

# Sea Link

## Volume 6: Environmental Statement

**Document: 6.3.2.1.D**

**Part 2 Suffolk**

**Chapter 1 Appendix 2.1.D**

**Visual Amenity Baseline and Assessment**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference:**

**Version: A**  
**March 2025**

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





Contents

1. Visual baseline and assessment

Table of Tables

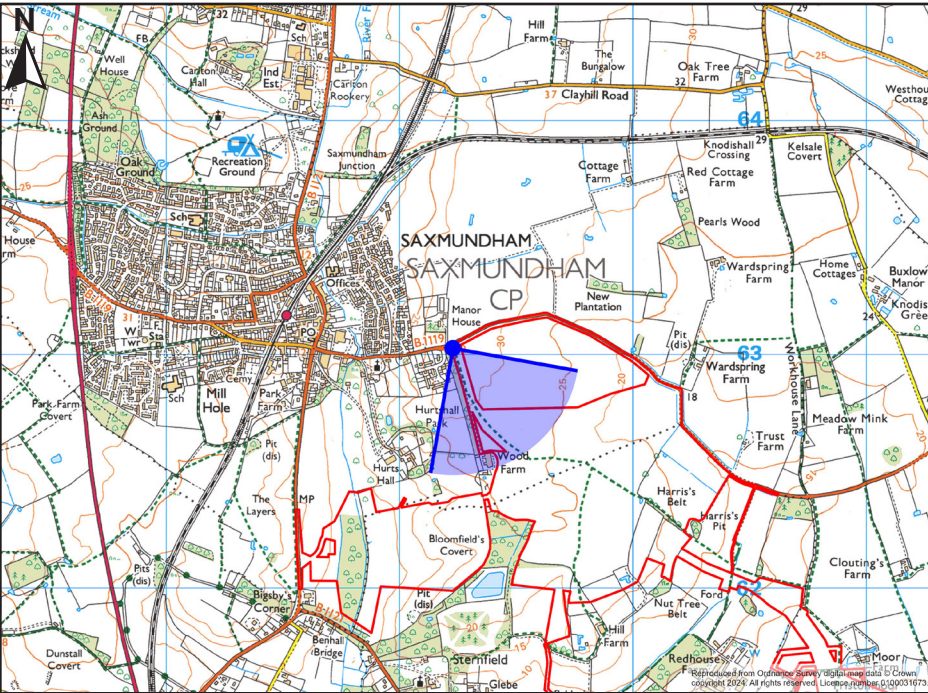
Table 1.1	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 1: Public Footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 23), east of Saxmundham, looking southeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	4
Table 1.2	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 2: B1121, south of Saxmundham, looking east at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	6
Table 1.3	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 3: Public Bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 29), east of Saxmundham, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	8
Table 1.4	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 4: Public Bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 10) south of the B1119, southeast of Saxmundham, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	10
Table 1.5	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 5: Public Bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 10), east of Sternfield, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	12
Table 1.6	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 6 (a): Public Footpath (Friston 260, route 17), east of Sternfield, looking southeast and Viewpoint 6 (b): Public Footpath east (Friston 260, route 17), of Sternfield, looking northwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	14
Table 1.7	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 7: Grove Road, north of Friston, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	18
Table 1.8	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 8 (a): Public Bridleway (Friston 260, route 2), east of Friston, looking northwest and Viewpoint 8 (b): Public Bridleway (Friston 260, route 2), east of Friston, looking northeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	22
Table 1.9	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 9: Knodishall Common and public footpath (Knodishall 354, route 18), west of Knodishall, looking northwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	26
Table 1.10	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 10: Aldeburgh Road (A1094), and Public Bridleway (Aldeburgh 103, route 12a), looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	28
Table 1.11	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 11: Public Footpath (Aldeburgh 103, route 16), north of Aldeburgh Golf Course, looking northwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	30
Table 1.12	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 12: Leiston Road, north of Aldeburgh, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	32
Table 1.13	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 13: Approved King Charles III England Coast Path route, south of Thorpeness, looking southwest and west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	34
Table 1.14	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 14: Public Footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 37), north of Saxmundham, looking southeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	36
Table 1.15	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 15: Clayhills Road and public footpath (Kelsale-cum-Carlton, route 34), east of Carlton, looking south at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	38
Table 1.16	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 16: Abbey Lane to the north of Knodishall Green, looking southwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	40
Table 1.17	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 17: Saxmundham Road (B1119) and public footpath (Leiston-cum-Sizewell, route 3), on the edge of Leiston, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	42
Table 1.18	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 18: Suffolk Coast Path recreational route, east of Snape, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	44
Table 1.19	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 19: Red Lane, southeast of Sternfield, looking northeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	46
Table 1.20	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 20: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 17), looking east at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	48
Table 1.21	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 21: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 8), looking southwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	50
Table 1.22	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 22: Saxmundham Road (B1121), northwest of Friston, looking northeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	52
Table 1.23	Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 23: Church Road, Friston, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)	56

1.1	Summary of likely effects on visual receptor groups	58
-----	---	----



Table 1.1 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 1: Public Footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 23), east of Saxmundham, looking southeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Visual Baseline Description

A large-scale arable field extends from the foreground into the middle-ground, with a farm track denoting the western boundary. The farm track comprises the right-side of the view in the foreground and middle ground, with agricultural buildings and Wood Farm (Grade II listed building) located at the end of the track in the middle distance. The B1119 denotes the boundary of the agricultural field to the north of the viewpoint, which is a busy road with regular vehicles passing along. The landform falls away from viewpoint location allowing long distance views to the east.

Small blocks of woodland and linear tree belts are scattered within arable land in the middle to long-distance with occasional individual trees within field enclosures. Isolated agricultural and residential buildings are scattered in the middle to long-distance below the tree line, as such they do not break the skyline. The layered vegetation creates filtered views towards dense woodland block on the skyline. The energy infrastructure at Sizewell is visible against the skyline to the east in the distance, as well as the existing OHL which breaks the skyline in the middle and long-distance views to the south-east.

Baseline View (Winter)



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E639225 N263029
Approx. Distance to the Project	762m (to converter station)
General Direction of View:	SOUTHEAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The view contains typical large-scale arable land which is likely to be valued by the local community. The influence of the existing OHL and energy infrastructure at Sizewell in the middle to long-distance reduces the scenic quality of the view.  MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors on the edge of Saxmundham, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents, albeit views are partially screened by intervening vegetation. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience and the local road network where their focus is not on views of the landscape.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network, including the B1119, on the approach to the settlement of Saxmundham, the local PRoW network to the east of Saxmundham and residential properties on the eastern edge of Saxmundham.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Very large      Effect: Major adverse (significant)

It should be noted that PRoW E-491/006/0 and E-491/005/0 would be diverted during the construction phase; however, this would not affect this viewpoint location as the diversion includes the route on which this viewpoint is located along the B1119.

There would be direct views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, HVAC and HVDC cable corridors and a temporary attenuation pond adjacent to the B1119 and outfall pipe in the foreground and middle ground, which would include a construction compound as well as construction plant and material and earthworks predominantly within the large-scale arable field, dependent on optionality for the construction compound .

Construction activity would occupy the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, would obstruct long-distance views across the arable farmland and would result in large-scale uncharacteristic machinery and activity within the view. The location of the construction compound would not make a difference to the overall effect due to the collective visual influence of all the construction activity within the view. Such views would be in the context of the busy B1119 road with frequent movement and the existing OHL in the distance, which would slightly lessen the degree of contrast of the construction works but it would remain a substantial change in the view.

Vegetation removal associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality for a period of construction until the permanent access route is constructed, which are not present currently but within the context of the busy B1119 road.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view largely associated with the construction compounds.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) are not considered to be perceptible from this location and would be limited to the upper extents of construction plant in the distance and within the context of the existing towers and OHL. Construction activity associated with the bridge across the River Fromus and permanent access road to the west of Wood Farm are unlikely to be visible due to intervening mature vegetation.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Very large      Effect: Major adverse (significant)

There would be direct views of the Saxmundham Converter Station with bunding on the northern edge in the foreground to the east of Wood Farm. Occasional vehicle movement along the permanent access route would be visible in the same part of the view as the Saxmundham Converter Station.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would occupy a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, limiting part of the long-distance views of arable farmland but the majority of the long-distance views across arable farmland would remain. The Saxmundham Converter Station would be a large-scale, uncharacteristic feature within the view, which is emphasised by the contrast with the smaller scale of Wood Farm. Despite being at a comparable height to the existing OHL in the distance, due to the proximity to the receptor, the type of infrastructure and its scale and mass which would break the skyline, the Saxmundham Converter Station would result in a substantial change to the composition of the view.

The HVDC and HVAC cable corridors would take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction but would be fully reinstated to agricultural land and former vegetation, excluding trees. Permanent tree removal associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view. Above ground kiosks associated with the underground HVAC cable corridor would also be barely perceptible at this distance.

Associated lighting at the Saxmundham Converter Station site would be visible across part of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the west and north of the Saxmundham Converter Station would consist of young whip planting therefore at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible as any views of the upper extents of proposed towers would be at a distance and within the context of the existing towers and OHL.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Large      Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would continue to be direct views of the Saxmundham Converter Station with bunding along the northern edge and occasional vehicle movement along the permanent access route in the foreground occupying a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) to the west and north of the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured and part would be located on bunding which would provide some additional height and screening benefit. The planting would partially screen the lower parts of the permanent infrastructure and fencing; however, the upper extents and majority of the Saxmundham Converter Station would remain directly visible and a pronounced change in the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible. as any views of the upper extents of proposed towers would be at a distance and within the context of the existing towers and OHL.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

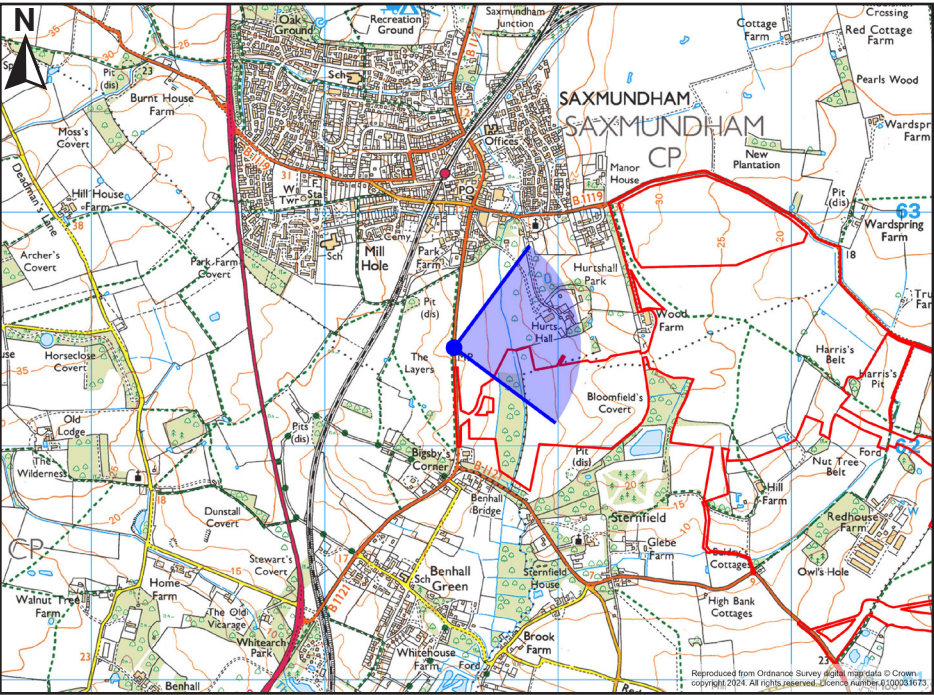


For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.



Table 1.2 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 2: B1121, south of Saxmundham, looking east at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E638551 N262419
Approx. Distance to the Project	1096m (to converter station)
General Direction of View:	EAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The content of the view has a high scenic quality, with the presence of an estate parkland associated with Hurts Hall. The view is also recognised within the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as an 'Important Local View' and part of a 'Green Gateway' on the approach to Saxmundham. The view also includes St John's Church, Saxmundham.  HIGH
Susceptibility	The surroundings are an important visual contributor to the experience of those using the local PRoW network; however, this is currently dominated by the busy B1121 which detracts from the visual experience. The viewpoint is also representative of road users.  MEDIUM
Sensitivity	HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network and local PRoW network between the settlements of Saxmundham and Benhall Green. It is also representative of road users along the B1121.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a grass verge and young hedgerow planting that are located on the eastern boundary of the B1121. The B1121 is a busy road with regular traffic passing along into Saxmundham. A large-scale agricultural field extends from the foreground to the middle distance, which is enclosed by post and wire fencing on the eastern extent. The landform is undulating, which limits long distance views to the east.

The middle distance comprises estate parkland, containing grassland with scattered young and mature trees. It is assumed that the plantation along the River Fromus within the middle distance of the existing view would have been felled prior to construction and operation. The plantation therefore does not form the baseline for the visual assessment. Hurts Hall and associated outbuildings are located within the estate parkland, located on rising land, such that it is a prominent feature of the view. The landform rises to the east towards a wooded skyline, comprising mature vegetation within Bloomsfield's Covert in the distance. There is a slight break in this vegetation to the southeast of Hurts Hall.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Large Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be oblique views of construction activity associated within the permanent access route, bridge across the River Fromus and Saxmundham Converter Station in the foreground through to the background of the view. This would include a construction compound as well as construction plant and material and earthworks to enable cut and fill for the permanent access road in the foreground.

Construction activity would occupy a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view across the falling and then rising arable land, albeit views of the activity would not be the focus of the receptors moving along and adjacent to the B1121 and would be within the context of busy traffic along the B1121. Views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station would be partially screened by mature woodland vegetation to the east of Hurts Hall. Tall construction plant would be visible above the tree line and construction activity through the break in vegetation to the southeast of Hurts Hall.

There would be direct views to construction activity associated with the permanent access route in the foreground and on the rising land to the east of the River Fromus. Construction activity associated with the bridge over the River Fromus would also be visible in the middle ground, above the intervening landform. As such, construction activity would occupy a proportion of the vertical extent of the view. There would also be vegetation removal in the existing gap in the mature vegetation network across the skyline, which would result in more direct views to construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently but within the context of the busy B1119 road.

It should be noted that the viewpoint is taken from a point along the B1121 where there is a break in the hedgerow vegetation, denoted by the whips in the foreground. Further along the B1121, views would be partially screened towards the construction activity by roadside vegetation. Furthermore, the location of the public footpath is set behind hedgerow vegetation on the western edge of the B1121, therefore further limiting direct views to construction activity; however, tall plant would remain visible in oblique views.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be visible across part of the horizontal extent of the view in the context of the southern settlement edge of Saxmundham.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) is not considered to be perceptible from this location.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Large Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be direct views of the permanent access route including occasional vehicle movement and the bridge across the River Fromus in the foreground and middle ground. The Saxmundham Converter Station would be visible within a small part of the horizontal extent in the background of the view, in a gap in the mature vegetation network along the skyline. It would be partially screened by existing mature woodland vegetation and would break the skyline.

The permanent access route would result in a noticeable new linear element splitting the large-scale arable field in two which would contrast with the existing landscape pattern in the view. For the River Fromus Bridge Option 1 and the River Fromus Bridge Option 2, there would be an incongruous addition into the middle distance, which would appear out of character with the existing features in the view. Both options for the River Fromus would result in a permanent loss of mature vegetation along the eastern edge of the River Fromus; however, this would not be entirely uncharacteristic in the view due to existing gaps in the mature vegetation network. Whilst Option 2 would appear comparatively smaller within the view compared with Option 1 it would not be sufficient to change the overall magnitude of change.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would typically appear due to its apparent scale as a prominent feature against the skyline. It would appear out of character in the context of Hurts Hall set within the parkland landscape. Views of the permanent infrastructure would not be the focus of the receptors moving along and adjacent to the B1121 and would be within the context of busy traffic along the B1121. The permanent access route would also result in the permanent loss of tree vegetation to the south of Wood Farm which would not be uncharacteristic due to the existing gap in the mature vegetation network.

It should be noted that the viewpoint is taken from a point along the B1121 where there is a break in the hedgerow vegetation, denoted by the whips in the foreground.

Further along the B1121, views would be partially screened towards the Saxmundham Converter Station and permanent access route. Furthermore, the location of the public footpath is set behind hedgerow vegetation on the western edge of the B1121, therefore further limiting available views.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations.

Associated lighting is expected to be limited and would be limited to a small part in the background of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time and within the context of the southern settlement edge of Saxmundham.

Landscape planting (refer to Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation) along the permanent access route, around the River Fromus bridge crossing and to the west of the Saxmundham Converter Station would consist of whips (other than along the permanent access route where feathered trees would be planted along the hedgerow), therefore at year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would continue to be direct views of the permanent access route, River Fromus bridge crossing and part of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the foreground through to the background occupying a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view.

Landscape planting (refer to Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation) associated with the permanent access route and around the River Fromus bridge would have matured. This would create new green infrastructure links and assist in partially restoring the permanent loss of trees in the vegetation along the River Fromus. The vegetation would also be in the context of newly planted vegetation in the local landscape.

Landscape planting to the west and north of the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured and part would be located on bunding which would provide some additional height and screening benefit. This would aid the softening views in the direction of the permanent infrastructure; however, the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station would remain visible and a noticeable change in the composition of the view.

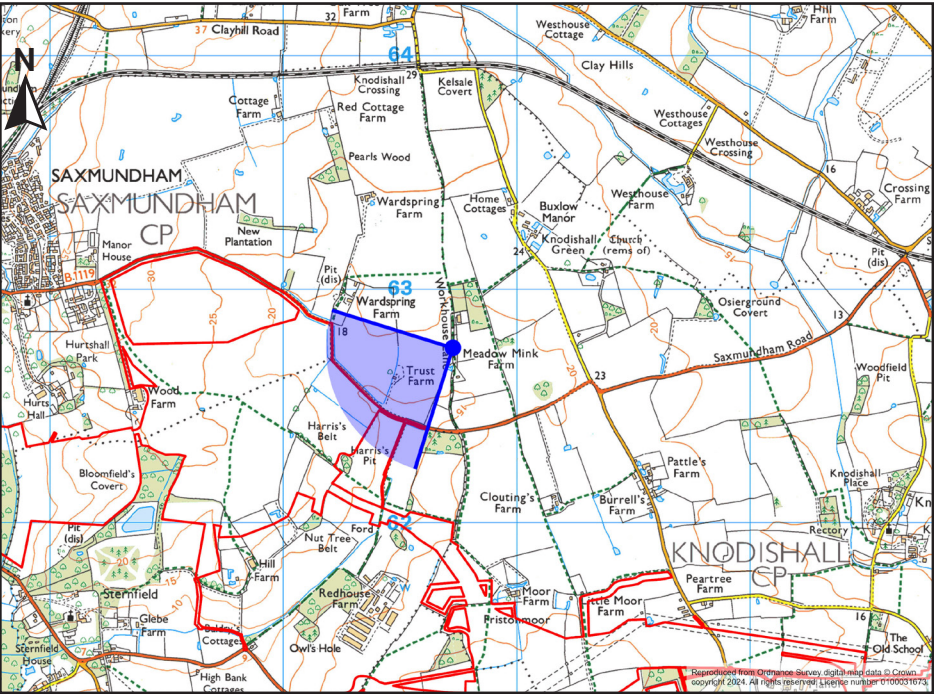
The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible.



Table 1.3 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 3: Public Bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 29), east of Saxmundham, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E640724 N262730
Approx. Distance to the Project	881m (to converter station)
General Direction of View:	WEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view has elements which increase the scenic quality, due to the rural agricultural land and blocks of mature vegetation which is likely to be valued by the local community. However, the presence of the existing OHL to the north of the viewpoint detracts from the scenic quality of the view.  MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors on the edge of Saxmundham, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents, albeit views are partially screened by intervening vegetation. It is also representative of users of the local ProW network where views are an important part of the experience.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of residents within a nearby residential property off the B1119 and recreational users of the local PRoW network to the east of the settlement of Saxmundham.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises wooden fencing that denotes the route of the public bridleway. Large-scale agricultural land extends from the foreground into the middle distance, with small blocks of mature vegetation and isolated trees scattered within field enclosures creating a layered vegetation network with gaps to views to the long distance. There are also views of a Christmas Tree plantation within the middle ground within a network of some medium-scale fields.

The mature vegetation screens long distance views to the northwest and southwest. Several isolated residential buildings are located within mature vegetation blocks in the middle distance. Wood pole lines break the skyline in the middle to long distance, to the west of the viewpoint. The route of the B1119 in the middle distance is screened by intervening landform; however, vehicle movement along this route is visible.

The landform gently falls away from the viewpoint location and then rises again to the south-west of the B1119 to the west towards a wooded skyline. Wood Farm is visible in the distance to the west of the viewpoint, which sits below the height of the trees on the skyline. The existing OHL breaks the skyline to the south of the viewpoint in the distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Large    Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be direct and partially screened, by intervening pockets of mature vegetation, views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, HVDC and HVAC cable corridors and a temporary attenuation pond adjacent to the B1119 and outfall pipe in the foreground and middle ground. This would include a construction compound as well as construction plant and material and earthworks largely within the large-scale arable field in the middle ground with construction activity associated with the cable corridors extending through the medium-scale field enclosures to the east and potentially a construction compound dependent on optionality.

The construction activity would occupy a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, would obstruct long-distance views across the arable farmland and would introduce large-scale uncharacteristic machinery and activity within the view. Such views would be in the context of the busy B1119 road with frequent vehicle movement and the existing OHL in the distance, which would slightly lessen the degree of contrast of the construction works but it would remain a pronounced change in the view.

Vegetation removal associated with the HVAC and HVDC cables routes would consist of hedgerow and some tree removal on field boundaries, including part of two Category C tree groups and a hedgerow to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station, where routeing has been unable to avoid such vegetation. This vegetation loss would be less apparent in the view due to the context of the existing pattern of vegetation blocks and would be set against the existing layered vegetation network.

The construction activity associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes is not considered to be dissimilar to typical machinery on arable fields, which reduces the contrast to the existing view. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality for part of the construction period until the permanent access route is constructed.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be partially visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view, largely associated with the construction compounds.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) would be limited to distant views of taller

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



construction plant in the context of the existing OHL due to intervening landform and vegetation.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Large    Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be views of the Saxmundham Converter Station with bunding on the northern edge in the middle ground across a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The Saxmundham Converter Station would break the skyline and would be partially screened by lower-level mature vegetation. There would be direct views of short sections of monitoring access routes with occasional vehicle movement off the B1119 along new hardstanding on the edge of the field enclosures.

There would be views of the permanent loss of trees associated with the HVAC and HVDC corridor and monitoring accesses to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station; however, the majority of the cable corridor would be restored to the former land use immediately following construction. Areas of agricultural land would be restored quickly, whereas hedgerow reinstatement would take comparatively longer to re-establish. Above ground kiosks associated with the underground HVAC cable corridor would also be barely perceptible at this distance.

Whilst the Saxmundham Converter Station would occupy a central part of the horizontal extent of the view the peripheral parts of the view would be unaffected and views towards the planting on the edge of the settlement of Saxmundham would remain. The Saxmundham Converter Station would; however, be uncharacteristic and large-scale, emphasised by the contrast in scale with the individual residential properties in the view. The majority of farm buildings and residential properties in the landscape are associated with shelterbelt planting, which the Saxmundham Converter Station would not be which would further contrast in the existing composition of the view.

The occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access routes would be within part of the view with existing movement along the B1119 and would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural vehicle movement in the landscape. The hardstanding along such routes would not be dissimilar to other existing farm tracks in the local landscape. The permanent tree loss in the landscape to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes and permanent monitoring access would be minimal and would remain less perceptible as the removal would be set against the existing layered vegetation network.

