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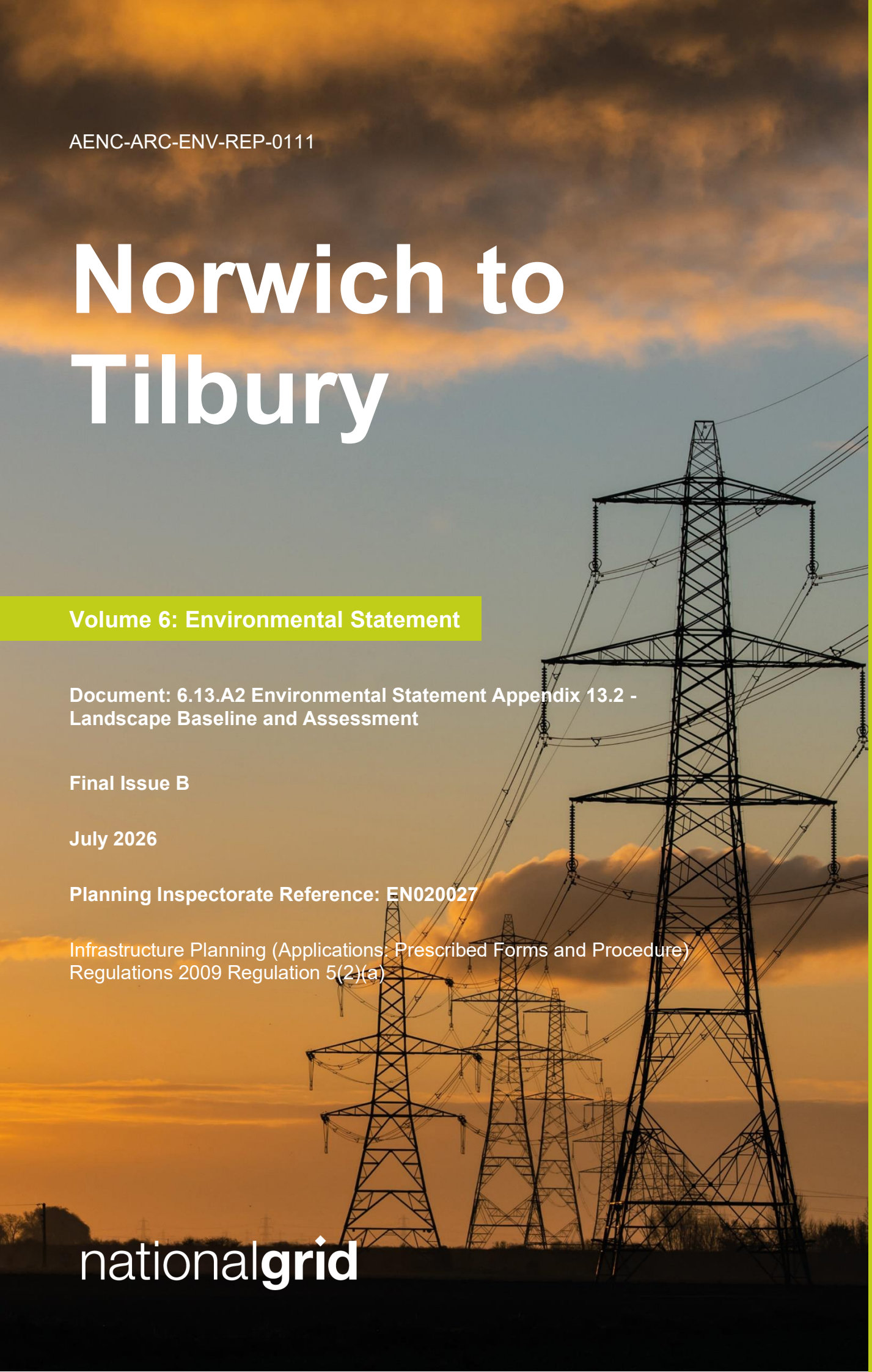

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13. Landscape Baseline and Assessment

13.1 Introduction

13.1.1 This appendix was produced to support Chapter 13: Landscape and Visual (document reference 6.13) (Revision B) of the Environment Statement (ES) (Volume 6 of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application) for Norwich to Tilbury (the 'Project'). It presents an overview of the landscape baseline within the Landscape and Visual Study Area (as shown on Figure 13.1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) Study Area and Landscape Designations (document reference 6.13.F1) (Revision B)) including the existing landscape character (and constituent landscape elements), as well as comments on landscape condition and designations assigned to the landscape (where relevant).

13.1.2 The Study Area for the Project is set out in Table 13.2 of Chapter 13: Landscape and Visual (document reference 6.13) (Revision B). The landscape assessment is based on the Project as described in Chapter 4: Project Description (document reference 6.4) (Revision B) and shown on Figure 4.1: Proposed Project Design (document reference 6.4.F1) (Revision B) and Figure 4.2: Proposed Project Design – Permanent Features (document reference 6.4.F2) (Revision B).

13.1.3 Potential landscape receptors within the Study Area are those which may experience direct or indirect effects because of the Project. Landscape receptors can typically be defined as follows:

- Physical landscape features: perceptible physical features (e.g., topographic features, woodland, hedgerows, field enclosure) which could be lost or altered through the introduction of the Project. These form part of the descriptions of Landscape Character Types (LCTs) and Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), see below
- LCTs and LCAs: as defined within published landscape character assessments, and which display both physical and perceptual characteristics which could be affected by the Project
- Designated landscapes: areas of landscape which are principally designated for their scenic quality or rarity and considered of particularly increased value. Often defined by several key characteristics and/or special qualities informed by the underlying character of the landscape, consideration is given to how these may be affected, and how the integrity of the overall designation may be affected by the Project
- Other designated areas: areas of designation which may in part be designated due to the contribution of landscape or scenic quality in combination with other reasons for designation (e.g., forest parks, conservation areas, biosphere reserves).

13.1.4 Available documents and guidelines which describe landscape character, landscape condition and landscape designations within the Study Area were reviewed, and the relevant data is detailed below. The assessment of landscape effects demonstrates the extent and level of effects likely to occur because of the Project.

13.1.5 The extent of identified landscape effects is defined using both location specific placenames and estimated distances across which landscape effects would be experienced. All stated distances in the assessment are approximate, and not exact. For the construction assessments, approximate distances are taken from the Order Limits. For operational assessments, approximate distances are taken from the Limits of Deviation (LoD).

13.1.6 The Project has also been sub-divided into eight geographical sections for reader accessibility, based largely on Local Planning Authority boundaries. These are shown on Figure 13.1: LVIA Study Area and Landscape Designations (document reference 6.13.F1) (Revision B) and comprise:

- Section A – South Norfolk Council
- Section B – Mid Suffolk District Council
- Section C – Babergh District Council, Colchester City Council and Tendring District Council
- Section D – Colchester City Council
- Section E – Braintree District Council
- Section F – Chelmsford City Council and Brentwood Borough Council
- Section G – Basildon Borough Council and Brentwood Borough Council (and part of Chelmsford City Council)
- Section H – Thurrock Council.

13.2 Landscape Baseline

13.2.1 This section provides an overview of the landscape baseline, including current landscape character, condition, and any designated landscapes. It draws on published studies, supplemented with Project specific research and field work where relevant. Landscape character is described at the national, regional and district/county scales.

National Character Areas

13.2.2 At a national scale, the Project and Study Area lie within the following National Character Areas (NCAs) as described in the Natural England NCA profiles (Natural England, 2014, with later updates):

- NCA 84 Mid Norfolk
- NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands
- NCA 86 South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland
- NCA 111 Northern Thames Basin
- NCA 81 Greater Thames Estuary.

13.2.3 The location and key characteristics of these NCAs are described in Table A13.2.1 and they are shown on Figure 13.5: National Character Areas and East of England Typology (document reference 6.13.F5).

Table A13.2.1 National character areas within the Study Area

NCA	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
NCA 84 Mid Norfolk	A	NCA 84 Mid Norfolk is located at the northern end of the Study Area between Norwich in the north and Swainsthorpe in the south. The key characteristics of the NCA which are of relevance to the Study Area are as follows: • *'Broadly flat, glacial till plateau dissected by river valleys which create a more intricate landscape to the west of Norwich* • *Chalk bedrock overlain by gravels, sands and glacial till left behind by the retreating ice of Anglian glaciations, and the resulting complexity of soils, determine natural vegetation patterns* • *Underlying chalk aquifer; small, fast-flowing chalk streams and biodiversity-rich, wide, lush river valleys with wooded valley slopes, including the internationally important chalk-fed River Wensum* • *Tranquil agricultural landscape with extensive areas of arable land, dominated by cereals with break-cropping of sugar beet and oilseed rape, and some pastures along valley floors* • *Ancient countryside, much of it enclosed in the 14th century, with a sporadically rationalised patchwork field system, sinuous lanes, and mixed hedges with hedgerow oaks* • *Largely fragmented, isolated mixed deciduous and pasture woodlands* • *Important alkaline valley fen communities and areas of remnant heathland* • *Large number of 18th-century estates with their associated parkland, and a great density and stylistic variety of churches which are prominent features in the landscape* • *Coherent vernacular architecture – marked by distinctive red brick and flint buildings with pantiled roofs, much dating from the 17th and 18th centuries, with some earlier timber frame – is an inherent component of the area's character* • *A mix of villages and many isolated farmsteads within a complex minor road network, with a traditional pattern of market towns connected by main roads., and the city of Norwich providing a centre for cultural and economic activity* • *Dense network of public rights of way including bridleways' (Natural England, 2014, with later updates).*

NCA 83 South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands	A, B	NCA 83 is located at the northern end of the Study Area, broadly between Mulbarton (south of Norwich) and Ipswich. Key characteristics of the NCA which are of relevance to the Study Area are as follows: • *'Large plateau area of chalky glacial till that is generally flat or only gently undulating but can be locally concave. The edges of the plateau have been dissected by watercourses that form greater slopes, especially along the tributaries of the Waveney* • *Views are frequently open, only sometimes confined by hedges and trees, with some woodland present. The small valleys support quite confined landscapes with intimate views* • *Chalk bedrock overlain by glacial till, gravels, and sands. Heavy, seasonally waterlogged chalky clay soils occur on the plateau, with small areas of better soils at the edges. The valley bottoms contain areas of glacial outwash deposits as well as some areas of deep peat* • *Scattered areas of ancient woodland, game copses, shelterbelts, valley floor plantation and carr woodland as well as hedgerow trees provide a treed landscape character, despite much boundary loss* • *A mix of remnant medieval ancient countryside, some of it with a decidedly coaxial character, although irregular field patterns and large modern amalgamated open fields dominate* • *Sinuous field boundaries are formed by deep ditches, some with hedgerows and hedgerow trees* • *Extensive areas of arable land dominated by cereals with breakcropping of sugar beet and oilseed rape, and some pastures along valley floors. Intensive pig and poultry production is common* • *Remnant parkland, ancient woodlands, commons, and greens with a diverse grassland flora. River valleys support areas of ecologically rich unenclosed 'semi-wild' fenland and remnant dry heaths dominated by poor dry grassland* • *Small slow-flowing rivers and streams and the River Waveney drain the clay plateau. The River Waveney has a relatively large-scale open valley landscape compared with the other river valleys which have narrow valley bottoms. High density of isolated farm ponds in the southern half of the NCA* • *Historic features include Palaeolithic archaeology, evidence of Roman enclosures, bronze- age and iron-age activity, remnant medieval and Tudor deer parks, scattered small parkland estates and Second World War airfields. Round-towered Saxo-Norman and medieval churches and 19th-century windmills are prominent historic landscape features* • *Large number of isolated moated timber-framed farmhouses and farm buildings with steeply pitched clay-tiled or long-straw thatched roofs. Little flint, some brick (especially in towns)*

NCA	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		• *A dispersed settlement pattern of small nucleated market towns with architectural variety and colour, loosely clustered villages, and scattered hamlets. Settlement is often focused on large medieval greens. Many of the market towns have modern extensions* • *Some major transport links including the Norwich to London main rail line, but infrastructure routes are predominantly an extensive network of narrow lanes and byroads' (Natural England, 2014, with later updates).*
NCA 86 South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland	B, C, D, E, F	NCA 86 is located covers parts of the Study Area from Stowmarket to Needham Market and Holton St Mary in Sections B and C, through to Great Tey, Coggleshall, Witham, and Chelmsford in Sections D, E and F. Key characteristics of the NCA which are of relevance to the Study Area are as follows: • *'An undulating chalky boulder clay plateau is dissected by numerous river valleys, giving a topography of gentle slopes in the lower, wider valleys and steeper slopes in the narrower upper parts* • *Fragments of chalk give many of the soils a calcareous character, which also influences the character of the semi-natural vegetation cover* • *South-east-flowing streams and rivers drain the clay plateau. Watercourses wind slowly across flood plains, supporting wet, fen-type habitats; grazing marsh; and blocks of cricket-bat willows, poplars, and old willow pollards. Navigation locks are present on some rivers* • *Lowland wood pasture and ancient woodlands support the dormouse and a rich diversity of flowering plants on the clay plateau. Large, often ancient hedgerows link woods and copses, forming wooded skylines* • *The agricultural landscape is predominantly arable with a wooded appearance. There is some pasture on the valley floors. Field patterns are irregular despite rationalisation, with much ancient countryside surviving. Field margins support corn bunting, cornflower, and brown hair* • *Roman sites, medieval monasteries and castles and ancient woodlands contribute to a rich archaeology. Impressive churches, large barns, substantial country house estates and Second World War airfields dot the landscape, forming historical resources* • *There is a dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads, parishes, and small settlements around 'tyes' (commons) or strip greens and isolated hamlets. The NCA features a concentration of isolated moated farmsteads and numerous well-preserved medieval towns and large villages*

NCA	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		• *Larger 20th-century development has taken place to the south and east around Chelmsford and, Ipswich. and the new towns of Harlow and Stevenage* • *Traditional timber-frame, often elaborate buildings with exposed timbers, colour-washed render, pargeting, and steeply pitched roofs with pegtiles or long straw thatch. Sometimes they have been refronted with Georgian red brick or Victorian cream-coloured bricks ('Suffolk whites'). Clay lump is often used in cottages and farm buildings* • *Winding, narrow and sometimes sunken lanes are bounded by deep ditches, wide verges, and strong hedgerows. Transport infrastructure includes the A12* • *A strong network of public rights of way provides access to the area's archetypal lowland English countryside'* (Natural England, 2014, with later updates).
NCA 111 Northern Thames Basin	C, D, E, F, G, H	NCA 111 is located at the southern end of the Study Area, extending broadly between Colchester in the north and Tilbury in the south. Key characteristics of the NCA which are of relevance to the Study Area are as follows: • *'The landform is varied with a wide plateau divided by river valleys…extensive tracts of flat land are found in the south* • *A diverse landscape with a series of broad valleys containing the major rivers Ver, Colne and Lea, and slightly steeper valleys of the rivers Stour, Colne and Roman* • *The pattern of woodlands is varied across the area and includes considerable ancient semi-natural woodland…Significant areas of wood pasture and pollarded veteran trees are also present* • *The field pattern is very varied across the basin reflecting historical activity* • *Mixed farming, with arable land predominating in … parts of the London Clay lowlands and Essex heathlands. Grasslands are characteristic of the river valleys throughout* • *The diverse range of semi-natural habitats include ancient woodland, lowland heath and floodplain grazing marsh and provide important habitats for a wide range of species* • *The medieval pattern of small villages and dispersed farming settlement remains central to the character of parts of…Essex. Market towns have expanded over time as have the London suburbs and commuter settlements, with the creation of new settlements such as…the planned town at Basildon'*[1].

[1] National Character Area profile 111: Northern Thames Basin

NCA	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
NCA 81 Greater Thames Estuary	H	NCA 81 is located at the southern end of the Study Area between Tilbury and Stanford-le-Hope, both north and south of the River Thames. Key characteristics of the NCA which are of relevance to the Study Area are as follows: • *'Predominantly flat, low-lying coastal landscape where extensive open spaces are dominated by the sky, and the pervasive presence of water and numerous coastal estuaries extend the maritime influence far inland* • *Open grazing pastures patterned by a network of ancient and modern reed-fringed drainage ditches and dykes, numerous creeks and few hedges or fences, with tree cover a rarity* • *Traditional unimproved wet pasture grazed with sheep and cattle combined with extensive drained and ploughed arable land protected from floods by sea walls, with some areas of more mixed agriculture on higher ground* • *Strong feelings of remoteness and wilderness persist on extensive salt marshes, mudflats and reclaimed farmed marshland, which support internationally important plants, invertebrates and populations of breeding and overwintering birds, notably overwintering Brent geese* • *Distinctive landmarks of coastal military heritage including Napoleonic military defences, forts, and 20th-century pillboxes* • *Highly urbanised areas within London and on marsh edges subject to chaotic activity of various major developments including ports, waste disposal, marine dredging, housing regeneration, mineral extraction, and prominent power stations plus numerous other industry-related activities* • *Increasing development pressures around major settlements and especially towards London, with urban, industrial, and recreational sites often highly visible within the low-lying marshes'* (Natural England, 2014, with later updates).

East of England Landscape Typology

13.2.4 The East of England Landscape Typology (Landscape East, 2010) is a regional level study which identifies LCTs across the East of England. The key characteristics of the LCTs within the Study Area are described in Table A13.2.2 and shown on Figure 13.5: National Character Areas and East of England Typology (document reference 6.13.F5).

