small, Short-Term, Limited	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate (Not Significant)	None
Rebellion Way Cycle Route **Over a limited extent only. Within the Site.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Large, Short-Term, Limited	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	**Moderate (Significant)**	None
Operational Phase – Medium Term									
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA **Within the Site only.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Medium-Term, Limited	High-Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-Moderate Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Medium-Term, Limited	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA **Within the Site only.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Medium-Term, Limited	High-Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-~~Adverse~~ Moderate Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Medium-Term, Limited	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA **Within the Site only.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Small, Medium-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Small, Medium-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Minimal Adverse	None	Minimal	None
F1 River Nar Valley LCA **Within the Site only.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Medium-term, Localised	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate-Slight Adverse	None	Moderate-Slight	None
F1 River Nar Valley LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Medium-term, Localised	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate-Slight Adverse	None	Moderate-Slight	None
G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Medium-term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
I9 Little Massingham and	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small,	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
Castle Acre LCA			Medium-term, Limited		within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.				
VRG1: Central Site Area	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Large ~~to Medium~~, Medium-Term, Wide	High-Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-Moderate ~~to Moderate~~ Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate ~~to Moderate~~ (Significant)**	None
VRG2: North-Eastern Site Area	Presence of Scheme	High	Large to Medium, Medium-Term, Wide	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-Moderate Adverse	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
VRG3: Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Medium to Small, Medium-Term, Intermediate	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
VRG4: Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium to Small, Medium-Term, Localised	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
VRG5: Castle Acre	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium to Small, Medium-Term, Intermediate	Medium - Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
VRG6: West Acre and Nar Valley	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Small, Medium-Term, Localised	Low-Negligible	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included	Slight-Minimal Adverse	None	Slight-Minimal	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
Northern Slope					within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.				
VRG7: Agricultural land immediately south and west of the Site	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Small, Medium-Term, Localised	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
A1065	Presence of Scheme	Low	Medium, Medium-Term, Limited	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse	None	Slight	None
The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path **Over a limited extent only. Within and up to 300m from the Site.**	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium, Medium-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	**Moderate (Significant)**	None
The Nar Valley Way	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium to Small, Medium-Term, Limited	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	Moderate	None
Rebellion Way Cycle Route **Over a limited extent only.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Large, Medium-Term, Limited	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse	None	**Moderate (Significant)**	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
Within the Site.									
Operational Phase – Long Term									
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA **Within the Site.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Long-Term, Limited	High-Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-Moderate Adverse,	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Long-Term, Limited	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse,	None	Moderate	None
E6: North Pickenham Plateau LCA **Within the Site.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Long-Term, Limited	High-Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Major-Moderate Adverse,	None	**Major-Moderate (Significant)**	None
E6: North Pickenham Plateau LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium-Low	Large, Long-Term, Limited	Medium	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse,	None	Moderate	None
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA **Within the Site.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Small, Long-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse,	None	Slight	None
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Small, Long-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse,	None	Slight	None
F1 River Nar Valley LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Long-	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included	Moderate -Slight Adverse,	None	Moderate-Slight	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
Within the Site.			Term, Localised		within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.				
F1 River Nar Valley LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Long-Term, Localised	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate-Slight Adverse,	None	Moderate-Slight	None
G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Long-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse,	None	Slight	None
I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium to Small, Long-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight Adverse,	None	Slight	None
VRG1: Central Site Area	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Medium to Small, Long - Term, Wide	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse,	None	Moderate	None
VRG2: North-Eastern Site Area	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium, Long-Term, Localised	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse,	None	Moderate	None
VRG3: Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Medium to Small, Long-Term, Intermediate	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse,	None	Moderate	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
VRG4: Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave	Presence of Scheme	High	Small, Long-Term, Localised	Low-Negligible	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate-Slight Adverse,	None	Moderate-Slight	None
VRG5: Castle Acre	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium to Small, Long-Term, Intermediate	Medium - Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse,	None	Moderate	None
VRG6: West Acre and Nar Valley Northern Slope	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Small, Long-Term, Localised	Low-Negligible	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight-Minimal Adverse,	None	Slight-Minimal	None
VRG7: Agricultural land immediately south and west of the Site	Presence of Scheme	High-Medium	Small to Negligible, Long-Term, Localised	Low-Negligible	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight-Minimal Adverse,	None	Slight-Minimal	None
A1065	Presence of Scheme	Low	Medium to Small, Long-Term, Limited	Low-Negligible	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Slight-Minimal Adverse,	None	Slight-Minimal	None
The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path **Over a limited extent only. Within and**	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium to Small, Long-Term, Limited	Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse,	None	Moderate	None

Receptor	Activity	Sensitivity	Description of Impact (Scale, Duration, Extent)	Magnitude of Impact	Embedded Mitigation	Significance and Nature of Effect (with embedded mitigation)	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)	Monitoring requirements
up to 300m from the Site.									
The Nar Valley Way	Presence of Scheme	High	Medium to Small, Long-Term, Limited	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate Adverse,	None	Moderate	None
Rebellion Way Cycle Route **Over a limited extent only. Within the Site.**	Presence of Scheme	Medium	Medium, Long-Term, Limited	Medium-Low	Green Infrastructure Design, oLEMP, development offsets from visual receptors as outlined within **Design Principles, Parameters and Commitments [APP/5.8]** and measures included within section 6.7 of this Landscape and Visual chapter.	Moderate-Slight Adverse,	None	Moderate-Slight	None

References

Ref 6-1 Predicted Tree and Hedgerow Growth, ISEP

Ref 6-2 The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, (2013).

Ref 6-3 An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, (2014).

Ref 6-4 Landscape Institute Technical Information Note 05/2017: Townscape Character Assessment Landscape Institute, (2017), revised April (2018)

Ref 6-5 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/2019 Residential Visual amenity assessment, (2019).

Ref 6-6 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations Landscape Institute, (2021)

Ref 6-7 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals, (2019).

Ref 6-8 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2025)

Ref 6-9 Natural England National Character Areas Assessment: NCA85 The Brecks (2013)

Ref 6-10 Brecks Partnership. Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment, (2013)

Ref 6-11 Breckland Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment, LUC, (2022)

Ref 6-12 Breckland Landscape Character Assessment, LUC, (2007)

Ref 6-13 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment, CBA, (2007)

Ref 6-14 Natural England's National Landscape Character Area NCA 85

THE DROVES

SOLAR FARM