Associated lighting is expected to be limited and would be apparent within the existing view when lit, partially screened by intervening mature vegetation. The lighting would be on for occasional and short periods of time.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station, within the field enclosures to the east and along the B1119 would mainly consist of whips other than the hedgerow trees which would be feathered, therefore at Year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible due to intervening landform and vegetation.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Large    Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would continue to be direct views of the upper extent of the Saxmundham Converter Station with bunding in the middle ground and occasional vehicle movement along the permanent access routes which would extend the proportion of the horizontal extent of the view impacts by the Proposed Development.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured and part would be located on bunding which would provide some additional height and screening benefit. Landscape planting along the B1119 would also have matured. This would aid the softening views in the direction of the permanent infrastructure; however, the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station would remain visible resulting in a pronounced change occupying the central part of the composition of the view.

The landscape planting in the field enclosures to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station would also assist in the strengthening the green infrastructure network where there would be permanent tree loss associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable corridor.

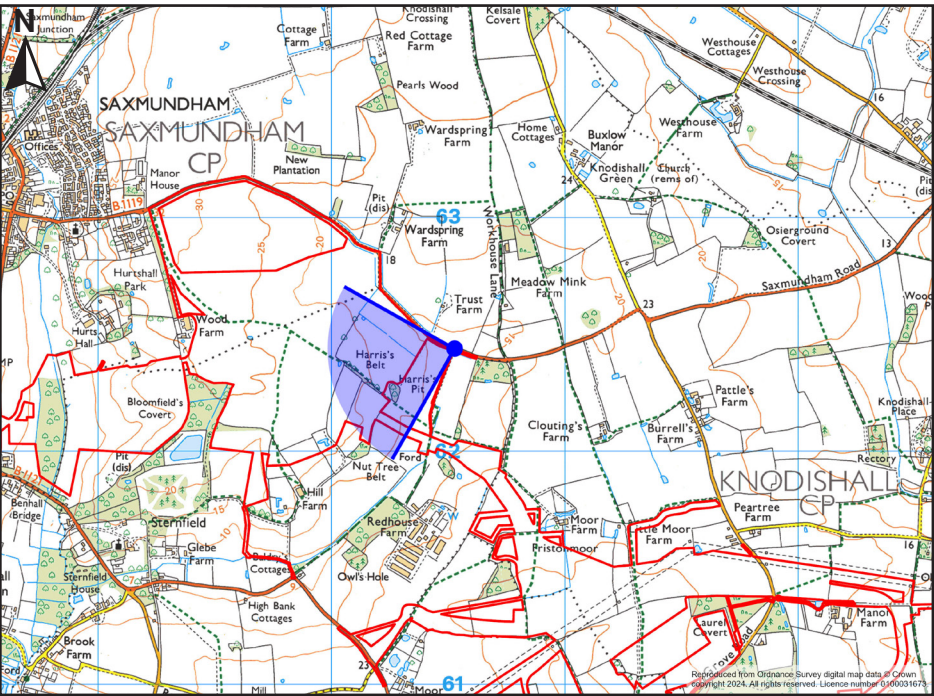
The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.



**Table 1.4 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 4: Public Bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 10) south of the B1119, southeast of Saxmundham, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)**

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E640520 N262430
Approx. Distance to the Project	600m (to converter station)
General Direction of View:	WEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The content of the view comprises rural agricultural land, with blocks of mature vegetation, which exhibits scenic quality. The B1119 and the Christmas Tree plantation in the foreground, as well as the existing OHL in the distance, reduce the scenic quality somewhat. However, the view is also recognised within the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as an 'Important Local View' and part of a 'Green Gateway' on the approach to Saxmundham which increases the value.  HIGH
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience and the local road network where their attention is not focused on the landscape.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	VERY HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between Saxmundham and Friston, road users along the B1119 and residents within nearby residential properties.and residents within nearby residential properties.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a medium-scale Christmas Tree plantation, bound by a ditch with associated scrub vegetation on the northeastern boundary. The B1119 lies adjacent to the field to the northeast, extending from the foreground into the middle distance on the right side of the view and with busy traffic along it.

In the middle ground, linear tree belts and blocks of mature vegetation are scattered within medium and large-scale arable agricultural fields, creating a well vegetated and layered view. Scattered, isolated properties are visible in the middle distance, which are situated below the tree line. The landform gently rises from the viewpoint to the west, which along with mature vegetation within Harris's Pit, Harris's Belt and Nut Tree Belt, and vegetation along the B1119 in the middle distance, screens long distance views to the west and northwest.

In the distance, there is a framed view towards the tree belt on the eastern settlement edge of Saxmundham through vegetation in the middle distance. The existing OHLs are visible in the distance to the south of the viewpoint, which break the wooded skyline.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

**Construction**  
Magnitude: **Very large**      Effect: **Major adverse (significant)**

There would be direct and partially screened, by intervening pockets of mature vegetation, views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, HVDC and HVAC cable corridors and a temporary attenuation pond adjacent to the B1119 and outfall pipe in the foreground and middle ground. This would include a construction compound as well as construction plant and material and earthworks largely within the large-scale arable field in the middle ground, construction access in the foreground and construction activity associated with the cable corridors extending through the medium-scale field enclosures to the south.

The construction activity would occupy the majority of the horizontal extent of the view. This would result in large-scale uncharacteristic machinery and activity within the view. Such views would be in the context of the busy B1119 road with frequent movement and the existing OHL in the distance. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently, including in the foreground as the viewpoint location lies on a construction access route. This would also be within the context of the busy B1119 road.

Vegetation removal associated with the HVAC and HVDC cables routes would consist of hedgerow and some tree removal on field boundaries, including part of two Category C tree groups and a hedgerow to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station, where routeing has been unable to avoid such vegetation. This vegetation loss would not contrast the existing pattern of blocks of vegetation creating gaps to long distance views. The activity is not considered to be dissimilar to typical machinery on arable fields, which reduces the contrast to the existing view. The construction of the temporary attenuation pond would partially obscure distant framed views to mature vegetation on the settlement edge of Saxmundham which although in a small part of the horizontal extent of the view would be uncharacteristic.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be partially visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view, largely associated with the construction compounds.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) would be limited to distant views of taller construction plant in the context of the existing OHL due to intervening landform and vegetation.

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter**  
Magnitude: **Very large**      Effect: **Major adverse (significant)**

There would be views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle ground across a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The Saxmundham Converter Station would break the skyline and would be partially screened by lower level intervening mature vegetation. There would be direct views in the foreground of a monitoring access route with occasional vehicle movement along the existing track that the viewpoint location is situated on.

There would be views of the permanent loss of trees associated with the HVAC and HVDC corridor to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station; however, most of the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated immediately following construction. Areas of agricultural land would be restored quickly, whereas hedgerow reinstatement would take comparatively longer to establish within the view. Above ground kiosks associated with the underground HVAC cable corridor would be perceptible but are not considered to alter the composition of the view.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would appear as an uncharacteristic and large-scale element occupying the central part of the horizontal extent of the view resulting in a substantial change to the composition of the view. The framed view towards the tree belt on the edge of Saxmundham would; however, remain open and uninterrupted, maintaining visibility of this important edge of settlement aspect. The scale and mass of the converter station would be further emphasised by the contrast in scale with the individual residential properties visible in the wider landscape and peripheral parts of the view.

Associated lighting (controlled manually as required during periods of low light or darkness) is expected to be localised and would contrast in the existing view when lit, albeit partially screened by intervening mature vegetation.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station, within the field enclosures to the east and along the B1119 would consist of whips and feathered trees therefore at year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible. due to intervening landform and vegetation.

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer**  
Magnitude: **Large**      Effect: **Moderate adverse (significant)**

There would continue to be direct views of the upper extent of the Saxmundham Converter Station and occasional vehicle movement along the monitoring access route in the foreground.

Landscape planting (**refer to Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured and part would be located on bunding which would provide some additional height and screening benefit. Landscape planting along the B1119 would also have matured. This would aid the softening of views in the direction of the permanent infrastructure; however, the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station would remain visible and a pronounced change in the composition of the view.

The landscape planting in the field enclosures to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station would also assist in the strengthening the green infrastructure network in the wider view, where there would be permanent tree loss associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable corridor.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible.

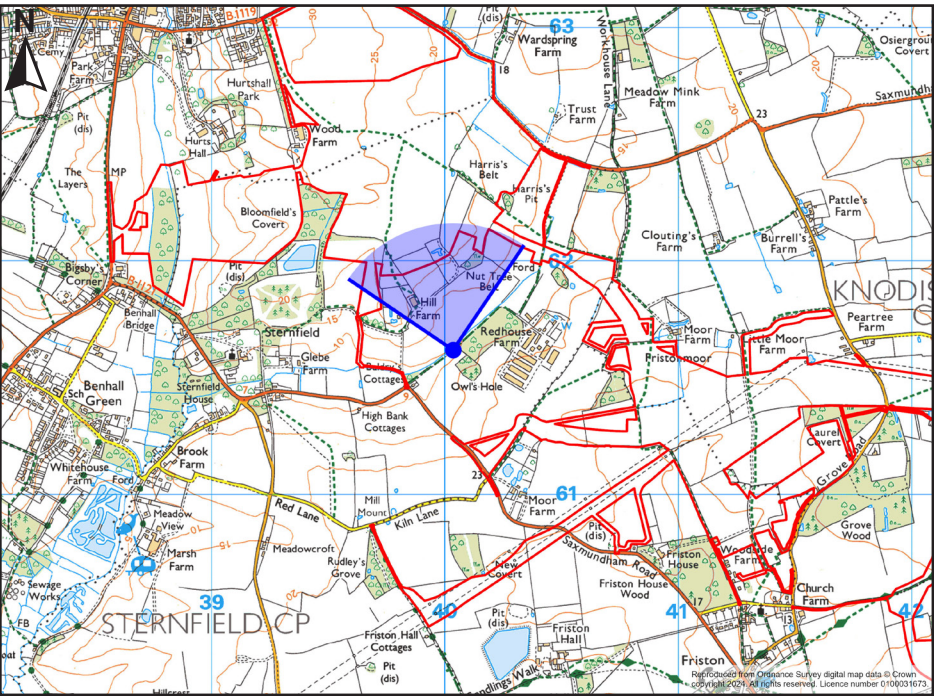
Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)





Table 1.5 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 5: Public Bridleway (Sternfield 491, route 10), east of Sternfield, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E640036 N261620
Approx. Distance to the Project	520m (to converter station)
General Direction of View:	NORTH
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view comprises typical agricultural land with blocks of mature vegetation, which exhibits some scenic quality. The view is likely to be valued by the local community. However, the scenic quality of the view is reduced due to large-scale, agricultural buildings and wood pole lines. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network to the north of the settlement of Friston and residents within a property in close proximity.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a road which denotes the route of the public bridleway, extending northeast and southwest of the viewpoint location. The road is used by vehicles accessing the nearby farm. A ditch is located on the northwestern boundary of the road and wood pole lines, which follow the route of the tarmac track are also visible in the foreground.

A large-scale agricultural field extends from the foreground into the middle ground as the landform gently rises. The field is enclosed by mature vegetation within Nut Tree Belt and hedgerow on the northwestern boundary in the middle ground which has gaps allowing views in the long distance. Large metal and brick agricultural buildings are visible above and through the tree line on the skyline in the middle distance, with the northern building breaking the skyline.

The landform gently rises away from the viewpoint, which along with mature vegetation acts to heavily screen long distance views. Framed views towards a wooded skyline in the long distance is visible through layers of mature vegetation, including to the northwest of the viewpoint.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Very large      Effect: Major adverse (significant)

It should be noted that PRoW E-491/010/0 (from which the viewpoint is taken) would be diverted during the construction period; however, it is considered that the magnitude of effect and significance of effect would be the same for the diverted route.

There would be direct and partially screened, by intervening blocks of vegetation, views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, HVDC and HVAC corridors and the construction of the permanent attenuation pond and outfall pipe in the middle ground. This would include a construction compound as well as construction plant and material and earthworks largely within the large-scale arable field in the middle ground with construction activity associated with the cable corridors and potentially a construction compound dependent on optionality extending through the medium-scale field enclosures to the east.

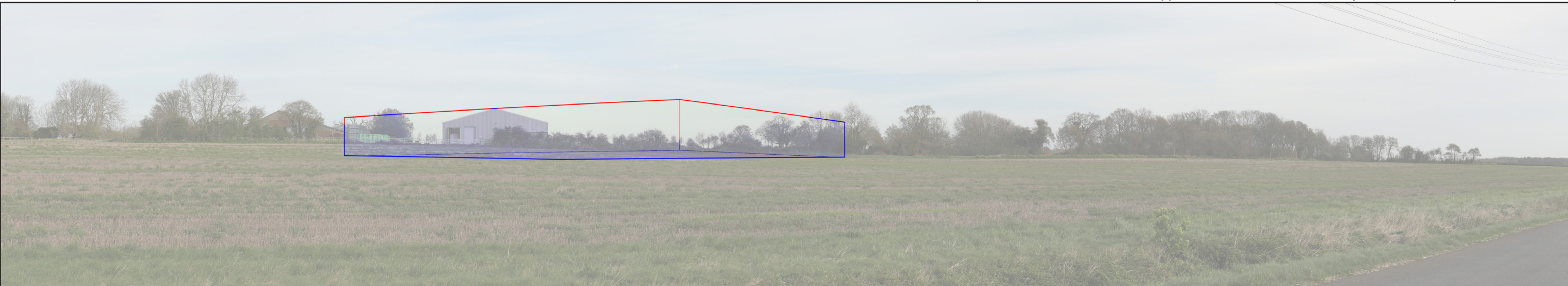
The construction activity would occupy a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and would include construction plant behind and above the agricultural buildings and vegetated field boundary on the skyline. The activity would be directly visible further along the public bridleway associated with the HVAC and HVDC corridor. Construction activity would obstruct long-distance views to the distant wooded horizon in a small part of the view and would introduce large-scale uncharacteristic machinery and activity within the view which would be a substantial change in the existing composition of the view.

Vegetation removal associated with the HVAC and HVDC cables routes would consist of hedgerow and some tree removal on field boundaries, including part of two Category C tree groups and a hedgerow to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station, where routeing has been unable to avoid such vegetation. This vegetation loss would not contrast with the existing pattern of blocks of vegetation creating gaps. The construction plant and activity associated with the cable routes is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery working on arable fields.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and would be visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Views towards the upper parts of tall construction plant and activity associated with the Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) and HVDC cables might possibly be visible in the opposite direction (successive view), which would further extend the horizontal extent of successive views experienced from this location within the context of the existing OHL.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: Very large      Effect: Major adverse (significant)

There would be direct views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle ground, albeit the lower extents would be partially screened by intervening built form and vegetation, in a central proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The Saxmundham Converter Station would break the skyline. There would also potentially be views of a short section of a monitoring access route with occasional vehicle movement off the B1119 in the background of the view.

There would be views of the permanent loss of trees associated with the HVAC and HVDC corridor to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station; however, the majority of the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated immediately following construction. Areas of agricultural land would be restored quickly, whereas hedgerow reinstatement would take comparatively longer to establish within the view. Above ground kiosks associated with the underground HVAC cable corridor would also be barely perceptible at this distance.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would be a large-scale, uncharacteristic feature within the view. This would be set behind the agricultural buildings present on the skyline, which would emphasise the contrasting size and scale of the Saxmundham Converter Station and would be set against the horizon. The Saxmundham Converter Station would have minimal screening from existing boundary vegetation on the skyline as it would appear in a break where the vegetation is less mature. Existing views would remain available through breaks in the existing vegetation to the long distance.

The occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural vehicle movement in the landscape. The permanent tree loss in the landscape to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station would be minimal and would not contrast the existing pattern of blocks of vegetation creating gaps to long distance views.

Associated lighting (controlled manually as required during periods of low light or darkness) is expected to be limited and it would contrast in the existing view when lit, albeit partially screened by intervening mature vegetation.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station, within the field enclosures to the east would consist of whips therefore at year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term. Views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) would be screened by intervening landform and reinstatement associated with the HVDC cable routes would be barely perceptible due to intervening vegetation and landform, would be at a distance and would be within the context of the existing OHL.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Very large      Effect: Major adverse (significant)

There would continue to be direct views of the upper extent of the Saxmundham Converter Station and occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring route in the background occupying a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view.

Landscape planting around the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured providing limited additional screening to lower parts of the building visible against the skyline. This would slightly soften views in the direction of the lower part of the permanent infrastructure; however, the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station would remain visible and a substantial change in the composition of the view.

The landscape planting in the field enclosures to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station would also assist in strengthening the green infrastructure network within the view where there would be permanent tree loss associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable corridor.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

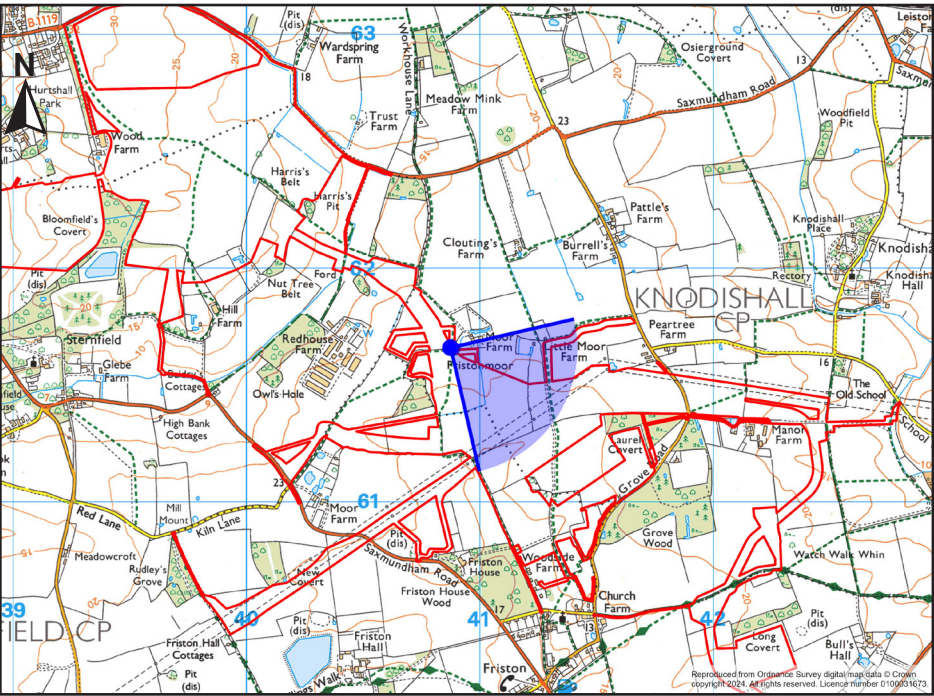
Views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) would be screened by intervening landform and reinstatement associated with the HVDC cable routes would be barely perceptible due to intervening vegetation and landform, would be at a distance and would be within the context of the existing OHL.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.



**Table 1.6 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 6 (a):** Public Footpath (Friston 260, route 17), east of Sternfield, looking southeast (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E640886 N261652
Approx. Distance to the Project	484m (to substation)
General Direction of View:	SOUTHEAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view contains elements which increase the scenic quality, including the rural landscape with blocks of mature woodland and long-distance glimpsed views to buildings within Friston, notably St Mary the Virgin Church, Friston which is likely to be valued by the local community. However, the scenic quality and composition of the view is detracted by views of the existing OHL and agricultural buildings in the middle distance. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents, albeit noting the detracting feature of the existing OHL. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

This viewpoint description contains multi-directional views to the northwest and southeast. The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network within the landscape to the north of Friston, as well as receptors within nearby residential buildings.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises large-scale arable land, that extends into the middle distance. A wooden fence, with hedgerow and hedgerow trees, denotes the boundary of a private garden associated with a large, isolated residential property to the north of the viewpoint location. There are some gaps in vegetated hedgerow boundaries along field enclosures. The route of the PRoW extends from the foreground into the middle ground to the south and west of the viewpoint location. The foreground also contains a hedgerow which denotes the field boundary.

Large-scale arable land extends into the middle and long distance as the landform gently falls, with tree-lined field boundaries and blocks of mature vegetation creating a layered view of vegetation. Large-scale agricultural buildings are visible through a gap in vegetation to the west of the viewpoint. Wood pole lines break the skyline in the middle distance to the south and north of the viewpoint, as well as views of the existing OHL to the south which are a prominent and detracting feature across the view.

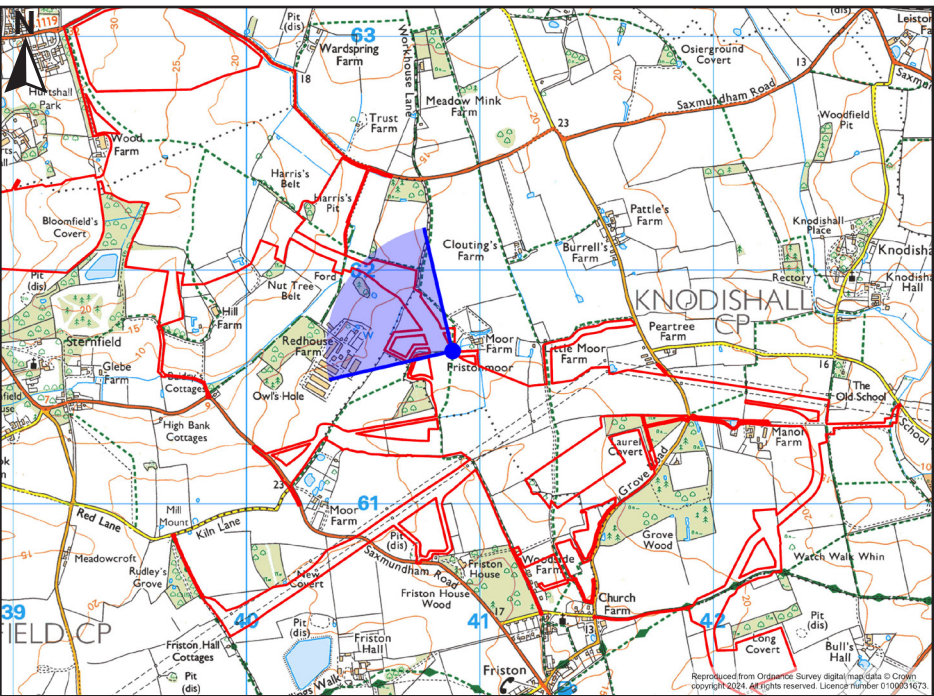
The layers of mature vegetation, along with an undulating local landform, creates filtered and framed views to the arable land in the long distance. Glimpsed views of buildings within Friston, including St Mary the Virgin Church, are available in the distance to the south of the viewpoint. A small turbine breaks the wooded skyline to the southeast of the viewpoint, which is seen in the context of the Friston settlement edge. Framed views to a wooded skyline are available in the distance through layers of mature vegetation.

Baseline View (Winter)



**Table 1.6 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 6 (b):** Public Footpath east (Friston 260, route 17), of Sternfield, looking northwest at construction and at (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E640886 N261652
Approx. Distance to the Project	1111m (to converter station)
General Direction of View:	NORTHWEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view contains elements which increase the scenic quality, including the rural landscape with blocks of mature woodland and long-distance glimpsed views to buildings within Friston, notably St Mary the Virgin Church, Friston which is likely to be valued by the local community. However, the scenic quality and composition of the view is detracted by views of the existing OHL and agricultural buildings in the middle distance. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents, albeit noting the detracting feature of the existing OHL. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network where views are an important part of the experience.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

This viewpoint description contains multi-directional views to the northwest and southeast. The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network within the landscape to the north of Friston, as well as receptors within nearby residential buildings.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises large-scale arable land, that extends into the middle distance. A wooden fence, with hedgerow and hedgerow trees, denotes the boundary of a private garden associated with a large, isolated residential property to the north of the viewpoint location. There are some gaps in vegetated hedgerow boundaries along field enclosures. The route of the PRoW extends from the foreground into the middle ground to the south and west of the viewpoint location. The foreground also contains a hedgerow which denotes the field boundary.

Large-scale arable land extends into the middle and long distance as the landform gently falls, with tree-lined field boundaries and blocks of mature vegetation creating a layered view of vegetation. Large-scale agricultural buildings are visible through a gap in vegetation to the west of the viewpoint. Wood pole lines break the skyline in the middle distance to the south and north of the viewpoint, as well as views of the existing OHL to the south which are a prominent and detracting feature across the view.