13.2.5 Urban areas are not described in the East of England Landscape Typology (Landscape East, 2010).

Table A13.2.2 East of England typology regional landscape character types within the Study Area

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
Valley Settled Farmlands	A, B, C, D, E, F	The Valley Settled Farmlands LCT occurs along the major river valleys that cut through the plateau within the Study Area. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: Settled, often busy landscapes which occur along the sides of the sinuous valley corridors that cut through the East Anglian clay plateau* • *Landform: Gently sloping valleys cut through glacial till, often with deposits of sand and gravel in the valley bottoms* • *Natural / water features: The upper reaches of most of the river valleys draining the clay plateau occur within this landscape* • *Ecological character: Although it has a long farming history, this is a landscape with substantial and ancient hedges surrounding its predominantly arable fields, along with wet meadows in valley bottoms and patches of ancient woodland on upper valley slopes* • *Primary land use: Mainly arable land, with peri-urban areas that have a more mixed landuse, including some recreational/equestrian use* • *Tree cover: Hedgerow trees have a strong visual impact in this landscape, associated with the localised influence of landscaped parks (e.g., Helmingham). Woodland is mainly limited to the upper parts of the valley sides* • *Historic features: Many towns and villages with distinctive medieval cores and late mediaeval churches. There are also many moated farmsteads of medieval date within this landscape* • *Enclosure pattern: Small to medium scale landscape, sometimes with a complex enclosure pattern. Field pattern is commonly sinuous and sub-regular* • *Settlement pattern: Clustered pattern of farmsteads and hamlets, with some larger market towns. Many of these settlements have experienced significant late 20th century growth. Main roads usually run along valley bottoms, while sunken lanes occur on valley sides. Vernacular houses are typically timber-framed (usually plastered and painted) and often interspersed with red-brick houses. Timber-clad and tarred barns, with tiled (plain or pan tiles), or thatched roofs are also a feature in this landscape* • *Historic development: Field shapes are generally organic in character, with substantial and long-established hedges. There are some patches of co-axial fields in the Waveney*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		valley area. Narrow, riverine meadows are a feature on the upper valley floors • *Tranquility: Away from the busy valley settlements, this is often a tranquil and rural landscape* • *Views: The nature of this landscape, with its strong hedgerow networks and linear valleys, gives rise to a varied visual experience characterised by a mixture of longer distance views and more intimate, semi-enclosed scenes'* (Landscape East, 2010).
Wooded Plateau Claylands	A, B, C	The Wooded Plateau Claylands LCT occurs in Norfolk, between Swardeston in the north and Bunwell in the south; and in Suffolk on the clay plateau edge south of Diss; north and south of the Gipping Valley, extending southwards from Stowmarket to Capel St Mary. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: An ancient wooded landscape of arable farms, associated with heavy clay soils on gently rolling plateaux, which are lightly dissected by minor river valleys* • *Landform: A gently rolling landform associated mainly with glacial till plateaux, but also occurring on London clay in Essex. This landscape is often dissected by small river valleys around the edge of the plateau, creating more complex slopes* • *Natural / water features: Areas of poor drainage/waterlogged soils where ponds are a common feature* • *Ecological character: A scattering of small to medium-sized ancient woodlands, connected by an irregular network of similarly ancient hedgerows. A relatively high proportion of this landscape is primary habitat (> 4%), but little is specifically protected (less than 1%)* • *Primary land use: Arable land use* • *Tree cover: Relic patches of ancient semi-natural woodland and scattered hedgerow trees (oak, ash, and field maple)* • *Historic features: Villages often associated with medieval greens, in places called tyes. Parklands are prominent in some parts such as East Suffolk (e.g., Helmingham). There are also many medieval moats throughout this landscape* • *Enclosure pattern: Varied field pattern including a mixture of irregular and sinuous boundaries, the latter often defined by bushy hedgerows. 20th-century boundary removal and reorganisation has led to some regularisation of field shapes*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		• *Settlement pattern: Rural settlement is dense, comprising a clustered pattern of villages, hamlets, and large outlying farms, connected by a network of winding, often hedged lanes, and paths. Little to no 20th century development. Strong vernacular tradition of timber-framed buildings, tiled roofs, and some thatch. Also, some 19th and 20th century brick buildings, especially in the linear hamlets and on the enclosed greens* • *Historic development: This is a landscape dominated by enclosures of medieval and earlier origin, including some areas with co-axial patterns. Late enclosures are a minor element. Fieldscapes have seen significant modification in the 20th century* • *Tranquility: The rural nature of much of this landscape and high incidence of ancient woodland, mean that it has a high degree of tranquillity, despite a relatively dense rural settlement* • *Views: Despite being a reasonably well-wooded landscape, the rolling plateau landform allows frequent longer views. The comprehensive network of winding lanes and tall hedges, however, often provide a more intimate feeling'* (Landscape East, 2010).
Settled Plateau Claylands	A, B	The Settled Plateau Claylands LCT occurs in south Norfolk, between Bunwell and Diss, and in mid Suffolk, between Gislingham and Stowupland. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: An expansive, elevated, gently rolling plateau landscape, with an ancient enclosure and settlement pattern* • *Landform: Gently rolling glacial plateau, dissected by small streams* • *Natural / water features: The edges of the plateau are dissected by streams and their tributaries, providing some topographic variation* • *Ecological character: A relatively uniform landscape characterised by arable farmland on heavy clay soils, with only occasional fragments of ancient woodland. Less than 0.5% of this LCT is semi-natural habitat and there are no designated sites* • *Primary land use: Arable land use* • *Tree cover: Scattered hedgerow trees (oak and ash) and groups of trees around farmsteads, with occasional copses, often associated with ponds* • *Historic features: Historically characterised by large greens, many of which were enclosed late, leaving a*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		residue of rectilinear fields and straight roads. There are also many medieval moats throughout this landscape • *Enclosure pattern: An ancient organic field pattern with many sinuous boundaries, strongly co-axial in the northeast (South Elmhams and Ilketshalls) with many substantial mixed hedges, dominated in places with suckering elm* • *Settlement pattern: Clustered pattern of hamlet-sized settlements, some centred-on churches, others on greens (or former greens). Farmsteads are scattered throughout this landscape, and many are moated. Few towns and little 20th century development. Strong local vernacular tradition of timber-framed buildings, tiled roofs, and some thatch. Also, some 19th and 20th century brick buildings, especially in the linear hamlets and enclosed greens* • *Historic development: Historically, a landscape with large tracts of co-axial fields intermixed with other forms of early enclosure. Extensive changes to this pattern occurred from the mid-20th century onwards, resulting in the creation of areas of substantial boundary loss* • *Tranquility: A settled and working arable landscape, yet one which is deeply rural. Tranquillity is often found in small valleys and away from main roads* • *Views: Open views of arable land with small clusters of trees and houses on the horizon, although in places, changes in slope sometimes allow views to be confined by hedges and trees'* (Landscape East, 2010).
Valley Meadowlands	A, B, C, D, E, H	The Valley Meadowlands LCT follows the course of the following major river valleys within the Study Area: River Yare; River Tas; River Waveney; River Gipping; River Brett; River Stour; River Colne; River Blackwater near Witham in Section E; and occurs at Bulphan Fen in Section H. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: Flat, low lying valley floors supporting a pastoral land use, associated with notable watercourses/rivers. Generally unsettled, with occasional areas of carr woodland and gravel extraction lakes, or ancient meres* • *Landform: Flat, low-lying landform associated with deposits of river alluvium* • *Natural / water features: Open water areas associated with gravel workings or ancient meres. Notable rivers/tributaries and drainage ditches* • *Ecological character: Wet meadowland, lowland fen and other associated wetland vegetation reflect the wet valley*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		nature of this landscape. Habitat survival is variable, reflected in the low cover (< 2%) of protected sites • *Primary land use: A pastoral landscape with some areas of arable and gravel extraction* • *Tree cover: Dense scattering of trees and areas of scrub, including willow and poplar trees, along the course of rivers* • *Historic features: Notable medieval and Tudor moated sites* • *Enclosure pattern: A landscape where the enclosure of fields is heavily influenced by topography, with boundaries running parallel, or perpendicular to the alignment of the river* • *Settlement pattern: Generally unsettled although occasional mill buildings often provide local built features. Urban settlements in surrounding areas often impinge on this type* • *Historic development: Historically this has been a grazing landscape, which over time, has been enclosed into a mosaic of riverine meadows. In places, large areas of valley floor have been removed by sand/gravel extraction and these now function as reservoirs* • *Tranquility: The presence of water, limited settlement and often extensive areas of grazed water meadows create a tranquil, rural landscape, which is in places disturbed by mineral workings* • *Views: An enclosed, low-lying landscape comprising grassland meadows grazed by cattle in a wider arable setting. Valley floor woodland can confine views'* (Landscape East, 2010).
Plateau Estate Farmlands	C, D	The Plateau Estate Farmlands LCT occurs in Babergh, Colchester and Tendring, on the plateau to the north and south of the Stour Valley. It also occurs to the west of Colchester. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: A medium to large scale, ordered, arable landscape, for the most part associated with an open, rolling plateau on sandy soils, characterised by estate farms and discrete small villages/hamlets* • *Landform: Elevated land, with a gently rolling topography, associated with low glacial plateaux* • *Natural / water features: Frequent small streams drain this landscape, but these are not visually obvious* • *Ecological character: The relatively flat topography and workable sandy soils have resulted in the development of an arable landscape with only fragments (<1%) of lowland*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		heath now remaining. Small patches of ancient woodland also survive in places • *Primary land use: Predominately arable cultivation* • *Tree cover: Discrete tree belts, coverts, and occasional larger plantations, often associated with areas of 18th and 19th century parkland* • *Historic features: There are many small parklands in this landscape, often with associated large country houses* • *Enclosure pattern: Rectilinear fields with occasional earlier sinuous elements, giving rise to a regular, large-scale field pattern with well-trimmed hedgerows* • *Settlement pattern: Low density of settlement comprising primarily discrete small villages/hamlets and estate farms. Towns are absent and there has been little 20th century development. Many buildings of brick and clay tile construction* • *Historic development: Mainly late enclosure of common fields and rough grazing land, particularly in northwest Norfolk, (Agricultural Revolution of the 18th century). Around Colchester & Ipswich, however, this landscape is characterised by earlier enclosures* • *Tranquility: This is a tranquil rural landscape, which in places, can feel rather empty and remote* • *Views: Estate farms and parkland give rise to a visually well-ordered landscape'* (Landscape East, 2010).
Wooded Plateau Farmlands	C, D, E, F	The Wooded Plateau Farmlands LCT occurs to the west of Ipswich at Copdock, west of Colchester in the Colchester District including at Fordham and Marks Tey, between Braintree and Witham in the Braintree District including Silver End and Cressing, and to the north and west of Chelmsford in the Chelmsford District including Great Waltham and Writtle. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: For the most part this is a settled, early enclosed landscape with frequent ancient woods, associated with a rolling, in places undulating glacial plateau, dissected by numerous shallow valleys* • *Landform: A rolling landscape on a dissected glacial plateau, in places deeply dissected, especially in the southwest* • *Natural / water features: This upland area is drained by numerous small watercourses which dissect the plateau, creating a series of shallow valleys. Field ponds are a feature in places* • *Ecological character: Frequent small to medium-sized ancient woods, with some notably larger woods in places,*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		connected by a network of ancient hedgerows. A relatively high survival of primary habitats (> 7%), although relatively little is specifically protected (< 1%) • *Primary land use: Most of the land is in arable production* • *Tree cover: A wooded landscape with many ancient woods, copses, and occasional smaller plantations* • *Historic features: For the most part an early enclosed landscape, with late enclosures only occurring to a limited extent, in certain places. Around Bedford, however, there are extensive areas of common fields which were subject to parliamentary enclosure* • *Enclosure pattern: An irregular pattern of medium to large sized fields. There has been much modification because of reorganisation/ boundary removal in the 20th century* • *Settlement pattern: A settled character comprising a mixture of scattered farmsteads, hamlets and occasional larger villages, the latter often linear in form where they have grown along roads. Late 20th century development impinges in the southern part of the area. The core part of this landscape, between Hertfordshire and Suffolk, has a strong vernacular tradition of timber farmed buildings with tiled roofs. Some 19th/20th century brick buildings also occur in linear hamlets and around enclosed greens* • *Historic development: Sinuous pattern of roads and lanes with small to medium-sized greens that are often triangular, or linear. These greens are often described as tyes in Suffolk and Essex* • *Tranquility: Despite its settled character this landscape is deeply rural and tranquil often affording a sense of remoteness and continuity. This is lost in some locations close to larger settlements and roads, or where there are pylons* • *Views: The network of winding, hedged lanes and paths coupled with the rolling countryside give a feeling of intimacy. In places field amalgamation has resulted in longer views over rolling, lightly wooded countryside'* (Landscape East, 2010).
Wooded Hills and Ridges	E, F, G, H	The Wooded Hills and Ridges LCT occurs east of Kelvedon near Witham, and in the Chelmsford and Brentwood Districts between Edney Common, Billericay and the west of Basildon. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: This is a varied and textured landscape characterised by undulating hills and steep ridges, which are cloaked in woodland, with clearings of arable farmland and pasture*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		• *Landform: Undulating land, often steeply sloping, with distinctive ridges and narrow plateau summits* • *Natural / water features: Minor streams drain the hills and feed into adjacent river valleys/low lying landscapes* • *Ecological character: A combination of heavy, gleyed soils supports a high cover of ancient deciduous woodland. Survival of Ancient Woodland is relatively high, much of which is found in large blocks and protected by designated sites (>1%)* • *Primary land use: Mixed farming (pasture and arable) between extensive areas of woodland. Some peri-urban land uses including horse grazing, golf courses and country parks* • *Tree cover: Frequent, often large ancient woodlands, in places associated with parkland* • *Historic features: Small to medium sized parklands and relic commons. Historic churches in settlements act as local landmarks* • *Enclosure pattern: Field pattern is generally irregular and sinuous. Areas that have been extensively modified through field reorganisation tend to have a more regular pattern* • *Settlement pattern: Settlement is densely dispersed, with many linear clusters along roadsides. The influence of towns (both new developments and vastly expanded historic settlements) are also a feature within this landscape* • *Historic development: Historically this landscape has comprised a mixture of wooded areas and fields, many of which are likely to have been created by assarting. Fieldscapes tend to be dominated by early enclosures, with significant areas of co-axial fields* • *Tranquility: The hilltops and lanes are relatively tranquil, however near to settlements and road infrastructure tranquillity reduces considerably* • *Views: Enclosed character due to woodland cover and mature hedgerows. Where there are breaks in the woodland cover the elevated nature of these hills and ridges affords long distance views'* (Landscape East, 2010).

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
Lowland Settled Claylands	G, H	The Lowland Settled Claylands LCT is located mainly in the southern part of Essex, south-west of Basildon. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: Low lying, rolling coastal farmland forming a hinterland between the Coastal Levels and the Wooded Hills further inland* • *Landform: Low-lying, gently rolling topography, associated with London clay* • *Natural / water features: Land is drained by a criss-cross pattern of drainage ditches* • *Ecological character: The predominantly low-lying nature and clay character of the substrate indicate the potential presence of wetland habitats, a few fragments of which survive. These are relatively well protected, with a high proportion of designated sites* • *Primary land use: Arable land use. Some areas of peri-urban landscape* • *Tree cover: Sparse woodland cover, but some copses and shelter belts* • *Historic features: Right angled bends in lanes reflecting an ancient field pattern and churches in historic settlements which act as local landmarks* • *Enclosure pattern: An irregular/ sinuous field pattern, in places defined by a mixture of field sizes. Field boundaries mostly comprise well-trimmed low hedges, or ditches* • *Settlement pattern: A densely dispersed settlement pattern comprising scattered farmsteads, hamlets, and clusters of dwellings, with occasional towns. There is a strong urban influence, with many new housing developments and some vastly expanded historic settlements* • *Historic development: An early enclosed landscape dominated by co-axial fieldscapes. Late Enclosure is rare and usually associated with enclosure of commons* • *Tranquility: Urban development and road infrastructure undermine the tranquillity of the area* • *Views: An open farmed landscape, with long distance views over adjoining coastal levels and marshes'* (Landscape East, 2010).
Lowland Settled Farmlands	H	The Lowland Settled Farmlands LCT occurs along the southern coastal fringe of Essex between Chadwell St Mary and Stanford-le-Hope. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: This is a settled agricultural landscape, often with a recurring estate character, associated with fertile rolling lowlands, often around the coastal fringe*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		• *Landform: Low-lying, gently rolling topography associated with deposits of glacial sand and gravel, often associated with river valleys and adjoining areas of gently rolling ground* • *Natural / water features: Well drained by a network of small streams and rivers* • *Ecological character: A landscape of productive, free draining soils with little surviving semi-natural habitat. Some patches of ancient woodland survive in areas with wetter gleyed soils* • *Primary land use: Predominately arable land use, with occasional damp meadows on lower ground in river valleys. Some mineral extraction (e.g., for brick making in Marston vale) and recreational land uses (e.g., golf courses)* • *Tree cover: Widespread groups of trees and small plantations, with occasional ancient woodlands* • *Historic features: Extensive network of hedged and occasionally sunken lanes. There are also numerous small parklands. Brickwork kilns and chimneys are also a distinctive feature in Beds* • *Enclosure pattern: Field forms are generally medium sized and sinuous, but rectilinear patterns are also common in places, reflecting more planned, surveyor enclosures* • *Settlement pattern: Rural settlement is dense and clustered with a mixture of riverside towns, small, nucleated villages/hamlets, and many individual farms. There are limited urban fringe influences in this landscape* • *Historic development: A landscape with a mixed historical evolution, including both late enclosures from common field and heath in Norfolk and early co-axial field types in Essex & Hertfordshire* • *Tranquility: Much of this landscape has a deeply rural character with a high degree of tranquillity. However, in areas of mineral extraction, tranquillity is often significantly reduced* • *Views: A generally more enclosed landscape, with a complex mosaic of wooded and tree lined vistas, in places giving rise to an intimate character'* (Landscape East, 2010).
Coastal Levels	H	The Coastal Levels LCT occurs along the River Thames in Thurrock, near East Tilbury. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: An open, low-lying former marshland landscape, with a strong horizontal emphasis and*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		characterised by wide skies and large fields bounded by a grid like pattern of drains and ditches • *Landform: Low-lying, drained former coastal marshes adjacent to the coast* • *Natural / water features: Drained by series of ditches and dykes* • *Ecological character: A relatively uniform landscape characterised by extensive patches of coastal grazing marsh. The ecological importance of this landscape for breeding waders is reflected in the relatively high level of protection* • *Primary land use: Land used for cattle grazing and some arable cultivation* • *Tree cover: An open landscape with little or no tree cover* • *Historic features: Sea banks and drainage dykes* • *Enclosure pattern: Complex, sinuous historic dyke networks with sea walls. Recent enclosures are generally more rectilinear, while early enclosures are particularly obvious in the Broads and around the Blackwater estuary* • *Settlement pattern: A largely unsettled landscape with domestic buildings only on the fringes* • *Historic development: This is a landscape created by the drainage of coastal marshlands from the medieval period onwards* • *Tranquility: Strong sense of remoteness and tranquillity - often the landscape has a sense of being windswept and desolate* • *Views: Open character with few field boundaries'* (Landscape East, 2010).
Saltmarsh/Intertidal Flats	H	The Saltmarsh / Intertidal Flats LCT is located along the north side of the River Thames in Thurrock, west of Tilbury. Key characteristics include: • *'Overall description: A dynamic coastal landscape comprising extensive natural habitats of saltmarsh and intertidal mudflats. A natural landscape where human*

LCT	Project Section(s)	Location and Key Characteristics
		influence occurs in the form of recreation, fishing activity, or sea defences • *Landform: Flat, low-lying landscape interspersed by tidal creeks and inlets with a natural and organic form* • *Natural / water features: Extensive areas of salt marsh and brackish lagoons - transition between land and sea - interspersed with tidal creeks* • *Ecological character: This is a largely semi-natural landscape type, dominated by intertidal mudflats, large areas of which remain extant* • *Primary land use: Amenity uses* • *Tree cover: Unwooded* • *Historic features: Sea defences and occasional shipwrecks* • *Enclosure pattern: Unenclosed* • *Settlement pattern: Settlement is notably absent* • *Historic development: Marsh and inter-tidal areas historically utilised as a local resource (e.g., grazing, fowling, and salting) and not formally enclosed, or farmed* • *Tranquility: Natural landscape, with few human influences and a strong sense of remoteness, tranquillity, and relative wildness* • *Views: Expansive landscape with distant open views'* (Landscape East, 2010).

District / County Landscape Character Types and Areas

13.2.6 The landscape of the Study Area is described within a series of district and county level landscape character assessments. LCTs and LCAs within the Study Area are described in the landscape assessment in Section 13.3 and shown on Figure 13.6: Landscape Character Types and Landscape Character Areas (document reference 6.13.F6) (Revision C).

Designated Landscapes

13.2.7 Dedham Vale National Landscape (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) is located within the Study Area. Section C of the Project passes through and to the north of the National Landscape. Section D passes to the south of the National Landscape. National Landscapes are shown on Figure 13.1: LVIA Study Area and Landscape Designations (document reference 6.13.F1) (Revision B).

13.2.8 The Suffolk & Essex Coasts and Heaths National Landscape is located 3.7 km to the south-east of the nearest pylon / Cable Sealing End (CSE) compound at Wenham Grove (Section C). It is within 2.8 km of the proposed underground cable alignment and is therefore within the 3 km Study Area. However, the Suffolk & Essex Coasts and Heaths National Landscape has not been considered within the assessment as,

through professional judgement, it is considered that there is no potential for significant landscape and visual effects to occur, or effects on its special qualities.

13.2.9 There are no locally designated landscapes within the 3 km Study Area.

13.2.10 The assessment of effects on National Landscapes is set out in Appendix 13.5: National Landscape Assessment Study (document reference 6.13.A5) (Revision B).

13.3 Assessment of Effects on Landscape Character

13.3.1 The assessment of effects on landscape character is based on the description of the Project set out in Chapter 4: Project Description (document reference 6.4) (Revision B). The assessment takes into account embedded mitigation, standard mitigation, and additional mitigation measures, as set out in Chapter 13: Landscape and Visual (document reference 6.13) (Revision B).

13.3.2 All effects during construction are short-term, partially reversible and adverse, unless stated otherwise.

13.3.3 All operation (and maintenance) effects are long-term, irreversible and adverse, unless stated otherwise.

13.3.4 All distances described are approximate.

LCT: Urban, LCA: Norwich Urban Area (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.5 The Norwich Urban Area is located across the southern edge of Norwich within the Study Area, covering the urban area on slightly higher ground south of the A140, and extending towards the lower-lying Yare Valley in the south.

13.3.6 The area comprises low density housing interspersed with large areas of open space. These green spaces include the East Golf Club in the centre of the LCA, Eaton Common, a school and nursery grounds, and the meandering and semi-natural spaces along the River Yare, including at Marston Marshes, at the southern edge of the LCA. The south-east of the area has a more industrial character, with large scale buildings, commercial centres and business parks.

Sensitivity

13.3.7 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to overhead lines. This is due to the higher elevation north of the River Yare which affords occasional outward views, balanced with the large urban areas and bands of riparian vegetation along the watercourse and major roads which limit outward views to neighbouring LCAs.

