WHITESTONE
solar farm

WHITESTONE SOLAR FARM

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

6.20 Appendix 7.3: Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment

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Contents

Tables

Figures (See ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19])

Figure Number	Figure Title
7.1	LVIA Study Area and Order Limits
7.2	Cable Corridor Study Area
7.3	Landscape Designations
7.4	Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Overview
7.5	ZTV W1
7.6	ZTV W2
7.7	ZTV W3
7.8	ZTV Cable Corridor
7.9	ZTV BESS
7.10	ZTV Substation
7.11	Topography Plan
7.3.1	National Landscape Character Areas
7.3.2	Local Landscape Character Areas
7.4.1	Representative Viewpoints and ZTV - W1
7.4.2	Representative Viewpoints and ZTV – W2
7.4.3	Representative Viewpoint and ZTV – W3
7.4.4	Public Rights of Way and ZTV
7.4.5	Private Receptors and ZTV
7.4.6	Recreational Receptors and ZTV
7.4.7 to 7.4.59	Representative Viewpoints

Appendices (See Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20])

Appendix Number	Appendix Title
7.1	Legislation, Policy, and Technical Guidance
7.2	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology
7.3	Landscape Character Assessment
7.4	Representative Viewpoint Assessment

Glossary

Term	Meaning
Cable Corridors	Corridor within which the high voltage cables would be constructed.
Conservation Area	Conservation Areas are defined by local authorities as areas with special historic and architectural interest that are given extra protection through planning controls and considerations.
Draft Environment Statement	Draft Environmental Statement which presented the preliminary environmental information relating to the Proposed Development. The Draft ES was prepared to present information for Statutory Consultation.
Environment Statement (ES)	The Environmental Statement which presents the environmental information relating to the Proposed Development and assessment of potential effects. The ES has been prepared as part of the Application.
Listed Building	Designated assets. Buildings of special architectural and historic interest protected by legislation.
Order Limits	Maximum extent of the Proposed Development comprising the Site and Cable Corridors.
The Application	The Application to be submitted to the Secretary of State for a Development Consent Order.
The Proposed Development	The proposed Whitestone Solar Farm.
The Site	The land planned to be used for solar PV array and associated infrastructure, BESS substation, and landscaping and habitat enhancement. The Site is split into W1, W2, and W3.
Whitestone 1 (W1)	The northern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
Whitestone 2 (W2)	The middle parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.
Whitestone 3 (W3)	The southern parcels of the Whitestone Solar Farm.

Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AGL	Above Ground Level
ASLV	Areas of Special Landscape Value
BESS	Battery Energy Storage System
CA	Conservation Area
DCC	Doncaster City Council
GLVIA3	Guidance for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
LCA	Landscape Character Area
LCT	Landscape Character Type
LSE	Likely Significant Effects
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MAGIC	Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside

Acronym	Meaning
NCA	National Character Area
NGR	National Grid Reference
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
RMBC	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
VP	Viewpoint
W1	Whitestone 1
W2	Whitestone 2
W3	Whitestone 3
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Units

Units	Meaning
m	Metre
km	Kilometre

7.3 Landscape Character Baseline and Assessment

Introduction

7.3.1 This document supports **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual [EN0110020/APP/6.7].** It provides a description of the baseline landscape character conditions and an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on the landscape character of the Order Limits and the Study Area. This Appendix should be read in conjunction with the following figures provided in **ES Volume 3, Figures [EN0110020/APP/6.19]:**

- **Figure 7.1: LVIA Study Area and Order Limits**
- **Figure 7.2: Cable Corridors Study Area**
- **Figure 7.3: Environmental and Landscape Designations**
- **Figure 7.4: Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Overview**
- **Figure 7.5: ZTV W1**
- **Figure 7.6: ZTV W2**
- **Figure 7.7: ZTV W3**
- **Figure 7.8: ZTV Cable Corridors**
- **Figure 7.9: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – BESS**
- **Figure 7.10: Zone of Theoretical Visibility – Substation**
- **Figure 7.11: Topography Plan**
- **Figure 7.3.1: National Landscape Character Areas**
- **Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas**
- **Figure 7.4.1: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV - W1**
- **Figure 7.4.2: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV - W2**
- **Figure 7.4.3: Representative Viewpoints and ZTV - W3**
- **Figure 7.4.4: Public Rights of Way and ZTV**
- **Figure 7.4.5: Private Receptors and ZTV**
- **Figure 7.4.6: Recreational Receptors and ZTV**; and
- **Figures 7.4.7 to 7.4.59: Representative Viewpoints.**

7.3.2 This Appendix is also supported by following appendices **ES Volume 3, Appendices [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**:

- **Appendix 7.1: Legislation, Policy and Technical Guidance**
- **Appendix 7.2: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Methodology**; and
- **Appendix 7.4: Representative Viewpoint Assessment**.

The Proposed Development

7.3.3 The Proposed Development is described in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: The Proposed Development [EN0110020/APP/6.5]**. The key assumptions relating to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) associated with the Proposed Development are set out in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 7: Landscape and Visual [EN0110020/APP/6.7]**. A brief summary of the assumptions is provided below.

7.3.4 The Proposed Development consists of three main areas, as shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.1: LVIA Study Area and Order Limits [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. Including:

- Whitestone 1 (W1), located south of Conisbrough (centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SK503962)
- Whitestone 2 (W2), located between Aston in the west and Dinnington in the east (centred on NGR SK477874); and
- Whitestone 3 (W3), located south of Wales and Kiveton Park (centred on NGR SK481807).

7.3.5 The key aspects of relevance to the LVIA are:

- The construction phase for the Proposed Development as a whole is anticipated to last for 24 to 36 months. The construction of panels within individual parcels of land would be of considerably shorter duration
- There is embedded landscape mitigation through the siting of the panels to reduce landscape and visual effects and landscape mitigation planting
- Solar PV arrays up to 3.8m above ground level (AGL) within field parcels
- One satellite substation up to 13.5m AGL within W1; and
- One primary and two satellite substations up to 13.5m AGL and one Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) up to 8m AGL adjacent to the primary substation within W2.

7.3.6 The key aspects of relevance for the Cable Corridors for the LVIA are:

- Open trench installation up to 500m sections
- A working corridor of 40m
- Assumed clearance of up to 6m of hedgerow and vegetation along the Cable Corridor; and
- Reinstatement of land cover and replacement planting at the end of the construction phase.

Baseline Landscape Conditions

7.3.7 The following sources of information have been reviewed to aid the preparation of the landscape baseline information:

- Natural England – National Landscape Character Area Profiles
- Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment Final Report (2007)
- Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment Update – Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development

- Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study (2010)
- Sheffield preliminary Landscape Character Assessment (2012) Sheffield City Council
- The Landscape Character of Derbyshire (2014) Derbyshire County Council
- Landscape Character Capacity Assessment for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC) Local Plan Site Selection (2015)
- Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis
- Ordnance Survey Mapping 1:25K and 1:50K scales
- Aerial satellite mapping
- Google Streetview
- Local Council datasets and Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) datasets; and
- Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Mapping from RMBC and City of Doncaster Council (CDC).

Surveys

7.3.8 Fieldwork has been undertaken to verify the desk-based information and to capture photography at the representative viewpoints. Winter visits were undertaken in March 2025 and February 2026 when deciduous trees were without leaf and the summer visit in July 2025 when deciduous vegetation was in full leaf. During the field work the surveyors walked Public Rights of Way (PRoWs) and travelled throughout the Study Area.

Study Area

7.3.9 The Study Area for the Site (W1, W2 and W3) has been defined in accordance with the GLVIA3 guidelines based on a 3km radial area refined from an initial 5km radius identified at scoping following field work. The ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 3, Figures 7.4 to 7.8 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

7.3.10 Cable Corridors have a Study Area extending to 0.5km either side of the proposed route of the cable to consider potential likely significant effects (LSE) during construction. The Cable Corridor Study Area is presented on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.2: Cable Corridor Study Area [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

7.3.11 The baseline also takes account of any protected features, the presence of which may indicate value at a national, regional or more local level. Protected features mostly relate to cultural heritage or nature conservation assets such as Scheduled Monuments, Conservation Areas, Listed Buildings, Historic Parks and Gardens, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Nature Reserves, Ancient Woodland, etc. These features are reported in **ES Volume 2, Chapter 6: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation [EN0110020/APP/6.6]** and **ES Volume 2, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology [EN0110020/APP/6.8]** but are acknowledged within the assessment where relevant.

National Landscape Character Areas

7.3.12 England is divided into 159 distinct National Character Areas (NCAs), each of these being defined by a unique combination of its landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history and cultural and economic activity. The boundaries to the NCAs follow natural lines in the landscape and are not specific to county or district boundaries. Details on the NCAs are provided on the National Landscape Character website[1].

7.3.13 The Proposed Development is situated within two NCAs, these comprising:

- National Character Area 30: Southern Magnesium Limestone; and
- National Character Area 38: Nottingham, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield.

7.3.14 The NCAs are shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.1: National Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

National Character Area 30: Southern Magnesium Limestone

7.3.15 National Character Area (NCA) 30: Southern Magnesium Limestone covers the eastern part of the Study Area.

7.3.16 NCA 30 covers large areas of W1, W2 and W3 on their central and eastern locations.

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.17 NCA 30: Southern Magnesium Limestone comprises a long, thin stretch of land that extends from Thornborough in the north, down through north Derbyshire to the outskirts of Nottingham further south. The NCA comprises of open, rolling arable farmland enclosed by hedgerows, with plantation woodlands, historic estate properties and parkland. The localised networks of grasslands and semi-natural habitats have become fragmented. In places, rivers and dry valleys dissect the plateau from west to east.

Key Characteristics

7.3.18 The published profile for NCA 30 sets out the following key characteristics:

- Underlying limestone creates an elevated ridge with smoothly rolling landform; river valleys cut through the ridge, in places following dramatic gorges. There are also some dry valleys
- Fertile, intensively farmed arable land, with large fields bounded by clipped hawthorn hedges, creating a generally large-scale, open landscape
- Large number of abbeys, country houses and estates with designed gardens and parklands, woodlands, plantations and game coverts
- Long views over lowlands to the east and west, and most prominent in the south
- Woodlands combining with open arable land to create a wooded farmland landscape in places, where traditionally coppiced woodlands support dormouse populations
- Localised industrial influences, especially in the Aire and Don valleys, and in the south and along the fringe of the Coal Measures to the west, with former

mines and spoil heaps (many now restored), power lines, settlements, industry and transport routes. Influenced by the transport corridor of the A1 which is apparent in an otherwise undisturbed rural countryside; and

- Archaeological evidence, with some notable prehistoric sites, reflects the longstanding importance of the area for occupation and transport.

National Character Area 38: Nottingham, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield

7.3.19 National Character Area (NCA) 38: Nottingham, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield covers the western part of the Study Area.

7.3.20 NCA 38 covers large areas of W2 and W3 on their western locations.

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.21 NCA 38: Nottingham, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield is defined by underlying shallow coal measures and consists of the relatively low-lying land to the east of the Pennine Chain, and the engineering towns to the west. The Pennine Dales Fringe forms a boundary to the north and by a low ridge of Southern Magnesium Limestone to the east. Several rivers flow into the NCA from the west, then rise outside the NCA in the Southern Pennines and flow through the Southern Pennine Fringe.

Key Characteristics

7.3.22 The published profile for NCA 38 sets out the following key characteristics:

- A low-lying landscape of rolling ridges with rounded sandstone escarpments and large rivers running through broad valleys, underlain by Pennine Coal Measures
- Local variations in landscape character reflecting variations in underlying geology
- Several major rivers flow through the rural and urban areas of the NCA, generally from west to east in broad valleys
- A mixed pattern of built-up areas, industrial land, pockets of dereliction and farmed open country
- Small, fragmented remnants of pre-industrial landscapes and more recent creation of semi-natural vegetation, including woodlands, river valley habitats and subsidence flashes, with field boundaries of clipped hedges or fences
- Many areas affected by urban fringe pressures creating fragmented landscapes, some with a dilapidated character, separated by substantial stretches of intact agricultural land in both arable and pastoral use
- A strong cultural identity arising from a history of coal mining, steel making and other heavy industry which resulted from the close relationship between underlying geology and resource availability, notably waterpower, iron ore and coal
- Features of industrial heritage such as mills, goits, tips, old railway lines, canals and bridges are evident, along with former mining village

- Many large country houses and estates established by wealthy industrialists in the 18th and 19th centuries and ancient monuments create focal points and important recreational opportunities within the landscape, such as Bretton Hall, Wentworth Woodhouse, Temple Newsam, Nostell Priory, Bolsover Castle and the ruins of Codnor Castle
- Widespread influence of transport routes, including canals, roads and railways, with ribbon developments emphasising the urban influence in the landscape
- An extensive network of multi-user trails on former railway lines and canal towpaths, such as the Trans Pennine Trail and the Ebor Way; and
- Continuing development pressure including land renewal and regeneration projects, especially along river corridors and around towns.