The layers of mature vegetation, along with an undulating local landform, creates filtered and framed views to the arable land in the long distance. Glimpsed views of buildings within Friston, including St Mary the Virgin Church, are available in the distance to the south of the viewpoint. A small turbine breaks the wooded skyline to the southeast of the viewpoint, which is seen in the context of the Friston settlement edge. Framed views to a wooded skyline are available in the distance through layers of mature vegetation.

Baseline View (Winter)





Assessment of Effects

Construction (Friston Scenario 1)

Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

Construction (Friston Scenario 2)

Magnitude: Large    Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

Construction (Friston Scenario 1)

It should be noted that PRoW E-260/017/0 (from which the viewpoint is taken) would be diverted during the construction period; however, it is considered that the magnitude of effect and significance of effect would be the same for the diverted route.

There would be direct views of construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable corridors and temporary attenuation pond and outfall pipe and temporary and permanent infiltration pond and outfall pipe in the foreground and middle ground. This would include construction plant and material and construction access within the large-scale arable field and vegetation removal.

Construction activity would occupy the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, would obstruct long-distance views across the arable farmland and layered vegetation network, and would temporarily displace arable farmland.

Vegetation loss would include part of the mature hedgerow with hedgerow tree removal within the foreground of the view. There would also be part of a hedgerow lost in the middle ground to the northwest of the viewpoint receptor through an existing gap in the vegetated field boundary network.

Friston Substation would be under construction by SPR occupying the middle ground of the view adding further reference to energy infrastructure in the local landscape and thereby reducing the degree of contrast arising from additional construction activity in the view The tie-in works to Friston Substation are not considered to be perceptible within the existing construction works.

A small part of the consented SPR landscape mitigation planting around Friston would be partially removed for cable laying associated with the Proposed Project; however, this would be in small areas and would generally be young vegetation. There would be small areas of more established vegetation removed from advanced planting implemented by SPR, which would result in gaps and breaks in the planting. Whilst there are some breaks in hedgerow vegetation in the baseline, this would result in breaks in woodland areas, albeit less mature, which is uncharacteristic in the view.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and would be visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Views towards construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station would be limited to tall construction plant. This would be largely screened by intervening field boundary vegetation in the foreground and middle ground and any plant would be visible in the distance above intervening vegetation for a small section of the horizontal extent of the view. This would be within the context of the wood pole lines and large-scale agricultural buildings.

Construction (Friston Scenario 2)

In addition to the above Friston Substation would be constructed in the middle ground resulting in a pronounced change to the view. This would include earthworks, a construction compound, construction access, works to the OHL including temporary towers, vegetation removal and temporary attenuation ponds. Views towards construction activity associated with Friston Substation, including the restringing of the existing OHL, removal of one OHL tower and addition of two OHL towers, would be directly visible in the middle ground which would displace arable land and tall construction plant would break the skyline. This would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers which are prominent in the view and therefore partially reduce the degree of contrast.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

(Friston Scenario 1)

Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

(Friston Scenario 2)

Magnitude: Large    Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

Operation and maintenance (Year 1 winter) (Friston Scenario 1)

The agricultural land and hedgerows would be reinstated immediately following construction with the agricultural land restored quickly and the hedgerow reinstatement taking comparatively longer to establish. There would be direct views to a section of a permanent monitoring access route through the large-scale arable field in the view and heavily filtered views to kiosks associated with the underground HVAC corridor; however, these would most likely be fully screened by intervening hedgerow and tree vegetation in the foreground.

There would be a small permanent loss of trees associated with the HVAC and HVDC corridor; however, this would be barely perceptible and not uncharacteristic in the view given the existing gaps in vegetated field boundaries and set against the layered vegetation network in the view.

The occasional movement of vehicles along the monitoring route would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape. Friston Substation would form part of the future baseline occupying a large extent of the horizontal view, so would reduce the degree of contrast to views of any part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

The loss of small sections of SPR mitigation planting would be replaced where practicable with native landscape mitigation planting connecting into the woodland blocks and creating habitat and connectivity enhancement. This would not yet be established at Year 1 so would remain similar in views as at construction.

Assessment of Effects

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Associated lighting (controlled manually as required during periods of low light or darkness) is expected to be limited and is not anticipated to be apparent within the view due to distance and intervening vegetation.

There would be heavily filtered views to the Saxmundham Converter Station to the northwest of the viewpoint location above and through the tree line. Due to the lack of intervisibility the scale of change is not considered to affect the magnitude of effect. Any glimpsed views would be a very small part of the panorama and would be within the context of the wood pole lines and large-scale agricultural buildings.

Operation and maintenance (Year 1 winter) (Friston Scenario 2)

In addition to the above the Friston Substation would be permanently located in the middle ground and would be a pronounced change to the composition of the view. This would be at a similar scale to, and set against, a wooded backcloth in the background of the view but would introduce large-scale energy infrastructure into an otherwise agricultural view, albeit within the context of the existing OHL and breaking the skyline in part.

The Friston Substation would be located in a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, with long distance views across arable land towards St Mary the Virgin Church, Friston which will remain visible in the view. The presence of small buildings in Friston within the view, would act as scale comparison accentuating the relative scale of the substation, making it appear comparably larger.

Views would also include two OHL towers, which would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL which is an existing prominent feature in the view so lessens the contrast of change.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 5 Friston Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Friston Substation on bunding would consist of whips. This would not yet be established at year 1 and would therefore not appear as a noticeable element in the view.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

(Friston Scenario 1)

Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

(Friston Scenario 2)

Magnitude: Large    Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 1)

There would continue to be a small permanent loss of tree vegetation; however, this would be barely perceptible as hedgerow vegetation planting would have established and would fill in the gap that was created at construction. There would continue to be heavily filtered views to a small section of a permanent monitoring access route; however, this would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape.

The loss of small sections of SPR mitigation planting would be replaced where practicable with native landscape mitigation planting connecting into the woodland blocks and creating habitat and connectivity enhancement. This would have established by Year 15 so visual effects relating to gaps in the vegetation network would be lessened.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There would continue to be heavily filtered views to the Saxmundham Converter Station; however.

Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 2)

In addition to the above Friston Substation would appear in the context of the existing OHL within the middle ground of the view comprising a pronounced change to the composition of the view.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 5 Friston Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Friston Substation on bunding would consist of native planting which would contribute to the softening of views towards the permanent infrastructure. The proposed woodland planting near to the receptor would also likely partially screen views of the Friston Substation.

Wireline over Photograph 6 (a) (no mitigation planting)



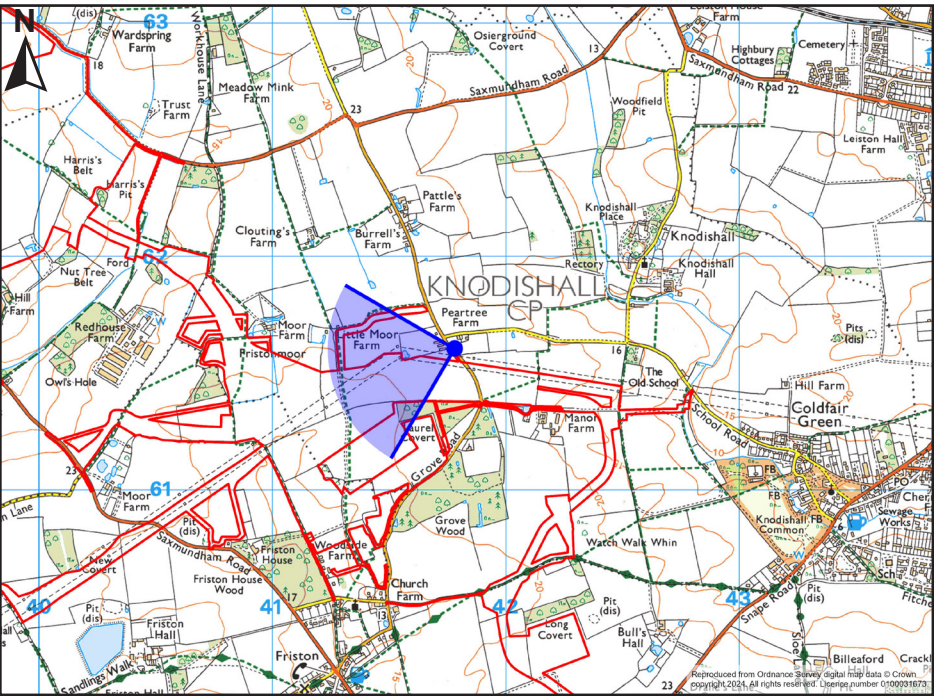
Wireline over Photograph 6 (b) (no mitigation planting)





Table 1.7 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 7: Grove Road, north of Friston, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises large-scale arable land, enclosed by scrub vegetation and mature individual trees on the northern boundary. This vegetation boundary denotes the southern extent of a local campsite. The existing OHL extends from the foreground, into the middle and long distance in a southeasterly direction, dominating the view. The existing towers and OHL form a prominent feature in the view. The local landform is gently undulating.

Arable land extends into the middle to long distance, with blocks of mature vegetation including Laurel Covert in the middle distance, hedgerows and individual hedgerow trees that create a well-vegetated, layered view. There are gaps in some of the vegetation networks alongside field boundaries. Wood pole lines cross the view in the middle distance, in a north to south direction.

In the distance there are glimpsed views of individual properties, which sit below the tree line and are seen in the context of mature vegetation. There are occasional views through vegetation to vehicle movement along Saxmundham Road in the distance.

Long distance views are limited due to intervening vegetation; however, longer views are available in the centre of the view along the route of the existing OHL, where there is limited screening from vegetation. This affords views to a wooded skyline in the long distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction (Friston Scenario 1)  
Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

Construction (Friston Scenario 2)  
Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

Construction (Friston Scenario 1)

There would be direct views of construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable corridors and temporary attenuation pond and outfall pipe near to Grove Road in the foreground and middle ground. This would include construction plant and material and construction access within the large-scale arable field and vegetation removal.

Construction activity would occupy the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, would obstruct long-distance views across the arable farmland and layered vegetation network and would temporarily displace arable farmland.

Vegetation loss would include part of a low-level hedgerow adjacent to Grove Road in the foreground of the view. This would be in a small part of the view and would not be dissimilar to existing gaps in the layered vegetation network in the surrounding landscape.

Friston Substation would be under construction by SPR occupying the middle ground of the view adding further reference to energy infrastructure in the local landscape and thereby reducing the degree of contrast arising from additional construction activity in the view. The tie-in works to Friston Substation are not considered to be perceptible within the existing construction works.

A small part of the consented SPR landscape mitigation planting around Friston would be partially removed for cable laying associated with the Proposed Project; however, this would be in limited areas and would generally be young vegetation. There would be small areas of more established vegetation removed from advanced planting implemented by SPR, which would result in gaps and breaks in the planting and would open up views to construction works directly from this viewpoint receptor in a very small part of the overall horizontal extent of the view. Whilst there are some breaks in hedgerow vegetation in the baseline, this would result in breaks in woodland areas, albeit less mature, which is uncharacteristic in the view.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Associated lighting is expected to be localised and would be visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term. Views towards construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station is not considered to be visible from this receptor.

Construction (Friston Scenario 2)

In addition to the above the Friston Substation would be constructed in the middle ground and would be a noticeable change to the view. This would include earthworks, a construction compound, construction access, works to the OHL including temporary towers, vegetation removal and temporary attenuation ponds. Views towards construction activity associated with Friston Substation, including the restringing of the existing OHL, removal of one OHL tower and addition of two OHL towers, would be directly visible in the middle ground which would displace arable land and tall construction plant would break the skyline. This would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers which are prominent in the view and therefore reduce the degree of contrast.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter (Friston Scenario 1)  
Magnitude: Negligible Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter (Friston Scenario 2)  
Magnitude: Medium Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

Operation and maintenance (Year 1 winter) (Friston Scenario 1)

The former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated immediately following construction which for the agricultural land would be restored quickly, whereas hedgerow reinstatement would take comparatively longer to establish. There would be direct views to a section of a permanent monitoring access route through the large-scale arable field in the view and another section near to Grove Road.

The occasional movement along the monitoring route would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape. Friston Substation would form part of the future baseline in the middle ground, so would reduce the degree of contrast to views of any part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

The loss of small sections of SPR mitigation planting would be replaced where practicable with native landscape mitigation planting connecting into the woodland blocks and creating habitat and connectivity enhancement. This would not yet be established at year 1 and therefore not appear as a noticeable element in the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Associated lighting is expected to be limited and is not anticipated to affect the visual receptor due to distance and intervening vegetation.

The operational Saxmundham Converter Station is not considered to be visible from this receptor.

Operation and maintenance (Year 1 winter) (Friston Scenario 2)

In addition to the above the Friston Substation would be permanently located in the middle ground set behind a linear belt of low hedgerow and would break the skyline. The introduction of large-scale energy infrastructure into an otherwise agricultural view would be a noticeable change to the composition of the view.

The Friston Substation would be located in a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, with long distance views across arable land towards St Mary the Virgin Church, Friston which would remain visible in the view. The presence of small buildings in Friston within the view, would act as a scale comparison accentuating the relative scale of the substation making it appear comparatively larger. However, this would be partially balanced by the presence of Laurel Wood which would reduce the scale of change in the view associated with the substation. The two new OHL towers would be additional structures in the view; however, at a similar scale to the existing towers that are prominent in the view, which would reduce the degree of contrast.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 5 Friston Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Friston Substation on bunding would consist of whips. This would not yet be established at year 1 so would remain similar in views as at construction.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.



**Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer (Friston Scenario 1)**  
Magnitude: Negligable      Effect: Negligable adverse (not significant)

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer (Friston Scenario 2)**  
Magnitude: Medium      Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

**Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 1)**

There would continue to be heavily filtered views to a small section of a permanent monitoring access route; however, this would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape.

The loss of small sections of SPR mitigation planting would be replaced where practicable with native landscape mitigation planting connecting into the woodland blocks and creating habitat and connectivity enhancement. This would have established by Year 15 so visual effects relating to gaps in the vegetation network would be lessened.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

The operational Saxmundham Converter Station is not considered to be visible from this receptor.

**Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 2)**

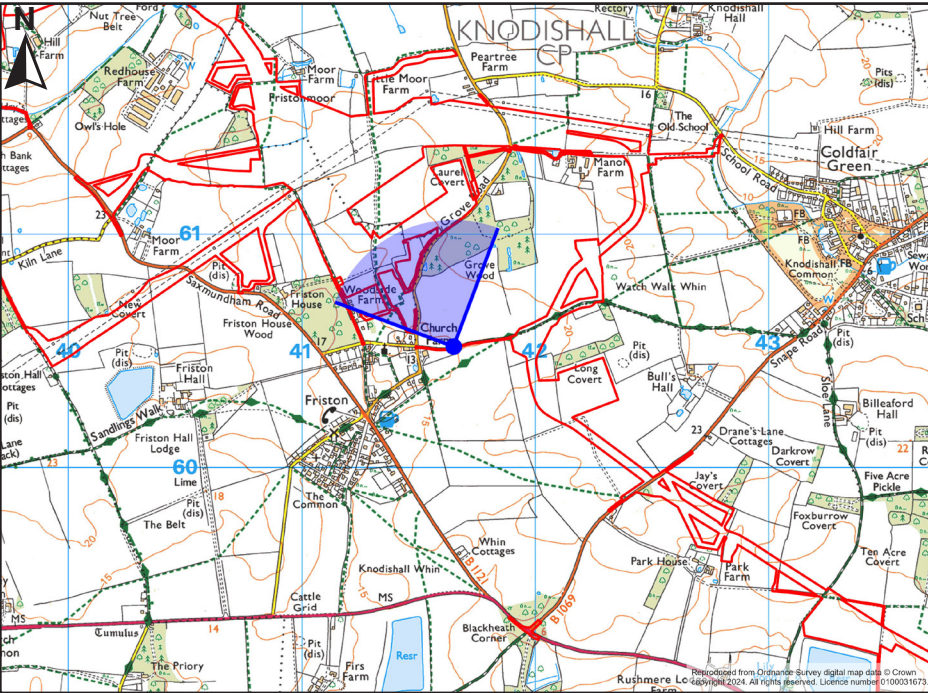
In addition to the above Friston Substation would appear in the context of the existing OHL within the middle ground of the view comprising a noticeable change to the composition of the view.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 5 Friston Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Friston Substation on bunding would consist of native planting which would contribute to the softening of views towards the permanent infrastructure.



**Table 1.8 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 8 (a):** Public Bridleway (Friston 260, route 2), east of Friston, looking northwest and at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E641641 N260508
Approx. Distance to the Project	780m (to substation)
General Direction of View:	NORTHWEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view exhibits elements which increase the scenic quality, with large-scale agricultural land and blocks of mature vegetation and tree belts which is likely to be valued by the local community. However, the influence of the existing OHL in the distance reduces the scenic quality of the view. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors on the edge of Friston with open views across the arable landscape. It is also representative of users of the Sandlings Walk recreational route where attention is focused on the landscape, the local PRoW network, Wolf Way cycle route and Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route where views are an important part of the experience. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

This viewpoint description contains multi-directional views to the northwest and northeast. It should be noted that the summer baseline photography contains a hedgerow that has since been removed, so this represents the baseline situation. The viewpoint is representative of recreational users along the Sandlings Walk recreational route, the local PRoW network, Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route, Wolf Way cycle route and residential receptors on the northeastern edge of the settlement of Friston.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises linear scrub vegetation and hedgerow, denoting the route of the public bridleway. The public bridleway extends into the middle distance in an easterly and westerly direction from the viewpoint, which links into the Sandlings Way recreational route further to the east. The vegetation in the foreground sits on a slight embankment, which partially restricts views to the middle and long distance, noting that the viewpoint photography was taken at a break in this vegetation. The landform rises from the viewpoint to the north. The existing towers and OHL are visible above the wooded skyline to the northwest and northeast of the viewpoint in the middle ground.

Large-scale agricultural fields extend from the foreground into the middle distance, bound by mature tree belts and a mature vegetation within Grove Wood to the north of the viewpoint. There is a break in this mature vegetation network, where an existing OHL tower is visible. This results in a semi-enclosed landscape, with limited long-distance views.

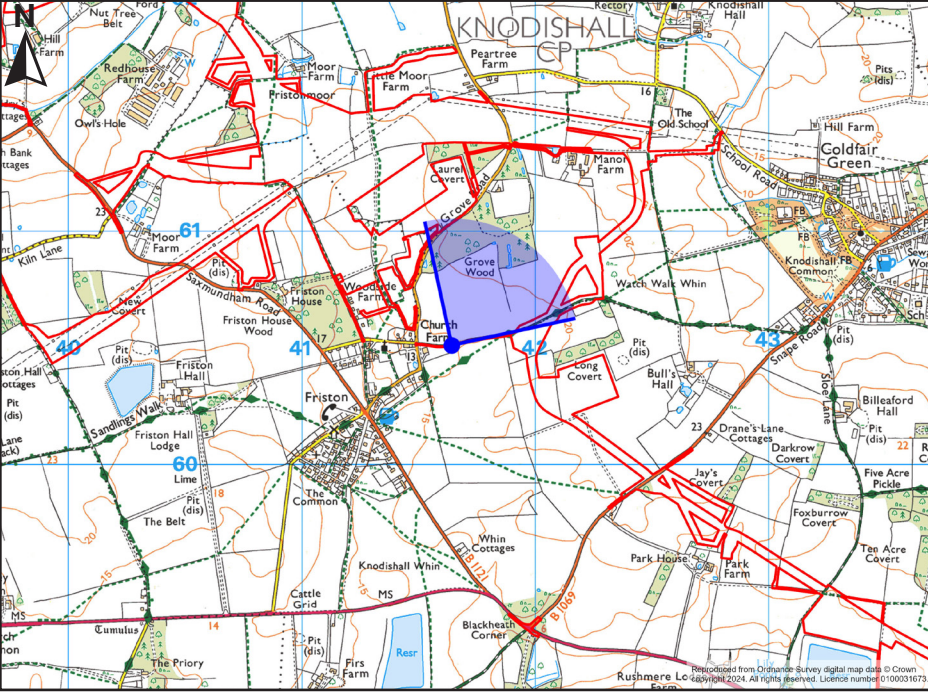
Occasional framed views to a wooded skyline in the long-distance are available through gaps in the layered vegetation network.

Baseline View (Winter)



**Table 1.8 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 8 (b):** Public Bridleway (Friston 260, route 2), east of Friston, looking northeast and at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E641641 N260508
Approx. Distance to the Project	339m (to cable alignment)
General Direction of View:	NORTHEAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view exhibits elements which increase the scenic quality, with large-scale agricultural land and blocks of mature vegetation and tree belts which is likely to be valued by the local community. However, the influence of the existing OHL in the distance reduces the scenic quality of the view. MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors on the edge of Friston with open views across the arable landscape. It is also representative of users of the Sandlings Walk recreational route where attention is focused on the landscape, the local PRoW network, Wolf Way cycle route and Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route where views are an important part of the experience. VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

This viewpoint description contains multi-directional views to the northwest and northeast. It should be noted that the summer baseline photography contains a hedgerow that has since been removed, so this represents the baseline situation. The viewpoint is representative of recreational users along the Sandlings Walk recreational route, the local PRoW network, Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route, Wolf Way cycle route and residential receptors on the northeastern edge of the settlement of Friston.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises linear scrub vegetation and hedgerow, denoting the route of the public bridleway. The public bridleway extends into the middle distance in an easterly and westerly direction from the viewpoint, which links into the Sandlings Way recreational route further to the east. The vegetation in the foreground sits on a slight embankment, which partially restricts views to the middle and long distance, noting that the viewpoint photography was taken at a break in this vegetation. The landform rises from the viewpoint to the north. The existing towers and OHL are visible above the wooded skyline to the northwest and northeast of the viewpoint in the middle ground.

Large-scale agricultural fields extend from the foreground into the middle distance, bound by mature tree belts and a mature vegetation within Grove Wood to the north of the viewpoint. There is a break in this mature vegetation network, where an existing OHL tower is visible. This results in a semi-enclosed landscape, with limited long-distance views.

Occasional framed views to a wooded skyline in the long-distance are available through gaps in the layered vegetation network.

Baseline View (Winter)



For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations.**



Assessment of Effects

Construction (Friston Scenario 1)

Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

Construction (Friston Scenario 2)

Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

Construction (Friston Scenario 1)

It should be noted that PRoW E-354/002/0 (from which the viewpoint is taken) would be diverted during the construction period; however, it is considered that the magnitude of effect and significance of effect would be the same for the diverted route.

There would be direct views of construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route and temporary infiltration pond and outfall pipe in the middle ground. This would include a construction compound as well as construction plant and material directly visible to the northeast, east and southeast of the visual receptor. This would be seen within the arable field enclosure beyond the initial large-scale arable field in the foreground and partially screened by the existing hedgerow along the route of the public bridleway and Sandlings Walk recreational route. There would also be vegetation removal associated with the cable construction removing sections of field boundary vegetation.

Construction activity would occupy a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, would obstruct views across arable farmland and would temporarily displace arable farmland. The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable corridor is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields. The construction compound would largely be screened by an intervening block of mature vegetation in the middle ground which would lessen the scale of change in the view. The views of construction activity would also be set within the context of views of the existing towers and OHL in the distance which also break the skyline as construction activity would also do in parts of the view.

Friston Substation would be under construction by SPR occupying the middle ground of the view to the northwest of the receptor.

This would add further reference to energy infrastructure in the local landscape thereby reducing the degree of contrast arising from additional construction activity in the view. The tie-in works to Friston Substation are not considered to be perceptible within the existing construction works.

Visible vegetation loss would include part of the mature hedgerow which lies adjacent to the route of the public bridleway and Sandlings Walk recreational route visible in the middle ground. This would not be dissimilar to other breaks in the existing hedgerow network in the local landscape which lessens the degree of contrast in the view.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and would be visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Views towards construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station would be limited to tall construction plant and would be barely discernible due to distance and intervening vegetation. This would be largely screened by field boundary vegetation in the middle ground and the intervening layered vegetation network. Any tall plant would be visible in the distance above intervening vegetation for a small section of the horizontal extent of the view. This would also be within the context of the existing towers and OHL.