13.3.8 There are numerous areas of ecological importance within the Yare Valley, and areas of open access land and Local Nature Reserves at Marston Marshes. A small number of listed buildings are located at the edge of the Yare Valley and in the north of the LCA, and there are two scheduled monuments within the grounds of Eaton Golf Club. Proximity to dense urban areas and main roads reduces tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.9 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.10 The Order Limits would be more than 2 km from the Norwich Urban Area LCA, except for an access track north of Norwich Main Substation. Construction activity is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the intervening buildings, infrastructure and layers of vegetation, including along the River Yare and main roads.

13.3.11 It is judged that there would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.12 The overhead line element of the Project would be more than 2 km from the LCA. Although the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility from the southern edge of Norwich, including open space along the River Yare, the Project is not likely to be perceptible from the LCA due to the presence of intervening vegetation at the southern edge of the LCA, intervening buildings within the settlements and layers of vegetation along the A140 and railway line to the south of Norwich.

13.3.13 It is judged that there would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.14 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA, and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.15 Table A13.2.3 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for the Norwich Urban Area LCA.

Table A13.2.3 Landscape assessment summary for Norwich Urban Area LCA (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT: Plateau Farmland, LCA E2: Snetterton Heath Plateau (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.16 The Snetterton Heath Plateau LCA is located to the west of Tibenham and encompasses parts of New Buckenham. The easternmost part of the LCA falls within the western fringes of the Study Area. Key characteristics include:

- *'A large scale, elevated landscape overlying a thick layer of glacial drift deposits of Lowestoft Till, sand and gravel - sandy drift deposits being dominant to the west*
- *Topography ranges from 35-60m AOD making it one of the most consistent plateau landscapes*
- *The elevated aspect of the landform provides opportunities for distant views across the character area and into the adjacent Little Ouse Settled tributary farmland character area*
- *Arable agriculture is the dominant land cover interspersed with woodland blocks of various sizes and composition including carr woodland, small blocks of coniferous planting and larger broadleaf woodland e.g. Warren Plantation and Jubilee Plantation*
- *Arable fields are large in scale and bounded by hedgerows and hedgerow trees*
- *Localised areas of wetland and fen exist e.g. east of Banham. These are drained by a geometric pattern of field drains creating a more intricate landscape pattern*
- *Numerous County Wildlife Sites (largely woodland) in the west of the character area illustrate its ecological potential*
- *The plateau has a long history of human intervention and settlement and this is evident in the tumuli at Leader's Spinney and Round Barrow on Wilby Warren*
- *Settlement is very low density and dispersed, taking the form of either scattered hamlets along the rural road network e.g. at the junction of Wilby Road and Quidenham Road, or isolated farms and lodges*
- *Snetterton Circuit is a prominent recreational land use in the west of the character area*
- *The A11 and the Thetford-Attleborough railway line in the western part of the character area are locally distinctive and divisive features*
- *Recreational access is facilitated by a network of rights of way*

- *This is a tamed landscape with an essentially peaceful, rural quality' (*Tibbalds / Land Use Consultants (LUC), 2022).

Sensitivity

13.3.17 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to overhead lines. This is due to the consistent and large-scale plateau landscape and large-scale arable fields, balanced with the localised areas of wetland and more intricate landscape pattern created by field drains, and the peaceful rural character.

13.3.18 There are features of ecological importance at the eastern edge of the LCA, including the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) at New Buckenham Common. New Buckenham has a conservation area, partially within the Study Area, and there are a small number of listed buildings within the centre of the settlement. There is a scheduled monument at New Buckenham Castle. The rural landscape contributes to a relatively strong sense of tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.19 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.20 The Order Limits would be 2 km from the eastern edge of the Snetterton Heath LCA, and the LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity which would be perceptible from the easternmost fringes of the LCA. Layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider

13.3.21 LCA. It is judged that the construction activity would not be close enough to affect the '*peaceful rural quality*' which is described as a key characteristic.

13.3.22 The construction activity would result in a barely perceptible change experienced across a small geographical extent, at the easternmost fringes of the LCA. The magnitude of effect would be barely perceptible within 2 km of the Order Limits, with no magnitude of effect elsewhere in the LCA.

13.3.23 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **negligible and not significant** within 2 km of the Order Limits, with **no effect (not significant)** elsewhere.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.24 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCA within the Study Area, south of New Buckenham.

13.3.25 The Project would be more than 2 km from the LCA, and the overhead line would be barely perceptible on the skyline and would not form a noticeable feature within the expansive views east. This is due to the broad plateau landscape of the LCA and intervening layers of vegetation.

13.3.26 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **negligible and not significant** at the eastern edge of the LCA within 2 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, with **no effect (not significant)** elsewhere.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.27 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (barely perceptible within 2 km of the Order Limits). The effect on the LCA would remain **negligible and not significant** at the eastern fringes of the LCA within 2 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, with **no effect (not significant)** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.28 Table A13.2.4 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA E2: Snetterton Heath Plateau.

Table A13.2.4 Landscape assessment summary for LCA E2: Snetterton Heath Plateau (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Settled Plateau Farmland, LCA D1: Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.1.1 The Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland LCA is located to the east of Wymondham and encompasses parts of Wreningham and Mulbarton within the Study Area. Key characteristics include:

- *'A settled landscape with large edge-of-plateau towns (including market towns and those of more modern origin) and villages plus smaller, nucleated settlements which are dispersed across the plateau*
- *Large expanse of flat landform with little variation over long distances with strong open horizons – the archetypal 'Norfolk' landscape of popular imagination*
- *Large scale opens arable fields including sugarbeet, cereal and oilseed rape monocultures creating simple, often monotonous, character*

- *Long views from plateau edge, including to Norwich from the northern plateau edge*
- *Poor hedgerows generally, which accentuates the openness of the landscape…Some mature hedgerow trees are found, particularly beside roads, which are a distinctive feature. Areas of more intact hedgerow network sometimes occur around settlements*
- *Sparsely wooded but with occasional woodland blocks, sometimes associated with former parkland areas, creating a more wooded character and wooded horizons in parts of this generally open landscape*
- *Vernacular buildings particularly brick built, timber framed, and stepped gables. Some isolated churches, sometimes hidden by dense screening churchyard vegetation'* (LUC, 2001a).

Sensitivity

13.3.29 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the medium to large scale of the landscape, relatively flat landform and presence of larger settlements, balanced with the presence of smaller, vernacular settlements and some long views across the plateau.

13.3.30 There is a conservation area at Mulbarton and several areas of open access land, as well as an area of ancient woodland at Hethel Wood and a number of County Wildlife Sites. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.31 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.32 The eastern fringes of the Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between RG8 and RG24 south and east of Mulbarton, and between RG25 and RG30 south of Toprow. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields) and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees to the south of Bracon Ash and east of Mulbarton as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, up to three veteran trees, irreplaceable and highly valued landscape elements, would be removed or affected to the north of Flordon Hall which would have a localised effect on the '*wooded character and wooded horizons'* in this area. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, temporary construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects.

13.3.33 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation, including woodland and field boundary trees, would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.34 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the Order Limits), and a medium scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the Order Limits). The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.35 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, experienced across the undulating arable fields near Bracon Ash and south of Mulbarton, and low elsewhere.

13.3.36 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.37 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates greater theoretical visibility of pylons from farmland between Wreningham and Bracon Ash, and north of Flordon. Theoretical visibility of pylons is reduced within the larger settlements.

13.3.38 The eastern fringes of the LCA would be directly affected by the Project, between RG8 and RG24 south and east of Mulbarton, and between RG25 and RG30 south of Toprow. An overhead line would be introduced to a localised part of the LCA. The Project would not adversely affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCA, which is characterised by a '*large expanse of flat landform with little variation over long distances with strong open horizons*' and '*large scale open arable fields*'. South and east of Mulbarton the Project would be largely seen in the context of an existing 400 kV overhead line. South of Toprow the Project would introduce an overhead line to a farmed and settled landscape. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.39 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.40 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Project, experienced across the large-scale and open, gently undulating arable fields east and south-east of Mulbarton, and south of Toprow, and low elsewhere within the LCA. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Project, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.41 Landscape mitigation and enhancement at Norwich Main Substation is shown in Appendix D of the Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (LEMP) (document reference 7.4) (Revision G). At year 15 proposed planting would be semi-mature, helping to integrate Norwich Main Substation within the surrounding landscape. The planting would be localised and there would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 1.5 km and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Project, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.42 Table A13.2.5 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA D1: Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland.

Table A13.2.5 Landscape assessment summary for LCA D1: Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Settled Plateau Farmland, LCA D2: Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.43 The Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland LCA is located around the settlement of Poringland (not within the Study Area) and contains the most easterly part of the settlement of Stoke Holy Cross, within the Study Area. Key characteristics include:

- *'Shelving landform with a gently undulating topography created by the presence of small tributary stream valleys cutting through the landscape providing a variety of open/more intimate landscape settings and long/framed views*
- *Flat landscape, which rises to a gentle central dome, with strong open horizons*
- *Densely settled core area, predominantly of ribbons of post-war bungalows and other development which interconnect the older village cores…*
- *Large scale open arable fields including sugarbeet, cereal and oilseed rape monoculture*
- *Long views from plateau edge including…to the Tas Valley*
- *Poor hedgerows but wide roadside verges and numerous remnant hedgerow standards. Particularly around settled areas*

- *Wooded character in parts and when viewed from afar, particularly around the settlements and due to the presence of woodland blocks in the north of the character area*
- *Prominent landmark telecommunications towers (radio and radar) located at the high point of the plateau and visible from a large area of the surrounding countryside*
- *Vernacular buildings present but somewhat 'diluted' by more recent development*
- *Recreational routeways including Boudica's Way leading to the Tas Valley'* (LUC, 2001a).

Sensitivity

13.3.44 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the medium to large scale of the landscape, flat landscape, dense areas of settlement, and prominent telecommunications towers, balanced with the long-distance views along the plateau edge and wooded, smaller-scale character in parts.

13.3.45 There are a number of listed buildings, including Grade II former Royal Air Force (RAF) sites, as well as an area of ancient woodland at Arminghall Wood and numerous areas of priority habitat woodland. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.46 Considering judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.47 Although there are some '*long views from the plateau edge*' in the direction of the Project, the majority of the lateral overhead line LoD would be more than 2 km from the Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland LCA, and construction activity is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to distance and intervening layers of vegetation including woodland along the Tas Valley. Where visible, construction activity would be perceived in the context of an existing 400 kV overhead line immediately to the east of the Project.

13.3.48 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.49 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCA within the Study Area, with reduced theoretical visibility from Stoke Holy Cross.

13.3.50 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing overhead lines, and prominent telecommunications towers, the latter within the LCA itself. Although there are some *'long views from the plateau edge'* in the direction of the Project, elements of the Project including the Norwich Main Substation extension and overhead line would be barely perceptible in distant views across the wooded Tas Valley. The Project would

be perceived in the context of an existing 400 kV overhead line immediately to the east of the Project.

13.3.51 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.52 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (no effect (not significant)). The effect on the LCA would remain as **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.53 Table A13.2.6 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA D2: Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland.

Table A13.2.6 Landscape assessment summary for LCA D2: Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT: Valley Urban Fringe, LCA F1: Yare Valley Urban Fringe (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.54 The Yare Valley Urban Fringe LCA is located to the south of Norwich, following the valley of the River Yare. Key characteristics include:

- *'Broad semi-enclosed valley form with wide flat flood plain and enclosing valley sides, occasionally opening to adjoining tributary river valleys, resulting in a sense of containment and unity*
- *Large meandering river flanked by characteristic wetland vegetation including reeds and fringing alder/willow woodland and grassland*
- *Perceived absence of settlement within the valley although influenced by developments in the City of Norwich*

- *Sense of remoteness and solitude within the valley, remarkable given the closeness to a major city*
- *Presence of recreational landscapes including country parks and walks…*
- *Strongly influenced by modern transportation corridors, in particular the Norwich Southern Bypass'* (LUC, 2001a).

Sensitivity

13.3.55 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the sense of containment derived from the broad valley landform, the sense of remoteness and presence of country parks and walks, balanced with the major roads and proximity to major settlements.

13.3.56 There are two conservation areas which partially overlap with the LCA; at Cringleford in the north-west and Trowse with Newton to the north-east. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.57 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.58 Most of the Order Limits would be more than 1 km from the Yare Valley Urban Fringe LCA except for a permanent access track north of Norwich Main Substation. Construction activity would not be perceptible, due to intervening roads and layers of vegetation, as well as the low-lying nature of the LCA.

13.3.59 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.60 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons north of Keswick and along the A47.

13.3.61 The Project would be more than 2 km from the LCA, and the overhead line is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the low-lying nature of the LCA and intervening layers of vegetation, as well as the presence of existing infrastructure

13.3.62 including the A47 (Norwich Southern Bypass).

13.3.63 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.64 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (no effect (not significant)). The effect on the LCA would remain as **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.65 Table A13.2.7 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA F1: Yare Valley Urban Fringe.

Table A13.2.7 Landscape assessment summary for LCA F1: Yare Valley Urban Fringe (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No effect (not significant)

LCT: Tributary Farmland with Parkland, LCA C1: Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.66 The Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCA is located to the south-west of Norwich, encompassing parts of Keswick and Swardeston. Key characteristics include:

- *'Shelving landform with a gently undulating topography created by the presence of small tributary stream valleys cutting through the landscape providing a variety of open/more intimate landscape settings and long/framed views*
- *Transitional landscape occupying the mid ground between the upland plateau of the Wymondham-Hethersett settled plateau farmland and the principal Yare Valley and forming part of the transition between the rural and urban landscape*
- *Peaceful farmland with small farm woodlands and intermittently wooded tributary valleys creating a quiet rural atmosphere*
- *Presence of large parkland estates, particularly associated directly with the tributary valleys…*
- *Sparsely settled landscape of small clusters of farmhouses, small villages and rural dwellings interspersed with large manorial buildings and halls*
- *A sense of impenetrability and remoteness despite the presence of major transportation corridors. The Norwich Southern Bypass and A11 Wymondham*

Road trisect the landscape …These routes create corridors of movement and noise in this otherwise peaceful landscape.

- *Arable and pastoral farmland of cereals and sugarbeet with more pastoral land uses within the immediate tributary valley corridor. Fields surrounded by sparse hedges and hedgerow trees, with occasional mature/veteran oaks forming a distinctive feature alongside the lanes*
- *Vernacular architectural character, predominantly of rural buildings and estate dwellings. More modern dwellings are found in the larger villages*
- *Intermittent long views towards the City of Norwich'* (LUC, 2001a)

Sensitivity

13.3.67 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the varied topography and areas of smaller scale landscape patterns, framed longer-distance views, presence of parkland estates, vernacular architecture and overall remote and tranquil pastoral landscape. These characteristics are balanced with the major roads which have a localised effect on tranquillity, and areas of undulating landform which would provide screening and backclothing.

13.3.68 Two conservation areas at Cringleford and Mulbarton are partially within the LCA. Additionally, there are multiple areas of open access land in the LCA as well as a number of County Wildlife Sites. Overall, the landscape value is medium.

13.3.69 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.70 The Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible from the eastern fringes of the LCA within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA. It is judged that the construction activity would not be close enough to affect the '*quiet rural atmosphere*' or the '*intermittent long views towards the City of Norwich*' which are described as key characteristics.

13.3.71 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the Order Limits).

13.3.72 The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.73 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.74 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons

across the LCA. There is reduced theoretical visibility of pylons within the tributary valley of the River Yare, settlements and larger areas of woodland.

13.3.75 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure, small settlements, and major roads. The Project would not adversely affect the key characteristics of the LCA including its '*quiet rural atmosphere*' or the '*intermittent long views towards the City of Norwich*', which are directed away from the Project.

13.3.76 The Project would result in a small scale of change across a small geographical extent, along the south-eastern fringes of the LCA (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD).

13.3.77 The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.78 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.79 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA, although at year 15 proposed planting along the northern edge of the Norwich Main Substation would assist in integrating the substation within the surrounding landscape and reduce visibility in middle distance easterly views from the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (low within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.80 Table A13.2.8 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA C1: Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland.

Table A13.2.8 Landscape assessment summary for LCA C1: Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Plateau Farmland, LCA E1: Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.81 The Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland LCA encompasses the settlements of Ashwellthorpe, Tacolneston, Forncett End and Bunwell. Key characteristics include:

- *'Shelving Distinctive flat, elevated landform, above the 50m contour*
- *A large-scale landscape of both openness and enclosure provided by woodland*
- *Panoramic views and some framed views along roads*
- *Predominantly arable farming within large geometric fields*
- *Mature remnant oak hedgerow trees occur within trimmed hawthorn hedges*
- *Moats are a feature, sometimes associated with halls and sometimes occurring in isolation*
- *Linear settlement occurs along roads with some vernacular buildings intermixed with more modern development*
- *Rural roads have very straight stretched and are often flanked by wide grass verges*
- *Presence of tall structures, with the prominent mast of Tacolneston transmitting station plus lines of telegraph poles*
- *An overall peaceful rural character created by the absence of main roads and development'* (LUC, 2001a).

Sensitivity

13.3.82 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the large scale of the landscape and presence of large-scale structures including transmitting station and telegraph poles, balanced with the availability of panoramic views, areas of enclosure derived from woodland, historic features, tranquil character and absence of major development or major roads.

13.3.83 There is a conservation area at Tacolneston. There are multiple areas of ancient woodland, as well as a County Wildlife Site at Grove Wood. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.84 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.85 The eastern fringes of the Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between RG34 and RG47, east of Tacolneston, Forncett End and Bunwell Hill. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. There would be disturbance to arable farmland and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees to the south of Forncett End and east of Bunwell Wood, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B).

13.3.86 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation and the linear settlements of Tacolneston and Forncett End, would reduce intervisibility across the wider LCA.

13.3.87 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the Order Limits).

13.3.88 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.89 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCA, particularly from more elevated parts of the plateau including along the proposed overhead line alignment east of Tacolneston. There is reduced theoretical visibility of pylons within the settlements of Ashwellthorpe, Tacolneston, Forncett End, Bunwell and Great Green.

13.3.90 The south-eastern fringes of the LCA would be directly affected by the Project, between RG34 and RG47, east of Tacolneston, Forncett End and Bunwell Hill. An overhead line would be introduced to a localised part of the LCA on its eastern fringes, which would detract from the overall ‘peaceful rural character’ and would be visible in some panoramic and framed views, both of which are described as key characteristics of the LCA.

13.3.91 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including Tacolneston transmitting station in the north of the LCA. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.92 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). From further distances the Project would result in a small scale of change, as proposed pylons would be partially screened, and would not exceed the height of existing trees and

structures (see Figure 7.12.F18: Viewpoint 1.18: PRoW north-east of Bunwell (Bunwell FP2) (document reference 7.12) (Revision B)).

13.3.93 The magnitude of effect would therefore be medium, particularly across the large scale arable fields between the settlements of Tacolneston and Little Green, within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.94 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.95 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.96 Table A13.2.9 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA E1: Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland.

Table A13.2.9 Landscape assessment summary for LCA E1: Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Plateau Farmland, LCA E2: Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.97 The Great Moulton Plateau Farmland LCA contains the settlement of Pristow Green. Key characteristics include:

- *'Flat, elevated plateau landform above the 50m contour with little topographic variation*

- *Extensive arable farmland with large-scale fields and notable absence of boundaries*
- *A large-scale landscape of openness and exposure*
- *Isolated and infrequent blocks of mixed woodland, otherwise woodland is confined to tiny farm copses*
- *Several greens and commons, some with associated pond habitats*
- *Expansive skies are a defining feature with distant views and farm buildings visible in the open landscape*
- *Hedgerows are sparse with fuller enclosure along roadsides*
- *Hedgerow trees are an important feature marking the lines of former boundaries*
- *Timber framed houses and moats*
- *Large scale farm buildings, water towers, telegraph poles exposed in this open landscape and distinct absence of churches*
- *Sparsely settled with scattered farmhouses, some linear settlement with absence of centre/core*
- *Disused airfields are a feature of the plateau at Shelton and Pristow Green'* (LUC, 2001a).

Sensitivity

13.3.98 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the large scale landscape with expansive arable field pattern, limited boundary features, and man-made features including water towers and telegraph poles, and isolated pockets of development including airfields. These characteristics are balanced with the minimal topographical variation offering limited screening opportunity, limited presence of enclosing vegetation, expansive skies affording distant views, and sparse settlement.