Summary of National Character Areas

7.3.23 The NCAs comprise large geographical areas and display a broad scale of characteristics. The Proposed Development is of small geographical extent in comparison to the overall extent of the NCAs. Therefore, impacts would be small, localised and therefore unlikely to be significant upon the characteristics of the NCAs as a whole and therefore have been scoped out of the LVIA and are not considered further. This is agreed in the Scoping Opinion received from the Planning Inspectorate on 03 June 2025 (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 2.1: EIA Scoping Opinion [EN0110020/APP/6.20]**).

Local Landscape Character Assessments

7.3.24 The Study Area is covered by the following published Local Landscape Character Assessments:

- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (2007) Landscape Character & Capacity Assessment of Doncaster Borough[2]
- Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (2020) Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment Update - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development[3]
- Rotherham Borough Council (2010) Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study[4]
- Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (2015) Landscape Character Capacity Assessment for RMBC Local Plan Site Selection[5]
- Sheffield City Council (2012) Sheffield Green Belt and Countryside Areas Preliminary Landscape Character Assessment[6]; and
- Derbyshire County Council (2014) The Landscape Character of Derbyshire.[7]

7.3.25 These form the basis of the assessment for the LVIA assessment.

7.3.26 The local landscape character studies and Landscape Character Areas (LCA) are set out on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**.

Doncaster Landscape Character Study (2007)

Introduction

7.3.27 The following Landscape types are identified within the Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study Final Report (2007). Reference has been made to the Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment Update – Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development to take account of updates to the character descriptions and consideration of sensitivity in regard to wind energy as an indicator of the inherent value, susceptibility of the landscape character areas. These LCAs are considered to be of an appropriate scale and form the basis of the LVIA.

A1: Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.28 The majority of W1 would be located within A1 - Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA. The southern edge of Conisbrough forms the northern boundary, the LCA extending to the east with Clifton forming the eastern boundary with LCA C1 beyond. The southern boundary broadly follows the M18 and Common Road forms the southern boundary. To the west the boundary broadly follows Firsby Lane and a river south of Ravenfield Ponds to the east of Ravenfield and Hooton Roberts. There is a satellite part of the Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA to the northwest of the central part, this would not be directly affected by the Proposed Development and would experience limited visibility and therefore wouldn't be significantly affected by the Proposed Development.

7.3.29 The main LCA area has slightly elevated landforms and the underlying coal measures cover the far western edge of the borough. The undulating topography is characterised by small tree-lined brooks. The rural landscape is predominantly arable farmland. Medium sized fields vary in shape and irregularity. They are defined by thick hedgerows and mature trees. The large settlement of Conisbrough is directly to the north, but no settlements exist within the area. The majority of tree cover is located along the watercourses, with occasional small areas of deciduous woodland and willow planting. Existing development of similar project types are not existent in this landscape.

7.3.30 Key characteristics of the A1 - Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA comprise of the following and is illustrated in Viewpoint 5 (**ES Volume 3, Figure 7.4.11: Viewpoint 5 Millenium Viewpoint and Micklebring [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**) –. and have been updated to reflect the statement of change, set out in the Doncaster - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development (2020):

- Underlain by coal measures
- Complex undulating topography cut by many small streams
- Landform rises up as an escarpment to the limestone plateau immediately to the east
- Arable farmland with some pasture including horse grazing in an irregular patchwork of medium scale fields
- Thick mixed hedgerows with mature trees on field boundaries

- No settlements but the large settlement of Conisbrough is immediately to the north
- Scattered red brick farmsteads
- Trees along streams and dismantled railway and occasional small blocks of woodland; and
- No public road access with only farm tracks and public rights of way.

Future Baseline

7.3.31 The likely change within the Conisbrough to Denaby Coalfield Farmlands include pressure for development around urban areas, as well as transport development within the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.32 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. Therefore, the LCA is unlikely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.33 There are no statutory designated landscapes within the LCA, however the LCA was previously covered by the Doncaster Area of Special Landscape Value (ASLV). Taking into consideration the local recreational and scenic value the value is considered to be medium.

Susceptibility

7.3.34 The LCA is of medium scale. Vegetation cover is evident in the landscape and can provide screening for views. Views in and out of the landscape will be possible due to the LCA's topography and proximity to other settlements. The landscape is predominantly void of major development or roads (except the M18 in the southeast). Therefore, a medium to high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.35 In consideration of the medium value and medium to high susceptibility the A1 - Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA is judged to be of medium sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.36 During the construction phase, there would be a presence of construction activity and equipment within the Order Limits which would result in direct effects on the LCA. The construction works and activity would result in a change of land use from predominantly agricultural land to an active construction site. The construction works would result in the loss of short sections of hedgerow and the loss of groundcover; however, the majority of hedgerows would be unaffected.

7.3.37 The construction activity within the landscape would be of a greater scale and activity than is typically associated with arable farming. The changes would be at a greater scale than general farming activity, and would be perceived over the majority of the LCA. During the construction works the tranquillity of the LCA would be likely to be reduced as a result of construction activity and mobile equipment.

7.3.38 The construction phase would be temporary and reversible. The construction of the Proposed Development would result in a medium to high magnitude of change

to the Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield farmlands, as the effects of development take place over a large portion of the LCA.

7.3.39 In consideration of the medium sensitivity of the landscape to change and a medium to high magnitude of change, the resulting effect upon Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA would be **Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect during the construction phase.

Cable Corridors

7.3.40 CRA, and CRB pass through the LCA. Both cables would result in a temporary loss of landcover through arable and pasture fields, this loss is temporary and reversible and would be reinstated at the end of the construction phase. There would potentially be the loss of very short sections of hedgerow (reinstated following construction) within the LCA as a result of the Cable Corridor.

7.3.41 Therefore, with a medium sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change this would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon the Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA.

Operation (and Maintenance) Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.42 The Proposed Development would introduce solar PV modules within a large proportion of the Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA. In addition, fencing around the arrays would be included. The Proposed Development would result in a direct change from arable fields to wildflower grassland with solar panels. The ground cover changing from arable fields to wildflower grass cover would be change but not uncharacteristic within the arable land, but the scale of ground cover change would reduce the arable agricultural nature and more pasture and rough grazing appearance of the landscape in addition to the presence of solar panels and fencing.

7.3.43 The Substation, would be a direct change to the landscape and with a permanent track (similar to existing farm tracks in the surrounding landscape) for access would result in a localised change in the character of the landscape.

7.3.44 The new woodland planting and hedgerow enhancement would not yet be established and not contribute to the enhancement or restoration of key characteristics of the LCA.

7.3.45 As a result, at operation there would be a medium magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.46 The medium magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect upon Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.47 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and would enhance the existing key characteristic of thick mixed hedgerows with trees and partially restoring this key characteristic. The enhancement planting would also reduce visibility through the LCA partially reducing the perceived scale and size of the built elements of the Proposed Development. However, while the majority of key characteristics of the LCA would be unchanged, and sections of hedgerow would be enhanced resulting in beneficial changes to the LCA, a large proportion of the LCA would be altered from arable land to wildflower grassland with solar panels.

7.3.48 As a result, at Year 15 there would be a medium magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.49 The medium magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect upon Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.50 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction or operation phase.

A2: Mexborough Coalfield Farmlands

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.51 A2: Mexborough Coalfield Farmlands LCA is located north of Mexborough on the edge of the Study Area approximately 2.5km northwest of the W1. The LCA sits on elevated land between the confluence of the River Dearne and Don. It is defined by its slightly elevated landform and the underlying coal measures which cover the far western edge of the Borough. The undulating topography slopes away to the north, east and west giving open views to urban and industrial areas. It is a remaining rural pocket with an irregular pattern of mostly arable medium to large fields, with fragmented hedgerows and trees on field boundaries.

7.3.52 Key characteristics of the LCA include the flowing and have been updated to reflect the statement of change, set out in the in the Doncaster - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development (2020):

- Underlain by coal measures
- Undulating landform raised between the confluence of the Rivers Don and Dearne
- Arable farmland with some pasture including horse grazing in an irregular patchwork of medium to large fields
- Missing and fragmented mature hedgerows on field boundaries
- Some views to wooded slopes on limestone scarp to the east
- Small stone-built hamlet with adjacent farmstead
- Adjacent to mining settlement of Mexborough and areas of recent suburban expansion
- Long views to urban and industrial areas and spoil heaps in various stages of restoration on the surrounding lower ground of the Dearne Valley outside the LCA
- Limited tree cover is found on field boundaries and around the hamlet
- Minor roads linking settlements; and
- Several public rights of way including along former lanes.

Future Baseline

7.3.53 The likely change within the Mexborough Coalfield Farmlands LCA include pressure for development around urban areas, as well as transport development within the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.54 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. Therefore, the LCA is unlikely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

7.3.55 As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is no visibility of the Proposed Development shown within this LCA, therefore no direct or indirect effects would occur, and no LSE so has not been considered further.

A3: Barnburgh to Hooton Coalfield Farmlands

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.56 The A3: Barnburgh to Hooton Coalfield Farmlands LCA is located north of Mexborough on the edge of the Study Area approximately 2.5km north of W1. This LCA is characterised by its elevated landform and the underlying coal measures which cover the far western edge of the borough. The complex undulating topography is dissected by many small streams, some of which are fed by springs. In the east, the landform rises up steeply to the adjacent limestone plateau. This area comprises arable farmland and pasture in an irregular patchwork of small to medium field bounded by mature hedgerows and trees. Small and medium mixed woodland is scattered across the area and some such as Barnburgh Cliff Wood are associate with the escarpment on the edge of the limestone plateau. The undulating topography and woodland create both open and enclosed views. The area has a strongly distinctive rural character which is disturbed only slightly by views to urban areas.

7.3.57 Key characteristics of the LCA include the following and have been updated to reflect the statement of change, set out in the in the Doncaster - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development (2020):

- Underlain by coal measures
- Complex undulating topography cut by many small streams arising from springs
- Landform rises up as an escarpment to the limestone plateau immediately to the east
- Irregular patchwork of arable fields and pasture
- Small to medium fields bounded by mature hedgerows and trees
- Compact historic stone-built settlements
- Scattered farmsteads
- Historic estates with associated halls, woodland, ponds and pasture
- Small and medium mixed woodland including ancient woodland scattered across the area
- Some woodland on limestone escarpment in the east
- Many public rights of way and farm tracks
- Network of minor roads;
- Occasional major transport corridors including railway and main roads; and
- Some views to urban areas to the east and west outside the LCA.

Future Baseline

7.3.58 The likely change within the Barnburgh to Hooton Coalfield Farmlands include pressure for development on transport within the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.59 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. Therefore, the LCA is unlikely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

7.3.60 As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is no visibility of the Proposed Development shown within this LCA, therefore no direct or indirect effects would occur and no LSE so has not been considered further.

B1: Don Coalfield River

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.61 The B1: Don Coalfield River LCA is located north and northwest of Mexborough, approximately 2km north of W1, and is located in the two converging valleys associated with the River Don and Dearne on either side of Mexborough. The LCA is characterised by the meandering and gently curving watercourses that sit in the flat valley floor floodplains with sections of canalisation and embankments. There is a mixture of large to small scale arable land with some willow biomass crop and pasture. These watercourses are lined with trees, hedgerows and scrub. Some views of the surrounding settlements and other man-made intrusions affect the otherwise naturalistic feel of these valley follows.

7.3.62 Key characteristics of the LCA include the following and have been updated to reflect the statement of change, set out in the in the Doncaster - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development (2020):

- Sand and gravel drifts over coal measures
- Meandering river with a straighter navigation watercourse in a flat valley floor
- Some areas of flood defence embankments and canalisation
- Restored spoil heap at eastern end
- Mix of irregular shaped arable fields and pasture at the western end
- Areas of rough grass, pasture, small carr woodland, immature scrub woodland and a small area of willow biomass
- Popular for other recreational activities including fishing, boating and walking;
- No settlements and few other buildings with the valley floor separating the adjacent settlements of Conisbrough and Mexborough outside the LCA
- Rail corridor along valley floor; and
- Major road crosses valley floor but otherwise no road access.

Future Baseline

7.3.63 The likely change within the Don Coalfield River Corridor include pressure for development around urban areas, as well as transport development within the

countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.64 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. Therefore, the LCA is unlikely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

7.3.65 As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is no visibility of the Proposed Development shown within this LCA, therefore no direct or indirect effects would occur, and no LSE so has not been considered further.

B2: Dearne Coalfield River Corridor

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.66 The B2: Dearne Coalfield River Corridor LCA is located north of Mexborough and borders the Study Area. It is approximately 2.5km north of W1. This LCA is defined by coal measures which lie in the valley bottom of the River Dearne. The landscape is enclosed by the gently sloping valley sides outside the LCA. The River Dearne is defined by flood embankments and gently curves along the flat valley floor. The river is lined by tees and beyond the flood embankments are arable farmland in an irregular patchwork of varied field sizes with missing or fragmented hedges. The valley floor is a well-used recreational corridor with the long-distance route of the Trans Pennine Trail running along its length. There are areas of visual enclosure due in main to trees along water courses, as well as some more open views of the valley and river.