Construction (Friston Scenario 2)

In addition to the above Friston Substation would be constructed in the middle ground in a small part of the view between existing mature woodland vegetation along Grove Road which would screen the majority of lower-level construction activity. It is likely that the works visible would be limited to earthworks, construction access and plant, and works to the OHL including temporary towers. Views towards construction activity associated with Friston Substation, including the restringing of the existing OHL, removal of one OHL tower and addition of two OHL towers, would be visible in the middle ground which would displace arable land and tall construction plant would break the skyline. This would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers which occupy the same part of the view and therefore reduce the degree of contrast.

It should be noted that such views would be from a break in the hedgerow where the viewpoint has been taken and views further along the footpath and from the settlement edge of Friston would be screened in the direction of the works associated with Friston Substation. It should also be noted that the properties on the settlement edge of Friston are not orientated towards Friston Substation.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter (Friston Scenario 1)

Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter (Friston Scenario 2)

Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

Operation and maintenance (Year 1 winter) (Friston Scenario 1)

The former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated immediately following construction which for the agricultural land would be restored quickly, whereas hedgerow reinstatement would take comparatively longer to establish. The initial gap in the hedgerow in the middle ground would not be dissimilar to other breaks in the existing hedgerow network in the local landscape which would lessen the degree of contrast.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Associated lighting is expected to be limited which is not anticipated to affect the visual receptor due to distance and intervening vegetation.

The operational Saxmundham Converter Station is not considered to be visible from this receptor.

Assessment of Effects

Operation and maintenance (Year 1 winter) (Friston Scenario 2)

In addition to the above Friston Substation and new OHL towers would be permanently located in the middle ground in a small part of the view. The views would be partially screened by intervening mature vegetation, which would reduce the perception of scale of the Friston Substation due to the height difference, including the adjacent Grove Wood. The views would be set within the context of the existing towers and OHL in the same part of the view, which would reduce the degree of contrast.

It should be noted that such views would be from a break in the hedgerow where the viewpoint has been taken and views further along the footpath and from the settlement edge of Friston would be screened in the direction of the works associated with Friston Substation. It should also be noted that the properties on the settlement edge of Friston are not orientated towards Friston Substation.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 5 Friston Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Friston Substation on bunding would consist of whips. This would not yet be established at Year 1 so would remain similar in views as at construction.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer (Friston Scenario 1)

Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer (Friston Scenario 2)

Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 1)

The hedgerow planting in the middle ground would have established and would fill the gap created during the construction period.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

The operational Saxmundham Converter Station is not considered to be visible from this receptor.

Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 2)

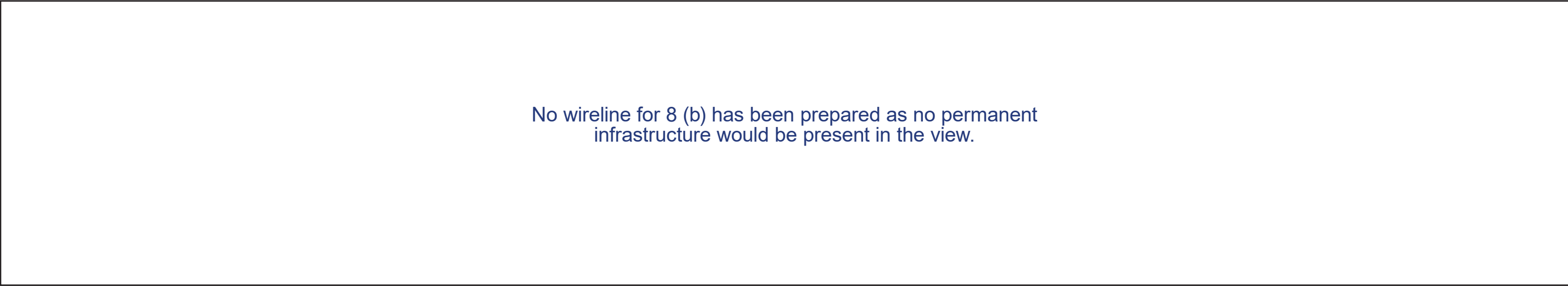
The view would remain unchanged from that reported at operation and maintenance Year 1.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 5 Friston Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Friston Substation on bunding would have established and would contribute to the softening of views towards the permanent infrastructure.

Wireline over Photograph 8 (a) (no mitigation planting)



For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

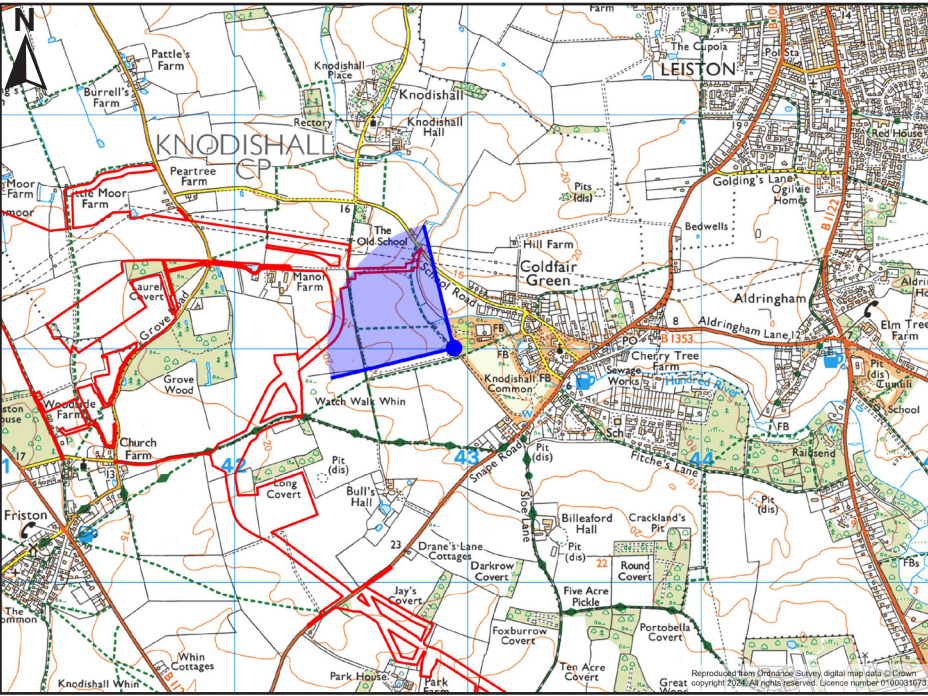


No wireline for 8 (b) has been prepared as no permanent infrastructure would be present in the view.



**Table 1.9 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 9:** Knodishall Common and public footpath (Knodishall 354, route 18), west of Knodishall, looking northwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E642939 N260992
Approx. Distance to the Project	1562m (to substation)
General Direction of View:	WEST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view has elements which increase the scenic quality, due to the rural, agricultural landscape and layers of vegetation, as well as Knodishall Common to the west which is likely to be valued by the local community. However, wood pole lines, the existing OHL and agricultural buildings in the middle to long distance reduce the scenic quality of the view.  MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of users of the local PRoW network and the edge of Knodishall Common within CRoW Access Land, where views are an important part of the experience.  HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users within Knodishall Common within CRoW Access Land and the local PRoW network.

Visual Baseline Description

Large-scale agricultural land extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the west and northwest of the viewpoint. A grass track, that denotes the route of the public footpath, lies on the eastern boundary of the field. The track extends from the foreground on the right side of the view, into the middle ground to the north of the viewpoint. Mature vegetation borders the eastern extent of the public footpath, which denotes the western boundary of Knodishall Common and screens long distance views to the northeast. Post and wire fencing and scrub vegetation comprise the western edge of the public footpath.

The large-scale agricultural land in the middle distance is enclosed by low hedgerows, with breaks, and hedgerow trees. Mature vegetation within Grove Wood and Laurel Covert to the northwest of the viewpoint in the middle distance and tree lined hedgerows to the northwest, restrict long distance views and create a well-vegetated landscape. The local landform is undulating. Agricultural buildings are directly visible in the middle distance, in front of mature vegetation and break the skyline in part. Wood pole lines and the existing OHL and towers transect the agricultural landscape in the middle to long distance and break the wooded skyline.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

The construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route and temporary attenuation pond and outfall pipe would be visible in the middle ground in the large-scale arable field. This would include construction plant and material, construction access and hedgerow vegetation loss.

The construction activity would occupy a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view; however, the construction activity would be partially mitigated by the predominantly agricultural nature of the landscape in which the presence of large machinery and the seasonal disturbance of soils is characteristic. Vegetation loss would occur in very small parts of the view and would not be dissimilar to existing gaps in the layered vegetation network in the local landscape.

There would be very distant, glimpsed views to tall construction plant associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2). This would appear above the agricultural buildings and vegetation in the middle distance and would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers. There may also be distant views to the construction compound to the southwest of the view, heavily screened by intervening vegetation.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be visible across small parts of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

The former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated immediately following construction which for the agricultural land would be restored quickly, whereas hedgerow reinstatement would take comparatively longer to establish. Any gaps in the hedgerow network would not be dissimilar to other breaks in the existing hedgerow network in the local landscape which lessens the degree of contrast.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Associated lighting is expected to be limited and is not anticipated to affect the visual receptor due to distance and intervening vegetation.

There would be very distant views of the permanent towers under Friston Scenario 2 in the distance; however, they would be barely perceptible at this distance and would be seen within the context of the existing towers and OHL.

The operational Saxmundham Converter Station is not considered to be visible from this receptor.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: None    Effect: No change (not significant)

The hedgerow planting would have established and would fill in the gaps created during the construction period.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

The operational Saxmundham Converter Station is not considered to be visible from this receptor.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

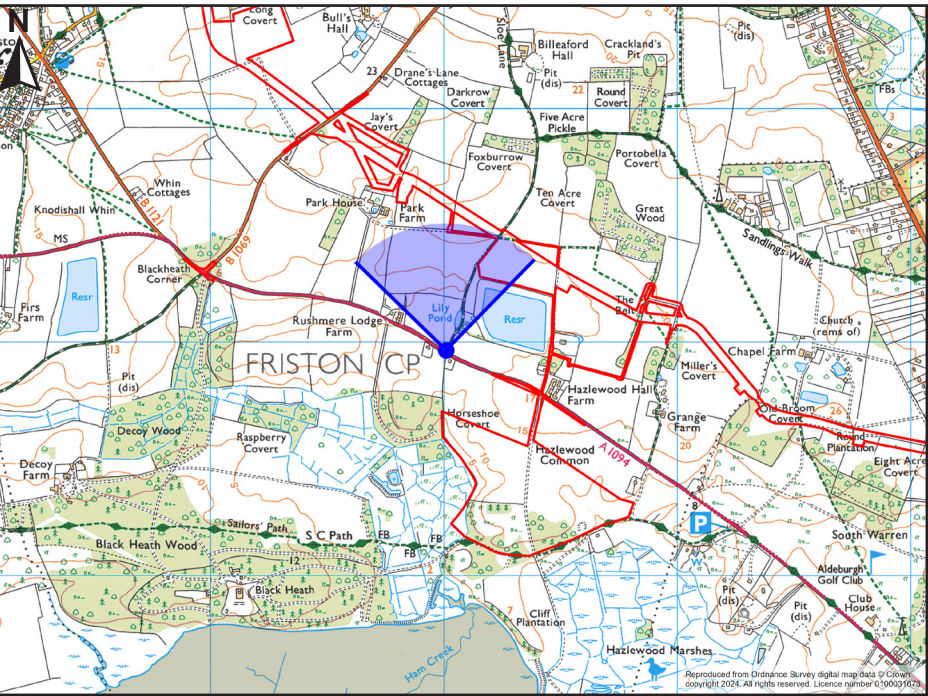
For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.





Table 1.10 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 10: Aldeburgh Road (A1094), and Public Bridleway (Aldeburgh 103, route 12a), looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E643013 N258964
Approx. Distance to the Project	533m (to cable alignment)
General Direction of View:	NORTH
Value	The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view exhibits some scenic quality, comprising an agricultural landscape, with mature tree blocks. The location of the view on the edge of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB increases the value; however, the qualities of the AONB are not exhibited within this view. The distance from the existing OHL reduces their influence on the composition of the view. HIGH
Susceptibility	Representative of users of the local PRoW network, where views are an important part of the experience and residential receptors with upper storey views across the landscape, where such views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. HIGH
Sensitivity	HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network between the settlements of Aldeburgh along the coastline and Friston, the local PRoW network to the south of Knodishall and residents in nearby properties limited to upper storey views. Representative of receptors on the boundary of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a track that denotes the route of a public bridleway, which is bound on the western edge by metal gates and linear mature tree and hedgerow vegetation. The track extends from the foreground into the middle ground to the northeast of the viewpoint, on the right side of the view. This mature vegetation restricts middle- and long-distance views to the north. A framed view of large-scale agricultural land in the foreground and middle distance, to the east of the viewpoint, is visible through and above the metal gates.

The middle ground to the east of the viewpoint comprises large-scale agricultural land, with hedgerow and tree lined field boundaries. The field boundaries create a layered view of vegetation, which along with an undulating local landform, limits long-distance views. Glimpsed views of scattered properties are available within the context of vegetation in the middle distance. Wood pole lines transect the agricultural land but remain below the treeline.

In the long distance, to the northeast of the viewpoint, the existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline but is not a prominent feature in the view as it is just visible above the treeline.

Baseline View (Winter)



For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations.

Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

It should be noted that PRoW E-260/013/A would be diverted during the construction phase; however, this would not affect this viewpoint location albeit nearby.

There would be glimpsed, and distant views of construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route and overhead line diversion works through intervening vegetation. There would also potentially be views of the upper parts of taller construction plant within the construction compound to the north of the viewpoint location; however, this would be largely screened by the reservoir embankments and vegetation.

Vegetation removal associated with the HVDC cable route would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view; however, this would also be barely perceptible within the view. The construction activity is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and would be barely perceptible from the viewpoint location due to intervening vegetation.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

There are unlikely to be views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) and the HVAC cable routes from this viewpoint due to intervening landform and vegetation.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

The former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated immediately following construction which for the agricultural land would be restored quickly, whereas hedgerow reinstatement would take comparatively longer to establish. There would be heavily filtered views to a small section of a permanent monitoring access route used by occasional maintenance vehicles which would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape.

There would be a small permanent loss of trees associated with the HVDC corridor; however, this would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view and may result in additional small pockets of long-distance framed views, which would not be uncharacteristic in the view.

The reinstatement of the arable land on which the construction compound would have been located would be barely discernible in the view due to the reservoir embankment and layers of intervening vegetation within the local landscape.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There is not anticipated to be any effects from proposed lighting on the visual receptor. There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2).

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be a small permanent loss of tree vegetation; however, this would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view and may result in additional small pockets of long-distance framed views, which would not be uncharacteristic in the view. There would continue to be heavily filtered views to a small section of a permanent monitoring access route; however, the occasional vehicle movement along it would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

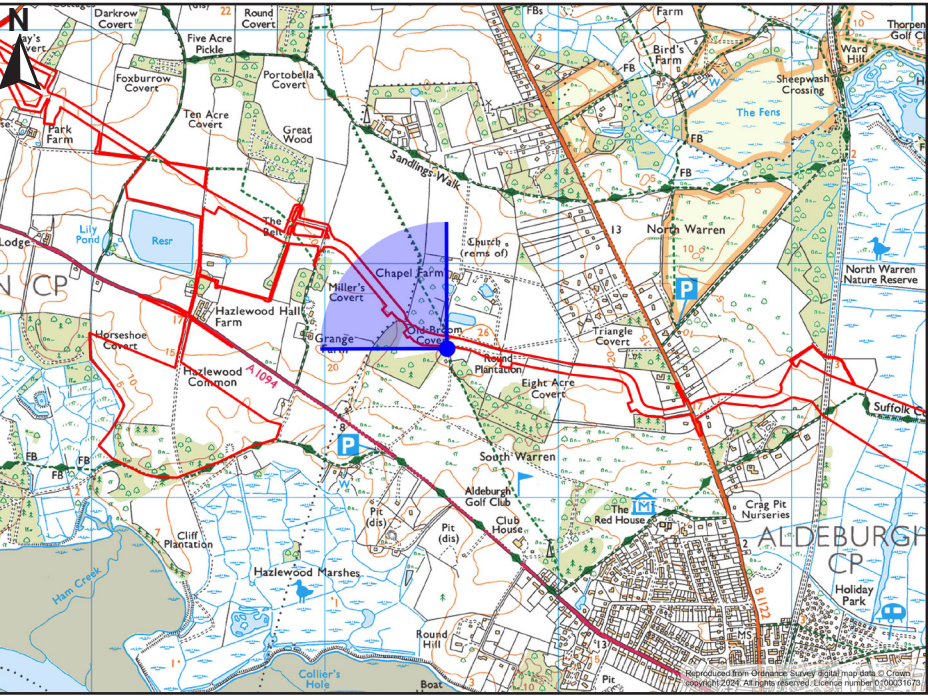
There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2).

No wireline has been prepared as no permanent infrastructure would be present in the view.



Table 1.11 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 11: Public Footpath (Aldeburgh 103, route 16), north of Aldeburgh Golf Course, looking northwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E644523 N258634
Approx. Distance to the Project	42m (to cable alignment)
General Direction of View:	NORTHWEST
Value	The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view exhibits high levels of scenic quality, located within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and comprising long distance views towards the Alde Estuary to the south of the viewpoint location. Additionally, the view comprises a well-vegetated, layered landscape, with a lack of detracting features.  VERY HIGH
Susceptibility	Representative of users of the golf course and the local PRoW network, where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience.  HIGH
Sensitivity	VERY HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between the settlements of Aldeburgh and Knodishall Common, users of the golf course on the northern edge of Aldeburgh, and receptors within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. Users of the golf course and the PRoW network have long distance views over the Alde Estuary to the south of the viewpoint.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a small-scale agricultural field, which is bound on the eastern edge by wooden fencing and scrub vegetation, with a wooden gate in the centre. A track, denoting the route of a public footpath, extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the north of the viewpoint location. A mature woodland block is located on the southern boundary of the agricultural field, which extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the southwest of the viewpoint location. The mature woodland restricts views of the golf course to the south.

The middle ground comprises a mature woodland block located on the western boundary of the agricultural field and plantation within Old Broom Covert on the northern boundary. Mature vegetation in the middle distance restricts views to the long distance.

The landform gently rises away from the viewpoint location to the northwest. A gap in the mature vegetation in the middle distance, provides glimpsed views to agricultural land and blocks of mature vegetation in the distance, to the northwest. This creates a well-vegetated, layered view that restricts long distance views further. Heavily filtered views are available towards a farmstead to the west of the viewpoint location, through a mature vegetation block.

Baseline View (Winter)

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations.



Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse ( not significant)

It should be noted that PRoW E-103/016/0 (from which the viewpoint is taken) would be diverted during the construction period; however, it is considered that the magnitude of effect and significance of effect would be the same for the diverted route. Those viewing the construction activity from the golf course would have glimpsed views that would not be static in nature.

There would be direct views associated with the construction of the HVDC cable route in the foreground and middle ground for a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. This would include vegetation removal, comprising hedgerow , one Category A tree and part of one Category A woodland to the north of Aldeburgh Golf Club, visible in the middle ground of the view. This vegetation removal would allow filtered views of construction of the HVDC cable route in the background as this continues through the landscape to the northwest of the receptor.

Vegetation removal associated with the HVDC cable route would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view. The construction activity is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would affect this viewpoint location for a very short period of time.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

There are unlikely to be views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) and the HVAC cable routes.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse ( not significant)

The former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated immediately following construction. The agricultural land would be restored more quickly, whereas hedgerow reinstatement would take comparatively longer to establish. There may be heavily filtered views to a small section of a permanent monitoring access route in the background due to the permanent loss of tree vegetation opening up a gap in the middle ground of the view.

There would be a small permanent loss of trees associated with the HVDC corridor in the middle ground; however, this would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view. The occasional, potentially heavily filtered, views of movement along the monitoring route would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There is not anticipated to be any effects from proposed lighting on the visual receptor. There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2).

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse ( not significant)

There would continue to be a small permanent loss of tree vegetation; however, this would be barely perceptible as it would be set against the layered vegetation network extending into the background of the view and reinstatement landscape planting would have established. There would continue to be heavily filtered views to a small section of a permanent monitoring access route; however, this would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

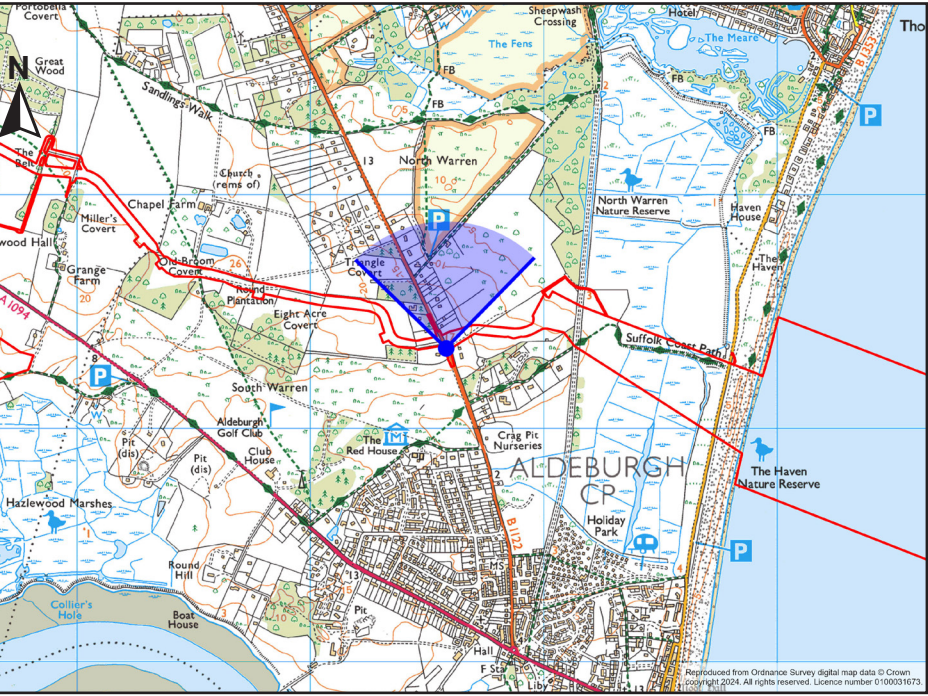
There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2).

No wireline has been prepared as no permanent infrastructure would be present in the view.



Table 1.12 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 12: Leiston Road, north of Aldeburgh, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E645585 N258337
Approx. Distance to the Project	33m (to cable alignment)
General Direction of View	NORTH
Value	The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The view is located within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, as such exhibiting high levels of scenic quality relating to the content of the view, including characteristic features of the AONB. Long distance views to the coastline and Grade II listed buildings within Thorpeness increases the scenic quality. Noting that energy Infrastructure at Sizewell somewhat influences the composition of the view but at a distance.  VERY HIGH
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents, as well as the local road network. Also representative of users of the Suffolk Coast Path and Sailors' Path recreational routes where attention is focused on the landscape, albeit views are screened for parts of the route.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	VERY HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of local road users and residents within properties in close proximity. It is also representative of users of the Suffolk Coast Path and Sailors' Path recreational routes, albeit views are screened along stretches of the route.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a grass verge, located on the eastern boundary of Leiston Road. A post and wire fence and wooden gate denotes the eastern edge of the grass verge, which continues into native hedgerow further to the north and south. Several mature coniferous trees are located on the western edge of Leiston Road.

A medium-scale agricultural field is visible through and above the fencing and gate, which extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the east. On the right side of the view, metal fencing, low hedgerow and mature trees extend from the foreground into the middle ground, denoting the boundary of a private garden which is located to the southeast of the viewpoint.

In the middle ground, to the north of the viewpoint location, a residential property is visible. Shrubs and individual mature trees along Leiston Road are visible in the middle distance, located on the left side of the view, which restrict long distance views to the north.