13.3.99 There is one conservation area within its boundaries at Wacton, which extends into the LCA along its north-eastern boundary. Two areas of open access land are located within the eastern half of the LCA, near Tibenham Airfield and east of Great Moulton, and there are multiple County Wildlife Sites. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.100 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.101 The central part of the Great Moulton Plateau Farmland LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between RG53 and RG65, south and west of Pristow Green and Long Row. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to arable farmland, including the alteration of field boundary hedgerows

and loss of some hedgerow trees (which are noted as a key characteristic of the LCA) to the south and west of Pristow Green and Long Row and to the east of Winfarthing, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. Heywood Road is a Protected Lane and would be directly affected by the construction activity as it is within the Order Limits and crosses under the works

13.3.102 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation, including hedgerows and hedgerow trees, would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.103 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, which extends north-south through the centre of the LCA. Within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, the construction activity would result in a medium scale of change. Beyond 0.5 km, although layers of vegetation and mature hedgerow trees on the skyline would reduce visibility of construction activity, taller elements would remain visible above the treeline, with effects on the key characteristics of '*expansive skies as a defining feature'* and *'distant views… visible in the open landscape'*. The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere in the LCA.

13.3.104 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.105 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCA, particularly from more elevated parts of the plateau including at Tibenham Airfield and along the proposed overhead line alignment east of Goose Green.

13.3.106 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including an existing 400 kV overhead line to the east of the Study Area. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.107 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). Although layers of roadside vegetation and mature hedgerow trees on the skyline would partially reduce visibility of the Project, proposed pylons would remain visible above the treeline and would extend north-south through the LCA, occupying wide fields of view with resulting effects on the key characteristics of '*expansive skies'* and *'distant views'*. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and medium between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, particularly across the large-scale arable fields between Pristow Green and Gissing, and between B1134/Heath Road and Short Green. The magnitude of effect would be

low elsewhere within the LCA (see Figure 7.12.F11: Viewpoint 1.11 B1134 Long Row, Gissing Common (document reference 7.12) (Revision B)).

13.3.108 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, reducing to **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.109 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.110 Table A13.2.10 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA E2: Great Moulton Plateau Farmland.

Table A13.2.10 Landscape assessment summary for LCA E2: Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	High	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	High	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Tributary Farmland, LCA B1: Tas Tributary Farmland (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.111 The Tas Tributary Farmland LCA occurs as four discrete areas surrounding the Tas Rural River Valley LCA. It contains parts of the settlements of Swainsthorpe, Newton Flotman, Toprow and Aslacton. Key characteristics include:

- *'Open, gently undulating to flat and sloping landscape incised by shallow tributary valleys, the tributary streams of which are not prominent landscape features*

- *Large open arable fields of cereal, sugarbeet and occasionally sweetcorn*
- *Framed open views across the countryside and into adjacent character areas*
- *Small blocks of deciduous woodland of high ecological and visual quality. These create wooded horizons which add variety to and create intimacy within the landscape*
- *Damp grasslands of ecological importance located within the tributary valleys*
- *Scattered remnant hedgerow trees, particularly oak, sometimes including intact avenues lining the roads or marking former, denuded, field boundaries*
- *Transportation corridors including main connecting roads*
- *Network of recreational footpaths*
- *Ditches, low banks, and wide grass verges associated with the network of rural roads*
- *Settlement characterised by a small number of large villages…with smaller hamlets, scattered farmhouses, and agricultural buildings*
- *Mixed vernacular of timber-frame, stepped and Dutch Gables, thatch and round-towered churches'* (LUC, 2001a).

Sensitivity

13.3.112 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the large scale and gently undulating arable landscape, major roads and blocks of woodland, balanced with the availability of longer distance open views, shallow tributary valleys, areas of smaller scale field patterns, small scale and vernacular settlement, and network of recreational paths.

13.3.113 There are conservation areas at Forncett and Wacton, and several . Three small areas of open access land are located in the north, centre and south-west of the LCA. Additionally, there are a number of areas of ancient woodland, scattered areas of priority habitat woodland, and multiple County Wildlife Sites. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.114 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be medium.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.115 The western part of the Tas Tributary Farmland LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between RG1 and RG9, RG11 and RG15, RG23 and RG26, RG28 and RG34, RG36 to RG43 and RG46 to RG54. This includes areas north-west of Swainsthorpe, between Flordon, Hapton and Toprow, west of Forncett St Mary and east of Hargate. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to arable farmland, including loss of some hedgerow trees to the east of Swainsthorpe and Flordon, and to the west and south of Forncett End and Bunwell Hill as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document

reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, there would be loss of some grassland and woodland along tributary valleys. Open Access Land at Swainsthorpe would be affected by the undergrounding of an existing 11 kV overhead line. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects.

13.3.116 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, the LCA's characteristic '*wooded horizons*', and layers of vegetation including woodland blocks and remnant hedgerow trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.117 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits which extends north-south through undulating arable fields in the centre and along the western edge of the LCA. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.118 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.119 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCA, particularly from more elevated areas in the south of the LCA. There is reduced theoretical visibility along the River Tas and its tributary valleys, and within settlements.

13.3.120 The western part of this LCA would be directly affected by the Project, around Norwich Main Substation and between RG1 and RG9, RG11 and RG15, RG23 and RG26, RG28 and RG34, RG36 to RG43 and RG46 to RG54. This includes areas north-west of Swainsthorpe, between Flordon, Hapton and Toprow, west of Forncett St Mary and east of Hargate. An overhead line would be introduced to intermittent parts along the western edge of the LCA, and in close to middle distance views from parts of the LCA further east. Discrete areas of the LCA further east would not experience direct effects.

13.3.121 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including an existing 400 kV overhead line between Norwich Main Substation and Great Moulton, on the edge of the Study Area. There is a greater degree of intimacy around tributary rivers where the Project could be seen to contrast with smaller-scale fields and small blocks of woodland, and the characteristic '*framed open views across the countryside*', including areas west of Flordon and at Cargate Common. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.122 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD), particularly concentrated across open arable fields north-west and south-west of Swainsthorpe, west of Flordon and east of Toprow, west of Forncett, and south and east of Bunwell Hill. A medium scale of change would be experienced within 1.5 km of the lateral

overhead line LoD. where filtering by bands of hedgerows within the large scale agricultural landscape and increased intervening distance would reduce the prominence of the infrastructure. The duration would be long-term, and the effects would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would therefore be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.123 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, and **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Project, reducing to **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA, particularly the discrete areas of the LCA in the east.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.124 Landscape mitigation and enhancement around Norwich Main Substation is shown in Appendix D of the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.4) (Revision D). At year 15 proposed planting would be semi-mature, helping to integrate Norwich Main Substation within the surrounding landscape. The planting would be localised in the north of the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified in year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Project, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.125 Table A13.2.11 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA B1: Tas Tributary Farmland.

Table A13.2.11 Landscape assessment summary for LCA B1: Tas Tributary Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Tributary Farmland, LCA B4: Waveney Tributary Farmland (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.126 The Waveney Tributary Farmland LCA is located to the north of Diss. It contains the settlements of Bressingham, Shelfanger, Winfarthing, Burston and Gissing. Key characteristics include:

- *'Transitional landscape occupying the mid ground between the upland plateau (Great Moulton Plateau Farmland) and the main river valley (Waveney Valley)*
- *Undulating landform to the south of the area where it is dissected by tributaries. Land is higher and flatter towards the north of the character area adjoining the Great Moulton Plateau Farmland*
- *A large-scale open landscape on the higher ground with some distant views. Pockets of enclosure and intimacy associated with the tributaries*
- *Narrow streams, drainage channels (within grass verges) ponds and moats are characteristic…*
- *Predominantly arable farmland with a varied field pattern. Fields are small to the south of the character area, larger on the higher plateau areas*
- *Mature hedgerow trees are very distinctive especially large mature oaks*
- *Hawthorn/ blackthorn hedges divide field*
- *Scattered blocks of woodland with some larger blocks having SSSI [Site of Special Scientific Interest] designations*
- *Pockets of parkland and remnant parkland occur*
- *Diversity of ecological assemblages including grassland, wet habitats, woodland, some of which are SSSI*
- *Round tower and isolated churches are distinctive landmarks. Moats and earthworks are a feature*
- *Settlement occurs throughout the character area. Villages are frequently linear along roads with some villages set around greens*
- *Large farm units and processing units are present plus pylons which cut through this area*
- *Otherwise winding rural roads, and sunken lanes dissect the rural area*
- *Peaceful and rural landscape'* (LUC, 2001a).

Sensitivity

13.3.127 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility. This is due to the varied field patterns throughout, areas of undulating landscape particularly in the south, pockets of parkland, small scale and occasionally historic settlement, and generally tranquil and remote character. These characteristics are balanced with the open and large scale landscape across the higher ground, presence of existing development including

pylons and processing plants, and layered bands of vegetation offering opportunities for screening.

13.3.128 There are four conservation areas within the LCA, located in the north-west at Winfarthing, north-east at Gissing, and further south and east at Burston and Dickleburgh. Additionally, there are multiple areas of ancient woodland, County Wildlife Sites, and areas of priority habitat woodland. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.129 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.130 The central part of the Waveney Tributary Farmland LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between RG64 and RG84, east of Winfarthing and Shelfanger and north of Roydon. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features, and disturbance to arable farmland. There would be loss of some hedgerow and roadside trees to the east of Shelfanger and west of Snow Street, and alterations to the margins of woodland blocks including at Shelfanger Grove and Westbrook Green as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, there would be one veteran tree, an irreplaceable and highly valued landscape element, removed from a mature field boundary to the west of Snow Street. There would be localised effects on the '*mature hedgerow trees*' which are '*very distinctive*' and noted as a key characteristic of the LCA. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. Heywood Road and Darrow Lane are Protected Lanes and would be directly affected by the construction activity as they are within the Order Limits and cross under the works.

13.3.131 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation including woodland and hedgerow trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.132 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, particularly within the smaller scale fields in proximity to the wooded tributaries, medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere within the LCA. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km, medium between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and low elsewhere.

13.3.133 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.134 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCA, particularly from more elevated parts of the plateau including south and west of Shelfanger. There is reduced theoretical visibility along the valleys of tributaries of the River Waveney.

13.3.135 The central part of the LCA would be directly affected by the Project, between RG64 and RG84, east of Winfarthing and Shelfanger and north of Roydon. An overhead line would be introduced to a localised part of the LCA. Overall, it would not adversely affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCA, which is noted to be a 'large-scale open landscape'. Where there are 'pockets of enclosure and intimacy associated with the tributaries' and smaller-scale fields, the Project could be seen to contrast with the scale of the landscape and landscape features.

13.3.136 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features, including main roads and an existing 400 kV overhead line which crosses the eastern edge of the Study Area. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.137 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD), concentrated across the smaller-scale fields in the south near the wooded tributaries and within the more open fields east of Shelfanger. There would be a medium scale of change experienced within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, where the Project is introduced into longer views across the larger-scale fields on higher ground in the north of the LCA, south of Winfarthing and between Shelfanger and Burston. The duration would be long-term, and the effects would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low elsewhere.

13.3.138 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, reducing to **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.139 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.140 Table A13.2.12 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA B4: Waveney Tributary Farmland.

Table A13.2.12 Landscape assessment summary for LCA B4: Waveney Tributary Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Rural River Valley, LCA A1: Tas Rural River Valley (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.141 The Tas Rural River Valley LCA follows the course of the River Tas between Norwich and Forncett St Peter and includes tributary valleys. Key characteristics include:

- *'Distinct, moderately wide simple valley form with medium-scale clearly defined flat valley floor, shallow side slopes and adjoining smaller-scale tributary valleys*
- *Less enclosed than some other valleys with a feeling of exposure and openness and some long views within the valley but restricted external views*
- *River alternately visible and hidden marked by sparse waterside vegetation including reed filled ditches and narrow woodland belts*
- *Pastoral valley floor with cattle grazing and distinctive willow pollards lining the watercourses on the valley floor*
- *Upper tributary valleys of great ecological richness and importance, including areas of fen, marsh, and unimproved wet and neutral grassland*
- *Fragmented woodlands and shelterbelts on the valley sides creating a wooded fringe to much of the valley interspersed with more open areas of arable land*
- *Presence of historic earthworks including Scheduled Ancient Monuments, including the large highly visible defensive earthworks of Venta Icenorum and the earthworks at Tasburgh*
- *Sparsely settled character with buildings clustered around fording points and at the top of the valley sides*
- *Presence of a small number of distinctive halls and parkland including English Heritage listed parkland at Rainthorpe Hall*

- *Network of narrow peaceful rural lanes throughout the valley including sunken lanes*
- *A more disturbed character in the north of the area due to the influence of pylons, railway, and roads'* (LUC, 2001a).

Sensitivity

13.3.142 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility. This is due to the distinct valley landform which affords occasional long views within the valley, pastoral fields, presence of historic features and sense of time depth, and sparsely settled character. These characteristics are balanced with the presence of existing electrical infrastructure in the north and layered bands of vegetation within the river valley which restrict outward views from the LCA, varied field patterns throughout, areas of undulating landscape particularly in the south, pockets of parkland, small scale and occasionally historic settlement, and generally tranquil and remote character.

13.3.143 There are multiple SSSI, County Wildlife Sites, and areas of Priority Habitat along the river valley. There are conservation areas within or partially within the LCA at Shotesham and Forncett. A registered park and garden is located at Rainthorpe in the centre of the LCA, and there are multiple scheduled monuments, mainly concentrated in the north. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.144 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.145 The Tas Rural River Valley LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible from parts of the LCA within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, particularly along its north-western edges in proximity to Norwich Main Substation. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation including riverside vegetation, fragmented woodland and shelter belts would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA, except for from localised open areas of elevation such as near Tasburgh. It is judged that construction activity would not affect the key characteristics of the LCA as external views are restricted.

13.3.146 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 1.5 km of the Order Limits and particularly concentrated in the north-west in closer proximity to the Norwich Main Substation.

13.3.147 The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere. The relatively contained external views along the length of the valley would reduce perceptibility of construction activity, although localised areas of elevation along the eastern edge of the valley would be afforded partial views.

13.3.148 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCA

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.149 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons

across the LCA. Theoretical visibility is reduced along the floor of the Tas Valley and from larger areas of woodland.

13.3.150 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced in the north by man-made features including overhead lines, railways, and roads, but is largely rural further south. The Project would not affect the key characteristics of the LCA, as external views are restricted.

13.3.151 The Project would result in a small scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). Effects would be concentrated in the north-west in proximity to the Norwich Main Substation, and in more distant views from areas of localised elevation along the eastern edge of the valley, including near Tasburgh (see Figure 7.12.F17: Viewpoint 1.17 Grove Lane / Boudicca Way, near Tasburgh Hill Fort (document reference 7.12) (Revision B)).

13.3.152 The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and barely perceptible elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be minor and not significant (adverse) within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and negligible and not significant elsewhere within the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.153 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. At year 15 proposed planting along the eastern and northern edges of the Norwich Main Substation (in the neighbouring LCA) would reach semi-maturity and would provide additional screening and filtering of views from the edges of the LCA towards the Project. Semi-mature planting would assist in integrating the substation and its extension within the surrounding landscape and in close to middle distance westerly views from the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (low within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain minor and not significant (adverse) within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and negligible and not significant elsewhere within the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.154 Table A13.2.13 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA A1: Tas Rural River Valley.

Table A13.2.13 Landscape assessment summary for LCA A1: Tas Rural River Valley (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Low	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Low	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Low	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible o effect (not significant)

LCT: Rural River Valley, LCA A5: Waveney Rural River Valley (Section A)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.155 The Waveney Rural River Valley LCA follows the course of the River Waveney and includes the settlements of Roydon and Diss. Key characteristics include:

- *'Flat, wide floodplain with gently sloping valley sides forming a broad valley*
- *A relatively large-scale open valley landscape (compared to other river valleys within the district) with some long views within the valley. More intimate and enclosed areas also occur along the river course*
- *The course of the river is not always distinct, flowing across the character area boundary into Suffolk in some instances and in other areas braided into numerous small channels*
- *Arable and pastoral farming is characteristic of the valley sides*
- *Diversity of land cover along the valley floor including fen, heath and meadow creates ecological richness*
- *Discrete woodland blocks occur along the valley floor, with larger and more significant woodland areas on the valley sides*
- *Presence of Scole Roman Settlement Scheduled Ancient Monument*
- *Strong market town character at Diss… with nucleated and linear settlement occurring along the valley*
- *Mills (e.g., Windmill at Billingford) and Churches (including round tower churches, e.g., at Needham) form distinctive landmark features throughout the character area*
- *The A1066 and A143 run along the upper valley sides, cutting into the character area in places. The A140 cuts across the character area west of Scole.*
- *A peaceful and tranquil character is retained away from the main roads*
- *Intact river valley character*
- *Role in dividing and defining the counties of Norfolk and Suffolk'* (LUC, 2001a).

Sensitivity

13.3.156 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility. This is due to the pastoral and tranquil character of the landscape, varied landscape cover, good sense of time depth including scheduled

monuments and areas of small-scale field patterns, distinctive landmark features and historic market towns, local areas of tranquillity which contrast with nearby settlement, and strong sense of place and intimacy associated with the river valley character. These characteristics are balanced with the flat and large-scale valley landform, areas of woodland along the lower valley floor and slopes which would provide screening and backclothing, and the major roads which affect tranquillity locally.

13.3.157 There are two conservation areas within or partially within the LCA at Diss and Scole, as well as two areas of open access land and the long distance Angles Way. There are County Wildlife Sites and many areas of priority habitat particularly concentrated in the west, as well as a Local Nature Reserve at Roydon Fen. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.158 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.159 The central-west part of the Waveney Rural River Valley LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between RG84 and RG89, west of Roydon and east of Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to arable and pastoral farmland and grassland, including loss of some hedgerow trees, and the margins of woodland blocks between Grove Farm and the Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, there would be two veteran trees affected to the west of Roydon Fen. These veteran trees are irreplaceable and highly valued landscape elements, and together with other vegetation loss would result in a localised effect on the *'intact river valley character'* and *'discrete woodland blocks…along the valley floor'.*

13.3.160 The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects.

13.3.161 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, particularly east of the Order Limits along the edges of the settlements. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation, as well as built development at Roydon and Diss would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA. To the west, dense and numerous layers of vegetation in proximity to the River Waveney and Bressingham Gardens would provide extensive screening and filtering of views, and visibility of construction activity would be more limited.

13.3.162 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, particularly along the more intimate areas south of Roydon and in proximity to Roydon Fen. Within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, construction activity would result in a medium scale of change, concentrated across open areas along the northern edge of Roydon and Diss, and along the southern edges of the settlements looking south-west across the river valley. Construction activity would affect the tranquil experience away from main roads and intact river valley character,

which are key characteristics of the LCA. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.163 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.164 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCA, particularly from the northern fringes of Diss. Theoretical visibility of pylons is reduced from the flat fenland south of Bressingham and from settlements including Diss and Roydon.

13.3.165 The central-west part of the LCA would be directly affected by the Project, between RG84 and RG89, west of Roydon and east of Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens. An overhead line would be introduced to a localised part of the LCA and may be seen to contrast with the underlying scale of the shallow valley landscape, particularly the '*more intimate and enclosed areas…along the river course'*.

13.3.166 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission infrastructure and the market town of Diss. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.167 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). Although layers of roadside vegetation, and bands of woodland along the river valley would partially reduce visibility of the Project, proposed pylons would remain visible above the treeline and would extend across the river valley, with resulting (adverse) effects on the key characteristics of a '*peaceful and tranquil character … away from the main roads*' and '*intact river valley character*'. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km, medium between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low elsewhere.

13.3.168 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km to 1.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.169 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.170 Table A13.2.14 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCA A5: Waveney Rural River Valley.

Table A13.2.14 Landscape assessment summary for LCA A5: Waveney Rural River Valley (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Urban (Ipswich and Capel St Mary) (Sections B and C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.171 The Urban LCT occurs in two discrete areas in Suffolk. The larger unit in the north encompasses the western fringes of Ipswich and the smaller unit in the south encompasses Capel St Mary.

13.3.172 The Ipswich urban area includes the residential area of Chantry, located on high ground between the River Orwell and Belstead Brook. Low density housing, open space and views across central Ipswich are distinctive features. The area contains Chantry Park, a Grade II Registered Park.

13.3.173 Capel St Mary has an historic core centred around the medieval St Mary's Church, surrounded by 20th century urban expansion. The settlement is on higher ground with some outward views across the surrounding farmed plateau.