7.3.67 Key characteristics of the LCA include the following and have been updated to reflect the statement of change, set out in the in the Doncaster - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development (2020):

- Sand and gravel drifts over coal measures
- River Dearne takes a gently curving course along the flat valley floor
- Enclosed by the gently sloping valley sides outside the LCA
- Flood embankments alongside watercourse
- Arable farmland in an irregular patchwork of varied field sizes with missing or fragmented hedges
- Nationally important wetland nature site fed by meandering branch off from main river
- Restored spoil heap at eastern end
- No settlements or other built developments
- Limited road access with one busy minor road crossing the valley floor
- Popular recreational corridor with the long-distance footpath; and
- Lines of trees alongside watercourse.

Future Baseline

7.3.68 The likely change within the Dearn Coalfield River Corridor include pressure for development around urban areas, as well as transport development within the

countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.69 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. Therefore, the LCA is unlikely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics, as a result of the transport development.

7.3.70 As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is no visibility of the Proposed Development shown within this LCA, therefore no direct or indirect effects would occur, and the LCA has not been considered further.

C1: Coalfield Farmlands: Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.71 The C1: Coalfield Farmlands: Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau LCA is defined by Conisbrough and New Edlington to the north and Maltby to the south. To the west, it borders LCA A1 and is characterised loosely by Clifton and Micklebring. The eastern boundary of the LCA is mainly defined by open fields and extends out beyond the 3km Study Area. This area is defined by its raised landform, with the highest point being in the southwest corner, near Micklebring. From there, the rolling land dips gently to the north and east to the edges of the low-lying river valleys. To the west, the land slopes away sharply as an escarpment. The landscape is dominated by fertile farmland with a large scale patten of arable land, fragmented hedges and some pasture which create seasonal patchwork.

7.3.72 There are sparsely scattered farmsteads along with villages such as Braithwell, Micklebring, and Clifton. To the southwest of the LCA, small settlements are more concentrated and have smaller scale fields.

7.3.73 Key characteristics of the LCA include the following and are illustrated in Viewpoint 61 (**ES Volume 3, Figure 7.6.55: Viewpoint 61 Lidgets Hill & Conisbrough Parks Bridleway [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**) and have been updated to reflect the statement of change, set out in the in the Doncaster - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development (2020):

- Area of magnesium limestone
- Gently rolling landform dipping gently to the north and east with a steep escarpment to the west
- Large scale intensive arable farmland with some pasture around settlements
- Hedgerows often with gaps or missing altogether from field boundaries
- Some smaller scale fields in the southwest of the LCA
- Stone gate posts found on filed boundaries throughout the LCA
- Sparsely scattered farmsteads and traditional stone built nucleated settlements
- Some modern influences including two motorways that cut through the area
- Industrial style red brick mining settlements and spoil heaps associated with former deep coal mining
- Some large-scale limestone quarrying

- Occasional springs, ponds and also streams in localised dips in the landform
- Ancient woodlands, many small blocks trees and wooded strips along roads and watercourses
- Network of minor roads and some public rights of give good access into the area
- Very rural and tranquil in some areas; and
- Mature roadside hedges restrict views but elsewhere there is an open feel with extensive views to the east and west.

Future Baseline

7.3.74 The likely change within the Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau include pressure for development around urban areas, as well as wind energy development within the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.75 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.76 Within the LCA are two of the Doncaster Areas of Special Landscape Value (ASLV), the one in the west being existing and the one in the east of the LCA being potential additional areas. The landscape has scenic merit. Taking into consideration the local designations and scenic merit a medium value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.77 The landscape is large scale and therefore can accommodate some development. There is large scale farmland in the rolling landform. The small-scale village and motorway reduces susceptibility. Woodland blocks and partial hedgerows limit visibility through this landscape. Therefore, a medium susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.78 In consideration of the medium value and medium susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of a medium sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.79 Activity would comprise very limited works on an embankment to the M18 required for the implementation of green infrastructure and landscaping which would have direct effects on a very small part of this LCA.

7.3.80 The construction phase would be temporary and reversible. There would be an indirect influence on the LCA resulting from visibility of the construction activities to the west within the A1 - Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield Farmlands LCA. In consideration of the very small area directly affected by the Proposed Development and the very limited effects on any landscape features that form key characteristics of the LCA, a negligible magnitude of change would occur on Coalfield Farmlands: Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau.

7.3.81 In consideration of the medium sensitivity of the landscape to change and a negligible magnitude of change, the resulting effect on the C1: Coalfield

Farmlands: Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau LCA would be **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**.

Cable Corridors

7.3.82 Following removal of Cable Corridor Options since submission of the Draft ES, there are now no effects on the C1: Coalfield Farmlands: Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.83 The Proposed Development would be present only in the form of green infrastructure and landscaping in a very small part of this large scale LCA and is considered reversible. There would be indirect perceived effects relating to views of the Proposed Development however physical changes to features that define the LCA are very limited. Therefore, the magnitude of change to the LCA would be negligible.

7.3.84 The negligible magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon C1: Coalfield Farmlands: Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.85 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives as part of the landscape and ecological planting proposals.

7.3.86 As a result, at Year 15 there would be a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.87 The negligible magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Neutral (Not Significant)** effect upon C1: Coalfield Farmlands: Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.88 The proposed Mere Flats Solar Farm would be located within the LCA and would give rise to direct effects on the LCA during its construction. Cumulative effects on the LCA would be largely attributable to the Mere Flats Solar Farm and less so to the Proposed Development which would result in indirect effects on the LCA only. In this regard the cumulative magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development cumulatively with the Mere Flats Solar Farm would be negligible and the resulting cumulative effect **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** at the construction phase.

7.3.89 During operation, the proposed Mere Flats Solar Farm would give rise to direct effects on the LCA. Cumulative effects on the LCA would be largely attributable to the presence of the Mere Flats Solar Farm and less so to the Proposed Development which would result in indirect effects on the LCA only. In this regard the cumulative magnitude of change resulting from the Proposed Development cumulatively with the Mere Flats Solar Farm would be negligible and the resulting cumulative effect **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** during operation.

C2: Cadeby to Adwick Limestone Plateau

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.90 The C2: Cadeby to Adwick Limestone Plateau LCA is located north of Mexborough and borders the Study Area. It is approximately 2.5km north of W1 and is defined by its raised elevation and the magnesium limestone geological

deposits. The highest land in the LCA is found in the east near Hickleton, and from here the rolling hills slope gently to the north, south and east to the edges of the low-lying river valleys. To the west, the land slopes away sharply as an escarpment. Much of the landscape consists of large-scale arable farmland with a few fragmented hedges. There are smaller fields of pasture mainly around settlements. The A1(M) motorway cuts through the LCA from north to south. There are many mines in the LCA, the area where they are contains several country parks. West of the A1(M) motorway are scarcely scattered farmsteads. Historic parklands and designed landscapes are a characteristic feature with associated parkland trees and pastoral land including Brodsworth Park, Melton Park and Cusworth Park. There are fer hedgerow trees, but tree cover is evident throughout with areas of ancient woodland such as Melton Wood, parkland trees, small blocks of trees within farmland and wooded strips along roads. Depending on the viewpoint, there are some extensive views to the east and west.

7.3.91 Key characteristics of the LVA include the following and have been updated to reflect the statement of change, set out in the in the Doncaster - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development (2020):

- Area of magnesium limestone
- Gently rolling landform dipping gently to the north and east with a steep escarpment to the west
- Large scale intensive arable farmland with some pasture around settlements
- Hedgerows often with gaps or missing altogether from field boundaries
- Stone gate posts found on field boundaries throughout the LCA
- Sparsely scattered farmsteads and traditional stone built nucleated settlements concentrated in the west
- Some modern influences including a motorway that cuts through the area
- Industrial style red brick mining settlements and spoil heaps associated with former deep coal mining in the east
- Some large-scale limestone quarrying
- Historic parklands with mature trees and pasture
- Water is almost absent with one stream and a few ponds
- Tree cover is evident throughout with areas of ancient woodland, parkland trees, small blocks of trees in farmland and wooded strips along roads
- Good access with a motorway, main roads and minor roads
- Public rights of way linking settlements and concentrated in the northwest
- Very rural and tranquil in some areas; and
- In some locations there is an open feel with extensive views to the east and west.

Future Baseline

7.3.92 The likely change within the Cadeby to Adwick Limestone Plateau include pressure for development around urban areas, wind energy and transport development within the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.93 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. Therefore, the LCA is unlikely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.94 The landscape has some indicators of value. There are local landscape designations such as historic parklands and designed landscapes which also have scenic quality and recreational value. There are small settlements within the landscape, but it is largely rural. Therefore, a medium to high value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.95 The landscape is large scale, so development is unlikely to cause adverse negative impacts. The landscape has large scale fields which is defined by hedgerows. Views throughout the landscape are evident from PRoW and settlements. Therefore, a medium to high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.96 In consideration of the medium to high value and medium to high susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium to high sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.97 There would be no direct effects on the key characteristics of the LCA as a result of the Proposed Development, effects would be indirect only relating to perceptual changes associated with views of the Proposed Development in the neighbouring LCA.

7.3.98 The construction phase would be temporary and reversible. The construction of the Proposed Development would result in an indirect, negligible magnitude of change to the LCA.

7.3.99 In consideration of the medium to high sensitivity to change and a negligible magnitude of change resulting effect on the C2: Cadeby to Adwick Limestone Plateau LCA would be **Negligible Indirect (Not Significant)**.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.100 The Proposed Development would be visible from the LCA in views to the south but would not detract from the key characteristics of this LCA or result in direct changes to the landscape features which define the LCA. Therefore, a negligible, indirect magnitude of change would occur.

7.3.101 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in an indirect **Negligible (Not Significant)** effect upon C2: Cadeby to Adwick Limestone Plateau LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.102 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and reduce visibility and influence of the built elements of the Proposed Development. As a result, at Year 15 there would remain as a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.103 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in an indirect **Negligible (Not Significant)** effect upon C2: Cadeby to Adwick Limestone Plateau LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

3.1.1 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction or operation phase.

D1: Don Limestone River Valley

Existing Baseline

7.3.104 This LCA is located north of Conisbrough and borders the Study Area. It is located approximately 2km northeast of W1 and is characterised by the river valley bottoms which cut across the magnesium limestone plateau which runs in a continuous band from the south to the north of the borough. The relatively narrow valley bottoms are flat or gently sloping and their degree of enclosure varies from the gently sloping Went Valley to the dramatic River Don gorge at Sprotborough. Watercourses run along the valley bottoms as meandering streams or rivers with some straighter sections and flood embankments. There are varying proportions of small-scale pasture, small to large arable fields and small woodland blocks. The River Don Gorge is very popular for recreation with a long-distance route alongside the river but in the other river valleys there are only a few public rights of way. Trees are mostly found in lines along watercourses.

7.3.105 Key characteristics of the LCA include the following and have been updated to reflect the statement of change, set out in the in the Doncaster - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development (2020):

- Sand and gravel drifts underlain by limestone
- Meandering river on a narrow valley floor
- Enclosed by sloping valley sides of varying steepness
- Some areas of flood defence embankments, weirs and canalisation
- Some water bodies alongside the river
- Popular area for recreation with long distance recreational route running along its length
- Some small to medium pasture and arable fields
- Numerous trees alongside the river
- Single stone-built farmstead but no settlements
- Infrequent traditionally built house or public house
- Some urban influences from outside the LCA with views to urban edges and quarrying
- Road access limited to a busy minor road crossing the valley floor; and
- Major transport corridors including the A1(M) motorway crossing on an elevated bridge and a railway running along part of valley floor.

Future Baseline

7.3.106 The likely change within the Don Limestone River Valley LCA include pressure for development around urban areas. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.107 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key

characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.108 The portion of the LCA falling within the Study Area exhibits limited indicators of value. Therefore, a low value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.109 The landscape is medium scale, so development is unlikely to cause adverse negative impacts. The landscape largely comprises areas of woodland, farmland and quarrying, therefore susceptibility to change is low.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.110 In consideration of the low value and medium to high susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of low sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.111 There would be no direct effects on the key characteristics of the LCA as a result of the Proposed Development, effects would be indirect only relating to perceptual changes associated with views of the Proposed Development in the neighbouring LCA from areas of woodland.

7.3.112 The construction phase would be temporary and reversible. The construction of the Proposed Development would result in an indirect, negligible magnitude of change to the LCA.

7.3.113 In consideration of the low sensitivity to change and a negligible magnitude of change resulting effect on the D1: Don Limestone River Valley LCA would be **Negligible Indirect (Not Significant)**.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.114 The Proposed Development would be visible from the LCA in views to the south but would not detract from the key characteristics of this LCA or result in direct changes to the landscape features which define the LCA. Therefore, a negligible, indirect magnitude of change would occur.

7.3.115 The negligible magnitude of change and low sensitivity would result in an indirect **Negligible (Not Significant)** effect upon D1: Don Limestone River Valley LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.116 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and reduce visibility and influence of the built elements of the Proposed Development. As a result, at Year 15 there would remain as a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.117 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in an indirect **Negligible (Not Significant)** effect upon D1: Don Limestone River Valley LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.118 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction or operation phase

Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study (2010)

Introduction

7.3.119 The following LCAs within the Study Area form the basis of the landscape character assessment. The 2015 capacity study has been considered into determining the overall sensitivity of each landscape character area through reviewing the judgements of value and condition of the landscape character. These LCA's are considered to be of an appropriate scale and form the basis of the LVIA.