The landform falls to the east of the viewpoint. To the northeast of the viewpoint location, there are long distance views towards the coastline and a wooded skyline. The House in the Clouds (Grade II listed) and Westbar Water Tower in Thorpeness (Grade II listed), are prominent in the view and are visible above the wooded skyline. Energy infrastructure at Sizewell is also visible above wooded skyline in the distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations.**

Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be direct views associated with the construction of the HVDC cable route in the foreground and middle ground for a proportion of the horizontal extent of view for a temporary period of time. This would include the removal of mature coniferous vegetation to the west of Leiston Road (B1122) and also Category B trees to the east of the road. There would be partially screened views of the landfall transition joint pit, drilling rig and construction compound in the middle ground, which would be visible through the gap of vegetation removed associated with the HVDC cable route.

The views of construction activity would appear in a small part of the horizontal extent of the view and would temporarily displace views to the wooded horizon and potentially iconic buildings in Thorpeness dependent on the angle of the view. Vegetation removal resulting in gaps in existing tree belts would not be uncharacteristic in the local landscape therefore this would reduce the degree of contrast. Such views would be within the context of Sizewell infrastructure in the distance.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be perceptible for a short period of time from this receptor.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

There are unlikely to be views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) and the HVAC cable routes.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

The former grassland, acid grassland beyond and hedgerows would be reinstated immediately following construction. The establishment of these areas would take a number of years to re-establish. There would be a permanent monitoring access directly visible alongside the field boundary in the foreground transitioning into the middle distance.

There would be a permanent loss of trees on the western edge of Leiston Road due to the permanent removal of coniferous vegetation. This would be a barely perceptible change to the composition of the view due to the existing character of mature individual trees with breaks along the remainder of Leiston Road. There would also be a permanent loss of trees in the linear tree belt in the middle distance; however, this would be characteristic of the fragmented pattern of tree planting in the local landscape therefore this would reduce the degree of contrast.

The occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access would be within part of the view with existing movement along the B1122 and would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural vehicle movement in the landscape.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There is not anticipated to be any effects from proposed lighting on the visual receptor. There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2).

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

All areas within the view would appear fully reinstated. There would continue to be a small permanent loss of tree vegetation; however, this would not be uncharacteristic in the local landscape. There would continue to be direct views to a small section of a permanent monitoring access route; however, this would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There are unlikely to be operational views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2).

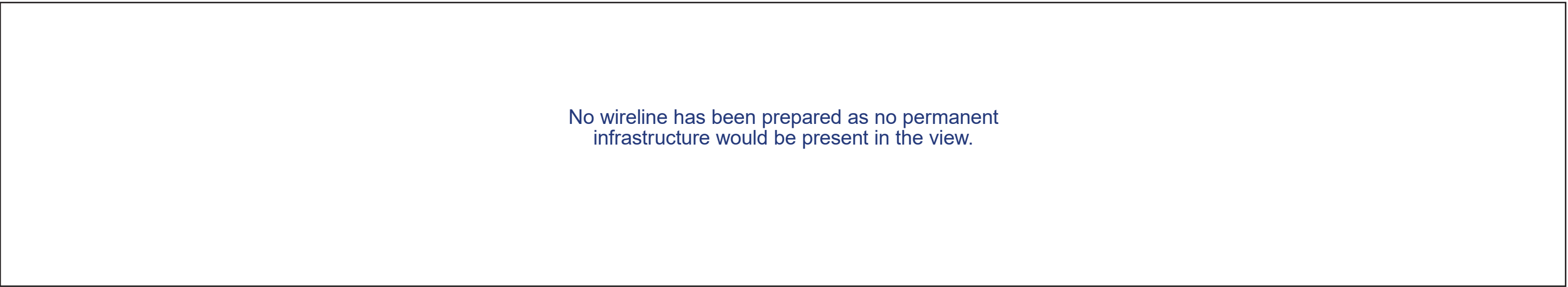
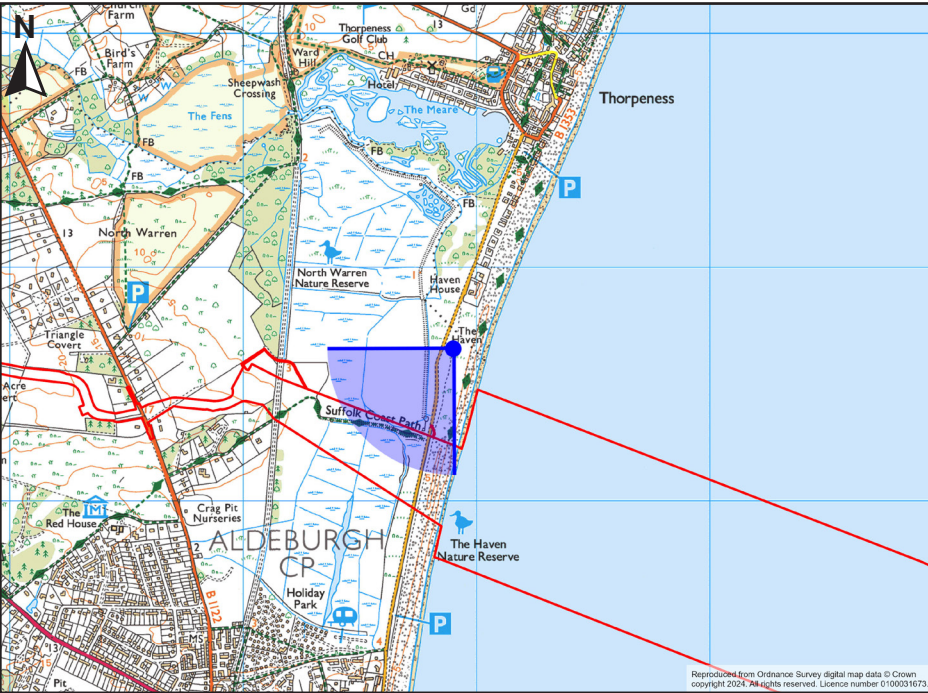




Table 1.13 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 13 (a): Approved King Charles III England Coast Path route, south of Thorpeness, looking southwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E646900 N258602
Approx. Distance to the Project	814m (to cable alignment)
General Direction of View:	SOUTHWEST AND WEST
Value	The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view exhibits highly scenic qualities, including characteristic features of the AONB. It is located within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and within the Suffolk Heritage Coast. The content of the view also comprises North Warren Nature Reserve and St Peter and St Paul's Church in Aldeburgh, which increase the scenic quality. There are no detracting features that influence the composition of the view.  VERY HIGH
Susceptibility	Representative of users of the approved King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail) where attention is focused on the landscape. Also representative of residential receptors on the edge of Thorpeness.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	VERY HIGH

This viewpoint description contains multi-directional views to the southwest and west. The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the approved King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail) between the settlements of Thorpeness and Aldeburgh, residential receptors on the edge of Thorpeness and of receptors within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and the Suffolk Heritage Coast.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground and middle ground comprise shingle and grassland associated with the coastal location. A shingle track denotes the route of the approved King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail), which extends from the foreground into the long distance towards Aldeburgh. The landform rises to the east of the viewpoint, restricting views to the sea from this section of the approved King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail). Views of the North Sea are available from residential receptors on the edge of Thorpeness and at other sections along this route.

Linear scrub vegetation, denoting the route of Thorpe Road, extends from the foreground into the distance, to the southwest of the viewpoint location. The scrub vegetation partially screens distant views. To the west of the viewpoint location, pastoral field enclosures are visible in the middle distance, visible above scrub vegetation along Thorpe Road. Further west, a prominent linear belt of pine trees is visible, which restrict views further west. An isolated residential property is visible in front of the mature vegetation block, to the east of the nature reserve.

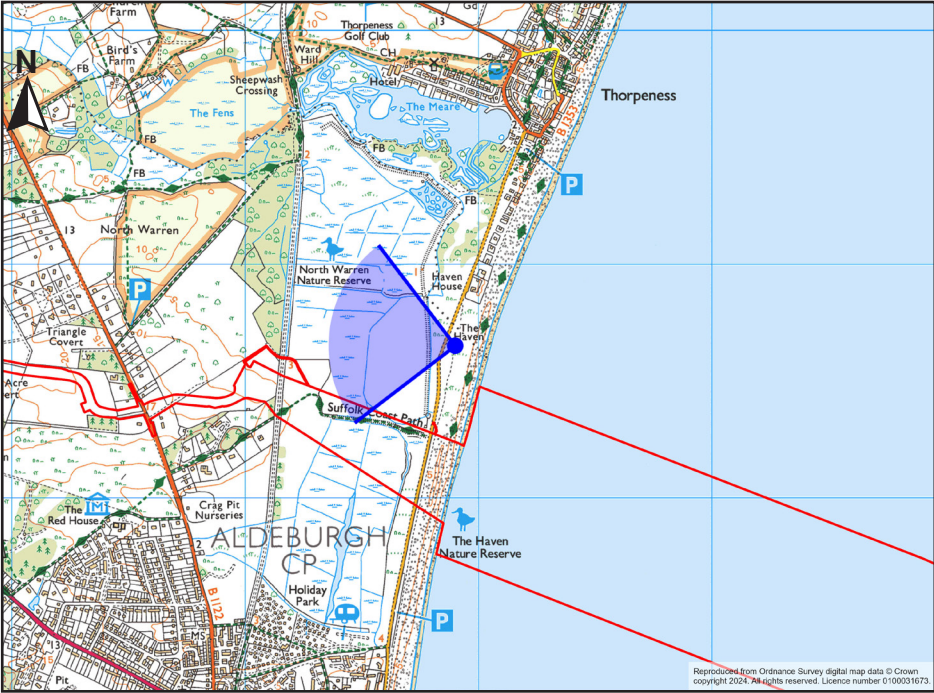
In the long distance, through gaps in vegetation along Thorpe Road, buildings within Aldeburgh are visible to the south of the viewpoint, including the tower of St Peter and St Paul's church (Grade II\*). The settlement edge of Aldeburgh is seen in the context of a wooded skyline.

Baseline View (a) (Winter)



Table 1.13 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 13 (b): Approved King Charles III England Coast Path route, south of Thorpeness, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Assessment of Effects

Construction

Magnitude: Small Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be views of the cable laying barge out at sea associated with the landfall construction in the middle ground. This is not considered to be too dissimilar to the presence of marine vessels which can be typically seen out at sea. It should be noted that from the approved King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail), views are limited towards the sea due to the rising shingle landform along the foreshore.

The construction compound, the landfall transition joint pit, drilling rig and construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route would be partially visible in the middle ground beyond the linear belt of pine trees. No vegetation would be removed within the view.

The construction activity would be an unobtrusive change to the composition of the view as any activity would be set against a solid backcloth of woodland, it would be located within a small extent of the horizontal extent of the view and views of receptors would be focused on the coastline and walking between the settlements of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be barely perceptible from the viewpoint location due to intervening vegetation and only for very short periods of time.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

There would not be views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) and the HVAC cable routes.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: None Effect: No change (not significant)

There would be no views of operational infrastructure associated with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: None Effect: No change (not significant)

There would be no views of operational infrastructure associated with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

Baseline View (b) (Winter)

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations.

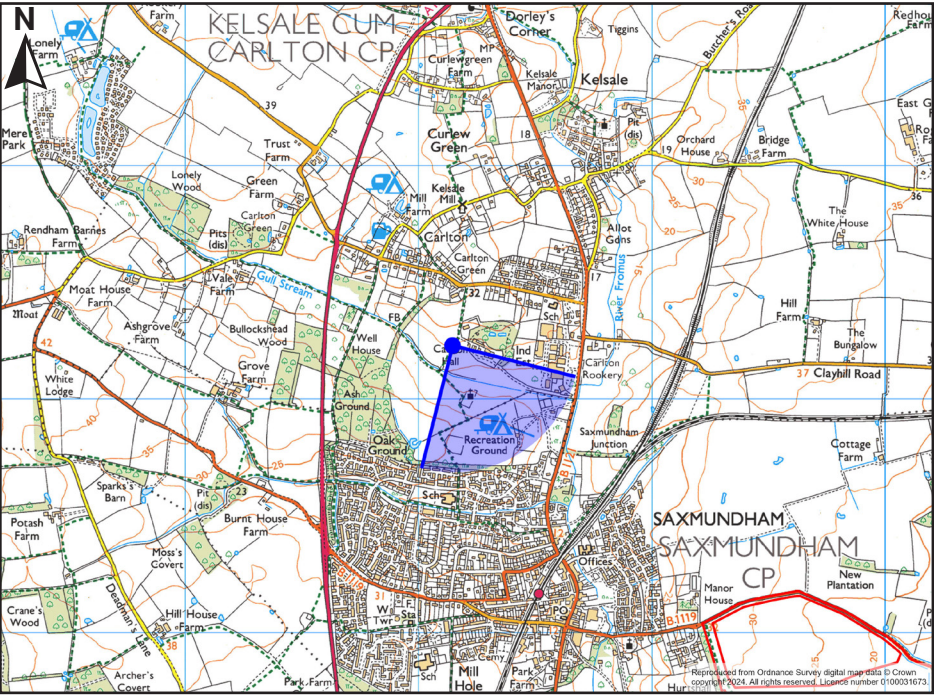


No wireline has been prepared for 13 (a or b) as no permanent infrastructure would be present in the view.



**Table 1.14 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 14:** Public Footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 37), north of Saxmundham, looking southeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E638156 N264235
Approx. Distance to the Project	2372m (to converter station)
General Direction of View	SOUTHEAST
Value	The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view has elements of high scenic quality, comprising a locally designated parkland, St Peter's Church and a well-vegetated rural landscape. The water tower in Saxmundham somewhat detracts from the scenic quality of the view; however, this is limited due to the distance and only partially visible through intervening vegetation.  HIGH
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors on the edge of Carlton and the local PRoW network and users of Carlton Park, Kelsale, locally designated as a Park and Garden of Historic or Landscape Interest where attention is focused on the landscape.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	VERY HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network between the settlements of Carlton and Saxmundham. It is also representative of residential receptors on the edge of Carlton and of users of Carlton Park, Kelsale, locally designated as a Park and Garden of Historic or Landscape Interest.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground and middle distance comprise a small-scale parkland landscape within Carlton Park, which is predominantly used for pastoral grazing. Individual trees are located within the parkland. Post and wire fencing is located in the foreground of the view, denoting the western extent of the parkland and the eastern boundary of the public footpath. To the east of the viewpoint location, in the foreground, a residential property off Carlton Park and associated outbuildings are visible.

The middle ground comprises agricultural and recreational land, which is divided by mature tree belts. This creates a well-vegetated, layered view, which along with an undulating local landform, limits long distance views to the southeast.

Glimpsed views of St Peter's Church, Carlton (Grade II\*) to the southeast of the viewpoint are available through mature vegetation in the middle distance. A water tower within Saxmundham is visible through the wooded skyline to the north of the viewpoint; however, it is visible below the treeline.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

**Construction**  
Magnitude: Negligible    Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would be glimpsed, long distance views to the upper extents of tall construction plant associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, above intervening vegetation in the middle ground.

The movement and type of infrastructure introduced into the view set against the skyline would contrast to the existing features in the view, including St Peter's Church, Carlton and the small-scale parkland within Carlton Park. However, the taller construction plant would occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and would be heavily screened by intervening layered vegetation, such that there would be a barely perceptible change in the composition of the view.

There would be no views of construction activity associated with Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) or the HVAC and HVDC cable route.

Associated lighting may be visible from temporary task lighting at the construction compound, but this would largely be screened by intervening vegetation.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter**  
Magnitude: None    Effect: No change (not significant)

There are unlikely to be operational views of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme within the view due to intervening mature vegetation and landform.

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer**  
Magnitude: None    Effect: No change (not significant)

There are unlikely to be operational views of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme within the view due to intervening mature vegetation and landform.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

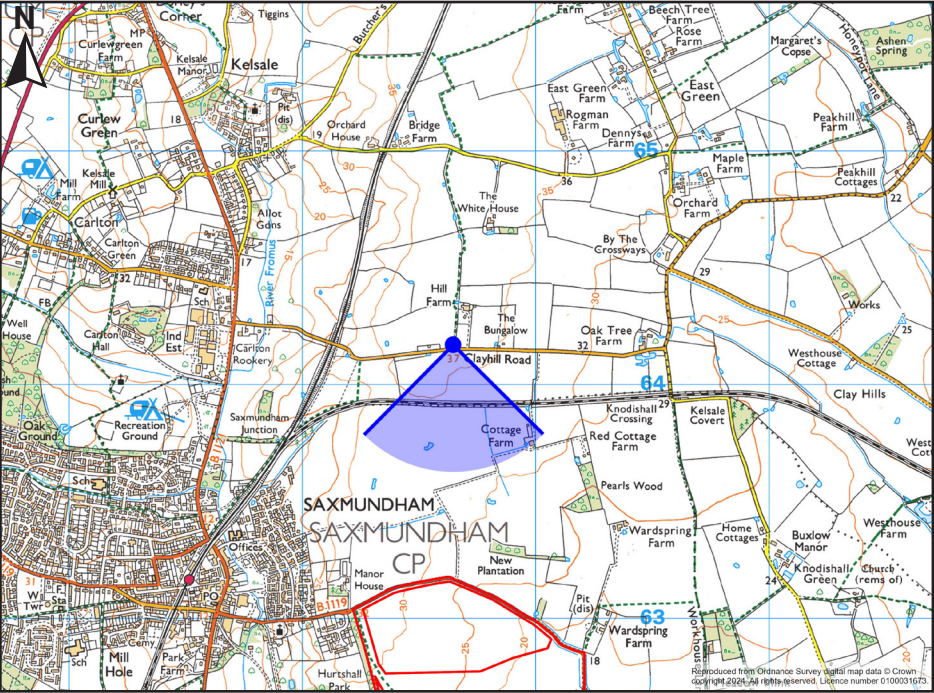
For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations.**





Table 1.15 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 15: Clayhills Road and public footpath (Kelsale-cum-Carlton, route 34), east of Carlton, looking south at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E639646 N264155
Approx. Distance to the Project	1745m (to converter station)
General Direction of View	SOUTH
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view exhibits some scenic qualities, comprising typical agricultural land with hedgerow and mature vegetation that create a well-vegetated view which is likely to be valued by the local community; however, the railway line in the middle distance and the existing OHL in the distance partially reduce the scenic quality.  MEDIUM
Susceptibility	Representative of users of a short section of the local PRow network where views of the surroundings are a partial contributor to experience as this is at a junction with a minor road. Residential receptors in the vicinity are set behind mature vegetation.  MEDIUM
Sensitivity	MEDIUM

The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network and recreational users of the local PRow network to the east of the settlement of Carlton.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises the route of Clayhills Road, which is lined on the southern boundary by a low hedgerow and individual mature trees. Medium to large-scale agricultural land extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the south of the viewpoint location.

In the middle distance, agricultural land extends to a railway line on a slight embankment, lined by hedgerow and mature trees. The vegetation associated with the railway line restricts views to the long distance in part and creates a well-vegetated view. The landform is generally flat in the foreground to middle distance and falls beyond the railway line to the south.

Glimpsed views to further agricultural land and blocks of woodland in the long distance are available through gaps in vegetation along the railway line. The existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline in the distance to the south of the viewpoint location.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Large    Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would be filtered views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, including tall construction plant and material and a construction compound, in the middle ground. The tall construction plant and construction compound associated with Saxmundham Converter Station would be predominantly located in the break of dense, mature tree boundary vegetation in the middle ground. Several individual mature trees within this break provide some screening to the lower extents. However, the filtered views towards the large-scale construction activity would result in a noticeable change in the composition of the view and break the skyline.

The construction activity would be viewed in the context of the existing towers and OHL in the distance which lessens the contrast to the existing view. The landscape is predominantly large-scale, including mature vegetation and field sizes, which lessens the perceived scale of change, and the activity would occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. However, the movement of the construction works would be in an otherwise generally still view apart from occasional movement along the B1119 and the railway line.

There would potentially be glimpsed views of construction activity associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes in the middle ground through intervening vegetation. The glimpsed views may be available within the break of mature vegetation in the middle ground; however, this is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields. Vegetation removal associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes would not be visible due to the intervening vegetation and landform.

There would also potentially be views of the upper extents of tall construction plant associated with Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2). However, this would be barely perceptible due to the distance from the viewpoint and the intervening vegetation.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised which would be visible across parts of the horizontal extent of the view largely associated with the construction compounds in the context of the B1119 road corridor.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Large    Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

The Saxmundham Converter Station would be predominantly located in the break of dense, mature tree boundary vegetation in the middle ground with several individual mature trees within this break providing some screening to the lower extents.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would be a large and uncharacteristic feature in the view and would break the skyline. Despite being located within a large-scale landscape and appearing at a similar height to the existing OHL in the distance and the surrounding mature vegetation in the middle ground, the Saxmundham Converter Station would be a noticeable feature in the view. It would, however, occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and be viewed in the context of existing towers and OHL in the distance, which lessens the contrast to the existing view.

Associated lighting at the Saxmundham Converter Station site would be visible across part of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time and within the context of the B1119 road corridor.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station, within the field enclosures to the north and east would consist of whips at year 1 of operation, which would be barely perceptible in the view and would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There would be very distant views of the permanent towers under Friston Scenario 2 in the distance; however, they would be barely perceptible at this distance and would be seen within the context of the existing towers and OHL.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Medium    Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would continue to be filtered views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle ground, through the intervening vegetation and landform.

Landscape planting around the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured and part would be located on bunding which would provide some additional height and screening benefit. This would help to soften views in the direction of Saxmundham Converter Station along with the matured planting along the B1119 which would add a further layer of planting within the landscape which would likely screen the ground plane of the permanent infrastructure. However, the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station would continue to be visible resulting in a noticeable change to the composition of the view. During summer months, hedgerow vegetation in foreground would further help to soften views towards the Saxmundham Converter Station.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There would be very distant views of the permanent towers under Friston Scenario 2 in the distance; however, they would be barely perceptible at this distance and would be seen within the context of the existing towers and OHL.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

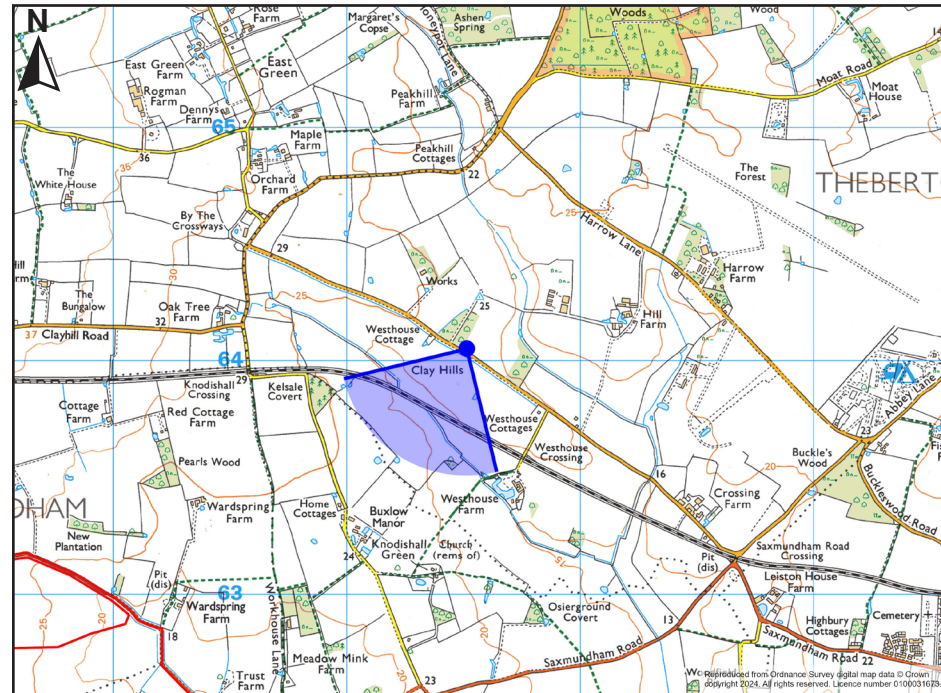


For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.