Sensitivity

13.3.174 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to overhead lines. This is due to the higher elevation with occasional outward views, and pockets of historic settlement and parkland, balanced with the urban areas and bands of riparian vegetation along the watercourses and major roads which limit outward views to neighbouring LCTs.

13.3.175 The LCT is not located within a designated landscape. There is a County Wildlife Site at Chantry Park in Ipswich. Chantry Park is also a conservation area. There are a number of listed buildings within the Study Area in Capel St Mary and Ipswich. The western edge of Ipswich is influenced by major roads and industrial land uses. There is a higher degree of tranquillity in Capel St Mary. Public access is limited to pavements along roads in both areas. Overall, landscape value is low-medium.

13.3.176 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **low**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.177 Although the Order Limits would be less than 1 km from the western fringes of Ipswich and 2 km from Capel St Mary, construction activity is not likely to be perceptible from either unit of the LCT. This is due to intervening buildings within the settlements and layers of vegetation, including trees along the A14 to the west of Ipswich.

13.3.178 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on either unit of the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.179 The overhead line element of the Project would be more than 1.5 km from Ipswich and more than 2 km from Capel St Mary. Although the ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons from the western fringes of Ipswich and fringes of Capel St Mary, the Project is not likely to be perceptible from either unit of the LCT due to intervening buildings within the settlements and layers of vegetation, including trees along the A14 to the west of Ipswich.

13.3.180 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on either unit of the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.181 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT, and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.182 Table A13.2.15 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Urban LCT (Ipswich and Capel St Mary).

Table A13.2.15 Landscape assessment summary for Urban LCT (Ipswich and Capel St Mary) (sensitivity: low)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)

LCT: Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze (Section B)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.183 The Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze LCT occurs in three discrete areas. The northernmost units encompasses the south side of the Waveney Valley including its tributaries and contains the settlements of Thrandeston and Stuston. The southernmost unit contains the River Gipping and its tributaries and includes the settlements of Earl Stonham, Creeting St Mary and parts of Stowmarket. Key characteristics include:

- '*Valleys with prominent river terraces of sandy soil*
- *Small areas of gorse heathland in a clayland setting*
- *Straight boundaries associated with late enclosure*
- *Co- axial field systems*
- *Mixed hedgerows of hawthorn, dogwood and blackthorn with oak, ash, and field maple*
- *Fragmentary cover of woodland*
- *Sand and gravel extraction*
- *Golf courses*
- *Focus for larger settlements*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.184 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure, for both the overhead line and the underground cable. This is due to the regular field patterns, fragmented woodland cover and existing disruption of the landscape due to extraction and human influence of golf courses, existing electricity transmission infrastructure, and proximity to the edge of Stowmarket, balanced with the prominent river valley and terraced landform, and areas of tranquillity particularly concentrated away from settlement.

13.3.185 There is an area of ancient woodland at Gipping Great Wood, and there are multiple SSSIs located within the LCT, as well as a number of County Wildlife Sites, most of which are located west of Creeting St Mary in the southernmost area. There are conservation areas at Thrandeston and Botesdale. There are a number of Public Rights of Way (PRoW), and National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 30 and 51 crossing the LCT. There is Open Access Land at Wortham Ling, Stuston Common and Little Green. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.186 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.187 Parts of the LCT would be directly affected by construction activity, between RG88 and RG93, east of Wortham Ling, and between RG95 and RG102, west of

Thrandeston. Further south, east of Stowmarket, part of the LCT would be directly affected by construction activity, between RG160 and RG164. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line, and temporary diversion and undergrounding of an existing 132 kV overhead line west of Thrandeston. Part of Millway Lane, a Quiet Lane to the west of Palgrave, would be directly affected through loss of vegetation, located within the Order Limits. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features including some of the hedgerows which are described as a key characteristic of the LCT. There would be disturbance to arable farmland, including the loss of some hedges, hedgerow trees and shelterbelts including along the minor roads east of Wortham Ling and along the A14 east of Stowmarket as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, there would be one veteran tree, an irreplaceable and highly valued landscape element, removed from a mature field boundary to the west of Thrandeston. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects.

13.3.188 The LCT would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation, including roadside vegetation, woodland at Wortham Ling and woodland at The Fens (west of Creeting St Mary) would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT.

13.3.189 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the Order Limits), including from parts of Wortham Ling and the Waveney Valley. A medium scale of change would be experienced between 0.5 km and 1 km of the Order Limits, including from some areas of open fields along the River Gipping to the east of Stowmarket, and areas of higher ground north of Creeting St Mary. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.190 The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium between 0.5 km and 1 km and low elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.191 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCT, particularly from the upper sides of the Waveney Valley, Gipping Valley and the valleys of their tributaries. Theoretical visibility is reduced along valley floors and within settlements and larger areas of woodland.

13.3.192 Parts of the LCT would be directly affected by the Project, between RG88 and RG93, east of Wortham Ling, and between RG95 and RG102, west of Thrandeston. East of Stowmarket, part of the LCT would be directly affected by the Project, between RG160 and RG164. An overhead line would be introduced to localised parts of the LCT. Part of an existing 132 kV overhead line would be removed to accommodate the Project, between Palgrave and Mellis. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.193 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features, particularly in the southernmost area around the River Gipping. Other features include existing overhead lines, settlements including the edge of Stowmarket, sand and gravel extraction and A-roads including the A14.

13.3.194 The Project would result in a medium scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). Within the northern unit, effects would be particularly concentrated within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, as open fields and bands of woodland around Wortham Ling would afford framed views towards the Project, with resulting effects on the tranquil setting of Wortham Ling and the adjacent Waveney Valley. Beyond 0.5 km, intervening landform and dense vegetation would provide screening and filtering of views towards the Project. Effects in the southern LCT unit would be experienced across the open arable fields immediately east of Stowmarket and across west-facing slopes north of Creeting St Mary where proposed pylons would be intermittently visible along a low undulating ridge in the adjacent character area. Layers of vegetation and mature hedgerow trees would partially screen and filter views. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, with reduced effects between Palgrave and Mellis where the removal of an existing 132 kV overhead line would reduce cumulative 'wirescape' effects. The magnitude of effect would be low elsewhere within the LCT.

13.3.195 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.196 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 1 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.197 Table A13.2.16 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze LCT.

Table A13.2.16 Landscape assessment summary for Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze LCT (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium (within 1 km)	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (within 1 km) (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium (within 1 km)	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (within 1 km) (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium (within 1 km)	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (within 1 km) (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Wooded Valley Meadowlands and Fens (Section B)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.198 The Wooded Valley Meadowlands and Fens LCT is a narrow and linear area which occupies the south side of the River Waveney and its tributaries, south of Roydon and Diss. Key characteristics include:

- '*Flat valley bottom*
- *Extensive peat deposits*
- *Cattle grazed pasture*
- *Network of drainage ditches*
- *Areas of unenclosed 'wild' fenland*
- *Widespread plantation and carr woodland*
- *Important sites for nature conservation*
- *Localised settlement on the valley floor 'islands'*
- *Sense of quiet and rural isolation in many places*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.199 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the small to medium scale of the landscape, irregular field patterns, numerous areas of woodland and plantations along with areas of priority habitat, and rural and tranquil character away from settlement. This is balanced with a relatively flat landform with enclosing slopes in adjacent LCTs, and intervisibility with larger urban areas along the peripheries.

13.3.200 Many of the meadows and fens are nationally designated as SSSI or locally as Local Wildlife Sites. The Redgrave and South Lopham Fens Ramsar and SAC extends into the west of the landscape. Part of the Botesdale Conservation Area extends into the west, and there are four listed buildings. A number of PRoW cross the landscape and there are several areas of Open Access Land. There is a sense of quiet rural isolation, which contrasts with nearby settlement. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.201 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.202 The LCT would be directly affected by construction activity between RG88 and RG89, south of Roydon and between RG97 and RG98 north-west of Thrandeston. There would be construction activity and equipment, although no pylons would be directly located within this LCT. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to arable farmland, including the loss of some hedges and hedgerow trees within the Waveney Valley, between Wortham Ling and Roydon Fen as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. The southern unit north-west of Thrandeston, which includes Open Access Land at The Marsh, would also be directly affected by the temporary diversion and undergrounding of part of an existing 132 kV overhead line where it crosses the Project, between the A142 and RG98.

13.3.203 The LCT would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. There would be no pylons located within the LCT and the overhead line route would cross the valley at a narrow point. Beyond 0.5 km layers of vegetation including woodland at Wortham Ling and Roydon Fen, and intervening landform of the rising valley slopes in the adjacent character areas would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT.

13.3.204 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the Order Limits), in the valley landscape near Wortham Ling in the northern unit and north-west of Thrandeston in the southern unit. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, low between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.205 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km from the Order Limits, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.206 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCT, with reduced theoretical visibility within areas of woodland.

13.3.207 The LCT would be directly affected by the Project between RG88 and RG89, south of Roydon and RG97 and RG98 north-west of Thrandeston. The overhead line would oversail localised parts of the LCT. Although no pylons would be located within the LCT itself, landscape features within adjacent character areas would be directly affected, and small areas of enclosing vegetation along the valley slopes would be removed. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows. Vegetation directly under the overhead line would not be reinstated. The undergrounding of part

of an existing 132 kV line in the south of the LCT, north-west of Thrandeston, would help to reduce cumulative 'wirescape' effects within a localised part of the LCT.

13.3.208 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is noted for its '*sense of quiet and rural isolation*' albeit would affect a small part of the wider LCT.

13.3.209 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). The Project would affect the land east and west of Wortham Ling in the northern unit and between Palgrave and Thrandeston in the southern unit. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCT.

13.3.210 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.211 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 0.5 km, low between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.212 Table A13.2.17 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Wooded Valley Meadowlands and Fens LCT.

Table A13.2.17 Landscape assessment summary for Wooded Valley Meadowlands and Fens LCT (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Rolling Valley Claylands (Section B)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.213 The Rolling Valley Claylands LCT is in three discrete areas within the Study Area, the largest of which contains the settlement of Thornham Magna. The other areas are located south-west of Stuston and along the Wattisham Watercourse, a tributary of the River Gipping, south of Stowmarket. Key characteristics include:

- '*Gently sloping valleys on medium clay soils*
- *Occasional notable steeper slopes*
- *Fields often smaller than on surrounding plateaux*
- *Localised influence of landscape parks*
- *Focus of settlement*
- *Few large greens or commons*
- *Ancient woodland on the upper fringes of the valley sides*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.214 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the gently undulating and medium to large-scale fields, numerous bands of woodland and scattered mature trees particularly across upper slopes, and sparse network of public rights of way, balanced with the presence of smaller scale settlements, small areas of historic parkland, and occasional distinctive slopes and areas of increased tranquillity within valleys including north of Barking along the Wattisham Watercourse.

13.3.215 The LCT has a number of woodland County Wildlife Sites, areas of ancient woodland and parts of two SSSIs extend into the LCT. There are conservation areas at Wetheringsett and Badley. A number of PRoW cross the LCT, including NCN Route 51. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.216 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.217 The western fringes of the northernmost unit of the LCT would be directly affected by construction activity between RG123 and RG126, east of Finningham. A narrow part of the LCT would also be directly affected between RG165 and RG172, on the valley slopes either side of the Wattisham Watercourse, north-west of Needham Market. The LCT would also be directly affected between RG172 and RG179, on the eastern side of the Wattisham Watercourse, west of Barking. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line as well as the temporary diversion and undergrounding of two short sections of existing 132 kV overhead lines where they cross the Project. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be

disturbance to arable farmland, including the loss of some hedges, hedgerow trees and part of the distinctive Elm Pollard in the northernmost area, east of Finningham, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, up to two veteran trees which are irreplaceable and highly valued landscape elements would be removed or affected; one to the east of Eastlands Farm and one near Elm Pollard. A small area of ancient woodland at Lower Wood near RG179 would be in proximity to construction activity but would be protected during construction and not directly affected. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects.

13.3.218 The LCT would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, including from parts of the valley of the Wattisham watercourse. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including vegetation along the River Gipping and its tributaries and estate woodland at Thornham Magna would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT.

13.3.219 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the Order Limits). The large scale of change would be experienced west of Wickham Skeith in the north and between Badley Hill and Barking Tye in the southern area. The scale of change would reduce to medium beyond 0.5 km of the Order Limits, where intervening vegetation along the watercourses and field boundaries, and intervening settlement, would filter views. The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and low within 1.5 km, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCT.

13.3.220 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.221 The ZTV shown Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCT, particularly from upper valley sides and plateau tops including south-west of Stuston and on west-facing slopes above the Wattisham watercourse. Theoretical visibility is reduced from lower valley sides and areas of woodland.

13.3.222 The LCT would be directly affected by the Project between RG123 and RG126, east of Finningham, between RG165 and RG172, north-west of Needham Market, and between RG172 and RG179, west of Barking. An overhead line would be introduced across a small part of the LCT unit east of Finningham and a large part of the LCT unit south of Stowmarket. The overhead line could be seen to contrast with the '*gently sloping valleys*' with '*occasional notable steeper slopes*' which are characteristic of the LCT, including along the valley of the Wattisham watercourse. As it follows the Wattisham watercourse the Project would run parallel to an existing 132 kV overhead line on the opposite side of the valley, increasing the influence of overhead line infrastructure on this LCT. Parts of two existing 132 kV overhead lines would be removed to accommodate the Project west of Badley Hill and east of Gibbon's Farm, both west of Needham Market. The undergrounding of parts of existing 132 kV lines would help to reduce cumulative 'wirescape' effects within a

localised area. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.223 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). This would affect the area west of Wickham Skeith (as shown on Figure 7.12.F29: Viewpoint 2.08 Wickham Street (document reference 7.12)) in the northern unit. In the southern unit this would affect the land around Badley Hill (shown on Figure 7.12.F37: Viewpoint 2.16 PRoW near Badley Hall Farm (Badley 21) (document reference 7.12)), Battisford (shown on Figure 7.12.F63: Viewpoint 2.45 Church Road, Battisford (document reference 7.12)) and west of Barking Tye. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.224 The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Project, low between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and barely perceptible elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and **negligible and not significant elsewhere**.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.225 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified in year 1 operation (high within 0.5 km, low within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.226 Table A13.2.18 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Rolling Valley Claylands LCT.

Table A13.2.18 Landscape assessment summary for Rolling Valley Claylands LCT (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Ancient Plateau Claylands (Sections B and C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.227 The Ancient Plateau Claylands LCT occurs across three large, discrete areas. The northernmost area contains Wortham and Mellis, to the south of Diss. The central area is located to the north of Stowmarket and contains the settlement of Stowupland. The southern area extends from Stowmarket and Needham Market in the north to Hintlesham in the south and includes Bramford Substation. Key characteristics include:

- '*Flat or gently rolling arable landscape of clay soils dissected by small river valleys*
- *Field pattern of ancient enclosure – random patterns in the south but often co-axial in the north. Small patches of straight-edged fields associated with the late enclosure of woods and greens*
- *Dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets, and isolated farmsteads of medieval origin*
- *Villages often associated with medieval greens or tyes*
- *Farmstead buildings are predominantly timber-framed, the houses colour-washed and the barns blackened with tar. Roofs are frequently tiled, though thatched houses can be locally significant*
- *Scattered ancient woodland parcels containing a mix of oak, lime, cherry, hazel, hornbeam, ash, and holly*
- *Hedges of hawthorn and elm with oak, ash, and field maple as hedgerow trees*
- *Substantial open areas created for WWII airfields and by 20th century agricultural changes*
- *Network of winding lanes and paths often associated with hedges create visual intimacy*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.228 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the gently rolling arable landscape, existing electrical infrastructure in the east of the LCT, major roads, and the areas of open landscape associated with 20th century land use, balanced with the sense of time depth associated with ancient field patterns and settlements, areas of small-scale and vernacular settlement, and the well-connected series of public rights of way.

13.3.229 There are a number of SSSIs across the LCT as well as County Wildlife Sites and ancient woodlands. There are three conservation areas at Redgrave in the north-west, Palgrave in the north, and Mellis in the south-east and many listed buildings. PRoW cross the LCT including NCN Routes 30 and 51, and there are scattered areas of Open Access Land, particularly in the west of the LCT. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.230 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.231 Multiple areas of the LCT would be directly affected by construction activity as follows: between RG92 and RG96, south-west of Palgrave; between RG101 and RG118, west of Mellis; between RG152 and RG161, east of Stowmarket; between RG171 and RG173, south-west of Needham Market; between RG179 and RG189, west of Barking Tye and Willisham Tye; between RG190 and RG210, at Bramford Substation; and between JC1 and JC13, south of Bramford Substation. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line as well as the temporary diversion and undergrounding of existing 132 kV overhead lines north and west of Mellis, north of Barking, between Willisham Tye and north of Bramford Substation and south of Bramford Substation. This would also impact the Open Access Land north of Mellis, along Mellisash Road and at Furze Way. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. Part of Tye Lane Quiet Lane would be directly affected, located within the Order Limits. Open Access Land along Bury Road, Old Bury Road and Lion Road would be affected by the roads' use as a Primary Access Route. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to mainly arable farmland, including the loss of some hedges and hedgerow trees to the south-west of Palgrave, north and west of Mellis, between Forward Green and Stowupland, west of Barking Tye and north of Middle Wood, and to the north of Bramford Substation and west of Sproughton, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). There would also be some loss to the margins of woodland blocks and some estate trees. Additionally, up to two veteran trees, highly valued and irreplaceable landscape features, would be removed to the west of Forward Green, and two would be removed or altered to the east of Sproughton Park. Areas of ancient woodland near RG171, at Middle Wood near RG188 and at Somersham Park near RG201 would be in proximity to construction activity but would be protected during construction and not directly affected.

13.3.232 The LCT would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland blocks and hedgerow trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT.

13.3.233 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the Order Limits). The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.234 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.235 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCT, particularly from more elevated parts of the plateau including east of

Wortham, west of Palgrave, north of Mellis, east of Ringshall Stocks and north-east and south-west of Offton.

13.3.236 Multiple areas of the LCT would be directly affected by the Project as follows: between RG92 and RG96, south-west of Palgrave; between RG101 and RG118, west of Mellis; between RG152 and RG161, east of Stowmarket; between RG171 and RG173, south-west of Needham Market; between RG179 and RG189, west of Barking Tye and Willisham Tye; between RG190 and RG210, at Bramford Substation; and between JC1 and JC13, south of Bramford Substation. An overhead line would be introduced across large parts of the LCT, although the Project would not adversely affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of this relatively large-scale plateau landscape. The Project would result in the loss of some of the hedgerows which are described as a key characteristic and create areas of 'visual intimacy'. North and west of Mellis, and between Willisham Tye and Bramford Substation, the Project would in part follow the route of existing 132 kV overhead lines which would be undergrounded. Although the pylons would be larger, this would help to reduce the scale of change experienced within the LCT. At Bramford Substation, the Project would add to existing multiple overhead lines which converge at this location, contributing to perceived 'wirescape' effects. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.237 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features, particularly in the area west and north of Bramford, where multiple existing overhead lines converge at the Bramford Substation.

13.3.238 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and lateral / longitudinal Bramford Substation Extension LoD). The duration would be long-term, and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.239 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Project, and low elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Project, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.240 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 operation (medium within 1.5 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCT would remain as **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line lateral overhead line LoD and lateral / longitudinal Bramford Substation Extension LoD, **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.241 Table A13.2.19 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Ancient Plateau Claylands LCT.

Table A13.2.19 Landscape assessment summary for Ancient Plateau Claylands LCT (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Plateau Claylands (Section B)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.242 The Plateau Claylands LCT occupies the area between Gislingham in the north and Little Stonham in the south and contains the settlements of Gislingham, Finningham and Mendlesham. Key characteristics include:

- '*Plateaux of heavy clay soil very gently undulating or flat dissected by small streams*
- *Ancient organic pattern of fields, some co-axial in the north-east*
- *Substantial hedges of hawthorn blackthorn and elm with oak and ash predominant hedgerow trees*
- *Extensive areas of hedgerow loss creating 'arable prairies'*
- *Dispersed settlement, villages with multiple nuclei, landscape scattered with farmsteads and hamlets*
- *Large greens – many now enclosed but with 'ghost' outlines – on the flatter parts; houses around their margins, but medieval churches are only very rarely present*
- *Rich stock of medieval and later vernacular buildings, but generally less glamorous than those in south Suffolk*
- *Large modern agricultural buildings a recurrent feature*
- *Redundant World War 2 (WWII) airfields*
- *Almost no woodland*
- *Small copses in villages and around farmsteads*
- *A working landscape on which suburbanisation is only beginning to make an impact compared with other parts of the county*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.243 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the larger-scale and gently undulating plateau landform, large-scale field patterns associated with hedgerow loss, and existing human influence associated with electrical infrastructure and large-scale agricultural structures, balanced with the occasionally ancient and irregular field patterns which contribute to time depth, and the scattered and small-scale vernacular settlements.