4: Don Valley Floor

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.120 The Don Valley Floor LCA is located north of Thrybergh and borders the Study Area to the west. It is approximately 2.5km west of W1 and extends further beyond the Study Area. This area is located in the east of the Borough and runs up to the urban edge of Rotherham. It is adjacent to the boundary with Doncaster Borough and links into Doncaster's Landscape Character Area B1: Don Coalfield River Corridor.

7.3.121 Key characteristics of the LCA include:

- Small section of a longer, more urbanised corridor
- Meandering mainly naturalistic channel of River Don
- Canalised and engineered channel of Kilnhurst Cut
- Flat, broad valley floor
- Large areas of flood meadow; and
- Extensive areas of disturbed land/former works.

7.3.122 Distinctive Features:

- River Don
- Kilnhurst Bridge
- Kilnhurst Ings Local Wildlife Site; and
- Thrybergh Tip.

Future Baseline

7.3.123 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the Don Valley Floor include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.124 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

7.3.125 As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is very minimal visibility of the Proposed

Development shown within this LCA, therefore no direct or indirect LSE effects would occur so has not been considered further.

5a: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Thrybergh

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.126 The Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Thrybergh LCA is located immediately west of W1. Its northern boundary is defined by Conisbrough and Denaby Lane and by Sunnyside to the south. To the east, it borders LCA A1 and to the west it borders Thrybergh and is loosely defined by River Don in places. The Coalfield Tributary Valleys consists of three sub areas; Thrybergh (5a), Treeton (5b) and Canklow (5c). The Thrybergh sub area is more intact as a landscape and more strongly exhibits the Key Characteristics of the Landscape Character Area as a whole. It borders Doncaster County in the northern region of the LCA. Rotherham and Thrybergh border the LCA on the west of the LCA, whilst the eastern boundary is characterised by Wickersley.

7.3.127 Key Characteristics of relevance of Coalfield Tributary Valleys (5a): Thrybergh comprise of the following and are illustrated in Viewpoint 65 (**ES Volume 3, Figure 7.6.59: Viewpoint 65 Ravenfield (east) and Ravenfield Bridleway No.4 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**):

- Predominantly treed arable farmland with fragmented woodland blocks
- Undulating landform with narrow valleys to the north and wide valleys to the south
- Large reservoirs found within the valleys
- Settlement on surrounding higher ground very visually prominent
- Settlement often built of local Rotherham Red stone; and
- Proximity of urban areas.

7.3.128 Distinctive Features:

- Thrybergh Reservoir and Country Park
- Ravenfield Park and Hall to the north of Ravenfield, as well as the village. The village is recorded in the Domesday Book
- Hooton Roberts Church and Mill Buildings; and
- Issues and springs.

Future Baseline

7.3.129 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Thrybergh include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.130 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.131 There are no designated indicators of value within this LCA. There are blocks of ancient woodland and a conservation area within this LCA. The LCA has scenic merit. Therefore, medium value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.132 The landscape is unlikely to experience adverse impact on the landscape due to the large-scale landscape. Woodland blocks and topography reduce visibility throughout this LCA. Therefore, a medium to high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.133 In consideration of the medium value and medium high susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium to high sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.134 There would be no direct effects on the key characteristics of the LCA as a result of the Proposed Development, effects would be indirect only.

7.3.135 The construction phase would be temporary and reversible. The construction of the Proposed Development would result in an indirect, negligible magnitude of change to the LCA.

7.3.136 In consideration of the medium to high sensitivity to change and the negligible magnitude of change the resulting effect on the 5a: Coalfield Tributary Valley - Thrybergh LCA would be indirect **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** .

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.137 The Proposed Development would influence the LCA in views to the east but would not detract from the key characteristics of this LCA. Therefore, a negligible, indirect magnitude of change would occur.

7.3.138 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in an indirect **Negligible (Not Significant)** effect upon the 5a: Coalfield Tributary Valley - Thrybergh LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.139 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and reduce visibility and influence of the Proposed Development. As a result, at Year 15 there would remain as a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.140 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in an indirect **Negligible (Not Significant)** effect upon the 5a: Coalfield Tributary Valley - Thrybergh LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.141 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction or operation phase.

5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Treeton

Existing Baseline

7.3.142 The Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Treeton LCA is located to the east of Sheffield. The northern border is defined by the southern area of Rotherham and loosely by Wales and Aughton to the south. Treeton forms a small part of the western boundary along with LCA 6, and the eastern boundary borders LVA 8. The Treeton sub area has been more heavily affected by urban areas, with Swallownest to the south of the LCA boundary and Rotherham to the north. The eastern extent of the LCA borders open rural landscapes, along with parts of the western boundary around Treeton. The western parcels of W2 would fall within the LCA.

7.3.143 The key Characteristics of Coalfield Tributary Valleys (5b): Treeton comprise of the following and are illustrated in Viewpoint 29 (**ES Volume 3, Figure 7.6.29: Viewpoint 29 Treeton Wood, Wood Lane [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**):

- Predominantly treed arable farmland with fragmented woodland blocks
- Undulating landform with narrow valleys to the north and wide valleys to the south
- Large reservoirs found within the valleys
- Settlement on surrounding higher ground very visually prominent
- Settlement often built of local Rotherham Red stone; and
- Proximity of urban areas.

7.3.144 Distinctive Features:

- Ulley Reservoir and Country Park, although it is well screened from the surrounding area
- Treeton Wood
- Aston Hall Conservation Area, which includes the Hall and its associated parkland; and
- Issues and springs.

Future Baseline

7.3.145 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Treeton include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.146 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.147 The LCA is not covered by a formal landscape designation. There is ancient woodland within this LCA which is an indicator of value. The landscape has scenic and recreational value in the landscape. Therefore, the LCA is judged to be of medium value.

Susceptibility

7.3.148 This large-scale landscape has the ability to accommodate development and surrounding trees would limit visibility of the Proposed Development. However, views from the settlements are prominent due to the topography of the landscape. Therefore, a medium susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.149 Therefore, medium value and medium susceptibility would result in the LCA receiving a medium sensitivity.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.150 During the construction phase, there would be a presence of construction activity and equipment which would have direct effects on a small proportion of this LCA. The construction works and activity would represent a temporary change of land use from predominantly agricultural land to an active construction site which would result in the removal of short sections of hedgerow and a loss of ground cover.

7.3.151 The construction activity within the landscape would be at greater scale and activity than is associated with arable farming. During construction the Proposed Development would reduce the arable appearance of the landscape along with the presence of haul roads, plant, cranes, signage, hoarding and cones associated with construction.

7.3.152 Whilst these changes would be at a far greater scale than general farming activity, they would only be perceived in a small, concentrated area of the LCA, due to the undulating landscape. The construction phase would be temporary for the short term. Therefore, the construction of the Proposed Development would result in a low magnitude of change to the Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Treeton, as the effects of development take place over a concentrated area of the LCA, which is close to existing road networks and settlements. Therefore, would result in a low magnitude of change.

7.3.153 Therefore with a medium sensitivity and a low magnitude of change this would result in a temporary **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Treeton LCA.

Cable Corridors

7.3.154 CRC, CRD-1, CRD-2, CRF and CRG-2 pass through this LCA ultimately connecting with the Long Lane substation via Cable Corridor CRE.

7.3.155 All cables would result in a temporary loss of landcover across arable and pastoral fields, this loss is temporary and reversible and would be reinstated at the end of the construction phase.

7.3.156 Cable corridor CRF would result in the loss of a short section of hedgerow, however in the immediately locality this key characteristic is not as well established with missing and gappy hedgerows. Therefore, the loss would result in a negligible, temporary and reversible magnitude of change upon this LCA for Cable Corridors.

7.3.157 Therefore, with a medium sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change this would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon the 5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Treeton LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.158 The Proposed Development would introduce solar PV modules within field boundaries within a portion of the western extent of the LCA and a small portion of the eastern part of this LCA. In addition, fencing around the arrays would be included. This would result in a direct change from arable fields to wildflower grassland with solar panels. The ground cover changing from arable fields to wildflower grass cover would be a change but not uncharacteristic within the arable land, but the small scale of ground cover change would reduce the arable nature and more pasture and rough grazing appearance of the landscape in addition to the presence of solar panels and fencing.

7.3.159 As a result, at operation there would be a low magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.160 The low magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon Coalfield Tributary Valleys – 5b: Treeton LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.161 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further enhance the character with additional hedgerow and tree planting partially restoring the key characteristics locally and reducing visibility of the Proposed Development in the wider LCA.

7.3.162 As a result, at Year 15 there would be a reduction but would remain a low magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.163 The low magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Treeton LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.164 Thurcroft Energy Park would be located within the LCA and would give rise to direct effects on the LCA during its construction. The extent of the effects would be limited to a small portion of the LCA at both sites and be unlikely to impact the key characteristics of the LCA in a substantive way. The magnitude of cumulative change would be Low and the resulting effect **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** during the construction phase.

7.3.165 During operation, the Thurcroft Energy Park would result in limited direct effects on the LCA due to its limited extent within the LCA. The magnitude of cumulative change would be Low and the resulting cumulative effect would be **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** during operation.

5c: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Canklow

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.166 The Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Canklow LCA is located north of the most westerly area of W2. It is approximately 0.5km north of the closest area of W2. The Canklow sub area is almost entirely surrounded by built development and is much more steeply sloping than the other sub areas. It is surrounded by the settlement of Moorgate to the east and Canklow to the west, with the A631 forming the southern boundary. The southern boundary borders LCA 9: Rother Valley Floor which is rural.

7.3.167 Key characteristics of the LCA include:

- Predominantly treed arable farmland with fragmented woodland blocks;
- Undulating landform with narrow valleys to the north and wide valleys to the south; and
- Proximity of urban areas.

7.3.168 Distinctive Features:

- Issues and springs
- Canklow Woods ancient woodland; and
- Boston Castle.

Future Baseline

7.3.169 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Canklow include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.170 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics.

Value

7.3.171 There are no formal landscape designations within this LCA. There are conservation areas in the northeast of this LCA which are indicators of value. The landscape is relatively small scale and consists of predominantly treed arable farmland with fragmented woodland blocks. It is in proximity to urban areas to the south and northwest. Therefore, low to medium value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.172 Due to the scale of development, the landscape is likely to experience adverse impacts. Views from the settlements are prominent due to the topography of the landscape. Therefore, a medium to high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.173 In consideration of the low to medium value and medium to high susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.174 There would be no direct effects on the key characteristics of the LCA as a result of the Proposed Development, effects would be indirect only.

7.3.175 The construction phase would be temporary and reversible. The construction of the Proposed Development would result in an indirect, negligible magnitude of change to the LCA.

7.3.176 In consideration of the medium sensitivity to change and a negligible magnitude of change the resulting effect would be temporary, **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 5c: Coalfield Tributary Valley - Canklow LCA.

Operation Year 1 (winter)

7.3.177 The Proposed Development would be visible to the south but there would be no direct changes within this LCA. The influence would be minimal upon this LCA, therefore a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.178 The negligible magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 5c: Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Canklow LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.179 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility and influence of the Proposed Development. As a result, at Year 15 there would be a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.180 The negligible magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 5c: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Canklow LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.181 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction or operation phase.

7: Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland

Existing Baseline

7.3.182 The Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland LCA hosts a small area of W3 in the southern part of the LCA and is immediately west of the main area of W3. To the north, it is defined by the Kiveton Park railway line and by the settlement of Norwood and open farmland, to the south. To the east, it borders Wales and parts of LCA 8. This area is located in the south of Rotherham Borough, adjacent to the boundary with Derbyshire. It forms part of the reclaimed landscape associated with Rother Valley Country Park but is not part of the Rother Valley. It runs into the Derbyshire Landscape Character Type Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire & Yorkshire Coalfield - Wooded Farmlands.

7.3.183 Key characteristics of the LCA include and are illustrated in Viewpoint 68 (**ES Volume 3, Figure 7.6.61: Viewpoint 68 Killamarsh Lane [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**):

- Mounded landform associated with the spoil heaps of the former opencast mine that was restored to form the Rother Valley Country Park
- A large proportion of the Character Area is located within the Rother Valley Country Park, with recreational uses such as a golf course and footpaths
- Large blocks of young woodland, planted at the time of the Country Park's creation in the 1980s
- Numerous ditches following the contours of the landform
- Several small waterbodies; and
- The route of the Chesterfield Canal, disused in this vicinity.

7.3.184 Distinctive Features:

- Rother Valley Country Park
- Rother Valley Golf Course
- The former Chesterfield Canal; and
- Nor Wood.

Future Baseline

7.3.185 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.186 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.187 The landscape contains no formal landscape designations. There is ancient woodland at Norwood which is an indicator of value. The LCA has recreational uses being within Rother Valley Country Park and contains a golf course. The LCA has scenic merit and local value. Therefore, a medium to high value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.188 This is a small scale LCA, but woodlands contain views throughout the LCA. Changes from woodland would be a notable change therefore a high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.189 In consideration of the medium to high value and high susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium to high sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.190 During the construction phase, there would be a presence of construction activity and equipment which would have relatively limited direct effects on a small part of the southern portion of the LCA. There would be indirect effects from the influence from construction adjacent to the east. The construction works and activity would represent a temporary change of land use for the area of the LCA used for the Proposed Development from agricultural land to an active construction site which would result in the temporary removal of short sections of hedgerow and a loss of ground cover.