**Table 1.16 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 16:** Abbey Lane to the north of Knodishall Green, looking southwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

## Viewpoint Location Map



### Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E641493 N264047
Approx. Distance to the Project	2305m (to converter station)
General Direction of View	SOUTHWEST
Value	<p>The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view exhibits some scenic qualities, comprising typical agricultural land, with blocks of mature vegetation and linear vegetation features which is likely to be valued by the local community. However, the railway line in the middle distance and the existing OHL in the distance partially reduce the scenic quality.</p> <p><b>MEDIUM</b></p>
Susceptibility	<p>Representative of residential receptors, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents but noting that views are oblique, as well as users of the local road network.</p> <p><b>VERY HIGH</b></p>
Sensitivity	<b>HIGH</b>

The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network between Saxmundham and Leiston and nearby residential receptors.

## Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises the route of Abbey Lane, which extends northwest and southeast from the viewpoint and is lined by scrub vegetation on the southern boundary. Medium-scale agricultural land extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the south and southwest of the viewpoint location.

In the middle distance, agricultural land extends to a railway line on a slight embankment, lined by a low hedgerow and individual trees. A block of mature vegetation is visible to the southwest of the viewpoint, in the middle distance, which restricts long distance views in this direction. The landform gently falls towards the southeast from the viewpoint.

Agricultural land extends into the long distance to the south of the viewpoint, with linear tree belts and hedgerows dividing field enclosures, creating a layered view of vegetation. Glimpsed views of scattered, isolated farmsteads are available through layers of vegetation. Blocks of mature vegetation are scattered across the skyline in the long distance.

The existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline in the distance to the south and southeast of the viewpoint.

### Baseline View (Winter)



## Assessment of Effects

## Construction

Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would be filtered views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, including tall construction plant and material and a construction compound, in the distance. This would be predominantly located in the break in the dense, mature tree field boundary vegetation in the long distance and would be partially screened by several individual mature trees within this break. There would potentially be glimpsed views of construction activity associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes near to the Saxmundham Converter Station in the distance through intervening vegetation.

Construction activity would occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and would be in the context of occasional movement along Abbey Lane and the existing towers and OHL in the distance. The filtered views towards the construction activity would result in an unobtrusive change in the composition of the view, due to the intervening vegetation and the distance from which it is viewed. The construction plant would likely break the skyline in parts but would generally sit below or at a similar height to the intervening trees in the middle and long distance, which lessens the perceived scale of change. Taller construction plant would be more apparent in the view but would be in a very small part of the horizontal extent and would remain at a distance. The large-scale construction activity would contrast with the existing small-scale agricultural buildings within the view.

The glimpsed views associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes may be available within the break of mature vegetation in the distance; however, this is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields. Vegetation removal associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable routes is not likely to be visible due to the intervening vegetation.

There would also potentially be views of the upper extents of tall construction plant associated with Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2). However, this would be barely perceptible due to the distance from the viewpoint and the intervening vegetation.

### Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



*For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.*

### Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer

Magnitude: Small    Effect: Minor adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be filtered views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the distance, through the intervening vegetation.

Landscape planting around the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured and part would be located on bunding which would provide some additional height and screening benefit. This would help to soften views in the direction of Saxmundham Converter Station and would likely screen the ground plane of the permanent infrastructure. However, the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station would continue to be visible in the distance.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There would be very distant views of the permanent towers under Friston Scenario 2; however, they would be barely perceptible at this distance and would be seen within the context of the existing towers and OHL.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and would be partially visible in a small part of the horizontal extent of the view in the context of the B1119 road corridor.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

### Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter

Magnitude: **Small**    Effect: **Minor adverse (not significant)**

The Saxmundham Converter Station would be visible in the break in the dense, mature tree field boundary vegetation in the middle ground and would be partially screened by several individual mature trees within this break.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would be a large and uncharacteristic feature in the view in contrast to the existing small-scale agricultural buildings and farmhouses. It would, however, be viewed from a distance, occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, would not break the skyline and would appear below the height of intervening vegetation, which lessens the perceived scale of change. It would also be seen in the context of existing towers and OHL, which reduces the contrast to the existing view.

Associated lighting at the Saxmundham Converter Station site would be partially visible across part of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time and within the context of the B1119 road corridor.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station, within the field enclosures to the north and east would consist of whips at year 1 of operation, which would be barely perceptible in the view and would not materially alter the composition of the view.

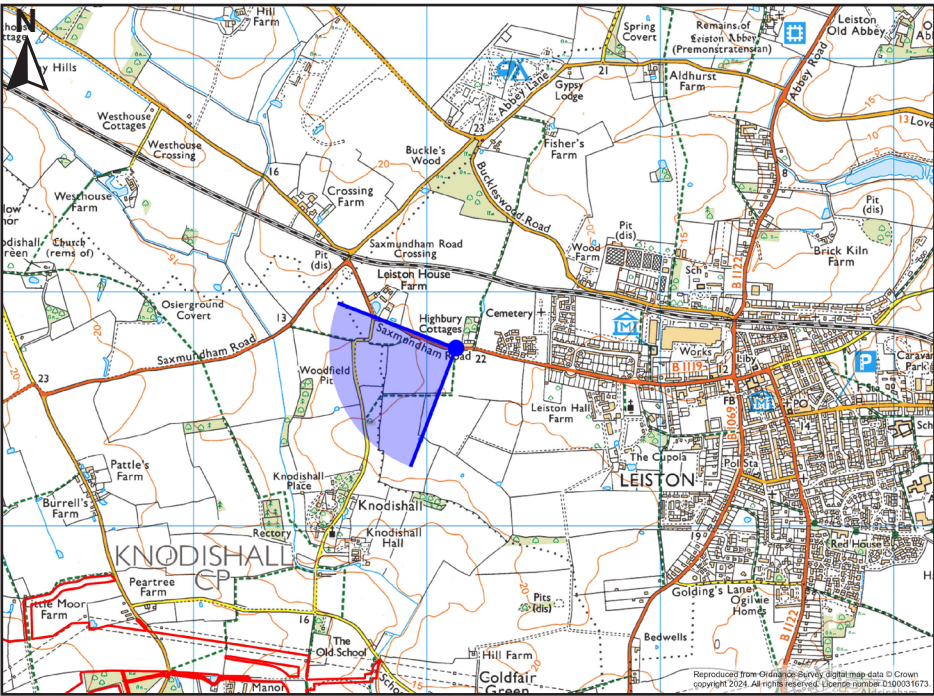
The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There would be very distant views of the permanent towers under Friston Scenario 2; however, they would be barely perceptible at this distance and would be seen within the context of the existing towers and OHL.



**Table 1.17 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 17: Saxmundham Road (B1119) and public footpath (Leiston-cum-Sizewell, route 3), on the edge of Leiston, looking west at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)**

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E643122 N262745
Approx. Distance to the Project	2243m (to substation)
General Direction of View	WEST
Value	<p>The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view has some elements which increase the scenic quality, comprising typical agricultural land, with linear tree belts and hedgerows, as such creating a well-vegetated view which is likely to be valued by the local community. However, the wood pole line in the foreground and the existing OHL in the distance partially reduce the scenic quality.</p> <p>MEDIUM</p>
Susceptibility	<p>Representative of users of the local PRoW network and Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route where views are an important part of the experience and the local road network and residential receptors on the edge of Leiston, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents.</p> <p>VERY HIGH</p>
Sensitivity	HIGH

Representative of users of the local road network and PRoW network on the edge of the settlement of Leiston.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises medium-scale agricultural land, with a crop strip extending south of the viewpoint, denoting the route of the public footpath. Wood pole lines transect the field in a north to south direction, generally following the route of the public footpath. The B1119 is visible to the north of the viewpoint. A mature hedgerow, with small individual trees, extends from the foreground into the distance to the west of the viewpoint, denoting the route of the B1119.

The middle ground comprises layers of tree lined field boundaries, which largely restrict distant views to the southwest.

The landform is gently undulating, which provides glimpsed views of agricultural land in the distance, through mature vegetation. Heavily screened views to blocks of mature vegetation on the skyline in the long distance are available to the west of the viewpoint. The existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline in the distance, to the southwest.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction
Magnitude: Negligible      Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would be heavily filtered views of the upper extents of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, including tall construction plant and material visible above the mature tree line.

The tall construction plant would occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and all potential views of construction activity would be seen within the context of the existing OHL in the distance and occasional movement along the B1119. Intervening vegetation and the existing OHL would appear taller than the vast majority of construction activity associated with Saxmundham Converter Station which would lessen the perceived scale of change. As such, there would be a barely perceptible change in the composition of the view.

Associated lighting may be visible from temporary task lighting at the construction compound, but this would largely be screened by intervening vegetation.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

There would be no views of construction activity associated with Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2).

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter
Magnitude: Negligible      Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would be heavily filtered views of the upper extent of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the distance and views would comprise parts of the upper extent of the large-scale infrastructure due to intervening mature vegetation.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would occupy a very small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and would be seen in the context of existing electrical infrastructure in the view. The Saxmundham Converter Station would appear lower in height than the surrounding layered mature vegetation network and the existing OHL in the distance, which lessens the perceived scale of change. As such, there would be a barely perceptible change to the composition of the view.

Associated lighting is expected to be limited which would contrast the existing view when lit, albeit heavily screened by intervening mature vegetation.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station would not be visible from this location.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible. due to intervening vegetation and landform.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer
Magnitude: Negligible      Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be heavily filtered views of the upper extent of Saxmundham Converter Station in the distance, through the intervening vegetation. As the landscape planting would not be apparent within the view, there would be no change to the effects described above at Year 1.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

There are unlikely to be operational views of the Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) within the view due to intervening mature vegetation.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

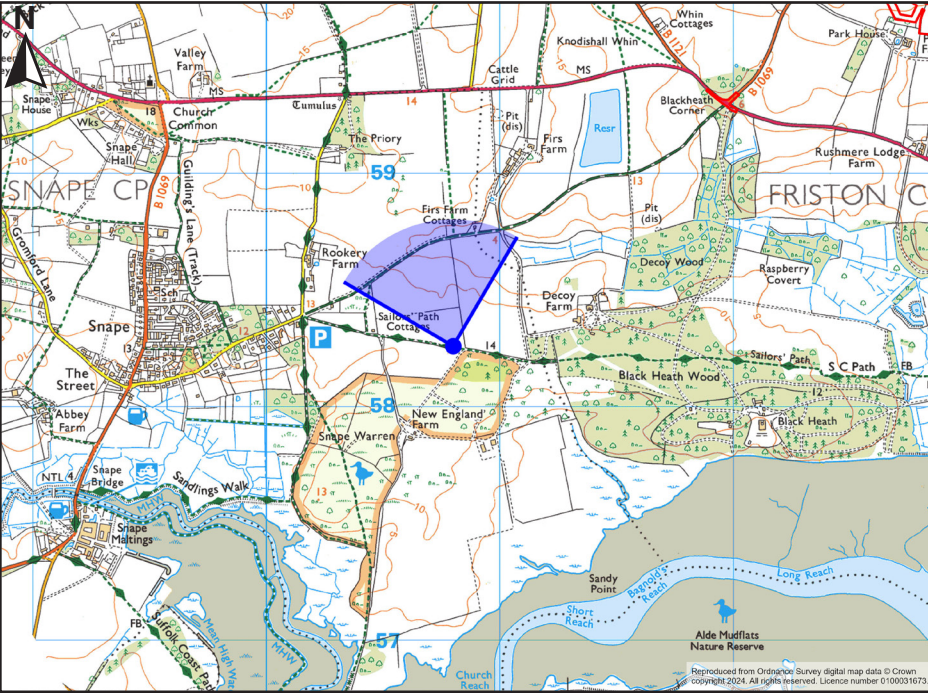


For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.



**Table 1.18 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 18:** Suffolk Coast Path recreational route, east of Snape, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises scrub vegetation and bracken, which denotes the northern boundary of the Suffolk Coast Path. The Suffolk Coast Path extends from the foreground into the middle distance to the east and west of the viewpoint. The foreground comprises medium-scale agricultural land, which extends into the middle distance to the north of the viewpoint.

The middle ground comprises further agricultural land, divided by low-level scrub vegetation and individual trees as well as post and wire fencing. Agricultural buildings are located within field enclosures in the middle to long-distance to the south of the A1094. Glimpsed views through vegetation are available to vehicles along the A1094. Blocks of mature vegetation, including within The Priory, are also scattered within the middle and long-distance, creating a well-vegetated view.

In the distance, to the northwest, the tower of St John the Baptist church, Church Common (Grade II\*) is visible above mature vegetation. Filtered views towards scattered properties to the north of the viewpoint location are also available.

There are partially screened views to blocks of mature vegetation on the skyline in the long distance, and the existing OHL breaks the wooded skyline in the distance to the north of the viewpoint.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction	
Magnitude: Negligible	Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would be heavily filtered views of the upper extents of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2), including tall construction plant and material.

Views of the construction activity would be limited to distant glimpses of tall construction plant within and above the mature vegetation treeline on the skyline, such that it would be barely perceptible in the view. The tall construction plant would occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and potential views of construction activity would be seen within the context of the existing towers and OHL in the distance and occasional movement along the A1094. Intervening vegetation, and the existing towers and OHL, would appear taller than the vast majority of construction activity associated with Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) which would lessen the perceived scale of change.

Associated lighting may be visible from temporary task lighting at the construction compounds but this is likely to be screened by intervening vegetation.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

There would be no views of construction activity associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable route due to intervening vegetation and landform.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter	
Magnitude: Negligible	Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would be heavily filtered views of the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2), in the long distance and background of the view.

Views of the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) would be limited to glimpses of infrastructure within the mature vegetation treeline on the skyline. The permanent infrastructure would be barely perceptible in the view and occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. Potential views of Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation would be seen within the context of the existing towers and OHL in the distance and occasional movement along the A1094. Intervening vegetation and the existing OHL would appear taller than Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2), which would lessen the perceived scale of change. As such, there would be a barely perceptible change to the composition of the view.

Associated lighting is expected to be limited and is unlikely to be perceptible from this receptor due to distance and intervening vegetation.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) would not be visible from this location.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer	
Magnitude: Negligible	Effect: Negligible adverse (not significant)

There would continue to be heavily filtered views of the upper extents of Saxmundham Converter Station and Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) in the long distance, through the intervening vegetation. As the landscape planting would not be apparent within the view, there would be no change to the effects described above at Year 1.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

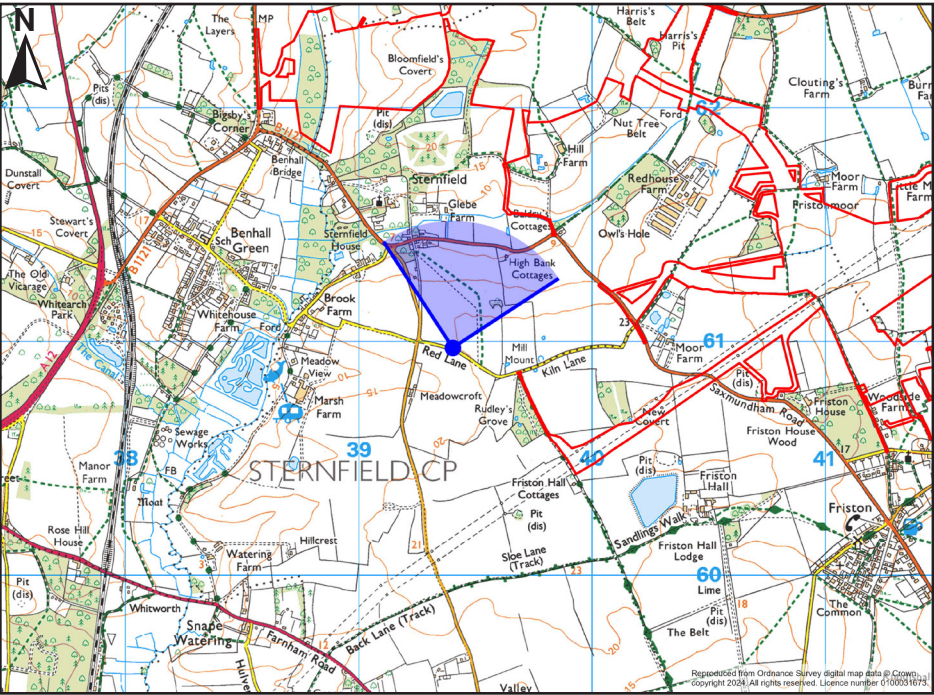
Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)





Table 1.19 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 19: Red Lane, southeast of Sternfield, looking northeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E639508 N260908
Approx. Distance to the Project	1256m (to converter station)
General Direction of View	NORTHEAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view is a typical agricultural view including farmland and characteristic blocks of woodland, mature trees and hedgerow along field boundaries which is likely to be valued by the local community. The wood pole line in the middle ground reduces the scenic quality. <b>MEDIUM</b>
Susceptibility	Representative of users of the local PRoW network and Wolf Way cycle route where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience and representative of users of the Sailors' Path recreational route where attention is focused on the landscape. Also representative of local road network where their attention is not focused on the landscape. <b>VERY HIGH</b>
Sensitivity	<b>HIGH</b>

The viewpoint is representative of recreational users of the local PRoW network within the landscape to the south of Sternfield, the Sailors' Path recreational route and users of the Wolf Way cycle route. The viewpoint is also representative of those using the local road network, including along Red Lane, between Sternfield and Benhall Green, and Friston.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises large-scale arable land, that extends into the middle distance. The route of the public footpath also extends through the field enclosure and there is a wood pole line across the field in the middle ground. The field enclosure is bound by scattered individual trees some of which are in linear groups.

The landform slightly falls from the viewpoint location through arable fields and then rises again near to the north of the route of the B1121 (The Street) of which there are layers of hedgerows with hedgerows trees along field boundaries creating a layered vegetation network within the view. In the middle ground, there are also views of the upper sections of large-scale agricultural buildings off the B1121 and residential properties at the edge of the large-scale field, including on the edge of Sternfield.

The distant view contains mature woodland blocks which span the entirety of the skyline. There are distant, partially filtered by the intervening vegetation network, views to vehicles moving along the B1119. There are views to a water tower above the tree line. Any built form within the view does not or only just breaks the skyline. The existing towers and OHL are also visible above the tree line in a small section of the view.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction	
Magnitude: <b>Medium</b>	Effect: <b>Moderate adverse (significant)</b>

There would be partially screened, by the intervening layered vegetation network, views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station and the permanent attenuation pond and outfall in the background of the view. This would include a construction compound as well as construction plant and material and earthworks. There would be predominantly heavily screened, by the intervening layered vegetation network and woodland blocks, views towards construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC corridors.

The construction activity would occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view as the majority of the construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC corridors would be heavily screened with only sections visible within less densely vegetated parts of the layered network, which lessens the scale of change. The activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable routes is not considered to be dissimilar to typical machinery on arable fields, which reduces the contrast to the existing view. Any hedgerow or tree vegetation removal would not be discernible as it would be at a distance and set in front of the layered vegetation network.

The ground plane of the construction activity would not be visible due to the layered intervening vegetation network. The landscape in the view is large-scale, including the field sizes, mature vegetation and agricultural buildings, which lessens the scale of change; however, the construction plant and activity would contrast with the existing largely agricultural view within which movement is limited.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised which would be visible across small parts of the horizontal extent of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Views towards the upper parts of tall construction plant and activity associated with the Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2), including the construction of the permanent access road off Saxmundham Road, might possibly be visible in the opposite direction (successive view), which would further extend the horizontal extent of successive views experienced from this location within the context of the existing OHL.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter	
Magnitude: <b>Large</b>	Effect: <b>Moderate adverse (significant)</b>

There would be direct views of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the distance, albeit the lower extents would be partially screened by intervening vegetation, in a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The Saxmundham Converter Station would break the skyline. Regarding the HVDC and HVAC cable route, the former land use and hedgerows would be reinstated which may take a short period to re-establish immediately following construction.

There would be heavily screened, by intervening mature vegetation, views of a short section of a monitoring access route with occasional vehicle movement off the B1121 along an existing track in the middle ground. Above ground kiosks associated with the underground HVAC cable corridor would be barely perceptible at this distance and are likely to be fully screened by intervening vegetation.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would be a large-scale, uncharacteristic feature within the view. Despite being located in a large-scale landscape, the Saxmundham Converter Station would be a pronounced feature in the view and the scale would be emphasised by residential properties and agricultural built form within the view. As the landform rises away from the viewpoint, the Saxmundham Converter Station would appear on slightly elevated land and would break the skyline, which contrasts other built form in the view which is generally near to or below the skyline which increases the contrast to the existing composition of the view.

The occasional, heavily screened, views of vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural vehicle movement in the landscape. Any permanent tree loss in the landscape to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station would be minimal and would not contrast with the existing pattern of blocks of vegetation creating gaps to long distance views.

Associated lighting (controlled manually as required during periods of low light or darkness) is expected to be limited and it would be apparent within the existing view when lit, albeit partially screened by intervening mature vegetation.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station, within the field enclosures to the east would consist of whips therefore at year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) and movement along the permanent access road may be visible but would be barely perceptible due to intervening vegetation and landform, would be at a distance and would be within the context of the existing OHL.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer	
Magnitude: <b>Large</b>	Effect: <b>Moderate adverse (significant)</b>

There would continue to be direct views of the upper extent of the Saxmundham Converter Station and occasional, heavily filtered, vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring route in the background, occupying a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view.

Landscape planting around the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured. This would aid the softening views in the direction of the permanent infrastructure; however, the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station would remain visible and a pronounced change in the composition of the view.

The landscape planting in the field enclosures to the east of the Saxmundham Converter Station would also assist in the strengthening the green infrastructure network in the view where there would be permanent tree loss associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable corridor, albeit unlikely to be perceptible due to the layered vegetation network.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

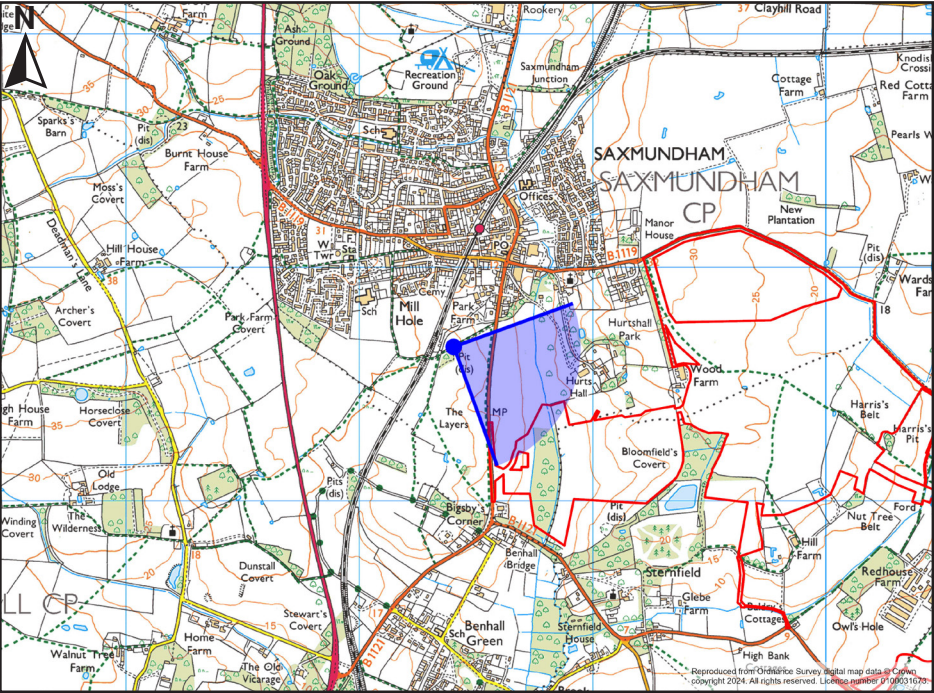
Views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) may be visible but would be barely perceptible due to intervening vegetation and landform, would be at a distance and would be within the context of the existing OHL.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.