13.3.244 There are a number of County Wildlife Sites designating the areas of woodland and grassland. There are conservation areas at Mendlesham, Wickham Skeith, and Finningham, as well as scheduled monuments concentrated in the north-west of the LCT. A small area of Open Access Land is at Wickham Lane, west of Wickham Skeith and a well-connected network of PRoW. Overall, the landscape value is medium.

13.3.245 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.246 The central part of the LCT would be directly affected by construction activity between RG117 and RG124, west of Thornham Magna, and between RG125 and RG152, west of Mendlesham and Mendlesham Green. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to mainly arable farmland, including the loss of some hedges and hedgerow trees to the east of Gislingham and south-west of Starhouse Farm as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Removal of trees would also occur to the south-west of Mendlesham Green. Additionally, a veteran tree (a highly valued landscape item), would be affected to the south of Palgrave Farm, which would have a localised effect on the visual character of the landscape provided by '*oak and ash hedgerow trees*'. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects, including on the Open Access Land on Wickham Lane.

13.3.247 The LCT would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland blocks and hedgerow trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT.

13.3.248 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 1.5 km of the Order Limits (which extend north-south through the centre of the LCT unit). The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere.

13.3.249 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.250 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons across the LCT, particularly from more elevated parts of the plateau including along the proposed overhead line alignment west of Mendlesham, and between Saxham Street and Middlewood Green.

13.3.251 The central part of the LCT would be directly affected by the Project between RG117 and RG124, west of Thornham Magna, and between RG125 and RG152, west of Mendlesham and Mendlesham Green. An overhead line would be introduced across a large part of the LCT, although it would not adversely affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCT, which comprises a flat to gently undulating and large-scale plateau landscape. The Project would result in the loss of some of the hedgerows which are described as a key characteristic. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows where applicable. The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing overhead lines.

13.3.252 The LCT would also be indirectly affected by the Project, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, most often seen along the skyline and intermittently filtered by intervening hedgerows and copses. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland blocks and hedgerow trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT.

13.3.253 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). Effects would be concentrated between Finningham and Mendlesham, across the larger scale arable fields, and south-west of Mendlesham Green where more frequent hedgerows and copses would provide increased filtering of views. The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low elsewhere.

13.3.254 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.255 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 operation (medium within 1.5 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCT would remain as **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.256 Table A13.2.20 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Plateau Claylands LCT.

Table A13.2.20 Landscape assessment summary for Plateau Claylands LCT (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Ancient Estate Claylands (Sections B and C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.257 The Ancient Estate Claylands LCT occurs in two discrete areas. The northern area lies to the east of Creeting St Mary. The southern area contains the settlements of Raydon and Chattisham. Key characteristics include:

- '*Dissected Boulder Clay plateau*
- *Organic pattern of field enclosures*
- *Straight boundaries where influence of privately owned estates is strongest*
- *Enclosed former greens and commons*
- *Parklands*
- *WWII airfields*
- *Villages with dispersed hamlets and farmsteads*
- *Timber framed buildings*
- *Distinctive estate cottages*
- *Ancient semi-natural woodland*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.258 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to both linear energy infrastructure and underground cables. This is due to a strong sense of time depth associated with the historic field patterns and parklands, the small-scale and vernacular settlements, balanced with the large-scale plateau landform, areas of large-scale arable fields, and presence of existing transmission and distribution infrastructure.

13.3.259 The LCT is partially encompassed by the Dedham Vale National Landscape in small areas along the southern fringes of the LCT, near Raydon. There are a number of ancient woodlands across the LCT, and Lingwood Meadows SSSI extends into the LCT. Listed buildings are scattered across the landscape. A scheduled monument is located near Duke Street. PRoW cross the LCT including NCN Route 1. Valued characteristics are more strongly expressed in the south of the LCT, within the National Landscape. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.260 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.261 The southern area of the LCT would be directly affected by construction activity, between JC20 and JC35, where Wenham Grove CSE compound would be located to the east of The Woodlands. The LCT would also be directly affected by construction of the cable route, between Wenham Grove CSE compound at JC33 and the southern edge of the LCT near Raydon. Direct effects arising from construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable) and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, woodland shelterbelts and hedgerow trees, including the land along and adjacent to Chattisham Road, the B1070 and at Raydon Airfield as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects.

13.3.262 The north and south of the LCT would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT. Areas of ancient woodland at Wenham Thicks near JC26 and at Brimlin Wood near JC28 would be in proximity to construction activity but would not be directly affected.

13.3.263 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent in the southern areas (within 1.5 km of the Order Limits). Beyond this distance rolling topography and vegetation would reduce views of construction activity and result in a barely perceptible scale of change. The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.264 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Project, and barely perceptible elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Project, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCT, reducing further in the northern area of the LCT east of Creeting St Mary which is over 1.5 km from the Order Limits.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.265 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of pylons

across the LCT, particularly from more elevated parts of the plateau east of Creeting St Mary and east of Chattisham.

13.3.266 The southern area of the LCT would be directly affected by the Project, between JC20 and JC35, east of The Woodlands. The LCT would also be directly affected by the cable route, between Wenham Grove CSE compound at JC35 and the edge of the LCT south of Raydon. An overhead line / underground cable would be introduced to a large part of the LCT, although it would not adversely affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of this relatively large-scale plateau LCT. The introduction of above ground link boxes along the underground cable route would form small and infrequent components in some views. These would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features. The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated. Although tree planting directly above the cables could not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replaced. In the longer term, proposed planting within the Environmental Area around Wenham Grove CSE compound would reduce effects.

13.3.267 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD and lateral/longitudinal CSE compound LoD). Effects would be particularly pronounced in proximity to the overhead line elements and Wenham Grove CSE compound, with reduced prominence in proximity to the underground cable elements. A medium scale of change would be experienced across a larger area. The duration would be long-term and irreversible.

13.3.268 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD and lateral/longitudinal CSE compound LoD, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere in the LCT. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the LoD, with reduced effects in proximity to the underground cable route. It would reduce to **negligible and not significant** beyond this distance in the southern area of the LCT. There would be **no effect (not significant)** on the northern area of the LCT east of Creeting St Mary.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.269 Landscape mitigation and enhancement around Wenham Grove CSE compound is shown in Appendix D of the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.4) (Revision D). At year 15, proposed planting would be semi-mature, helping to integrate Wenham Grove CSE compound within the surrounding landscape. The planting would be localised and there would be no change to the magnitude of effect as identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCT would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the overhead elements of the Project, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCT including within 0.5 km of Wenham Grove CSE compound and underground cable elements.

Assessment Summary

13.3.270 Table A13.2.21 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Ancient Estate Claylands LCT.

Table A13.2.21 Landscape assessment summary for Ancient Estate Claylands LCT (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse) (overhead line elements)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Rolling Estate Farmlands (Sections B and C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.271 The Rolling Estate Farmlands LCT occurs to the north and west of Ipswich. Key characteristics include:

- '*Gently sloping valley sides and plateau fringes*
- *Generally deep loamy soils*
- *An organic pattern of fields modified by later realignment*
- *Important foci for early settlement*
- *Coverts and plantations with some ancient woodlands*
- *Landscape parks with a core of wood pasture*
- *Location for mineral workings and related activity, especially in the Gipping valley*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.272 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the gently undulating and medium scale fields across upper slopes, bands of woodland and scattered mature trees particularly across upper slopes which would provide filtering of views, and larger industrial uses in the Gipping valley, balanced with localised areas of distinctive slopes, mix of organic and smaller-scale historic field pattern along lower slopes, medieval settlements, and scattered landscaped parks and moated manors.

13.3.273 Woodland is found across the LCT, including one ancient woodland Hazel Wood designated as a County Wildlife Site. There are no conservation areas within the area, and a few scattered listed buildings. The PRoW network is concentrated between Castle Hill and Claydon and includes NCN Route 51. Tranquillity is affected by major roads and proximity to Ipswich. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.274 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.275 Although the Order Limits fall within 1 km of the Rolling Estate Farmlands LCT it is unlikely that construction activity would be perceptible due to the intervening valley topography together with intervening layers of vegetation.

13.3.276 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.277 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the western extents of the LCT unit, concentrated west of the A14.

13.3.278 The Project would be 2 km from the Rolling Estate Farmlands LCT, which is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing distribution infrastructure and main roads which occur along the north and south edge of the LCT. Distance and intervening buildings and vegetation, including woodland and field boundary trees, would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCT. The Project would result in a barely perceptible effect on the wider LCT.

13.3.279 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, it is judged that the effect on the LCT would be **negligible (not significant)**.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.280 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (barely perceptible). The effect on the LCT would remain **negligible (not significant)**

Assessment Summary

13.3.281 Table A13.2.22 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Rolling Estate Farmlands LCT.

Table A13.2.22 Landscape assessment summary for Rolling Estate Farmlands LCT (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	Negligible (not significant)

LCT: Valley Meadowlands (Sections B and C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.282 The narrow, linear Valley Meadowlands LCT occurs in two discrete areas. The northern area follows the course of the River Gipping and its tributaries, north and west of Needham Market and west of Ipswich. The southern area follows the course of the River Brett to the west of Raydon and the River Stour. Key characteristics include:

- '*Flat landscapes of alluvium or peat on valley floors*
- *Grassland divided by a network of wet ditches*
- *Occasional carr woodland and plantations of poplar*
- *Occasional small reedbeds*
- *Unsettled*
- *Cattle grazed fields*
- *Fields converted to arable production*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.283 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to both linear energy infrastructure and underground cables. This is due to the flat valley floor landscapes with networks of drainage ditches, large scale arable fields, and existing electrical infrastructure, balanced with the unsettled character of the landscape, numerous waterbodies and wooded river valley character, and tranquil character away from main roads and settlement.

13.3.284 The LCT is partially encompassed within the Dedham Valley National Landscape, in the southern LCT unit. There is one conservation area in the centre of the landscape unit at Needham Market and a well-connected network of PRoW, including the long-distance Gipping Valley River Path in the north, and St Edmund Way and Stour Valley Path in the south. Valued characteristics are more strongly expressed in the south of the LCT, within the National Landscape. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium-high.

13.3.285 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**, although the north unit is less sensitive than the southern unit.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.286 The northern LCT unit would be directly affected by construction works associated with the overhead line between RG163 and RG166, north-west of Needham Market, and at RG169 and RG171, west of Needham Market. There would be the temporary diversion and undergrounding of an existing 132 kV overhead line where it crosses the Project near Badley Hill. The southern LCT unit would also be directly affected by construction of the cable route on the north side of the River Stour, including trenchless crossings of the watercourse. It is assumed that construction of the trenchless crossings may include overnight working. This would require night-time lighting of the working areas on both sides of the trenchless crossings but is likely to be an exceptional and infrequent occurrence. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to arable farmland, including the loss of some hedgerow trees, and the margins of woodland blocks. There would be some loss of riparian woodland along the River Gipping and its associated tributaries, to the north and south of Stowmarket Road as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B).

13.3.287 The LCT would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance intervening layers of vegetation including woodland blocks and hedgerow trees along lower valley slopes and the valley floor would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT.

13.3.288 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the Order Limits) in two locations within the LCT. Beyond 0.5 km, layers of vegetation and blocks of woodland along intervening valley slopes would reduce perceptibility of construction activity. The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.289 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere. Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere in the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.290 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA. Theoretical visibility is reduced from parts of the valley floor and areas of woodland along the Gipping Valley. Theoretical visibility is very limited from the Stour Valley and the Brett Valley south of Gifford's Hall Park.

13.3.291 The LCT would be directly affected by the Project between RG163 and RG166, north-west of Needham Market, and at RG169 and RG170, west of Needham Market. An overhead line would be introduced to a small part of the northern LCT unit along the River Gipping and its tributaries. As it follows the Wattisham Watercourse the Project would run parallel to existing 132 kV overhead lines which cross the valley in this location. A small part of an existing 132 kV overhead line would be removed near Badley Hill to accommodate the Project. An underground cable route would be introduced to a small part of the southern LCT unit along the River Stour. The introduction of above ground link boxes along the underground cable route would form small and infrequent components in some views. These would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated. Although tree planting directly above the cables could not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replaced.

13.3.292 The Project would result in a large scale of change across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD. Effects would be particularly concentrated in the northern LCT unit where the Project crosses the River Gipping, as the proposed pylons would be visible on the skyline above intervening woodland and hedgerows and would form prominent features within the low-lying valley landform. The Project would introduce vertical infrastructure into the relatively 'unsettled' Gipping Valley, with effects on the wooded character of the river valley. Beyond 0.5 km, the pylons would be increasingly filtered in views by intervening woodland or landform along the meandering valley and would not form prominent features. Within 0.5 km of the underground cables, effects would be localised, and reinstated ground cover and hedgerows would reduce effects on the landscape character in the southern LCT unit. The duration would be long-term, and the effects would be irreversible.

13.3.293 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the overhead line elements of the Project, reducing to low or barely perceptible elsewhere. Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the overhead line elements of the Project, **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the underground cable elements and within 1.5 km of the overhead line, and negligible and not significant elsewhere in the LCT unit.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.294 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 operation (medium within 0.5 km, low or barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCT would remain

moderate and significant (adverse) within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCT.

Assessment Summary

13.3.295 Table A13.2.23 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Valley Meadowlands LCT.

Table A13.2.23 Landscape assessment summary for Valley Meadowlands LCT (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse) (overhead line)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Rolling Valley Farmland (Sections B and C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.296 The Rolling Valley Farmland LCT occurs as six discrete units within the Study Area, following the tributaries of the River Gipping, Belstead Brook, River Brett and River Stour. Key characteristics include:

- '*Gentle valley sides with some complex and steep slopes*
- *Deep well drained loamy soils*
- *Organic pattern of fields smaller than on the plateaux*
- *Distinct areas of regular field patterns*
- *A scattering of landscape parks*
- *Small ancient woodlands on the valley fringes*
- *Sunken lanes*
- *Towns and villages with distinctive mediaeval cores and late mediaeval churches*
- *Industrial activity and manufacture, continuing in the Gipping valley*
- *Large, often moated, houses*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.297 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to both linear energy infrastructure and underground cables. This is due to the gently undulating and medium scale fields across upper slopes, bands of woodland and scattered mature trees particularly across upper slopes which would provide filtering of views, and larger industrial uses in the Gipping valley. This is balanced with localised areas of complex landform and distinctive slopes, mix of organic and smaller-scale historic field pattern along lower slopes, medieval settlements, and scattered landscaped parks and moated manors.

13.3.298 The LCT is partially encompassed by the Dedham Vale National Landscape immediately north-west of Stratford St Mary, in its southern-most LCT unit. There are a number of SSSI, County Wildlife Sites and a Local Nature Reserve designating woodlands. Some of these are recorded as ancient woodland. Conservation areas at Stratford St Mary, East Bergholt and Higham, all within or in proximity to the National Landscape. There is a relatively dense concentration of public rights of way, particularly near Great Bricett, Offton and Somersham, as well as areas of Open Access Land near Wortham Ling, Wortham and Little Green. Two NCN Routes (30 and 51) pass through the LCT. Overall, landscape value is therefore high.

13.3.299 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.300 The Rolling Valley Farmland LCT would be directly affected by construction activity at RG185 to RG187, south-west of Willisham Tye, between RG188 and RG191, west of Offton, between JC013 and JC020 near Lower Barn Road, and along the proposed underground cable route north-west of Stratford St Mary, within Dedham Vale National Landscape. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line as well as the temporary diversion and undergrounding of existing 132 kV overhead lines to accommodate the Project, between Offton and Somersham, to the south-east of Bramford Substation and north of Washbrook Street. The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, trenchless crossings, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. For assessment purposes, it is assumed that construction of the trenchless crossing may include overnight working. This would require night-time lighting of the working areas on both sides of the trenchless crossing but is likely to be an exceptional and infrequent occurrence. There would be disturbance to arable farmland, including the loss of some hedgerow trees, and the margins of woodland blocks, particularly to the north of Holly Road, along Bildeston Road and between Washbrook Street and the A1071. Further detail is provided in in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, a veteran tree (an irreplicable and highly valued landscape element), would be affected to the north of Pigeon's Lane (between PCB1 and PCB2), which would have a localised effect on the wooded character in this area.

13.3.301 The LCT would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of

vegetation including woodland blocks, mature hedgerows along roadways and hedgerow trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT.

13.3.302 Construction activity associated with both the proposed overhead line and the proposed underground cable near Stafford St Mary would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, (within 1.5 km of the Order Limits). Effects would be particularly concentrated across the discrete LCT units near Washbrook Street and Offton, where construction activity would include vertical elements, including partially built pylons, within an undulating and wooded landscape that includes areas of smaller scale landform and pattern. Further LCT units within the Study Area near Capel St Mary and Thorington Street would only experience perceptual effects, with outward views towards construction filtered by intervening woodland and valley slopes. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium within 1.5 km, and barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCT units.

13.3.303 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.304 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCT, with larger numbers of pylons visible from upper valley sides, including east of Great Bricett / Wattisham Airfield, east of Offton and north of Nettlestead. Theoretical visibility is reduced along the River Stour and River Brett.

13.3.305 The LCT would be directly affected by the Project at RG186, south-west of Willisham Tye, between RG185 and RG191, west of Offton, between JC13 and JC20 near Washbrook Street, and along the proposed underground cable route north-west of Stratford St Mary and partially within Dedham Vale National Landscape. An overhead line and cable route would be introduced to part of the LCT. The introduction of above ground link boxes along the underground cable route would form small and infrequent components in some views. These would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features. Parts of existing 132 kV overhead lines would be removed to accommodate the Project, near Middle Wood and between Offton and Somersham. This would reduce the scale of change experienced as a result of the Project. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated.

13.3.306 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced in the northern units by man-made features including overhead lines, railways, and roads, as well as larger-scale industrial uses in the Gipping valley, although is increasingly rural and tranquil further south. The Project would not affect the key characteristics of the LCT, as external views are noted to be restricted.

13.3.307 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD. Effects would be particularly concentrated within the more undulating and wooded landscapes near Washbrook Street and Offton. Although roadside hedgerows and frequent areas of woodland on rising valley slopes would partially

reduce visibility of the Project, proposed pylons would remain visible above the treeline and would occasionally be seen to extend across the more intricate and smaller scale fields along the valley bottoms. A medium scale of change would be experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 1.5 km of the LoD. The duration would be long-term, and the effects would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the LoD, medium within 1.5 km, and barely perceptible elsewhere in the LCT.

13.3.308 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the LoD, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.309 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effects on the LCT would remain as **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the LoD, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCT.

Assessment Summary

13.3.310 Table A13.2.24 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Rolling Valley Farmland LCT.

Table A13.2.24 Landscape assessment summary for Rolling Valley Farmland LCT (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Ancient Rolling Farmlands (Sections B and C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.311 The Ancient Rolling Farmlands LCT occurs to the west of Stowmarket, north of Ipswich, and south of Hadleigh. Key characteristics include:

- ‘*Rolling arable landscape of chalky clays and loams*
- *Dissected widely, and sometimes deeply, by river valleys*
- *Field pattern of ancient random enclosure. Regular fields associated with areas of heathland enclosure*
- *Hedges of hawthorn and elm with oak, ash and field maple as hedgerow trees*
- *Substantial open areas created for airfields and by post WWII agricultural improvement*
- *Scattered with ancient woodland parcels containing a mix of oak, lime, cherry, hazel, hornbeam, ash and holly*
- *Network of winding lanes and paths, often associated with hedges, create visual intimacy*
- *Dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets and isolated farmsteads of mediaeval origin*
- *Farmstead buildings are predominantly timber-framed, the houses colour-washed and the barns blackened with tar. Roofs are frequently tiled, though thatched houses can be locally significant*
- *Villages often associated with village greens or the remains of greens’* (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.312 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the rolling arable fields, areas of larger scale enclosure and field amalgamation, balanced with the areas of distinctive river valley topography, patches of ancient woodland, network of rural lanes, and generally tranquil character.