7.3.191 The construction activity within the landscape would be at greater scale and activity than is associated with arable farming and during this time it would reduce the arable appearance of the landscape along with the presence of construction activity.

7.3.192 Whilst these changes would be at a greater scale than general farming activity, they would however be highly localised and perceived over a small extent of the LCA.

7.3.193 The construction of the Proposed Development would result in a negligible magnitude of change to the Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland, as the effects of development take place over a very small portion of the LCA and there would be limited effects on the LCA's key characteristics.

7.3.194 In consideration of the medium to high sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change the resulting temporary effect on the 7: Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland LCA would be **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** during the construction phase.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.195 The Proposed Development would introduce solar PV modules within part of the field boundaries within a small portion of the southern extent of the LCA. In addition, fencing around the arrays would be included. This would result in a direct change from arable fields to wildflower grassland with solar panels. The ground cover changing from arable fields to wildflower grass cover would result in change but not uncharacteristic within the arable land, but the scale of ground cover change would reduce the arable nature and more pasture and rough grazing appearance of the landscape in addition to the presence of solar panels and fencing.

7.3.196 As a result, at operation there would be a Negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.197 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 7: Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.198 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility of the Proposed Development. As a result, at Year 15 there would be a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.199 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 7: Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.200 The proposed Woodall Substation would be located within the LCA and would give rise to direct effects on the LCA during its construction. The extent of the effects would be limited to a small portion of the LCA and be unlikely to impact the key characteristics of the LCA in a substantive way. Cumulatively with the Proposed Development the magnitude of cumulative change would be negligible and the resulting effect **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** during the construction phase.

7.3.201 During operation, the proposed Woodall Substation would result in limited direct effects on the LCA due to its limited extent within the LCA. Cumulatively with the Proposed Development the magnitude of cumulative change would be Negligible and the resulting cumulative effect would be **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** during operation.

8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.202 The Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland LCA hosts the majority of W2 and W3 within its borders. To the north, the LCA borders Maltby and Ravenfield Common and is defined by the A618 to the south. To the east, the LCA borders LCA 9a and bisects settlements such as Dinnington, Kiveton Park and Harthill. To the west, the LCA borders other LCA boundaries such as LCA 7, 5b and 5a. This area is located at the centre of Rotherham Borough and runs north to south through it. It abuts the boundaries with both Doncaster Borough and Derbyshire, running into the Doncaster Landscape Character Area C1: Stainton to Edlington Limestone

Plateau and the Derbyshire Landscape Character Type Southern Magnesian Limestone - Limestone Farmlands.

7.3.203 Key Characteristics of Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland (8) comprise of the following and are illustrated in Viewpoint 26 (**ES Volume 3, Figure 7.6.28: Viewpoint 26 Hardwick (south) and Todwick Bridleway No.7 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**):

- Gently undulating landform
- Large scale arable landscape, with smaller fields around settlements
- Limited woodland cover, although there are woodland blocks at Wickersley Wood and Listerdale Wood
- Most settlement based on mining villages (apart from Todwick which is a dormitory village) with red brick buildings
- Several former deep mines, most now reclaimed, including Thurcroft, Dinnington, Kiveton Pit and Silverwood
- Motorway corridors generally in cutting and not a prominent feature (except in extreme south) – junction of M1 and M18 is prominent
- Stone quarries present around Wickersley; and
- Panoramic wide-angled views to the southwest horizon towards Sheffield.

7.3.204 Distinctive Features:

- Thurcroft Electricity Substation and associated pylons, to the northwest of the M1/M18 junction
- The Chesterfield Canal, some parts of which have been removed or blocked up, including Norwood flight and tunnel
- Numerous small fishing lakes
- Brampton-en-le-Morthen village, which has historically been associated with farming rather than mining
- Harthill Reservoir
- Wickersley Wood and Wickersley Gorse
- Monk's Trail near Wickersley
- Hellaby Hall; and
- Harthill village and church.

Future Baseline

7.3.205 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.206 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.207 This LCA has no formal landscape designations within it. There is a conservation area which is an indicator of value. It has scenic merit and local value such as Harthill Reservoir. Therefore, a medium value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.208 This large-scale landscape, with undulating topography and belts of trees limit extensive views throughout but long views are possible from high ground. Therefore, a medium susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.209 In consideration of the medium value and medium susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.210 During the construction phase, there would be a presence of construction activity for solar arrays or cable corridor throughout much of the central and southern parts of this LCA. This would have direct effects on the character area. The construction works and activity would represent a temporary change of land use from predominantly agricultural land to an active construction site which would result in the temporary removal of short sections of hedgerow and a loss of ground cover.

7.3.211 The construction activity within the landscape would be at greater scale and activity than is associated with arable farming. During this time the construction activity would reduce the arable appearance of the landscape along with the presence of construction activity.

7.3.212 Whilst these changes would be at a far greater scale than general farming activity and perceived over a large, wide extent of the LCA, the construction phase is considered to be reversible, such that it is temporary. Therefore, the construction of the Proposed Development would result in a medium to high magnitude of change to the Central Rother Coalfield Farmland, as the effects of development take place over a large portion of the LCA.

7.3.213 Therefore, with a medium sensitivity and a medium to high magnitude of change this would result in a temporary **Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect upon 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland LCA.

Cable Corridors

7.3.214 Cable Corridors CRB and CRC would cross the northern extent of the LCA. Cable corridors CRF, CRH, CRI-1 and CRI-2 would cross the central part of the LCA. Cable corridors CRJ, CRK-1, CRK-2, CRLM and CRN would cross the southern part of the LCA.

7.3.215 All cables would result in a temporary loss of landcover through arable and pasture fields, this loss is temporary and reversible and would be reinstated at the end of the construction phase.

7.3.216 The negligible magnitude of impact on this medium sensitivity LCA would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect on 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.217 The Proposed Development would introduce solar PV modules within field boundaries within the central part of this LCA. In addition, fencing around the arrays would be included. This would result in a direct change from arable fields to wildflower grassland with solar panels. The ground cover changing from arable fields to wildflower grass cover would be change but not uncharacteristic within the arable land, but the scale of ground cover change would reduce the arable nature and more pasture and rough grazing appearance of the landscape in addition to the presence of solar panels and fencing. There would be wider influence of the change in the wider landscape and LCA.

7.3.218 The new woodland planting and hedgerow enhancement would not yet be established and not contributing to the character of the LCA. As a result, at operation there would be a medium to high magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.219 The medium to high magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect upon 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.220 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives reducing visibility of the Proposed Development within the wider LCA, and restoring hedgerows and increasing tree cover, however it would partially reduce the large-scale appearance and long-distance views through the landscape.

7.3.221 As a result, at Year 15 there would be a reduction to medium magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.222 The medium magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect upon 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.223 The proposed Woodall Substation, Wickersley BESS, Kiveton Park BESS, Thurcroft Energy Park, Common Farm Solar Farm and Piper Lane Solar Farm would be located within the LCA and would potentially give rise to direct effects on the LCA during their construction. The extent of the effects would be limited to discrete portions of the LCA but give rise to an increase in solar arrays and energy infrastructure within the LCA. Cumulatively with the Proposed Development the development proposals would be likely to give rise to a medium to high magnitude of change resulting in a temporary **Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant)** effect.

7.3.224 During operation, the Proposed Development cumulatively with the other developments would give rise to an increase of the presence of solar arrays and energy infrastructure within the LCA. Effects would however be tempered by the establishment of any mitigation planting and enhancement proposals associated with the Proposed Development and other developments. Cumulatively with the Proposed Development the magnitude of cumulative change would be Medium and the resulting cumulative effect would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant)** during operation.

6: Rother Valley Floor

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.225 The Rother Valley Floor LCA hosts part of W2 in the northern extents of the LCA. To the north, it borders both LCA 5b and 5c and is defined by Orgreave to the south. To the east, it borders LCA 5b and Treeton, and to the west, it borders Catcliffe, Waverley and Brinsworth. This area is located on the southwest edge of Rotherham Borough, adjacent to the boundary with Sheffield. It abuts the boundary with Derbyshire, running into the Landscape Character Types Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield; Riverside Meadows; and Wooded Farmlands. The Character Area follows the course of the River Rother through the countryside, up to the urban edge of Rotherham.

7.3.226 Key Characteristics of Rother Valley Floor (6) comprise of the following and are illustrated in Viewpoint 32 (7.6.27):

- Broad, flat valley floor and floodplain
- Meandering course of River Rother, canalised in places to allow for mining operations
- Heavily influenced by opencast mining, most of which has been or is in the process of being restored
- Immature woodland planting
- Major recreation and wildlife corridor; and
- Bisected by M1 motorway.

7.3.227 Distinctive Features:

- Rother Valley Country Park
- Catcliffe Flash Lake
- Treeton Dyke;
- Former Orgreave Open Cast Mine, which is being restored with the intention of creating a new community
- Blue Man's Bower (SAM)
- Canklow Meadows
- Woodhouse Washlands
- Rotherham Motorway Service Station; and
- National Grid Brinsworth Substation at Canklow Meadows.

Future Baseline

7.3.228 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the Rother Valley Floor include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.229 In the absence of the Proposed Development, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.230 There are no formal landscape designations within this LCA, or other formal indicators of value. The landscape has scenic quality due to the dyke's, lakes and

meadows, and local value with the Rother Country Park. The M1 motorway which bisects the landscape is a detracting feature. Therefore, a low to medium value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.231 The landscape is relatively small and will therefore be likely to experience adverse impacts from development. There are existing overhead lines and a substation which reduces its susceptibility somewhat. Therefore, a medium to high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.232 In consideration of the low to medium value and medium to high susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.233 During the construction phase, there would be a presence of construction activity and equipment which would have direct effects on a small part in the north of this LCA. The construction works and activity would represent a temporary change of land use from predominantly agricultural land to an active construction site which would result in the removal of short sections of hedgerow and ground cover.

7.3.234 The construction phase would be temporary and reversible. The construction of the Proposed Development would result in a low magnitude of change to the Rother Valley Floor LCA.

7.3.235 In consideration of the medium sensitivity to change and a low magnitude of change the resulting effect on the 6: Rother Valley Floor LCA would be **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** during the construction phase.

Cable Corridor

7.3.236 CRD-2, CRG-1, CRG-2 are located in the eastern extent of the LCA.

7.3.237 All cables would result in a temporary loss of landcover through arable and pasture fields, this loss is reversible and would be reinstated at the end of the construction phase. The losses of landscape features not readily replaced at the end of the construction phase include the temporary loss of sections of hedgerow.

7.3.238 Cable Corridor CRG-1 would result in the loss of a short section of hedgerow, however in the immediately locality this key characteristic is not as well established with missing and gappy hedgerows. Therefore, the loss would result in a negligible, temporary magnitude of change upon this LCA for Cable Corridors.

7.3.239 Therefore, with a medium sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change the Proposed Development would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect on 6: Rother Valley Floor LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.240 The Proposed Development would introduce solar panels with wildflower grassland in a small part of this LCA. This would result in a direct change from arable fields to solar panels within a localised section of the LCA.

7.3.241 The change would not be heavily impacting the key characteristics of the landscape but would significantly affect the nature and appearance of a small part of this LCA. Therefore, the low magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Minor Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 6: Rother Valley Floor LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.242 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and enhance and partially restore the landscape framework. As a result, at Year 15 there would be a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.243 The negligible magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 6: Rother Valley Floor LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.244 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction or operation phase.

9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau

Existing Baseline

7.3.245 The East Rotherham Limestone Plateau LCA hosts a small area of W3 within its boundaries. To the north, it is defined loosely by Low Lane and to the south by the A618 which borders the district of Derbyshire. To the east, the LCA extends to the boundaries of the Study Area. To the west, the borders are loosely defined by Dinnington and Anston, along with the eastern boundary of LCA 8. This area is located towards the east of Rotherham Borough and runs north south through it. It abuts the boundaries with Doncaster Borough, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. The East Rotherham Limestone Plateau borders mainly rural landscapes to the east of the LCA. Dinnington and North Anston surround some extent of the western boundary, with rural landscapes surrounding the settlements and LCA boundary. The LCA borders the settlement of Harthill to the south, along with Sheffield Council district and Sherwood district.

7.3.246 Key characteristics of the LCA include:

- Gently undulating landform with incised valleys, including Anston Brook, Pudding Dike and Lamb Lane Brook
- Valley sides generally well vegetated, often with ancient woodland and species particular to Magnesian Limestone
- Large scale arable landscape with surviving evidence of ‘Estate’ management
- Several railway lines, both active and disused lines associated with former mines
- Several small Magnesian Limestone-built villages and hamlets in addition to larger mining towns and villages, often also with earlier limestone village cores
- Most settlement located on higher ground
- Panoramic views of the wider landscape beyond Rotherham Borough; and
- Small stand of trees, holts and coverts of (often ancient) woodland break up the arable landscape.