Table 1.20 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 20: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 17), looking east at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a large-scale arable field which is gently undulating and gradually falls towards the B1121 and River Fromus. The field is bound by the B1121 and mature hedgerow, noting some gaps, and occasional hedgerow trees. The busy traffic along the B1121 is visible but the ground plane of the road and the majority of the field enclosure between the B1121 and the River Fromus is not visible due to the intervening vegetation and landform.

The middle ground of the view includes estate parkland and Hurts Hall and associated outbuildings set against mature vegetation as the landform gradually rises to the east of the River Fromus. This includes scattered mature trees and mature vegetation blocks. It is assumed that the plantation along the River Fromus within the middle distance of the existing view would have been removed prior to construction and operation. The plantation therefore does not form the baseline for the visual assessment. St John's Church, Saxmundham and the upper extent of residential properties on the edge of Saxmundham are also visible between intervening vegetation.

The background of the view comprises mature woodland blocks including within Bloomsfield's Covert, of which Hurts Hall is set against, and the existing OHL against the skyline in the distance in a small part of the view. There is a slight break in this vegetation to the southeast of Hurts Hall.

Baseline View (Winter)



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E638401 N262659
Approx. Distance to the Project	1293m (to converter station)
General Direction of View	EAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The content of the view has a high scenic quality, with the presence of an estate parkland associated with Hurts Hall. The view is also recognised within the Saxmundham Neighbourhood Plan as an 'Important Local View'.  HIGH
Susceptibility	Representative of users of the local PRoW network where views of the surroundings are an important contributor to experience and representative of users of the Sailors' Path recreational route where attention is focused on the landscape. Residential receptors in the vicinity are set behind mature vegetation. The viewpoint is also representative of railway users, albeit views are heavily screened by intervening foreground vegetation.  VERY HIGH
Sensitivity	VERY HIGH

The viewpoint is representative of users of the local PRoW network between the settlements of Saxmundham and Benhall Green and users of the Sailor's Path recreational route. It is also representative of users of the East Suffolk railway line between Saxmundham and Wickham Market, albeit noting the intervening mature vegetation network.

Assessment of Effects

Construction	
Magnitude: Large	Effect: Major adverse (significant)

There would be direct and filtered views of construction activity associated within the permanent access route, bridge across the River Fromus and Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle ground through to the background of the view. This would include a construction compound as well as construction plant and material, vegetation removal and earthworks to construct the permanent access road in the middle ground.

Construction activity would occupy a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view. The movement and presence of construction plant set against part of the skyline would contrast with the existing features in the view, including Hurts Hall and St John's Church, Saxmundham, resulting in a pronounced change to the existing composition of the view. Views would be within the context of busy traffic along the B1121 and would be partially screened by landform and intervening vegetation along the B1121.

Views of construction activity associated with the permanent access route and River Fromus bridge would extend the vertical extent of construction activity within the view from the lower ground near to the River Fromus as it rises towards the Saxmundham Converter Station site. Views of construction activity associated with the permanent access route to the east of the River Fromus would be direct in the most part, due to the landform and the lack of intervening vegetation. Views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station would be partially screened by mature woodland vegetation to the east of Hurts Hall. Tall construction plant would be visible above the tree line and through the break in vegetation to the southeast of Hurts Hall.

There would be vegetation removal in the existing gap in the mature vegetation network across the skyline, which would result in more direct views to construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality, which are not present currently but within the context of the busy B1119 road.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be visible across part of the horizontal extent of the view in the context of the southern settlement edge of Saxmundham.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) is not considered to be perceptible from this location.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter	
Magnitude: Large	Effect: Major adverse (significant)

There would be direct views of the permanent access route including occasional vehicle movement and the bridge across the River Fromus in the middle ground. The Saxmundham Converter Station would be visible within a small part of the horizontal panorama in the background in a gap in the mature vegetation network along the skyline and in the same part of the view as Hurts Hall. It would be partially screened by existing mature woodland vegetation and would break the skyline.

The permanent access route would result in a noticeable new linear element splitting the large-scale arable field in two which would contrast with the existing landscape pattern in the view. The permanent access route would also result in the permanent loss of tree vegetation to the south of Wood Farm which would not be entirely uncharacteristic due to the existing gap in the mature vegetation network. For the River Fromus Bridge Scenario 1 and the River Fromus Bridge Scenario 2, there would be an incongruous addition into the middle distance, which would be an uncharacteristic feature within the view. Both bridge Scenarios would result in a permanent loss of mature vegetation along the eastern edge of the River Fromus; however, this would not be entirely uncharacteristic due to existing gaps in the mature vegetation network.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would typically appear due to its apparent scale as a prominent feature against the skyline. It would appear out of character in the context of Hurts Hall set within the parkland landscape. The degree of contrast between the type of development would be a noticeable change as the Saxmundham Converter Station and Hurts Hall would be visible in the same part of the view. Views would be within the context of busy traffic along the B1121 and the OHL in the distance.

Associated lighting (controlled manually as required during periods of low light or darkness) is expected to be limited and would be perceptible within a small part in the background of the view in the context of the southern settlement edge of Saxmundham.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) along the permanent access route, around the River Fromus bridge crossing and to the west of the Saxmundham Converter Station would consist of whips and feathered trees, therefore at year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer	
Magnitude: Medium	Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would continue to be direct views of the permanent access route, River Fromus bridge crossing and part of the Saxmundham Converter Station in the middle-ground through to the background occupying a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view.

Landscape planting associated with the permanent access route and around the River Fromus bridge would have matured. This would create new green infrastructure links and assist in partially restoring the permanent tree loss in the vegetation along the River Fromus. The vegetation would also be in the context of newly planted vegetation in the local landscape.

Landscape planting to the west and north of the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured and part would be located on bunding which would provide some additional height and screening benefit. This would aid the softening views in the direction of the permanent infrastructure; however, the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station would remain visible and a noticeable change in the composition of the view.

Further to the south along this public footpath, the effects are likely to remain the same as proposed landscape planting is considered to have more of a screening effect due to the lower elevation of the receptor; however, the receptor would be closer to the Proposed Development resulting in the scale of change being comparatively increased.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)

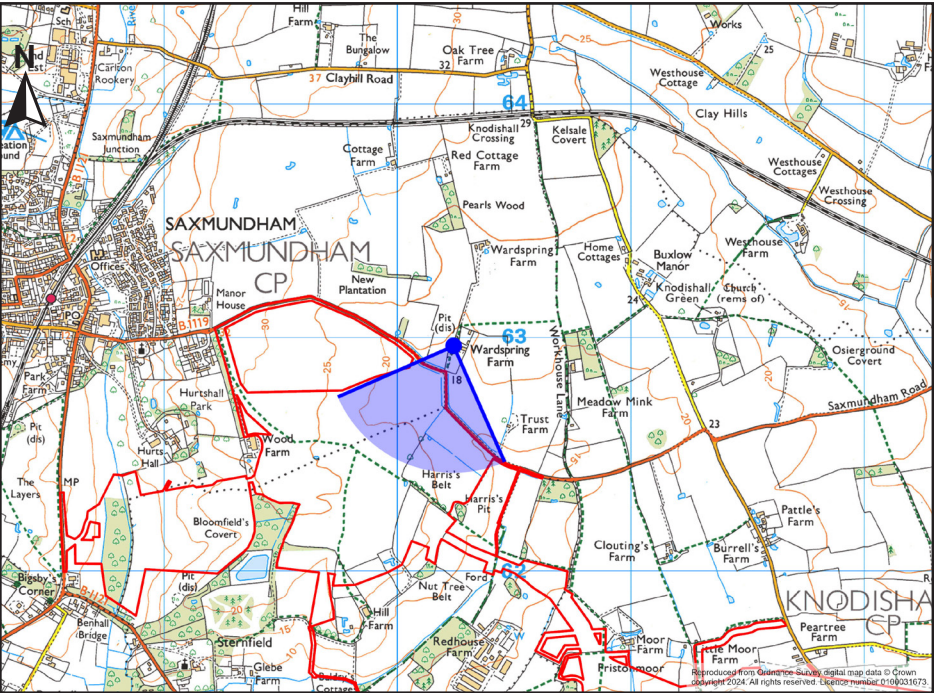


For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.



Table 1.21 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 21: Public footpath (Saxmundham 460, route 8), looking southwest at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a large-scale arable field enclosure bound by a farm track, which denotes the public footpath, and a ditch. The large-scale arable field extends from the foreground into another large-scale arable field beyond the route of the B1119. The B1119 is located in the middle ground; however, movement of vehicles along is less visible due to landform and intervening vegetation especially in summer whereas more obvious in winter. Mature vegetation is visible in the foreground and middle ground surrounding the residential property with outbuildings along the track and adjacent to the part of the public footpath closer to the route of the B1119.

The landform gently rises away from the viewpoint location towards the background of the view containing distinct and large blocks of mature vegetation with pockets of individual mature trees, including vegetation on the settlement edge of Saxmundham. There are existing gaps in this network, including near to the built form of Wood Farm, also in the distance set partially against the skyline. Views further to the south-east are screened by intervening vegetation in the foreground and middle ground.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

Construction	
Magnitude: Very Large	Effect: Major adverse (significant)

There would be direct views of construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, permanent access route, HVDC and HVAC cable corridors and a temporary attenuation pond adjacent to the B1119 and outfall pipe in the foreground and middle ground. This would include a construction compound as well as construction plant, material and earthworks predominantly within the large-scale arable field in the middle ground, dependent on optionality for the construction compound.

The construction activity would occupy a large proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, would obstruct long-distance views across the arable farmland and would introduce large-scale uncharacteristic machinery and activity within the view. Such views would be in the context of the busy B1119 road with frequent vehicle movement, which would slightly lessen the degree of contrast of the construction works, but it would remain a substantial change in the view.

There would be vegetation removal near to the location of Wood Farm associated with the permanent access route, including hedgerow and a Category C tree. This would increase the width of an existing gap in the vegetation network which would lessen the degree of contrast to the existing composition of the view. There would also be views of construction vehicles in the locality for a period of the construction period until the permanent access route is constructed.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised which would be visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view in the context of the B1119 road corridor.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

There are not expected to be views towards construction activity associated with the Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) due to intervening mature vegetation.

Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter	
Magnitude: Very Large	Effect: Major adverse (significant)

There would be direct views of the Saxmundham Converter Station with bunding on the northern edge in the middle ground across a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view and a short section of a permanent monitoring access in the same part of the view. There would be the permanent loss of trees associated with the permanent access route in the distance near to Wood Farm.

The Saxmundham Converter Station would be uncharacteristic and large-scale, emphasised by the contrast in comparison to the scale of Wood Farm in the distance. The Saxmundham Converter Station would permanently block views to the large-scale mature woodland in the distance and as it would break the skyline this would further increase the scale of change resulting in a pronounced change to the composition of the view. Parts of the more peripheral horizontal extent of the view would be unaffected with views remaining towards the wooded edge of the settlement of Saxmundham.

The occasional vehicle movement along the permanent monitoring access would not be dissimilar to existing agricultural vehicle movement in the landscape.

The hedgerow near to Wood Farm removed at construction to facilitate the permanent access route would be reinstated following construction, although at Year 1 the new planting would not be discernible in the view. The permanent loss of trees associated with the permanent access route would increase the width of an existing gap in the vegetation network which would lessen the degree of contrast to the existing composition of the view.

Associated lighting at the Saxmundham Converter Station site would be visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view but would be on for occasional and short periods of time and within the context of the B1119 road corridor.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 1 Saxmundham Converter Station Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Saxmundham Converter Station and along the B1119 would consist of whips and feathered trees, therefore at year 1 of operation this would not materially alter the composition of the view.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible due to intervening vegetation.

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer**  
Magnitude: Large Effect: Moderate adverse (significant)

There would continue to be direct views of the Saxmundham Converter Station with bunding and a small section of a permanent monitoring access in the middle ground occupying a proportion of the horizontal extent of the view.

Landscape planting around the Saxmundham Converter Station would have matured and part would be located on bunding to increase the height of screening achieved. Landscape planting along the B1119 would also have matured. This would aid the softening views in the direction of the permanent infrastructure; however, the upper extents of the Saxmundham Converter Station would remain visible, and a pronounced change in the composition of the view.

The landscape planting near to Wood Farm would assist in partly closing a gap in the mature vegetation network to the west of the Saxmundham Converter Station, noting that a permanent gap would remain to facilitate the permanent access route.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

In views towards the operational Friston Substation (under Friston Scenario 2) the substation is not considered to be perceptible.

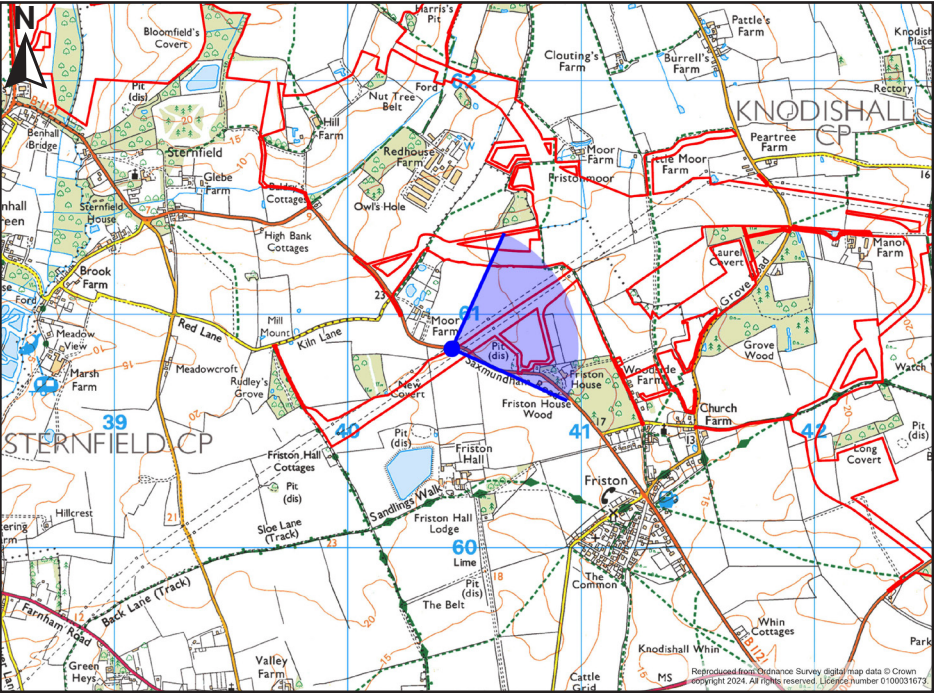
Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)





Table 1.22 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 22: Saxmundham Road (B1121), northwest of Friston, looking northeast at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E640475 N260860
Approx. Distance to the Project	855m (to substation)
General Direction of View	NORTHEAST
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view contains typical large-scale agricultural field enclosures which is likely to be valued by the local community. The presence and scale of the existing OHL in the foreground and extending into the distance dominates the composition of the view due to the scale in comparison to tree, hedgerow and woodland in the view and reduces the scenic quality. <b>MEDIUM</b>
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors along Saxmundham Road, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents, albeit views are partially screened by intervening vegetation. It is also representative of users of the Wolf Way cycle route where views are an important part of the experience and users of the local road network where their attention is not focused on the landscape. <b>VERY HIGH</b>
Sensitivity	<b>HIGH</b>

The viewpoint is representative of users of the local road network, including Saxmundham Road, on the approach to the settlement of Friston, and residential properties along Saxmundham Road (B1121), albeit views are partially screened by intervening vegetation. The viewpoint is also representative of users of the Wolf Way cycle route.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a large-scale arable field which extends into the middle ground and the landform is generally flat. Existing pylons and the OHL extend from the foreground into the distance and are prominent in the view. The field is bound by a tall hedgerow adjacent to Saxmundham Road in which the viewpoint receptor is taken from a gap.

The view contains a layered vegetation network including hedgerow, occasional hedgerow trees and blocks of woodland. There are some gaps in the hedgerow network. There is minimal built form, other than the existing OHL, in the view and is limited to filtered views of farmsteads interspersed in the view in the distance.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

**Construction (Friston Scenario 1)**  
Magnitude: **Small**    Effect: **Minor adverse (not significant)**

**Construction (Friston Scenario 2)**  
Magnitude: **Large**    Effect: **Moderate adverse (significant)**

Construction (Friston Scenario 1)

There would be partially filtered views of construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable corridors and temporary and permanent attenuation pond and outfall pipe and temporary and permanent infiltration pond and outfall pipe in the middle ground. This would include construction plant and material and construction access within a large-scale arable field.

Construction activity would occupy the majority of the horizontal extent of the view, would temporarily obstruct long-distance views across the arable farmland and layered vegetation network and would temporarily displace arable farmland. However, as the activity would be set within the middle distance, against the layered vegetation network and partially screened by intervening hedgerow and hedgerow tree vegetation, this would lessen the scale of change in the view. The activity would also be within the context of the existing OHL which is prominent in the view and reduces the degree of contrast.

Friston Substation would be under construction by SPR occupying the middle ground of the view adding further reference to energy infrastructure in the local landscape and thereby reducing the degree of contrast arising from additional construction activity in the view. The tie-in works to Friston Substation are not considered to be perceptible within the existing construction works.

It should be noted that this viewpoint was taken from a gap in the mature hedgerow vegetation network along the B1121, such that other views along this network are likely to experience further screening.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be visible across a small part of the horizontal extent of the view for short periods of time.contrast.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Views towards the construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station are not considered to be visible from this receptor.

Construction (Friston Scenario 2):

In addition to the above Friston Substation would be constructed in the middle ground and would be a pronounced change to the view. This would include earthworks, a construction compound, construction access, works to the OHL including temporary towers, vegetation removal and temporary attenuation ponds. Views towards construction activity associated with Friston Substation, including the restringing of the existing OHL, removal of one OHL tower and addition of two OHL towers, would be directly visible in the foreground and middle ground which would displace arable land and tall construction plant would break the skyline. The permanent access road to the north of the receptor would largely be screened by intervening vegetation which would reduce the horizontal extent of the view occupied by construction activity. This would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers which are prominent in the view and therefore partially reduce the degree of contrast.

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter (Friston Scenario 1)**  
Magnitude: **Negligible**    Effect: **Negligible adverse (not significant)**

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter (Friston Scenario 2)**  
Magnitude: **Medium**    Effect: **Moderate adverse (significant)**

The former land use would be reinstated immediately following construction, which may take a short period to re-establish. Areas of agricultural land would be restored quickly, whereas hedgerow reinstatement would take comparatively longer to re-establish. There would be partially filtered views to two sections of permanent monitoring access routes through the large-scale arable landscape in the view.

The occasional movement along the monitoring routes would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape. It should be noted that this viewpoint was taken from a gap in the mature hedgerow vegetation network along the B1121, such that other views along this network are likely to experience further screening. Friston Substation would form part of the future baseline, so would reduce the degree of contrast to views of any part of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

Associated lighting is not considered to be perceptible from this receptor due to distance and intervening vegetation.

It should be noted that this viewpoint was taken from a gap in the mature hedgerow vegetation network along the B1121, such that other views along this network are likely to experience further screening.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

The operational Saxmundham Converter Station and associated lighting is not considered to be visible from this receptor due to distance and intervening vegetation and landform.

Operation and maintenance (Year 1 winter) Friston Scenario 2

In addition to the above Friston Substation would be permanently located in a small part of the horizontal extent of the middle ground of the view, resulting in a noticeable change to the composition of the view. This would be at a similar scale to and set against a wooded backcloth in the background of the view but would be an incongruous presence within an otherwise agricultural view, albeit within the context of the existing OHL, which would reduce the perceived scale of change associated with Friston Substation.

The Friston Substation would be located in a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view, with long distance views across arable land towards St Mary the Virgin Church, Friston which will remain visible. The presence of small buildings in Friston within the view would act as a scale comparison accentuating the relative scale of the substation making it appear comparatively larger.

Views would also include two OHL towers, which would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL which is an existing prominent feature in the view so lessens the contrast of change.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 5 Friston Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Friston Substation on bunding would consist of whips. This would not yet be established at year 1 so would remain similar in views as at construction.



<b>Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer (Friston Scenario 1)</b>	
Magnitude: <b>Negligable</b>	Effect: <b>Negligable adverse (not significant)</b>
<b>Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer (Friston Scenario 2)</b>	
Magnitude: <b>Medium</b>	Effect: <b>Moderate adverse (significant)</b>

**Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 1)**

The HVDC and HVAC cable corridors would be fully reinstated within the view. There would continue to be heavily filtered views to a small section of a permanent monitoring access route; however, this would not be uncharacteristic of typical agricultural practices in the landscape.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

**Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 2)**

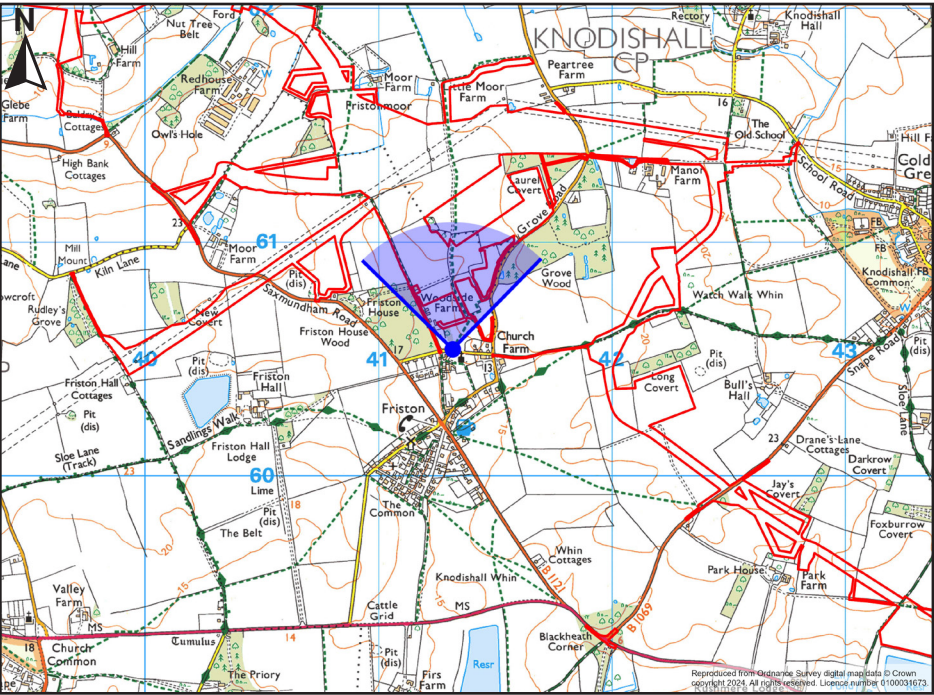
In addition to the above Friston Substation would appear in the context of the existing OHL within the middle ground of the view comprising a noticeable change to the composition of the view. This would continue to be in a small proportion of the view and within the context of the existing OHL.

Landscape planting (refer to **Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 5 Friston Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Friston Substation on bunding would consist of native planting which would contribute to the softening of views towards the permanent infrastructure.



Table 1.23 Assessment of effects on Representative Viewpoint 23: Church Road, Friston, looking north at construction and at operation and maintenance (year 1 winter and year 15 summer)

Viewpoint Location Map



Notes on Viewpoint Location

Grid Reference	E641315 N260539
Approx. Distance to the Project	656m (to substation)
General Direction of View	NORTH
Value	The view is not located within or overlooks a locally or nationally designated landscape. The view is not identified by policy, is not a promoted view and there is no signage associated. The content of the view contains typical edge of settlement agricultural land denoted by post and wire fencing which is likely to be valued by the local community. The existing OHL is visible in the background rising above hedgerow and hedgerow tree vegetation lining a field boundary in the middle ground which reduces the scenic quality. <b>MEDIUM</b>
Susceptibility	Representative of residential receptors on the edge of Friston, where views contribute to the landscape setting enjoyed by residents. It is also representative of users of the local PRoW network, the Wolf Way cycle route and the Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route where views are an important part of the experience and the local road network where their attention is not focused on the landscape. <b>VERY HIGH</b>
Sensitivity	<b>HIGH</b>

The viewpoint is representative of residential receptors on the edge of the settlement of Friston, users of the local PRoW network on the northern edge of Friston, the Wolf Way cycle route, the Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route and users of the local road network through Friston.