13.3.313 The Dedham Vale National Landscape partially encompasses the LCT. Ancient woodland is scattered within the western fringes of the Study Area, and there is one County Wildlife Site at Gifford’s Hall Woods. There are no conservation areas within the area, and few listed buildings. The PRoW network is concentrated in the proximity of Gifford’s Hall Park. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium-high.

13.3.314 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.315 The Order Limits fall within 2.5 km of the Ancient Rolling Farmlands LCT, and construction activity would not be perceptible due to the intervening valley topography together with intervening layers of vegetation.

13.3.316 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.317 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates scattered and limited theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the eastern extents of the LCT unit, concentrated in areas of higher elevation west of the River Brett.

13.3.318 The Project would be 2.5 km from the Ancient Rolling Farmlands LCT. Distance and intervening buildings and vegetation, including woodland and field boundary trees, would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCT. The Project would result in no effect on the wider LCT.

13.3.319 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, it is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.320 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 (no magnitude) of operation and there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCT.

Assessment Summary

13.3.321 Table A13.2.25 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Ancient Rolling Farmlands LCT.

Table A13.2.25 Landscape assessment summary for Ancient Rolling Farmlands LCT (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km of lateral overhead line LoD	No effect (not significant)

LCT: Plateau Farmlands (Section C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.322 The Plateau Farmlands LCT occupies two discrete areas. The smaller, northernmost area lies to the west of Ipswich. The larger, southernmost area encompasses Holton St Mary and East Bergholt, and the southern edge of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape. Key characteristics include:

- '*Plateaux of land between river valleys*
- *Loamy soils amenable to arable farming*
- *Irrigated crops*
- *Sinuous lanes and hedge lines*
- *Substantial elements of planned landscape*
- *Plantation woodland*
- *Parkland and planting of exotic trees*
- *Feeling of isolation and tranquillity*
- *Dissected by major roads*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.323 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to both linear energy infrastructure and underground cables. This is due to the gently rolling and open plateaux landform, major roads, and mature hedgerows and woodlands which consistently form along roads and horizon lines, balanced with localised areas of tranquillity and isolation, scattered estate parklands, and designed landscapes.

13.3.324 The LCT is partially encompassed by the Dedham Vale National Landscape along the southern fringes of the southern LCT unit, near East Bergholt, and the south-east of the southern unit are encompassed by the Suffolk Coast and Heaths National Landscape. There is scattered ancient woodland and part of the Higham Meadow County Wildlife Site. There is a conservation area at East Bergholt and scattered listed buildings across the LCT. The PRoW network is relatively limited, except in proximity to Holton St Mary, and there are no areas of Open Access Land. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.325 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.326 Two units of this LCT would be directly affected by construction activity, west of Ipswich and west of Holton St Mary. In the unit west of Ipswich there would be construction activity associated with JC12 to JC14 and the temporary diversion and undergrounding of part of an existing overhead line, south-west of Sproughton. In the unit west of Holton St Mary there would be construction activity associated with the underground cable. The introduction of temporary construction compounds,

temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. Direct effects arising from construction would include the removal of some landscape features and there would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields) and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees to the north of the A1071. Further details are provided in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). The construction activity would be directly adjacent to Noaks Road to the south of Raydon which is designated as a Quiet Lane.

13.3.327 The LCT would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCT.

13.3.328 Construction activity associated with part of the proposed overhead line west of Ipswich and part of the proposed underground cable near Holton St Mary would result in a medium scale of change experienced within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Effects would be concentrated across open areas along the western edge of Sproughton, and within larger fields west of Holton St Mary and east of the woodland at Timber Hill Wood. Construction activity would affect the tranquil experience and sense of isolation away from the main roads, a key characteristic. Woodland belts and estate plantations would contain effects and filter longer distance views. Beyond 0.5 km of the Order Limits, construction activity would result in a small scale of change, concentrated along the higher ground in the east of the southern LCT unit and north of Lodge Plantation, where intermittent gaps in intervening woodland belts and estate plantations afford longer distance views. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere.

13.3.329 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere within the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.330 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCT, with larger numbers of pylons visible in proximity to the Project north of Washbrook Street, and from more elevated parts of the plateau including at West Bergholt.

13.3.331 Two units of this LCT would be directly affected by the Project, the northern unit at JC13 to the west of Ipswich, where a single pylon would be introduced into the western periphery of the unit. In the southern unit, the underground cable route would be introduced into the western fringe of the unit, west of Holton St Mary. The introduction of above ground link boxes along the underground cable route would form small and infrequent components in some views. These would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features.

13.3.332 West of Ipswich the Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure and major roads. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated. The undergrounding of parts of existing 132 kV overhead lines would reduce the potential for cumulative ‘wirescape’ effects.

13.3.333 In the southern unit, although tree planting directly above the underground cables could not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replaced, and the Project would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral underground cable LoD. In the northern unit, the Project would result in a medium scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, with a pylon introduced into larger arable fields south-west of Sproughton, visible on the skyline within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD. The Project would not affect the key characteristics of the LCT, as longer distance views are relatively contained by the woodland belts, and the landscape in proximity to the underground cable route would be largely reinstated. The duration would be long-term, and the effects would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, with lesser effects experienced in proximity to the unground cable route. The magnitude of effect would be low between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the LoD, particularly with respect to the overhead line elements, which would intermittently appear above the treeline. Effects would be barely perceptible elsewhere in the LCT.

13.3.334 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.335 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 0.5 km, low within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effects on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCT.

Assessment Summary

13.3.336 Table A13.2.26 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Plateau Farmlands LCT.

Table A13.2.26 Landscape assessment summary for Plateau Farmlands LCT (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 15	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Ancient Estate Farmlands (Section C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.337 The Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT occurs to the south-west of Ipswich and includes the settlement of Washbrook. Key characteristics include:

- '*Flat central spine of land, with sloping sides dissected by river valleys*
- *Deep loamy soil that originated as wind-blown sediments from glacial sources*
- *Large-scale arable blocks divided into rectilinear fields*
- *Substantial number of ancient woodlands*
- *Suckering elm hedges with pollard oaks; also, holly hedges*
- *Network of parks and designed landscapes*
- *Nucleated villages, but with some dispersed farmsteads and clusters of houses*
- *Localised development pressures*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010)

Sensitivity

13.3.338 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the substantial areas of ancient woodland, numerous designed landscapes and parklands, and areas of distinctive topography and river valleys, balanced with the large-scale arable fields, areas of development, and major roads.

13.3.339 The LCT is partially encompassed by the Suffolk Coast and Heaths National Landscape, along its southern edge. There are a number of ancient woodlands and a SSSI north of Broomhaughton Covert. There are a number of listed buildings within the LCT. A relatively dense network of PRoW extends across the LCT, including NCN Route 1. Valued characteristics are more strongly expressed in the south of the LCT, within the National Landscape. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.340 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.341 The Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT would be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, with effects concentrated near Washbrook in the north-west of the LCT, and west of Great Martin's Hill Wood in the south of the LCT. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCT.

13.3.342 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the Order Limits). The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would therefore be low within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.343 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, it is judged that the effect on the LCT would be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.344 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCT, with larger numbers of pylons theoretically visible from upper slopes including south of Washbrook.

13.3.345 The Project would be 1.5 km from the western edge of the Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT, which is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing distribution infrastructure and A-roads which occur along the north and north-western edge of the LCT. Distance and intervening settlement and vegetation, including woodland and field boundary trees, would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCT. The Project would result in a barely perceptible effect on the wider LCT.

13.3.346 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, it is judged that there would be a **negligible and not significant** effect on the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.347 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT. There would be no change to magnitude of effect identified in year 1 of operation (barely perceptible within the wider LCT), The effect on the LCT would remain **negligible and not significant**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.348 Table A13.2.27 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT.

Table A13.2.27 Landscape assessment summary for Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Wooded Valley Meadowlands (Section C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.349 The Wooded Valley Meadowlands LCT occurs along the River Stour within the Dedham Vale National Landscape, to the east of Stratford St Mary and south of East Bergholt. Key characteristics include:

- '*Flat narrow valley floors*
- *Wet clay and peat soils*
- *Small meadows bounded by ditches or hedges*
- *Plantations of poplar and cricket bat willow*
- *Carr woodland and scrub*
- *Confined views*' (Suffolk County Council, 2010).

Sensitivity

13.3.350 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to underground cables. This is due to the smaller scale field patterns, numerous areas of scrub and carr woodland, and landscape features which are strongly associated with recreational use including a promoted footpath, balanced with the sloping valley sides in adjacent character units which contain external views, numerous hedgerows along smaller watercourses which filter/screen longer distance views, and localised areas of development and influence of human activity.

13.3.351 The LCT is encompassed within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. The River Stour flows through the landscape, and part of the Cattawade Marshes SSSI and the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar is within the LCT. A small part of the Stratford St Mary Conservation Area extends into the LCT, and there are scattered listed buildings. A number of PRoW cross the LCT including promoted footpaths which follow along the River Stour, and NCN Route 1. Overall, landscape value is medium-high.

13.3.352 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.353 The Order Limits are within 0.5 km of the Wooded Valley Meadowlands LCT and the western part of the LCT would be indirectly affected by construction activity. At its

closest point this western part of the LCT comprises The Street (a local road) and the A12 and associated embankments which separate this small area from the wider LCT to the east. This small part of the LCT is not reflective of the key characteristics of the wider LCT which is east of the A12. Within the majority of the LCT it is unlikely that construction activity would be perceptible due to the flat nature of the topography and intervening A12 embankments and layers of vegetation between the majority of the LCT and the Order Limits.

13.3.354 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the Order Limits). The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would therefore be low within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.355 Taking account of the high sensitivity, it is judged that the effect on the LCT would be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.356 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the eastern part of the LCT, north and east of Dedham.

13.3.357 Although the Project would be within 0.5 km of the Wooded Valley Meadowlands LCT, it would comprise underground cables and therefore would not be perceptible. This is due to the low-lying landform of the LCT together with intervening layers of vegetation, included the vegetated embankments of the A12, which would screen and filter outward views. The Project would result in a barely perceptible magnitude of effect on the wider LCT.

13.3.358 Taking account of the high sensitivity, it is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.359 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCT and therefore magnitude of effect would remain as identified in year 1 of operation (barely perceptible). There would be **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.360 Table A13.2.28 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Wooded Valley Meadowlands LCT.

Table A13.2.28 Landscape assessment summary for Wooded Valley Meadowlands LCT (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
	Magnitude	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 1	Significance	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)

LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6A: Stour Valley System (Section C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.361 The Stour Valley System LCA is located on the south side of the River Stour, around Lawford. The majority of the LCA within the 3 km Study Area is within Dedham Vale National Landscape. Key characteristics include:

- '*Southern slopes and scenic tributary valleys of the Stour, forming a setting to one of the most important wildlife estuaries in Europe and a setting to the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths AONB*
- *Steep wooded sides form a rural backdrop to the open waters of the Stour Estuary*
- *Tributary valleys provide hidden landscapes where thick hedgerows with hedgerow oaks divide fields of arable and pasture*
- *Dramatic buildings, including quayside warehouses, maltings, church spires and towers, provide focal points along the river*
- *Leafy lanes drop steeply down the valley sides providing scenic drives*
- *B1352 and mainline railway pass along the coast with outstanding views of the estuary and Suffolk shore*
- *Historic port of Manningtree and village of Mistley are located on the southern bank of the Stour Estuary facing the Suffolk landscape across the mile-wide river*
- *The area north-west of Lawford forms part of the Dedham Vale AONB*' (LUC, 2001b)

Sensitivity

13.3.362 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to both linear energy infrastructure and underground cables. This is due to the scenic setting and wooded valley slopes, intact and mature hedgerow networks, vernacular architecture and historic settlements, and longer distance views, balanced with the localised areas of development and human influence.

13.3.363 The LCA is encompassed within the Dedham Vale National Landscape to the west of Lawford. Local Wildlife Sites are designated around woodland and grassland sites. There are conservation areas at Lawford and Manningtree and Mistley, scattered listed buildings, and a scheduled monument west of Lawford. There are no areas of Open Access Land and the PRoW network is relatively limited, particularly in the west. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.364 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.365 The Stour Valley System LCA would not be directly affected by construction activity.

13.3.366 The Order Limits associated with overhead line construction fall within 1 km of the far south-west of the Stour Valley System LCA. It is unlikely that this construction activity would be perceptible due to the predominantly north and north-west facing slopes and low-lying landform of the LCA together with intervening layers of vegetation.

13.3.367 The construction activity would result in a barely perceptible scale of change across the LCA. The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would therefore be barely perceptible across the LCA.

13.3.368 Taking account of the high sensitivity, it is judged that the effect on the LCA would be **negligible and not significant** across the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.369 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from parts of the LCA including Lawford Park. There is reduced theoretical visibility along valley floors and from wooded areas.

13.3.370 Much of the Project would be 2 km or more from the Stour Valley System LCA and is not likely to be perceptible. A narrow part of the LCA extends to the A317 along the Shir Burn, a tributary to the River Stour. This part of the LCA would be over 1 km north of the overhead line, between TB10 and the new East Anglia Connection Node (EACN) Substation. The Project is unlikely to be perceptible due to landform of the LCA sloping to the north-west in combination with intervening vegetation and buildings around the Foxash Estate.

13.3.371 The Project would result in a barely perceptible scale of change across the LCA. The duration would be long-term, and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would therefore be barely perceptible across the LCA.

13.3.372 Taking account of the high sensitivity, it is judged that the effect would be **negligible and not significant** across the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.373 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA and therefore magnitude of effect would remain as identified in year 1 of operation (barely perceptible). The effect on the LCA would remain **negligible (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.374 Table A13.2.29 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6A: Stour Valley System.

Table A13.2.29 Landscape assessment summary for LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6A: Stour Valley System (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant

LCT 7: Heathland Plateaux, LCA 7A: Bromley Heaths (Section C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.375 The Bromley Heaths LCA is located to the south of Manningtree. Small parts of the northern fringes of the LCA, north of the A137, fall within Dedham Vale National Landscape. The LCA includes the settlements of Ardleigh, Bromley Cross and Little Bromley. Key characteristics include:

- '*Exposed and windswept plateau corresponding to the highest part of the district*
- *Deep, coarse, loamy, and often stoneless brown soils which support a high-grade agricultural land*
- *Large scale productive arable fields divided by low, gappy hedgerows where hedgerow oaks stand out as silhouettes against the skyline*
- *Apple orchards around Ardleigh, Elmstead and Frating are sheltered by belts of poplar or fast growing Leylandii*
- *Former heaths largely converted to smallholdings or regenerating as woodland. Small areas of remnant heath survive*
- *Neglected oak/sweet chestnut coppice with ground flora typical of acidic woodland soils*
- *Low density, rural settlement pattern of scattered farms and halls, hamlets, villages, and small market towns*
- *Network of narrow lanes connects the scattered farms and villages, and roadside verges often contain gorse and bracken*
- *Dramatic, dominating skyscape*' (LUC, 2001b).

Sensitivity

13.3.376 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to both linear energy infrastructure and underground cables. This is due to the large-scale arable fields, existing presence of large-scale energy infrastructure and agricultural structures, areas of mineral extraction, and gently undulating and broad landform, balanced with the presence of smaller, vernacular settlements, the dominating skyscape and some long views across the heaths.

13.3.377 Along the northern fringes of the area the LCA is partially encompassed by the Dedham Vale National Landscape. There are ancient woodlands within the LCA and a number of Local Wildlife Sites. There are conservation areas at Ardleigh along the western edge of the area and at Manningtree and Mistley in the north. There is a limited network of public rights of way across the plateaux, and no areas of Open Access Land. Valued characteristics are more strongly expressed in the north of the LCA, within the National Landscape. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.378 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.379 The western part of the Bromley Heaths LCA would be directly affected by construction activity between TB1 at the new EACN Substation and TB21, to the north-east of Colchester. Part of the LCA would also be affected by the access road to the EACN Substation from the A120, as well as a compound south of Ardleigh Road. Much of the access road would use the existing road network, but there would be a small section constructed within and along field boundaries south of Little Bromley. Construction works between the EACN Substation and TB12, north of Ardleigh, would involve construction of both overhead line and underground cables. Between TB15 and TB16 the overhead line would cross the northern part of Ardleigh Reservoir. North of TB12 the proposed underground cable alignment would diverge from the overhead line and pass through arable fields towards Lamb Corner.

13.3.380 Direct effects arising from construction would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields but also a vineyard) and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees including along roads such as the B1029, Ardleigh Road, the A137 and a short section of the A120. Hedgerow tree loss would occur to the east of Ardleigh along Little Bromley Road, as well as along Wick Lane, a Protected Lane, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B).

13.3.381 The introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. Wick Lane, a Protected Lane would also be directly affected, as it is located within the Order Limits of the development. There would be a concentration of construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line, EACN Substation and underground cables and works to third party infrastructure, to the north, west and east of Ardleigh.

13.3.382 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Effects would be particularly concentrated across the large-scale fields north and west of Little Bromley, which afford longer views across the plateau, and within the smaller scale and more vegetated landscape near Ardleigh. Further west within the LCA, construction activity would be intermittently visible above the treeline and backclothed within smaller scale fields, particularly in proximity to Ardleigh Heath and Ardleigh Reservoir. Beyond 1.5 km of the Order Limits layers of vegetation including pockets of woodland, tree copses, shelterbelts and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.383 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the Order Limits). The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.384 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.385 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA.

13.3.386 The western part of the Bromley Heaths LCA would be directly and indirectly affected by the Project through the introduction of an overhead line (between TB1 and TB21) and the new EACN Substation and its permanent access road; much of which would follow the existing road network with a small section running along field boundaries south of Little Bromley. Above ground link boxes would also be introduced along the underground cable. These would form small and infrequent components in the landscape. They would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features.

13.3.387 The landscape is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing distribution infrastructure which converges at the existing Lawford Substation, together with small settlements, areas of mineral extraction, and agricultural buildings. The Project would be introduced into a rural landscape which is described as having '*low, gappy hedgerows where hedgerow oaks stand out as silhouettes against the skyline*' and a '*dramatic, dominating skyscape*'. Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated. Although tree planting directly above the cables could not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replaced. In the longer term, proposed planting within the Environmental Area around the substation would reduce effects, although the loss of woodland within the new EACN Substation footprint would be permanent.

13.3.388 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal EACN LoD, with effects concentrated across the broad plateau and large scale fields west of Little Bromley (see Figure 7.12.F82: Viewpoint 3.13 PRoW, Little Bromley (Little Bromley 16) (document reference 7.12)), and across the smaller scale fields and scattered settlement west of Ardleigh Heath and north and east of Ardleigh Reservoir (see Figure 7.12.F83: Viewpoint 3.14 Lodge Lane, Ardleigh Reservoir (document reference 7.12)). Although layers of vegetation

in proximity to the reservoir and along field boundaries would partially reduce visibility of the Project, proposed pylons would remain visible above the treeline and would introduce large-scale and notable features into glimpsed views from the '*network of narrow lanes*' and would be seen against the '*dramatic skyscape*', both key characteristics of the LCA. In the north of the LCA, the underground cable route would result in a small scale of change across a medium geographical extent, with effects concentrated across the arable fields between Lamb Corner and Ardleigh. The duration would be long-term and irreversible. The magnitude of effect would therefore be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal EACN LoD, medium between 0.5 and 1.5 km of the LoD, and barely perceptible east of Little Bromley and elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.389 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal EACN LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant (adverse)** beyond 1.5 km.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.390 Landscape mitigation and enhancement around the EACN is shown in Appendix D of the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.4) (Revision D). At year 15 proposed planting would be semi-mature, helping to integrate the EACN within the surrounding landscape. The planting would be localised and would not mitigate the effects of the introduction of the overhead line to the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified in year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal EACN LoD, medium between 0.5 and 1.5 km of the LoD, and barely perceptible east of Little Bromley and elsewhere within the LCA), The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal EACN LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and **negligible and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.391 Table A13.2.30 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT 7: Heathland Plateaux, LCA 7A: Bromley Heaths.