7.3.247 Distinctive Features:

- All Saints church in Laughton-en-le-Morthen

- Dinnington Community Woodland adjacent to the boundary of the LCA and associated with Dinnington
- Thorpe Salvin Hall and Church
- Netherthorpe airfield
- Harthill church forms a landmark on the horizon, despite being outside the LCA
- Anston Stones SSSI, which are limestone crags and the site of Neolithic dwellings;
- The Chesterfield Canal corridor
- St James' church in South Anston
- Harry Croft quarry; and
- Several former limestone quarries, the stone quarried from which was used in the construction of the Houses of Parliament.

Future Baseline

7.3.248 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the East Rotherham Limestone Plateau include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.249 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.250 This LCA contains no formal landscape designations. There are numerous Ancient Woodlands and conservation areas within this LCA which are indicators of value. The Brook's and Dikes have scenic quality. Therefore, a medium value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.251 This large scale LCA has ability to accommodate change, however due to panoramic views throughout the landscape any changes would be readily apparent in the wider LCA which reduces its ability to accommodate change. Therefore, a medium susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.252 In consideration of the medium value and medium susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.253 During the construction phase, there would be a presence of construction activity and equipment in a small part of the western extent of this LCA which would have direct effects on the character area. There would be wider influence from activity adjacent to the west. The construction works and activity would represent a temporary change of land use from predominantly agricultural land to an active construction site which would result in the removal of short sections of hedgerow and ground cover.

7.3.254 The construction phase would be temporary and reversible. The development would occur within a very small part of the LCA, however there would be wider influence from the western extents of the Proposed Development resulting in indirect effects. Overall the Proposed Development would result in a negligible magnitude of change to the East Rotherham Limestone Plateau LCA during the construction phase.

7.3.255 In consideration of the medium sensitivity to change and a negligible magnitude of change the Proposed Development would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau LCA.

Cable Corridors

7.3.256 Cable corridor CRL would run through a small portion of the southern extent of the LCA.

7.3.257 All cables would result in a temporary loss of landcover through arable and pasture fields, this loss is temporary and reversible and would be reinstated at the end of the construction phase.

7.3.258 The negligible magnitude of impact on this medium sensitivity LCA would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect on 9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.259 The Proposed Development would introduce solar panels within one part of a field on the western extent of the LCA. This would result in a direct change from arable fields to solar panels.

7.3.260 The small direct change to the arable fields would not alter the key characteristics of the landscape. Therefore, the magnitude of change is judged to be negligible.

7.3.261 The negligible magnitude of change upon this medium sensitivity LCA would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.262 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility of the Proposed Development and influence upon the LCA.

7.3.263 As a result, at Year 15 would remain a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.264 The negligible magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.265 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction phase.

7.3.266 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the operational phase.

9b: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau – Maltby Colliery

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.267 This LCA is located approximately 3km southeast of W1. It borders LCA C1 to the north and east. To the south, it borders part of Maltby and a mine to the southeast. The LCA borders Doncaster Council District on the northern and eastern border of the LCA. The settlement of Maltby borders the west of the LCA boundary. To the south is open rural landscapes.

7.3.268 Key characteristics of the LCA include:

- Gently undulating landform with incised valleys
- Valley sides generally well vegetated, often with ancient woodland and species particular to Magnesian Limestone
- Large scale arable landscape with surviving evidence of 'Estate' management
- Several railway lines, both active and disused lines associated with former mines
- Most settlement located on higher ground
- Panoramic views of the wider landscape beyond Rotherham Borough; and
- Small stand of trees, holts and coverts of (often ancient) woodland break up the arable landscape.

7.3.269 Distinctive Features

- Maltby Colliery and Stainton Quarter; and
- Wood Lee Common SSSI at Maltby.

Future Baseline

7.3.270 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the East Rotherham Limestone Plateau – Maltby Colliery include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.271 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.272 This LCA contains no formal landscape designations. Former mineral workings are present and is ancient woodland present within this LCA. Therefore, a low to medium value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.273 This LCA is small in scale and predominantly a disturbed landscape due to the former mineral workings and industrial buildings further to the east. Therefore, it has ability to accommodate change but reduces due to its small scale. Therefore, a low to medium susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.274 In consideration of the low to medium value and low to medium susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of low to medium sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.275 There would be perception of construction activity to the northwest, however there would be no direct impacts upon this LCA during construction. Therefore, a negligible magnitude of change would occur.

7.3.276 In consideration of the low to medium sensitivity to change and a negligible magnitude of change the resulting temporary effect on the 9b: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau – Maltby Colliery LCA would be **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** .

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.277 The Proposed Development would have no direct impacts upon the LCA, while there would be visibility to the northwest it would have no direct impacts and therefore would result in a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.278 The negligible magnitude of change and low to medium sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 9b: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau – Maltby Colliery LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.279 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility of the Proposed Development and influence upon the LCA.

7.3.280 As a result, at Year 15 would remain a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.281 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon 9b: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau – Maltby Colliery LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.282 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction phase.

7.3.283 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the operational phase.

11: Ryton Farmlands

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.284 The Ryton Farmlands LCA is located east of W3 and southeast of W2. It is approximately 3km from both areas and borders the Study Areas to the west and forms part of a more extensive valley landscape. Located in the east of Rotherham Borough, adjacent to Nottinghamshire. It runs into the Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Type Magnesian Limestone Ridge - Limestone Farmlands.

7.3.285 Key characteristics of the LCA include:

- Flat floodplain of the River Ryton
- Numerous small disused limestone quarries

- Small discrete woodland blocks
- Medium scale arable farmland with poor hedgerows
- Settlement generally isolated properties and small hamlets, constructed of limestone with pantile roofs
- The railway line between Worksop and Sheffield passes through area, as does the A57 and the Chesterfield Canal; and
- Areas of heathland, particularly around the golf course, typified by the presence of birch and gorse.

7.3.286 Distinctive Features:

- Lindrick Common and Golf Course
- The Chesterfield Canal and its Canal Feeder, which defined the activities that were undertaken historically in this area e.g. small limestone quarries
- The hamlet of Turnerwood; and
- Moses' Seat/The Seat, a glacial feature known as a drumlin.

Future Baseline

7.3.287 The forces of change as identified in the RMBC LCA Study within the Ryton Farmlands include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development for renewable energy projects moving forward.

7.3.288 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

7.3.289 As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is very minimal visibility of the Proposed Development shown within this LCA, therefore no direct or LSE indirect effects would occur so has not been considered further.

Derbyshire County Council Landscape Character Study

Introduction

7.3.290 The following landscape character types within the Study Area, form the basis of the landscape character assessment. The 2014 Character Assessment study was based upon national character areas and then was subdivided into landscape character types (LCTs). For this assessment NCA 30 was subdivided into two LCTs and NCA 38 was subdivided into 39 LCTs. There are 5 LCTs within the Study Area. For ease of identification the 5 LCTs have been prefixed with A, B to cross reference with **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**. These LCTs are considered to be of an appropriate scale and form the basis of the LVIA.

A: Limestone Farmland LCT

7.3.291 This LCT is a subdivision of NCA 30 within the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) LCA study.

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.292 The Limestone Farmland LCT hosts the southern most parts of W3 in the northern region of the LCT. It is defined by the A618 to the north and extends up to the Study Area boundary in the east and south. To the west, it borders LCA b: Wooded Farmlands and is loosely defined by the Spinkhill Road. This LCT runs from Barlborough in the north, to Hardwick and Pleasley in the south. This is a landscape of medium to large, regular shaped arable farmland fields bounded by neatly trimmed thorn hedgerows. Tree cover is chiefly represented by large woodlands such as Scarcliffe Park Wood, Whitwell Wood and Pleasley Park. Even though these are of ancient origin, they have now been largely converted to commercial conifer woodland. There are also more recent, smaller plantations, comprising a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees.

7.3.293 Tree groups do occur around small rural villages and occasional farmsteads. Elm was once prevalent as evidenced in place names like Elmton. The distinct lack of hedgerow trees allied to the gentle relief creates an open landscape allowing for middle to long distance views often ending in a wooded skyline. At Shirebrook and other lower-lying places closer to the county boundary, there is a greater sense of enclosure. This is mainly due to distant views being limited by higher ground to the west.

7.3.294 Key characteristics of the LCT include and are illustrated in Viewpoint 66 (**ES Volume 3, Figure 7.6.60: Viewpoint 66 Barlborough Hall & Barlborough Footpath No.21 [EN0110020/APP/6.19]**):

- Gently rolling limestone plateau
- Fertile soils supporting productive arable farmland
- Large and medium estate woodlands
- Amenity trees around small rural villages and isolated farmsteads
- Large regular fields bounded by hedgerows
- Straight roads with uniform width verges
- Nucleated settlement pattern
- Historic buildings constructed of limestone with red clay pantile roofs
- Panoramic views across lowland to the west; and
- Long distance views over plateau often ending in a wooded skyline.

Future Baseline

7.3.295 The Technical Support Document 3 – Monitoring Landscape Change shows the landscape character as maintained. There would be incremental expansion of housing around existing settlements.

7.3.296 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCT would likely remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.297 There are no formal landscape designations within this LCT. There are numerous conservation areas and ancient woodland which are indicators of value. This landscape has scenic merit. Therefore, a medium to high value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.298 The landscape is relatively large scale and therefore can accommodate development. Lack of hedgerow and trees creates an open landscape with medium to long distance views with wooded skylines. Therefore, a medium to high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.299 In consideration of the medium to high value and medium to high susceptibility the LCT is judged to be of medium to high sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.300 During the construction phase, there would be a presence of construction activity in a small part of the northern extent of this large-scale landscape resulting in direct impacts. The construction works and activity would represent a temporary change of land use for a very small part of this LCT.

7.3.301 The construction activity within the landscape would be at greater scale and activity than is associated with arable farming. During this time the construction activity would reduce the arable appearance of the landscape along with the presence of construction activity.

7.3.302 Whilst these changes would be at a greater scale than general farming activity, they would however be located and perceived over a very small extent of the LCT. Therefore, the construction of the Proposed Development would result in a negligible magnitude of change due to a very small part being affected.

7.3.303 In consideration of the medium to high sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change the Proposed Development would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon A: Limestone Farmland and LCT.

Cable Corridors

7.3.304 Cable Corridor CRN would be located in a small part of the northern extent of the LCT.

7.3.305 Cable Corridor CRN would result in a temporary loss of landcover through arable and pasture fields either side of the M1, it is anticipated that the M1 may be crossed using trenchless crossing and the receiving pits would be located within the adjacent fields and there would be no clearance of trees on the motorway embankments. This would result in a negligible temporary and reversible magnitude of change during construction.

7.3.306 The negligible magnitude of change upon this medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect at construction upon A: Limestone Farmland LCT at Year 1.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.307 The Proposed Development would introduce solar PV modules within a very small part in the northern extent of this LCT. In addition, fencing around the arrays would be included. This would result in a direct change from arable fields to wildflower grassland with solar panels. The ground cover changing from arable fields to wildflower grass cover would result in change but not uncharacteristic within the arable land, but the scale of ground cover change would reduce the arable nature and more pasture and rough grazing appearance of the landscape in addition to the presence of solar panels and fencing.

7.3.308 As a result, at operation there would be a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCT.

7.3.309 The negligible magnitude of change upon this medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon A: Limestone Farmland LCT at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.310 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility of the Proposed Development and influence upon the LCA.

7.3.311 As a result, at Year 15 would remain a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.312 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon A: Limestone Farmland LCT at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.313 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCT and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction and operation phase.

B: Wooded Farmland LCT

7.3.314 This LCT is a subdivision of NCA 38 within the DCC LCA study.

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.315 The Wooded Farmland LCT hosts a small section of W3 on its eastern boundary. The northern boundary is defined by the settlement of Norwood and the border of LCA 7. The eastern boundary is loosely defined by the M1 and by Barlborough, Renishaw and the borders of the Study Area in the south. To the west, the boundary of the LCT is defined by the River Rother.

7.3.316 This is a well-wooded landscape consisting of trees, hedgerows and small woodlands. Densely scattered willow trees occur along watercourses with scattered mature hedgerow trees of oak and ash. Holly and elm hedgerows are well represented in the south and near Barlborough in the north. A strong component in many historic boundaries, they may indicate a previously more extensive wooded landscape. Small ancient semi-natural woodlands are found clinging to steep slopes or along minor tributary valleys. The undulating landform and tree cover help to filter or block views through the landscape.

7.3.317 There is a wide variation in field pattern, reflecting the diverse history of enclosure. Ancient enclosures with irregular shaped fields are particularly prominent to the south of Bolsover. Remnants of medieval strip fields are associated with the fringes of some villages, seen clearly at Killamarsh and south of Clowne.

7.3.318 Key characteristics of the LCT include:

- Gently undulating landform on land rising to the magnesian limestone plateau
- Mixed farming with pasture and occasional arable cropping
- ‘Heathy' vegetation associated with steeper slopes

- Prominent tree cover with dense watercourse trees and scattered hedgerow trees
- Species-rich hedgerows and trees associated with older boundaries
- Ancient enclosure and remnant medieval strip fields; and
- Sparsely scattered farmsteads and wayside cottages.