Visual Baseline Description

The foreground comprises a medium-scale meadow which is bound by mature hedgerow and occasional mature hedgerow trees creating a sense of enclosure. The viewpoint is located in an edge of settlement landscape with gardens associated with residential properties and an allotment visible in part of the view in the foreground and middle ground.

Views further into the middle ground and distance are largely screened by the mature hedgerow and occasional mature hedgerow trees in the middle ground. There are views above such vegetation in places to the layered vegetation in the middle ground and distance including large-scale Grove Wood mature woodland. Views also include the existing towers and OHL in the middle ground and background, partially screened by mature woodland blocks.

Baseline View (Winter)



Assessment of Effects

**Construction (Friston Scenario 1)**  
Magnitude: **Negligible**      Effect: **Negligible adverse (not significant)**

**Construction (Friston Scenario 2)**  
Magnitude: **Medium**      Effect: **Moderate adverse (significant)**

Construction (Friston Scenario 1)

It should be noted that PRoW E-260/017/0 would be diverted during the construction phase; however, this would not affect this viewpoint location albeit nearby.

There would be heavily filtered views towards construction activity associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable corridors and temporary and permanent infiltration pond and outfall pipe in the distance.

Views of construction activity would comprise glimpsed views through gaps in vegetation and any taller plant across a large part of the horizontal extent of the view. Such views would be in the context of the existing pylons and OHL which reduce the degree of contrast.

Friston Substation would be under construction by SPR occupying the middle ground of the view adding further reference to energy infrastructure in the local landscape and thereby reducing the degree of contrast arising from additional construction activity in the view The tie-in works to Friston Substation are not considered to be perceptible within the existing construction works.

Associated lighting is expected to be localised and this would be visible across a considerable part of the horizontal extent of the view for a short period of time.

The duration of change for all activity would be short-term.

Views towards construction activity associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station would be limited to tall construction plant. This would be largely screened by field boundary vegetation in the foreground and middle ground and any plant would be visible in the distance above intervening vegetation for a small section of the horizontal extent of the view. This would be within the context of the wood pole lines and large-scale agricultural buildings.

Wireline over Photograph (no mitigation planting)



Construction (Friston Scenario 2)

In addition to the above, Friston Substation would be constructed in the middle ground and would be a noticeable change to a very small part of the view. This would include largely filtered views to earthworks, a construction compound, construction access, works to the OHL including temporary towers, vegetation removal and temporary attenuation ponds.

Views towards construction activity associated with Friston Substation, including the restringing of the existing OHL, removal of one OHL tower and addition of two OHL towers, would be directly visible for sections above the tree line in the middle ground which would displace arable land and tall construction plant would break the skyline, but the lower extents would largely be screened. This would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers which are prominent in the view and therefore reduce the degree of contrast.

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter (Friston Scenario 1)**  
Magnitude: **None**      Effect: **No Change (not significant)**

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 1 Winter (Friston Scenario 2)**  
Magnitude: **Small**      Effect: **Minor adverse (not significant)**

Operation and maintenance (Year 1 winter) (Friston Scenario 1)

There are not considered to be views at operation associated with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

Associated lighting is not considered to be perceptible from this receptor due to distance and intervening vegetation.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and maintenance (Year 1 winter) (Friston Scenario 2)

The Friston Substation would be permanently located in the middle ground and would be an unobtrusive change to the composition of the view. The substation would break the skyline but would appear at a similar scale to mature woodland in the view and would only be visible in a very small part of the horizontal extent of the view in a gap between mature vegetation. The views would also be in the middle distance and in the same part of the view as the existing towers and OHL which would reduce the degree of contrast.

For full set of visualisations presented at correct size, refer to **Application Document 6.4.2.1.10 Representative Viewpoint Visualisations**.

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer (Friston Scenario 1)**  
Magnitude: **None**      Effect: **No Change (not significant)**

**Operation and Maintenance - Year 15 Summer (Friston Scenario 2)**  
Magnitude: **Small**      Effect: **Minor adverse (not significant)**

Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 1)

There are not considered to be views at operation associated with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

The duration of change for all activity would be long-term.

Operation and maintenance (Year 15 summer) (Friston Scenario 2)

Landscape planting (**refer to Application Document 7.5.7.1 Figure 5 Friston Substation Outline Landscape Mitigation**) around the Friston Substation on bunding would have established and would contribute to the softening of views towards the permanent infrastructure which would appear as an unobtrusive change to the composition of the view seen within the context of the existing OHL.



## 1.1 Summary of likely effects on visual receptor groups

**1.1.1** With reference to the visual receptor groups set out in **Application Document 6.2.2.1 Part 2 Suffolk Chapter 1 Landscape and Visual**, the below sets out a summary of the likely change to existing views as a result of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme for the different types of visual receptors within the landscape and visual study area. The below also refers to judgements made on likely effects for relevant representative viewpoints.

### Residential receptors – settlement

#### Settlements of Kelsale, Benhall, Sternfield, Carlton, and Saxmundham, in the western part of the study area

**1.1.2** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, the majority of receptors within these settlements would have screened views towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme by intervening built form and vegetation. There are likely to be some filtered views from receptors on the southern and eastern edges of Saxmundham towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme at all project stages, primarily associated with the permanent access road, bridge across the River Fromus and the Saxmundham Converter Station. However, on the southern edge the majority of windows that residential dwellers experience views from are orientated away from the permanent access route and bridge over the River Fromus, or else are filtered by intervening vegetation as there is considerable intervening vegetation between those receptors on the eastern edge with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

**1.1.3** Anticipated effects are likely to be variable, with higher effects for those in closer proximity to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme and more direct views resulting in a large scale of change and alteration to the existing composition of the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 1** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.4** Whereas those receptors with more screening and further from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme would be less affected (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 14** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.5** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

#### Settlement edges of Snape, Snape Watering, and Church Common in the south of the study area

**1.1.6** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2 there may be heavily filtered views towards the Suffolk Onshore Scheme; however, these would be at a distance and would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL which reduces the contrast in the view.

**1.1.7** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

#### Settlement of Friston in the central part of the study area

**1.1.8** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there are likely to be heavily filtered views from receptors within the settlement edges of Friston to construction activity primarily associated with the HVDC and HVAC cable corridors; however, this is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields, which lessens the contrast to the existing view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.9** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there would be views from residential receptors on the edge of the settlement of Friston associated with the Friston Substation at all project stages. The works

would typically only be within a small part of the horizontal extent of view and would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL which lessens the degree of contrast to the existing view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

#### Settlement of Knodishall in the eastern part of the study area

**1.1.10** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there are unlikely to be views of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme due to intervening vegetation and built form. Any views would be at a distance and would be set within the context of the existing towers and OHL which reduces the contrast in the view, resulting in a barely discernible change.

**1.1.11** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

#### Western settlement edge of Leiston in the eastern part of the study area

**1.1.12** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there are likely to be heavily filtered views towards primarily the Saxmundham Converter Station and HVDC and HVAC cable routes in the distance. This would be visible in small proportions of views and set within the context of the existing towers and OHL which reduces the contrast in the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 17** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.13** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

### Residential receptors – scattered properties

#### Scattered properties interspersed within the landscape across the study area, typically adjacent or near to the local road network

**1.1.14** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form, and distance from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The scale of change and alteration to the existing composition of the view, typically due to the comparison of the Saxmundham Converter Station against existing smaller scale built form nearby, is likely to result in a noticeable or pronounced deterioration in the view for receptors in the locality of the Saxmundham Converter Station. This would include scattered residential properties to the north of the B1119 and further to the south and east; however, noting some screening afforded by intervening landform, vegetation and built form (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 3, 4, 5 and 21** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.15** Other receptors would experience less of an effect from the Saxmundham Converter Station and other aspects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, which would result in less change to the existing composition of the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16 and 22** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.1 6** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, effects of the Friston Substation would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form and distance from the Friston Substation (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 8** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages, **Representative Viewpoint 22** with significant adverse effects at construction and not significant effects at operation and **Representative Viewpoints 6 and 7** with significant adverse effects at all project stages). Any views associated with the Friston Substation at all project stages would largely be limited to residential receptors in scattered properties in the landscape to the north of the settlement of Friston and south of the B1119.

### Recreational

#### The King Charles III England Coast Path (National Trail), which runs north to south on the eastern part of the study area along the coast

**1.1.17** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, from a small section of the route between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness, there would be views of the cable laying barge out at sea associated with the landfall construction, although views are limited towards the sea due to the rising shingle landform along the foreshore.

**1.1.18** There would also be partially filtered views to the construction compound, the landfall transition joint pit, drilling rig and construction activity associated with the HVDC cable route; however, the construction activity would be an unobtrusive change to the composition of the view as any activity would be set against a solid backcloth of woodland, it would be located within a small extent of the horizontal extent of the view and views of receptors would be focused on the coastline and walking between the settlements of Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.

**1.1.19** There would be no change at operation (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 13** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). The remainder of the route would be unaffected by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

**1.1.20** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

#### The Sailors’ Path recreational route, which runs westwards from the coast towards Saxmundham and overlaps with part of the Suffolk Coast Path recreational route

**1.1.21** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there would be small pockets of intervisibility with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme along this route, including typically heavily filtered views of temporary construction activity associated with the landfall in a small area to the east of the B1122 (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 12** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). There would be less filtered views for very short sections of this part of the route close to the landfall site; however, further towards the coast views are typically screened by intervening vegetation in the foreground and the linear belt of pine trees just south of the landfall site.

**1.1.22** There would be intervisibility at construction, operation and maintenance stages primarily associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, permanent access route, bridge over the River Fromus and HVDC and HVAC cable corridors for sections of the route, including a small section within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB with distant and screened views (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 18** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages) and a section to the west of Friston continuing north to Benhall Green and to the west of Saxmundham where the scale of change and contrast to the existing composition of the view would be greater due to closer proximity to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 19 and 20** with significant adverse effects at all project stages). The remainder of the route would be unaffected by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

**1.1.23** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, the substation would not be visible in views for most of the route, which would therefore be unaffected. There is likely to be a very short section with views of the Friston Substation at all project stages to the west of the settlement of Friston.

#### The Suffolk Coast Path recreational route, which runs north to south on the eastern part of the study area along the coast and around the western boundary of Aldeburgh

**1.1.24** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there would be small pockets of intervisibility with the Suffolk Onshore Scheme along this route, including typically heavily filtered views of temporary construction activity associated with the landfall in a small area to the east of the B1122 (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 12** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). There would be less filtered views for very short sections of this part of the route in close proximity to the landfall site; however, further towards the coast views are typically screened by intervening vegetation in the foreground and the linear belt of pine trees just south of the landfall site.

**1.1.25** There would be intervisibility at construction, operation and maintenance primarily associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station for a small section of the route within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB with distant and screened views (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 18** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages) The remainder of the route would be unaffected by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

**1.1.26** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

#### The Sandlings Walk recreational route, which runs east to west through the study area, from Friston to Thorpeness

**1.1.27** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there would be views of construction activity associated with the HVDC cable corridor from parts of the route within the eastern part of the study area which is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields and any views of vegetation loss would likely to be similar to existing vegetation breaks in the local landscape, which lessens the contrast of change (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 8** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.28** There would be small parts of the route to the west of Friston where changes at all project stages from the Saxmundham Converter Station would be partially visible through the layered vegetation network, at a distance and would be within the context of the existing tower and OHL, which would lessen the degree of contrast and scale of change in the view. The remainder of the route would be unaffected by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

**1.1.29** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, the substation would not be visible for most of the route, which would therefore be unaffected. There is likely to be a very short section with views of the Friston Substation at all project stages to the north of the settlement of Friston (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 8** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). The views would typically be within a small part of the horizontal extent of the view and lower-level construction activity and operational infrastructure screened in part by the intervening vegetation network on the northern edge of Friston.



**Users of the local PRoW network within the study area, including public footpaths and public bridleways**

**1.1.30** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form and distance from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The scale of change and alteration to the existing composition of the view typically due to comparison of the Saxmundham Converter Station against existing smaller-scale built form nearby is likely to result in a noticeable or pronounced deterioration in the view for receptors in the locality of the Saxmundham Converter Station (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 1 – 5 and 19 - 21** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.31** Whereas other receptors would experience less of an effect from the Saxmundham Converter Station and other aspects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, which would result in less change to the existing composition of the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 6, 8, 9 – 11, 17 and 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages and **Representative Viewpoint 15** with significant adverse effects at construction and year 1 of operation and maintenance reducing to no significant adverse effects at year 15 of operation and maintenance).

**1.1.32** Within the PRoW network to the south of the Saxmundham Converter Station and to the east of Sternfield, as receptors move closer to the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, the scale of change would become more pronounced due to proximity; however, the extent of the converter station visible within the view is modified by the intervening landform and vegetation which has a greater screening function in closer proximity to the Site. There are more views to agricultural buildings which gives context for built form but emphasises the scale of the Saxmundham Converter Station at operation.

**1.1.33** Within the PRoW network to the west of the Saxmundham Converter Station and to the south of Saxmundham, views from the west of the railway line and the section of public footpath on higher ground to the east of the railway line are typically heavily screened by mature intervening vegetation in the foreground. There are views from relatively higher ground where the public footpath changes direction in the central part of the field, which would have more direct views of the permanent access route and bridge over the River Fromus at all stages of the project; however, the scale of the Saxmundham Converter Station in comparison to Hurts Hall would be less pronounced from this location, in comparison to **Representative Viewpoint 20**, due to the angle of the view.

**1.1.34** Further south along this public footpath, which falls topographically, there would be less horizontal extent of the view affected as the construction works and views at operation and maintenance associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, the permanent access route and the bridge across the River Fromus would appear concentrated in a similar part of the view from this elevation and angle. Views of the permanent access route and the bridge across the River Fromus would be less screened from this angle but the lower extents remain to be screened by intervening hedgerow along the B1121.

**1.1.35** There would be partially screened views to construction activity associated with the permanent access road to the east of the River Fromus by the existing vegetation on the eastern side of the River Fromus this elevation; however. Overall, there would be similar effects for receptors along the local PRoW network to the west of the Saxmundham Converter Station and to the south of Saxmundham as more of the construction works associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station would be visible from higher ground whereas this would be more limited on lower ground due to intervening vegetation. However, views of the works of the permanent access route and bridge over the River Fromus would be more prominent.

**1.1.36** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, effects of the Friston Substation would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form and distance from the Friston Substation (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 8 and 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages and **Representative Viewpoint 6** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**The Wolf Way cycling route**

**1.1.37** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there would be views of construction activity associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable corridor from parts of the route within the central and eastern parts of the study area which is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields and any views of vegetation loss would likely to be similar to existing vegetation breaks in the local landscape, which lessens the contrast of change (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 8, 22 and 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.38** For a short part of the route to the west of Friston, there would be views of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme predominantly associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station. The construction activity would occupy a small proportion of the horizontal extent of the view; however, the change would heavily contrast with the existing largely agricultural view and the Saxmundham Converter Station would be a pronounced feature in the view with the scale emphasised by residential properties and agricultural built form within views (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 19** with significant adverse effects at all project stages). The remainder of the route would be unaffected by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

**1.1.39** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there would be a small part of the route on the northern edge of the settlement edge of Friston affected at all project stages by the Friston Substation (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 8 and 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages and **Representative Viewpoint 22** with significant adverse effects at construction reducing to no significant adverse effects at operation and maintenance). Such views would typically be filtered by intervening layered vegetation on the northern edge of Friston and would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers which are prominent in the view and therefore reduce the degree of contrast.

**The Suffolk Coastal Cycle Way**

**1.1.40** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there would be views of construction activity primarily associated with the HVAC and HVDC cable corridor from parts of the route within the central and eastern parts of the study area which is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields and views of any vegetation loss would likely to be similar to existing vegetation breaks in the local landscape, which lessens the contrast of change. There would also be distant views to the Saxmundham Converter Station in a very small proportion of the view from a small part of the route, mainly to the west of Leiston (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 7, 8, 17 and 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). The remainder of the route would be unaffected by the Suffolk Onshore Scheme.

**1.1.41** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there would be a small part of the route on the northern edge of the settlement edge of Friston affected at all project stages by the Friston Substation (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 8 and 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages and **Representative Viewpoint 7** with significant adverse effects at all project stages). Such views would typically be filtered by intervening layered vegetation on the northern edge of Friston and would be within the context of the existing OHL and towers which are prominent in the view and therefore reduce the degree of contrast.

**The Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast, which is located within the southeastern part of the study area**

**1.1.42** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there would be views within small parts of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast of construction activity primarily associated with the HVDC cable corridor and activity at the landfall in a very small, enclosed area of the landscape. This is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields and views of any vegetation loss would likely to be similar to existing vegetation breaks in the local landscape, which lessens the contrast of change (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 10 - 13** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.43** There would be intervisibility at construction, operation and maintenance primarily associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station for a small part of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast, with distant and screened views (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 18** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). This is considered to be similar for visual receptors in the immediate setting of both designations.

**1.1.44** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

**Aldeburgh Golf Course, which is located within the southeastern part of the study area**

**1.1.45** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, due to the existing vegetation cover within Aldeburgh Golf Course limiting views of the surrounding landscape to the north and northwest, potential views of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, primarily associated with the HVDC cable corridor at construction would be limited to receptors on the northern edge of the golf course. Views of any vegetation loss would likely to be similar to existing vegetation breaks in the local landscape, which lessens the contrast of change (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 11** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.46** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

**Knodishall Common, which is located within the eastern part of the study area**

**1.1.47** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, due to the existing vegetation cover within Knodishall Common limiting views of the surrounding landscape to the west, potential views primarily associated with the HVDC cable corridor at construction would be limited to views experienced from the edges of the Common. This is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields and views of any vegetation loss would likely to be similar to existing vegetation breaks in the local landscape, which lessens the contrast of change (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 9** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.48** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

**Aldeburgh Holiday Park, which is located within the eastern part of the study area, on the northern settlement edge of Aldeburgh**

**1.1.49** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, views from Aldeburgh Holiday Park in the direction of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme are partially screened by foreground vegetation on the edge of the holiday park. Views would be limited to distant views from the edge of the holiday park towards the cable laying

barge at sea during construction, which would be in a small part of the view and would be within the context of occasional large-scale marine vessels out at sea and offshore wind farms.

**1.1.50** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

**Road and railway users**

**Users of the A1094, which runs northwest to southeast in the southern part of the study area**

**1.1.51** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there would be filtered views towards the construction of the HVDC and HVAC cable routes along this corridor in small parts of the view. This is likely to be between the northern edge of the Aldeburgh Golf Course and where the A1094 meets the B1069 as further west views are likely to be screened by intervening vegetation and built form. This is not considered to be dissimilar to typical agricultural machinery apparent on arable fields and views of any vegetation loss would likely to be similar to existing vegetation breaks in the local landscape, which lessens the contrast of change (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 10** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.52** For small sections of the route further west, there are likely to be views at all project stages primarily associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station. Such views would be distant, within the context of the existing towers and OHL and partially screened by intervening vegetation and built form, which lessens the scale of change and alteration to the existing composition of the view. The nature of all views would also be glimpsed as the receptors are travelling along the road network.

**1.1.53** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

**Users of the B1119, which runs north to south in the northern part of the study area between Saxmundham and Leiston**

**1.1.54** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there would be views of the construction and at year 1 of operation and maintenance primarily associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station and the construction of the HVAC and HVDC cable corridors for a section of the route between the edge of Leiston and the edge of Saxmundham. In closer proximity, there would be direct views across a considerable proportion of the view and the degree of contrast from an agricultural field would be high (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 1, 4 and 21** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.55** Further to the east along the route, views would be more heavily screened due to intervening vegetation and distance and would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL, which would lessen the scale of change and degree of contrast in the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 17** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). The nature of all views would also be glimpsed as the receptors are travelling along the road network.

**1.1.56** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.



Users of the B1121, which runs northwest to southeast in the western and central parts of the study area

**1.1.57** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, there would be views primarily associated with the permanent access route, bridge over the River Fromus and the Saxmundham Converter Station for a small section of the route by Bigsby’s Corner to the edge of Saxmundham. Such views would be a pronounced change to the existing agricultural nature of the view; however, would only be available through gaps in the intervening hedgerow vegetation in the foreground and would be oblique to the receptor (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 2** with significant adverse effects at all project stages).

**1.1.58** There would predominantly be heavily filtered, by the intervening layered vegetation network, views from small sections of the route between Sternfield and Friston associated with the Saxmundham Converter Station, primarily in the western part, and the HVDC and HVAC cable routes at construction. Such views would be oblique and through gaps in the vegetation network (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 22** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). There may be small sections of the route where the scale of change arising from the Saxmundham Converter Station may be more pronounced in closer proximity to the east of Sternfield; however, this would be lessened in part due to intervening landform. The nature of all views would also be glimpsed as the receptors are travelling along the road network.

**1.1.59** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there would be a short section of the B1121 affected by the Friston Substation in close proximity to the settlement of Friston (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 22** with significant adverse effects at construction reducing to no significant adverse effects at operation and maintenance). Such views would typically be in a small part of the horizontal extent of the view and would be within the context of the existing towers and OHL which reduces the degree of contrast from the existing view.

Users of the local road network

**1.1.60** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form and distance from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The scale of change and alteration to the existing composition of the view typically due to comparison of the Saxmundham Converter Station against existing smaller scale built form nearby is likely to result in a noticeable or pronounced deterioration in the view for receptors in the locality of the Saxmundham Converter Station (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 19** with significant adverse effects at all project stages and **Representative Viewpoint 15** with significant adverse effects at construction and year 1 of operation and maintenance reducing to no significant adverse effects at year 15 of operation and maintenance).

**1.1.61** Whereas other receptors would experience less of an effect from the Saxmundham Converter Station and other aspects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, which would result in less change to the existing composition of the view (refer to **Representative Viewpoints 7, 12, 16 and 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). The nature of all views would also be glimpsed as the receptors are travelling along the road network.

**1.1.62** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, effects of the Friston Substation would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form and distance from the Friston Substation (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 7** with significant adverse effects at all project stages and **Representative Viewpoint 23** with no significant adverse effects at all project stages). Along Grove Road in close proximity to the Friston Substation, there would be a section with direct views of the substation. This would be set within a large-scale landscape, including existing views of mature blocks of woodland including Laurel Covert, with some gaps where views to the wider landscape, typically with layered vegetation consisting of gappy hedgerow and individual hedgerow trees. Views would also be within the context of the existing towers and OHL which lessens the contrast to the existing view.

Passengers on the railway route between Saxmundham and Ipswich and Saxmundham and Leiston

**1.1.63** Under Friston Scenarios 1 and 2, effects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme would vary dependent on the angle of view, amount of screening afforded by intervening vegetation, landform or built form and distance from the Suffolk Onshore Scheme. The scale of change and alteration to the existing composition of the view would be limited to passing views experienced within a small section of the railway on a slight embankment to the north of the Saxmundham Converter Station with intervening vegetation in the foreground and middle ground providing a degree of screening.

**1.1.64** Whereas other receptors would experience less of an effect from the Saxmundham Converter Station and other aspects of the Suffolk Onshore Scheme, which would result in less change to the existing composition of the view. This is primarily due to intervening vegetation in the foreground and the layered vegetation network in the surrounding landscape (refer to **Representative Viewpoint 20** with significant adverse effects at all project stages). The nature of all views would also be glimpsed and at speed as the receptors are travelling along the railway network. Consequently, whilst effects at Viewpoint 20 would be significant for users of the PRoW, it is not considered that effects on the visual amenity of rail users would be significant.

**1.1.65** In addition, under Friston Scenario 2, there are unlikely to be views towards the Friston Substation.

National Grid plc  
National Grid House,  
Warwick Technology Park,  
Gallows Hill, Warwick.  
CV34 6DA United Kingdom

Registered in England and Wales  
No. 4031152  
nationalgrid.com