Future Baseline

7.3.319 The Technical Support Document 3 – Monitoring Landscape Change shows the landscape character as diverging. There would be expansion of industrial development and residential around Killamarsh along with further establishment of woodland cover.

7.3.320 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCT would likely remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics other than the aforementioned changes.

Value

7.3.321 There are no formal landscape designations within this LCT. There are indicators of value with conservation areas in the southwest of this LCT. There are scenic qualities, but the north is predominantly urban, further south becomes more rural and scenic. Therefore, a medium value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.322 The landscape is small scale, but extensive tree cover reduces visibility within the LCT allowing a higher capacity to accommodate change. The presence of Killamarsh and industrial buildings within this LCT reduce its susceptibility. Therefore, a medium susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.323 In consideration of the medium value and medium susceptibility the LCT is judged to be of medium sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.324 During the construction phase, there would be a presence of construction activity and equipment in a very small extent of the northeast extent which would have direct effects on the character area. The construction works and activity would represent a temporary change of land use from predominantly agricultural land to an active construction site which would result in the temporary removal of short sections of hedgerow and a loss of ground cover.

7.3.325 The construction activity would be present in a very small part of the LCT, therefore a negligible magnitude of change would occur.

7.3.326 In consideration of the medium sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change the Proposed Development would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon B: Wooded Farmlands LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.327 The Proposed Development would be present in a very small part of this LCT, the majority of the LCT would be unaffected directly by the Proposed Development. The change to the LCT would be minimal and not impact upon its key characteristics, in this regard the magnitude of change would be negligible.

7.3.328 The negligible magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon B: Wooded Farmlands LCT at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.329 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility of the Proposed Development and influence upon the LCT.

7.3.330 As a result, at Year 15 would remain a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCT.

7.3.331 The negligible magnitude of change and medium sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon B: Wooded Farmland LCT at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.332 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCT and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction and operation phase.

C: Estate Farmland

7.3.333 This LCT is a subdivision of NCA 38 within the DCC LCA study.

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.334 The Estate Farmland LCT is located south of Killamarsh and is approximately 3km southwest of W3 and it borders the boundary of the Study Area. The traditional settlement pattern is characterised by small villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads. Heath, Hardstoft and Sutton Scarsdale are good examples of historic villages that have retained many traditional buildings.

7.3.335 Fields are generally medium in size with a semi-regular to regular field pattern bounded by thorn hedgerows. Many parts have been affected by open cast coal extraction, particularly in the north. Restoration schemes have created large fields laid out in a more regular pattern. Pastoral land is a local occurrence reflecting slightly greater undulations in landform and is particularly notable in the south. Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire Coalfield. A broad, gently undulating landscape characterised by mixed farming and sparse tree cover. Pasture also exists around Renishaw Park and Stainsby, which may indicate the influence of traditional estate management.

Key characteristics of the LCT include:

- Broad, gently undulating landform
- Mixed farming dominated by arable cropping
- Localised woodland blocks and occasional trees
- Hedgerows enclose medium size, semi-regular fields
- Small villages, hamlets and scattered farmsteads constructed from local Coal Measures Sandstone, some expanded with red brick former mining terraces; and
- Open landscape with long distance views.

Future Baseline

7.3.336 The Technical Support Document 3 – Monitoring Landscape Change shows the landscape character as maintained/ diverging. There would be further residential development and expansion of quarry workings.

7.3.337 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCT would likely remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics other than the aforementioned changes.

7.3.338 As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is very minimal visibility of the Proposed Development shown within this LCT, therefore no direct or LSE indirect effects would occur so has not been considered further.

D: Riverside Meadows

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.339 The Riverside Medows LCT is located west of Killamarsh and closely borders the western boundary of the Study Area. It is approximately 3km west of W3. The principal rivers in the coalfield are the Erewash, Rother and the Doe Lea. The River Erewash flows southwards towards the Trent Valley, through the industrial centres of Heanor and Ilkeston. The River Rother flows north through Chesterfield, picking up the River Doe Lea as it flows out of the county.

7.3.340 Enclosure is not a prominent feature. Thorn hedgerows enclose medium sized, regular shaped fields. A sinuous hedge often defines the limit of the flood plain, suggesting the area was once open meadow. Dense to scattered willow and alder occur along the riverbanks, marking the course of the river. There are also occasional mature trees, particularly ash and some oak, along field boundaries. Many areas of neglected grassland are being colonised by scrub. Woodland is not a characteristic of this landscape.

7.3.341 Key characteristics of the LCT include:

- Narrow rivers meander along flood plains of variable width
- Remnant riverside vegetation, wetland and unimproved grassland
- Dairy farming dominated by pasture
- Dense tree cover along river channels
- Scattered tree cover along boundaries; and
- Strong association with transport routes due to the presence of canals, railway lines and roads.

Future Baseline

7.3.342 The Technical Support Document 3 – Monitoring Landscape Change shows the landscape character as maintained.

7.3.343 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCT would likely remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics other than the aforementioned changes.

7.3.344 As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is no or very limited visibility of the Proposed Development shown within this LCT, therefore no direct or LSE indirect effects would occur so has not been considered further.

E: Wooded Hills and Valleys

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.345 The Wooded Hills and Valleys LCT is located southwest of Killamarsh and borders the boundary of the Study Area. It is approximately 3km west of W3. This is a landscape of medium to large fields enclosed by hedgerows. There is widespread tree cover including ancient woodland. The undulating topography makes this a small-scale enclosed landscape. There are few roads throughout this LCT, with predominantly rural character with built development limited to farmsteads and small hamlets and villages.

7.3.346 Key characteristics of the LCT include:

- Upland area with broadly undulating topography
- Moderately steep slopes, becoming steeper along stream valleys
- Mixed farming, predominantly pasture
- 'Heathy' vegetation visually prominent in many road verges
- Woodland bands along stream valleys and on steep slopes
- Dense riverside trees and scattered mature hedgerow trees
- Medium to large fields, enclosed by hedgerows
- Late enclosure on hill summits
- Network of small irregular lanes; and
- Sparsely scattered settlement of farmsteads and hamlets.

Future Baseline

7.3.347 The Technical Support Document 3 – Monitoring Landscape Change shows the landscape character as maintained.

7.3.348 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCT would likely remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics other than the aforementioned changes.

7.3.349 As shown on **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is no visibility of the Proposed Development shown within this LCT, therefore no direct or LSE indirect effects would occur so has not been considered further.

Sheffield Preliminary Landscape Character Assessment (2011)

Introduction

7.3.350 The following landscape character areas within the Study Area, form the basis of the landscape character assessment. The 2011 Sheffield Preliminary Landscape Character assessment study has been considered in determining the overall sensitivity of each landscape character area. As shown within **ES Volume 3, Figure 7.3.2: Local Landscape Character Areas [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** there is theoretical visibility however these locations are within predominately urban areas and any indirect effects resulting from the Proposed Development would not give rise to LSE.

HM1 - Highly Maintained Landscapes

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.351 The Highly Maintained Landscapes LCA is located northwest of Waverley. It borders the boundary of the Study Area in the west and is approximately 2km west of the most western extent of W2. These areas are more numerous and comprise a higher proportion of the Green Belt in the south and east, however, they are also located at intervals around the west and north. Public parks and recreation grounds in the Green Belt include, High Hazels Park, Richmond Park, Charltonbrook, Greenhill Park and Chapeltown Park.

7.3.352 Enclosure varies greatly in these areas. Sometimes there is no physical enclosure to the open spaces which are bounded by the edge of highway or adjacent built environment. Here enclosure may be provided by street trees or woodland or by the adjacent residential or industrial areas and the landform associated with them. In other locations there are medium and long-distance views of the city and/ or the surrounding countryside.

7.3.353 Key characteristics of the LCA include:

- Dominated by management for amenity purposes
- Includes public parks, cemeteries, private grounds and school playing fields
- Mown grass usually dominates
- Includes some mature woodland and isolated trees
- Often includes colourful ornamental planting; and
- Adjacent to urban or suburban areas.

Future Baseline

7.3.354 The likely change within the Highly Maintained Landscape include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside.

7.3.355 In the absence of the Proposed Development, it is predicted that this LCA would evolve to include additional energy developments eroding part of the key characteristics. However, the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.356 There are no formal landscape designations within this LCA. This LCA is of high quality recreational and open space which has local value. Therefore, value is considered to be medium to high.

Susceptibility

7.3.357 Due to the small scale of the landscapes and being highly maintained and for recreational provision they have limited capacity to accommodate development. Therefore, a high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.358 In consideration of the medium to high value and high susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium to high sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.359 There would be no direct impacts upon this LCA during construction. There would be an awareness of construction to the east but would not be noticeable given the surrounding urban context. This would result in a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.360 Then conclude that with a medium to high sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change this would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon HM1 LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.361 The Proposed Development is not within this LCA, it may be perceptible in the east at some distance. Therefore, a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.362 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon HM1 LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.363 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility of the Proposed Development and influence upon the LCA.

7.3.364 As a result, at Year 15 would remain a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.365 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon HM1 LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.366 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction and operation phase.

LO1 - Encapsulated River Valleys to the East

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.367 The Encapsulated River Valleys to the East LCA is located south of Waverley. It borders the boundary of the Study Area and is approximately 2.5km southwest of the most western extent of W2. These linear green fingers of land occurring on the east side of Sheffield associate with river corridors that extend into the heart of the urban area. There are three distinct areas with these characteristics, two of which are in the north-east of the Sheffield district comprising parts of the Hartley Brook Dike valley and the Blackburn Brook valley. There is also a single larger area in the Shire Brook valley in the south-east. Valley sides and slopes are usually gentle, with relic pastoral enclosure along with hedgerows and native woodland merging with informal public open space.

7.3.368 Urban influences are present and affect landscape character, including public utility works, isolated industrial units, and occasional housing and amenity areas. Views from within these areas are framed by either the development along the edges, or by the numerous dense semi-natural woodlands. These encapsulated landscapes provide a recreational resource for local communities and are corridors for wildlife.

7.3.369 Key characteristics of the LCA include:

- Green valley fingers wholly contained within urban areas
- Generally broad valleys with shallow slopes
- Urban and mixed uses influence character
- Some pastoral enclosure with hedges and scrubby vegetation
- Woodland especially on skyline
- Often containing transportation routes
- Evidence of industrial relic activities
- High proportion of land available for recreational use; and
- Publicly accessible using footpaths and bridleways and also with some evidence of informal routes.

Future Baseline

7.3.370 The likely change within the Encapsulated River Valleys to the East include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development from expansion.

7.3.371 In the absence of the Proposed Development the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.372 There are no formal landscape designations within this LCA. These landscapes are characterised as linear green fingers which are situated within valleys of Brook's and Dikes. The green fingers provide recreational value as they have multiple PRoW and Bridleway routes and also provide conservation interest due to their wildlife value. Valley sides which surround the landscapes are usually gentle and have cultural value due to their relic pastoral enclosures on the valley sides. Native and semi-natural woodland is evident in the landscape. Therefore, a medium to high value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.373 Views in the landscape are evident in some locations and are framed either by development or semi-natural woodland along the edges. Urban areas and mixed-use land influences the character, making it less susceptible to change. But due to the size and nature of the landscape, development is likely to cause adverse impacts on the character of the landscapes. Therefore, a medium to high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.374 In consideration of the medium to high value and medium to high susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium to high sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.375 There would be no direct impacts upon this LCA during construction. There would be an awareness of construction to the east but would not be noticeable given the surrounding urban context. This would result in a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.376 Then conclude that with a medium to high sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change this would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon LO1 LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.377 The Proposed Development is not within this LCA, it may be perceptible in the east at some distance. Therefore, a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.378 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon LO1 LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.379 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility of the Proposed Development and influence upon the LCA.

7.3.380 As a result, at Year 15 would remain a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.381 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon LO1 LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.382 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction and operation phase.

LO3 - Lowland Rolling Slopes and Valleys

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.383 The Lowland Rolling Slopes and Valleys LCA has multiple satellite areas within the Study Area. Each of the LCA satellite areas border the western extent of the Study Area and are approximately 2.5km from both W2 and W3 at their closest areas. These lowland areas of gently rolling slopes and valleys are characterised by farmland with predominantly hedged field boundaries. There are just three separate areas with this designation. All are on, or towards the southern boundary of Sheffield. There are two areas, relatively close together in the south-east and a single area in the south-west which is notable in that it lies immediately adjacent to areas with dry stone wall boundaries.

7.3.384 Farming is mainly pastoral in the area to the south-west and mixed arable and pastoral to the south-east. Some amenity areas are included and there are views of both suburban areas and industrial areas to the east.

7.3.385 Key characteristics of the LCA include:

- Gently rolling slopes and shallow valleys
- Pastoral enclosure and woodland
- Mixed pastoral and arable farmland to the south south-east
- Pastoral dominant to the west
- Some amenity areas
- Sometimes views of suburban areas
- Sometimes views of industry to the east; and
- Hedge field boundaries.

Future Baseline

7.3.386 The likely change within the Lowland Rolling Slopes and Valleys include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside.

7.3.387 In the absence of the Proposed Development the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.388 There are no formal landscape designations within this LCA. The landscapes are characterised as lowland areas and gently rolling slopes and valleys which are adorned with farmland and hedgerow field boundaries. There are some amenity areas in the landscape. Therefore, a medium to high value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.389 Views within the landscape are evident towards and from suburban and industrial areas. Due to the small scale of the landscapes, development is likely to cause adverse impacts on the character of the landscape. Therefore, a medium to high susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.390 In consideration of the medium to high value and medium to high susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium to high sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.391 There would be no direct impacts upon this LCA during construction. There would be an awareness of construction to the east but would not be noticeable given the surrounding urban context. This would result in a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.392 Then conclude that with a medium to high sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change this would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon LO3 LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.393 The Proposed Development is not within this LCA, it may be perceptible in the east at some distance. Therefore, a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.394 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon LO3 LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.395 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility of the Proposed Development and influence upon the LCA.

7.3.396 As a result, at Year 15 would remain a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.397 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to high sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon LO3 LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.398 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction and operation phase.

LO5 - Encapsulated Farmland

Existing Baseline Conditions

7.3.399 The Encapsulated Farmland LCA is located southwest of Waverley and has two satellite LCA area in this location. Both areas of LO5 are approximately 2.5km southwest of W2 at its closest point. The farmland in these areas is surrounded by urban development which reduces the rural feel. Surrounding mixed uses influence character which, include residential, light industrial and derelict land. These areas have gentle rolling slopes with shallow valleys and views that are dominated by the surrounding suburban and industrial land uses. They are located mainly to the east adjacent to Handsworth and Orgreave and south-east of Sheffield with a single area in Ecclesfield to the north.

7.3.400 Enclosure within the farmland is predominantly by hedgerows, with the various boundaries of adjacent land uses where they abut. Visual enclosure is often provided in part by the built environment with suburban development on some skylines. In other areas there is little visual enclosure, with distant views of residential and industrial areas such as found in the areas in the east of Sheffield around Handsworth, Woodhouse Mill and Orgreave.

7.3.401 Key characteristics of the LCA include:

- Surrounded by urban areas
- Farmland with urban or suburban influence
- Mainly arable farming with some pastoral and horse grazing
- Mixed uses influence character
- Gentle slopes and shallow valleys
- Includes some woodland
- Some derelict or abandoned areas; and
- Some amenity areas.

Future Baseline

7.3.402 The likely change within the Encapsulated Farmlands include pressure for development around urban areas and the countryside. There will be increased pressure for the development from expansion from surrounding urban areas.

7.3.403 In the absence of the Proposed Development the LCA is likely to remain similar to the baseline and key characteristics.

Value

7.3.404 There are no formal landscape designations within this LCA. There is some amenity value from the woodland areas. Derelict and abandoned areas, along with industrial and urban land, influences the character of the landscape negatively. Therefore, a low to medium value is given.

Susceptibility

7.3.405 Due to the small scale of the landscape this would reduce its capacity, however the varied character and existing development increases the capacity to accommodate change. Therefore, a medium to low susceptibility to change is given.

Landscape Sensitivity

7.3.406 In consideration of the medium to low value and medium to low susceptibility the LCA is judged to be of medium to low sensitivity to change.

Magnitude of Change and Significance
Construction (Winter)

7.3.407 There would be no direct impacts upon this LCA during construction. There would be an awareness of construction to the east but would not be noticeable given the surrounding urban context. This would result in a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.408 Then conclude that with a medium to low sensitivity and a negligible magnitude of change this would result in a temporary **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon LO5 LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Winter)

7.3.409 The Proposed Development is not within this LCA, it may be perceptible in the east at some distance. Therefore, a negligible magnitude of change.

7.3.410 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to low sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon LO5 LCA at Year 1.

Year 15 (Summer)

7.3.411 The landscape mitigation planting would have matured and met its design objectives and further reduce visibility of the Proposed Development and influence upon the LCA.

7.3.412 As a result, at Year 15 would remain a negligible magnitude of change upon the character of the LCA.

7.3.413 The negligible magnitude of change and medium to low sensitivity would result in a **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)** effect upon LO5 LCA at Year 15.

Cumulative Effects

7.3.414 There are no similar forms of development proposed or consented within the LCA and in this regard there would be no direct cumulative effects during the construction and operation phase.

Summary of Effects on Landscape Character

7.3.415 The LVIA has provided an assessment of the likely effects upon LCAs and LCTs resulting from the Proposed Development during construction and operation.

Summary of Landscape Character Effects during Construction

7.3.416 The LVIA indicates that construction could result in significant effects on the host LCAs with **Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant) Effect** on LCA A1: Conisbrough and Denaby Coafield Farmlands and LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland. There would be **Minor Adverse (Not Significant) Effects** on 5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Treeton and 6: Rother Valley Floor with **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant) Effects** on the rest of the LCAs in the Study Area.

Construction Effects of Cable Corridors

7.3.417 No significant effects have been identified during the construction of the Cable Corridors. The highest effects were **Minor Adverse (Not Significant) Effects** upon 5b: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Treeton resulting from CR 2c and on 9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau resulting from CR 3b with **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant) Effects** from all other Cable Corridors on the LCAs they directly pass through during construction.

Summary of Landscape Character Effects (Year 1)

7.3.418 A summary of the landscape effects Year 1 (Operation Year 1) is set out in **Table 7.3.1**.

7.3.419 The Year 1 assessment has identified the following potential significant effects of **Major/Moderate Adverse (Significant) Effect** upon LCA A1: Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough to Denaby Coalfield Farmlands and LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland. All other LCAs within the Study Area were found to be not significant with four LCAs having **Minor Adverse (Not Significant) Effects** and six LCAs to have **Negligible Adverse (Not Significant) Effects**.

Summary of Landscape Character Effects (Year 15)

7.3.420 A summary of the landscape effects Year 15 (Operation Year) is set out in **Table 7.3.1**.

7.3.421 The Year 15 assessment has identified the following potential significant effects would remain based upon **ES Volume 3, Figure 5.1: Illustrative Masterplan [EN0110020/APP/6.19]** and the illustrative mitigation plan which is an appendix to the **oLEMP [EN0110020/APP/5.13]** (in addition to continued maturation of the existing vegetation).

7.3.422 There would be **Moderate Adverse (Significant) Effect** upon two of the host LCAs these comprising A1: Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough to Denaby Coalfield Farmlands and LCA 8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland. The effects relate to changes from arable farmland to wildflower grassland with solar panels. Beneficial effects on the LCAs would however result from the enhancements to hedgerows and woodland which form the landscape framework to the field parcels. All other host and indirectly affected landscape character areas were considered to be **Not Significant**.

Table 7.3.1: Summary of Effects on LCAs/LCTs during Operation

LCA/LCT	Effect (Year 1)	Effect (Year 15)	Discussion
Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment			
A1: Coalfield Farmland - Conisbrough to Denaby Coalfield Farmlands	**Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)**	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	The host character area for W1, the design has been carefully reviewed to reduce effects where possible and provide enhancement to the key characteristics, however due to the extent of change significant adverse effects are predicted to remain. The perception of effects would

			be likely to be reduced on further maturation of the mitigation planting.
A2 – Conisbrough and Denaby Coalfield	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows no visibility within this LCA so there would be no indirect impacts therefore no LSE would be experienced and was not assessed further in the LVIA.
A3 – Barnburgh to Hooton Coalfield Farmlands	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows minimal visibility in the northeastern part of this area, due to the distance being over 2.5km this is unlikely to result in indirect LSE so therefore was not assessed further in the LVIA.
B1 – Don Coalfield River Corridor	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows no visibility within this LCA so there would be no indirect impacts therefore no LSE would be experienced and was not assessed further in the LVIA.
B2 – Dearne Coalfield River Corridor	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows no visibility within this LCA so there would be no indirect impacts therefore no LSE would be experienced and was not assessed further in the LVIA.
C1: Coalfield Farmlands: Stainton to Edlington Limestone Plateau	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	Effects would relate to activities within a negligible portion of the LCA. Key characteristics of the LCA largely unaffected.
C2: Cadeby to Adwick Limestone Plateau	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	No direct effects on the LCA as a result of the Proposed Development, effects would be indirect only. Perception of effects would be likely to be reduced further on maturation of the mitigation planting.
D1 – Don Limestone River Valley	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	No direct effects on the LCA as a result of the Proposed Development, effects would be indirect only. Perception of effects would be likely to

			be reduced further on maturation of the mitigation planting.
Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment			
4 – Don Valley North	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows very limited visibility within this LCA so there would be no indirect impacts therefore no LSE would be experienced and was not assessed further in the LVIA.
5a: Coalfield Tributary Valleys - Thrybergh	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	No direct effects on the LCA as a result of the Proposed Development, effects would be indirect only. Effects would be likely to be reduced further on maturation of the mitigation planting.
5b: Coalfield Farmland Tributary Valleys - Treeton	**Minor Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Minor Adverse (Not Significant)**	The Proposed Development would result in a minor effect on the key characteristics of the LCA however the perception of effects would be likely to reduce with further maturation of the landscape mitigation planting.
5C: Coalfield Tributary Valleys – Canklow	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	No direct effects on the LCA as a result of the Proposed Development, effects would be indirect only. Effects would be likely to be reduced further on maturation of the mitigation planting.
6: Rother Valley Floor	**Minor Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	The Proposed Development would result in a negligible effect on the key characteristics of the LCA however the perception of effects would be likely to reduce with further maturation of the landscape mitigation planting.
7: Rother Valley Reclaimed Woodland	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	The Proposed Development would result in a negligible effect on the key characteristics of the LCA however the perception of

			effects would be likely to reduce with further maturation of the landscape mitigation planting.
8: Central Rotherham Coalfield Farmland	**Moderate to Major Adverse (Significant)**	**Moderate Adverse (Significant)**	The host character area for W2. The Proposed Development would result in a moderate effect on the key characteristics of the LCA however the perception of effects would be likely to reduce with further maturation of the landscape mitigation planting.
9a: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	The LVIA assessed effects as Negligible upon this LCA, therefore significant effects would not be experienced. The perception of effects would reduce on further maturation of the landscape mitigation planting.
9b: East Rotherham Limestone Plateau - Maltby Colliery	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	The LVIA assessed effects as Negligible upon this LCA, therefore significant effects would not be experienced. The perception of effects would reduce on further maturation of the landscape mitigation planting.
11 – Ryton Farmlands	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows minimal visibility in the northeastern part of this area, due to the distance being over 2.5km this is unlikely to result in indirect LSE so therefore was not assessed further in the LVIA.
Derbyshire Landscape Character Assessment			
A: Limestone Farmland LCT	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	The LVIA assessed effects as Negligible upon this LCA, therefore significant effects would not be experienced.
B: Wooded Farmland LCT	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	The LVIA assessed effects as Negligible upon this LCA, therefore significant effects would not be experienced.

C – Estate Farmland	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV show no or minimal visibility within this LCA, given the distance there is unlikely to be LSE indirect impacts on this LCA.
D – Riverside Meadows	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows no visibility within this LCA so there would be no indirect impacts.
E – Wooded hills and Valleys	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows no visibility within this LCA so there would be no indirect impacts.
Sheffield Preliminary Landscape Character Assessment			
HM1 - Highly Maintained Landscapes	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	**Negligible Adverse (Not Significant)**	The LVIA assessed effects as Negligible upon this LCT, therefore significant effects would not be experienced. The perception of effects would reduce on further maturation of the landscape mitigation planting.
LO1 – Encapsulated River Valleys	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows visibility but due to distance and surrounding context there is unlikely to be LSE so therefore no further modification is required.
LO3 – Lowland, Broad River Valley	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows no visibility within this LCA's in the south, the northern LO3 shows visibility across the area but given the distance and surrounding context indirect impacts are not predicted to be significant.
LO5 – Encapsulated Farmland	Not assessed further	Not assessed further	The ZTV shows visibility within this LCA, however given the distance and surrounding context indirect impacts are not predicted to be significant.

Landscape Effects during Decommissioning

3.1.1 The decommissioning phase would broadly reflect the activities set out in the construction phase but likely to be reduced as removal would require less disturbance than during the construction phase. Effects identified during construction phase are considered to be similar or less for the decommissioning

phase, therefore a separate assessment for decommissioning phase has not been undertaken and would be as reported for construction.

References

[1] Natural England (2024) National Landscape Character Areas https://nationalcharacterareas.co.uk/

2 Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (2007) Landscape Character & Capacity Assessment of Doncaster Borough

3 Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (2020) Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment Update - Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development

4 Rotherham Borough Council (2010) Rotherham Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Capacity Study

5 Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (2015) Landscape Character Capacity Assessment for Rotherham MBC Local Plan Site Selection. Addendum No 1

6 Sheffield City Council (2012) Sheffield Green Belt and Countryside Areas Preliminary Landscape Character Assessment

7 Derbyshire County Council (2014) The Landscape Character of Derbyshire

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