Table A13.2.30 Landscape assessment summary for LCT 7: Heathland Plateaux, LCA 7A: Bromley Heaths (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 1	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6B: Ardleigh Valley System (Section C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.392 The Ardleigh Valley System LCA is located to the south-west of Ardleigh and east of Colchester and encompasses Ardleigh Reservoir. Key characteristics include:

- '*Steep sided wooded valley hidden from the surrounding farmed plateau*
- *Ancient deciduous woodland clings to valley sides and alder and willow dominate streamlines*
- *Leafy lanes drop steeply down the valley side and cross the streams on stone bridges e.g., Springvalley Lane*
- *The A120 and railway line, in contrast, cut across the valley on embankments, fragment the valley both visually and physically*
- *Spring Valley Mill is the only remaining example of a water mill in Tendring*
- *Ardleigh Reservoir floods the two northernmost arms of the valley system*' (LUC, 2001b).

Sensitivity

13.3.393 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the steep valley landform, areas of ancient woodland, and woodland-bound reservoir, balanced with the presence of main roads and railways which cut across the valley, and existing electrical infrastructure in the south-east.

13.3.394 There are several Local Wildlife Sites, along with areas of ancient woodland at Walls Wood and Churn Wood. There are a handful of listed buildings. There is a limited network of PRoW across the valley. There is a perception of tranquillity around the water bodies. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.395 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.396 A small part of the north of the Ardleigh Valley System LCA would be directly affected, between TB15 and TB17. Direct effects from construction would include the removal of some landscape features including trees and vegetation either side of Ardleigh Reservoir and the introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness. Hedgerows along Wick Lane, a Protected Lane, would be lost, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). There would be disturbance to a small area of farmland, comprising arable fields. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line and third party works.

13.3.397 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, the steep-sided topography and layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.398 The construction activity would result in a large scale of effect experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the Order Limits). Elsewhere there would be a small scale of effect. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. This effect would extend to 1.5 km in localised areas along the edge of the reservoir where views are directed north towards the construction activity. The magnitude of effect would be low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.399 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere within the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.400 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA. Theoretical visibility is reduced from wooded areas.

13.3.401 A small part of the north of the Ardleigh Valley System LCA would be directly affected, between TB15 and TB17. An overhead line would be introduced to a localised part of the LCA. In this location there would be some conflicts between the Project and the enclosed, small scale of the valley and its characteristic woodland landcover. This would be due to the fragmentation of vegetation either side of the reservoir which would be required because of the overhead line.

13.3.402 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which overall is influenced by man-made features such as dams, bridges, and the combination of the A120 and railway line that is described as to '*cut across the valley on embankments, fragment the valley both visually and physically*'. Part of the LCA is described as '*steep sided wooded valley hidden from the surrounding farmed plateau*', of which the overhead line would encroach and have a localised effect on tranquillity. Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated, although there would be a permanent reduction in height of a short section of vegetation and woodland where the overhead line would cross Ardleigh Reservoir.

13.3.403 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). The duration would be long-term and the effect would partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km, although within 1.5 km along the edges of the

reservoir there would be localised longer distance northerly views towards the Project. The magnitude of effect would be low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.404 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere within the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.405 No additional landscape mitigation and enhancement would occur directly within or be visible from the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified in year 1 operation (medium within 0.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and **minor and not significant (adverse)** beyond 0.5 km.

Assessment Summary

13.3.406 Table A13.2.31 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6B: Ardleigh Valley System.

Table A13.2.31 Landscape assessment summary for LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6B: Ardleigh Valley System (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6C: Alresford Valley System (Section C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.407 The Alresford Valley System LCA is located to the south-west of Great Bromley, following the course of tributaries of the River Colne. Key characteristics include:

- '*A series of distinct river valleys, steep sided in places, containing Sixpenny, Tenpenny and Bentley Brooks and including the slopes descending to the Colne Estuary*

- *The intimate, leafy character contrasts with the adjacent expansive open arable landscapes of the Heathland Plateaux*
- *Large areas of deciduous woodland including Thorringtonhall Wood, one of the largest ancient woodlands in the district*
- *Old coppice stools are visible in many of the woodlands*
- *Historic lanes drop steeply down the valley side and cross the brooks at ancient crossing points*
- *Sparse settlement consisting of scattered cottages and isolated farms*
- *Recent infill has resulted in ribbon development on the edge of Thorrington Cross*
- *Gravel pits and sewage works are present*' (LUC, 2001b).

Sensitivity

13.3.408 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the distinct valleys, intimate and enclosed character, historic lanes and large areas of woodland, balanced with the presence of modern infill development and mineral works.

13.3.409 There is one area of ancient woodland at Mill Wood, designated as a Local Wildlife Site. There is one Grade II listed farmhouse. There are a few PRoW across the valley, and no areas of Open Access Land. Overall, landscape value is low-medium.

13.3.410 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.411 Although the Order Limits fall within 2 km of the Alresford Valley System LCA it is unlikely that construction activity would be perceptible due to the valley topography and low-lying landform of the LCA together with intervening layers of vegetation.

13.3.412 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.413 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates limited theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the fringes of the LCA, along the Bromley Brook.

13.3.414 The Project lateral overhead line LoD would be more than 2 km from the Alresford Valley System LCA, and the EACN Substation and overhead line are not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the valley topography and low-lying landform of the LCA together with intervening layers of vegetation.

13.3.415 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.416 No additional landscape mitigation and enhancement would occur directly within or be visible from the LCA and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect, and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.417 Table A13.2.32 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6C: Alresford Valley System.

Table A13.2.32 Landscape assessment summary for LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6C: Alresford Valley System (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A , as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6D: Holland Valley System (Section C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.418 The Holland Valley System LCA is located to the south-east of Little Bromley, following the course of the Holland Brook. Key characteristics include:

- '*Steep sided valley containing Holland Brook and its tributaries, Tendring Brook and Weeley Brook and Picker's Ditch*
- *Contrast with the flat landscapes of the Tendring Plateau*
- *Seasonally waterlogged soils support a mixed wooded and pastoral landscape*
- *Ancient woodlands, typically dominated by oak, ash and sweet chestnut, are located in the wetter areas and on the steeper slopes*
- *Lanes drop down the valley sides and cross the streams at historic crossing points, on stone or brick bridges*
- *Typically devoid of built development except for isolated cottages and a former corn mill at Crow Bridge*
- *Picker's Ditch has been encroached upon by residential development at Clacton*
- *Forms a setting to the Holland Floodplain SSSI*' (LUC, 2001b).

Sensitivity

13.3.419 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the steep sided valleys, tranquil and historic character, and areas of ancient woodland, balanced with the presence of localised modern development.

13.3.420 There are no ecological or heritage assets recorded and no public access to the LCA. Overall, landscape value is low.

13.3.421 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.422 Although the Order Limits fall within 1 km of the Holland Valley System LCA it is unlikely that construction activity would be perceptible due to the valley topography and low-lying landform of the LCA, together with intervening layers of vegetation. Activity that falls within 1 km of the LCA would be associated with the construction and use of a haul road west of Bentley Road, and taller vertical elements are unlikely to be visible at this distance.

13.3.423 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.424 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates limited theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the valley sides.

13.3.425 The new EACN Substation and overhead line would be over 4 km from the Holland Valley System LCA and are not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the valley topography and low-lying landform of the LCA together with intervening layers of vegetation.

13.3.426 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.427 No additional landscape mitigation and enhancement would occur directly within or be visible from the LCA and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect, and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.428 Table A13.2.33 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6D: Holland Valley System.

Table A13.2.33 Landscape assessment summary for LCT 6: Clay Valleys, LCA 6D: Holland Valley System (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)

LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B7: Langham Farmland Plateau (Sections C and D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.429 The Langham Farmland Plateau LCA encompasses the area around Langham and Dedham Heath, extending south of Langham to the A120 on the outskirts of Colchester. A small part of this LCA is located within Dedham Vale National Landscape east of Langham. Key characteristics include:

- '*Langham airfield – clipped straight hedges adjacent to Park Lane*
- *Silver birches within field boundaries to the east of disused Langham airfield*
- *Large-scale arable fields with some remnant orchards now cover the large expanse of airfield*
- *Paddocks, surrounded by wooden post and rail fences*
- *Airfield dominates field pattern*' (Chris Blandford Associates (CBA), 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.430 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the large-scale field patterns with arable fields and paddocks, modern infill development particularly in the north, major roads through the centre and south of the area, and mature tree boundaries which filter views across the landscape, balanced with the isolated and rural character, particularly away from Colchester and main roads.

13.3.431 A small part of the LCA is within the Dedham Vale National Landscape in the north-east. There are two areas of ancient woodland at Birch Wood and Kiln Wood, and two Local Wildlife Sites within the area. There are a number of listed buildings. There are a number of PRoWs within the LCA as well as NCN Route 1. There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas. Valued characteristics are more strongly expressed in the north-east of the LCA, within the National Landscape. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.432 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.433 Central and southern parts of the Langham Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected by construction activity associated with the proposed underground cable route between Lamb Corner and Langham in the central part of the LCA and proposed overhead line between TB20 and TB27 through the former airfield south of Langham and east of the A12. Direct effects would arise from the introduction of a temporary construction compound between the A12 and Lamb Corner, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, temporary and permanent access tracks for both the underground cable and overhead line works, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness. Direct effects arising from construction would also include the removal of some landscape features, disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields) and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees, including to the west of the A12 and within Langham Airfield where they are noted as a key characteristic. Further detail is provided in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). A trenchless crossing of the A12 would avoid the loss of vegetation along the road. There would be loss of hedgerows along local roads such as Birchwood Road. For assessment purposes, it is assumed that construction of the trenchless crossing may include overnight working. This would require night-time lighting of the working areas on both sides of the trenchless crossing but is likely to be an exceptional and infrequent occurrence. Between Langham and Lamb Corner there would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the underground cables. Near TB21 and TB23, Kiln Wood and Birchwood ancient woodland are in proximity to the construction activity but would not be directly affected.

13.3.434 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees, as well as scattered settlement, would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.435 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Effects would be experienced north and south of the large scale fields within the former airfield, with the broad landscape affording longer distance views, as well in proximity to the large-scale arable fields south-west and west of Lamb Corner. Within the smaller scale fields north of Perry Lane in the northern fringes of the LCA, more extensive field boundaries and roadside vegetation would provide increased filtering of views and would reduce intervisibility with the wider landscape. Construction activity would affect the field boundaries in localised areas, particularly near the airfield and east of Langham. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.436 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.437 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA. There would be larger numbers of pylons

visible along the proposed alignment north of Langham Lodge, with reduced theoretical visibility from areas of settlement including Langham and Dedham Heath.

13.3.438 The central and southern parts of the Langham Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected, between Lamb Corner and Langham in the central part of the LCA, and through the former airfield south of Langham and east of the A12 in the south. The landscape affected by the construction of the underground cables between Langham and Lambs Corner would be reinstated. Although tree planting directly above the cables would not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replaced. As part of the underground cable route, above ground link boxes may be introduced to a small part of the LCA. These would form small and infrequent components in the landscape and would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features.

13.3.439 To the south of Langham, through the former airfield, the pylons and overhead lines would be prominent in the local landscape. The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including an existing solar farm, main A roads, small settlements, and agricultural buildings and would not affect the underlying scale of the LCA due to its relatively large-scale. The proposed overhead line would be perceptible from longer distance, with the tops of pylons visible above field boundaries and appearing within the broad arable fields.

13.3.440 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD. These effects would be concentrated in the south of the LCA, where the overhead line route crosses the former airfield and the fields north of Langham Lodge. Proposed pylons would appear on the skyline, and would interrupt existing field boundaries, but would not affect the larger underlying scale of existing field patterns in the landscape. Within the northern areas of the LCA unit, the underground cable route elements would have a reduced prominence within the landscape, with reinstated field boundaries resulting in a smaller scale of change and more locally experienced effects. Between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the LoD, the Project would result in a medium scale of change, with intervening bands of vegetation and field boundaries, as well as areas of settlement filtering views towards the Project. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the LoD, medium within 1.5 km of the LoD, and low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.441 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.442 No additional landscape mitigation and enhancement would occur directly within or be visible from the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effects on the LCA would remain **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.443 Table A13.2.34 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B7: Langham Farmland Plateau.

Table A13.2.34 Landscape assessment summary for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B7: Langham Farmland Plateau (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT A: River Valley, LCA A8: Stour River Valley Floor (Sections C and D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.444 The Stour River Valley Floor LCA is located along the south side of the River Stour, west of Stratford St Mary and east of Dedham. It comprises three geographically separate parts and is almost entirely located within Dedham Vale National Landscape. Key characteristics include:

- '*Meandering River Stour and associated wet floodplain consisting of several areas of damp pasture and meadows and ponds*
- *Cricket bat willow and remnant poplar plantations following the alignment of the River Stour*
- *Numerous mills, weirs, water works, and pumping stations (human influences) associated with the River*
- *Large areas of open grazed grassland within the valley floodplain, traversed by a ditch network*
- *Intimate small fields enclosed by tall hedges and/ or wet ditches, in places these have been removed to create large, open arable expanses*
- *Willow pollards lining the River Stour*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.445 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the strong sense of place associated with the river valley, intimate field patterns, extensive meadow and riparian vegetation, and occasional longer distance views along the valley floor, balanced with localised areas of human influence including water works and telegraph poles.

13.3.446 The LCA is almost entirely located within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. The River Stour flows through the LCA and there are ancient woodlands and a number of Local Wildlife Sites. The Dedham Conservation Area extends into the LCA and there are a number of listed buildings across the LCA. The River Stour is used for recreational activities, and the promoted St Edmund Way, Stour Valley Path and Essex Way cross the LCA. Overall, landscape value is therefore high.

13.3.447 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.448 A small portion of the central unit of the Stour River Valley Floor LCA (west of Stratford St Mary and north of Langham) would be directly affected, along its eastern edge. Direct effects arising from construction would include the removal of landscape features, and the introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, working areas associated with trenchless crossings of the River Stour and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields) and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees mainly to the east of Broomhouse as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Trenchless crossings of the Stour would avoid the loss of vegetation along the riverbanks. For assessment purposes, it is assumed that construction of the trenchless crossing may include overnight working. This would require night-time lighting of the working areas on both sides of the trenchless crossing but is likely to be an exceptional and infrequent occurrence. Within this LCA construction activity and equipment would be associated with the construction of the underground cables.

13.3.449 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees and built development particularly north-west of Langham and along the A12, would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA and discrete units.

13.3.450 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, which extend north-south through the middle unit of the LCA immediately west of Stratford St Mary. Discrete units of the LCA further east and west would not be affected. The construction activity would be concentrated within the larger scale arable fields, north and south of the Black Barn waterbody. Construction activity would be perceptible from across the flat valley floors, seen across the large scale field pattern and small-scale field boundaries. Beyond 0.5 km, layers of vegetation and built development would filter and screen views towards construction, particularly east of the A12 and west of the water works. The construction activity would not affect the '*intimate small fields'* found

further east and west within the LCA, or due to the trenchless crossings the riparian vegetation along the River Stour, both key characteristics of the LCA. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.451 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible (not significant)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.452 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates limited theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the LCA due to the valley topography.

13.3.453 A small portion of the central part of the Stour River Valley Floor LCA (west of Stratford St Mary and north of Langham) would be directly affected. Above ground link boxes may be introduced to a small part of the LCA. These would form small and infrequent components in the landscape. They would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features. Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated, although tree planting directly above the cables would not be reinstated.

13.3.454 The Project and its underground cable route elements would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Project. These effects would be concentrated within the arable fields north and south of Black Barn, and near Docura's Farm. Above ground link boxes would be intermittently perceptible but would not have an effect on the key characteristics of the LCA. There would be some loss of vegetation directly above the underground cables, where trees would not be reinstated. Discrete units of the LCA further east and west would not be affected. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be low within 0.5 km of the lateral underground cable LoD, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.455 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral underground cable LoD, reducing to **negligible (not significant)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.456 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified in year 1 of operation (low within 0.5 km, and barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, and **negligible (not significant)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.457 Table A13.2.35 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A8: Stour River Valley Floor.

Table A13.2.35 Landscape assessment summary for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A8: Stour River Valley Floor (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

LCT A: River Valley, LCA A7: Stour River Valley Slopes (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.458 The Stour River Valley Slopes is located to the south of the Stour River valley floor and includes the settlement of Boxted and Langham Hall and is almost entirely located within Dedham Vale National Landscape. Key characteristics include:

- '*Sloping valley side – topography*
- *Patches of deciduous woodland*
- *Mixture of irregular arable and pasture fields*
- *Field boundaries comprising pure elm hedges and veteran oak pollards*
- *Small farmsteads and halls (with associated ponds and parkland)*
- *Minor roads and narrow lanes which run down the valley sides to crossing points*
- *Sense of remoteness and tranquillity away from road network*
- *The attractive small town of Dedham*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.459 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to sloping valley topography, irregular field patterns and frequent areas of woodland, small vernacular settlement, and sense of remoteness and tranquillity away from the road network, balanced with localised areas of visual containment along the slopes where topography and vegetation limit longer distance views.

13.3.460 The LCA lies within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. There are areas of ancient woodland and a number of Local Wildlife Sites. Conservation areas are designated at Boxted and Dedham, and there are a number of listed buildings across the LCA. PRoWs cross the LCA including the promoted Essex Way, St Edmund Way and Stour Valley Path. Overall, landscape value is high.

13.3.461 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.462 A short linear section of the Stour River Valley Slopes LCA to the south-west of Stratford St Mary would be directly affected by construction activity. Direct effects arising from construction would include the removal of some landscape features, and the introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary working areas associated with the trenchless crossing of woodland, temporary drainage works which would discharge into the River Stour and lighting in the hours of darkness. A trenchless crossing of woodland near St Mary's Church Langham would greatly avoid loss of vegetation in this LCA. For assessment purposes, it is assumed that construction of the trenchless crossing may include overnight working. This would require night-time lighting of the working areas on both sides of the trenchless crossing but is likely to be an exceptional and infrequent occurrence. There would be disturbance to small areas of both arable and pastoral farmland, as well as to a PRoW and the promoted Essex Way near Martin's Farm.

13.3.463 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the activity in this LCA and neighbouring LCAs, which would be perceptible within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees, as well as undulating landform, would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.464 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits which extend north-south through the LCA immediately west of Langham. Beyond 0.5 km, construction activity would be filtered and screened by areas of woodland on the slopes to the east and west. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of the landscape change would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.465 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible (not significant)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.466 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from upper valley sides. There is limited theoretical visibility along the floor of tributary valleys and from areas of woodland.

13.3.467 A short linear section of the Stour River Valley Slopes LCA to the south-west of Stratford St Mary would be directly affected by the Project. Above ground link boxes may be introduced to a small part of the LCA. These would form small and infrequent components in the landscape. They would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete

features. Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated, although tree planting directly above the cables would not be reinstated.

13.3.468 The Project and its underground cable route elements would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Project. These effects would be concentrated within a small linear section of the LCA, extending across arable fields immediately north and north-west of Dedham Road. Above ground link boxes would be intermittently perceptible but would not have an effect on the key characteristics of the LCA. Field boundaries and existing vegetation would not be affected and affected PRoW and the promoted Essex Way north-west of Martin's Farm would be reinstated following construction. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be low within 0.5 km of the lateral underground cable LoD, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.469 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, reducing to **negligible (not significant)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.470 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (low within 0.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, and **negligible (not significant)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.471 Table A13.2.36 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A7: Stour River Valley Slopes.

Table A13.2.36 Landscape assessment summary for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A7: Stour River Valley Slopes (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

LCT A: River Valley, LCA Sub Area A7a: Stour River Valley Slopes (Sections C and D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.472 The Stour River Valley Slopes LCA has a sub area (A7a) which is centred on small streams near Vinesse Road, to the south of Little Horkesley, half of which is located within Dedham Vale National Landscape. Key characteristics include:

- '*Steep-sided narrow, intimate valley containing a small southern tributary of the River Stour*
- *Small woodland groves and farmsteads on the valley sides*
- *Pasture fields on lower valley slopes where tributary meets the main river*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.473 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the steep sided and narrow valley topography, small-scale woodlands and fields, balanced with visual containment due to the narrow valley form and frequent areas of woodland and scrub which limit outward views.

13.3.474 The LCA sub area partially lies within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. There is an ancient woodland Slough Grove and Local Wildlife Sites, and a conservation area at Little Horkesley. The PRoW network is limited, and there are no areas of open access land. Overall, landscape value is medium-high.

13.3.475 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.476 The Stour River Valley Slopes LCA sub area A7a would be directly affected by construction activity along its southern boundary. Construction activity would mostly be located beyond the southern boundary of the LCA sub area.

13.3.477 The LCA would be directly affected along its southern boundary, by construction activity associated with a new permanent access route. The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity in the neighbouring LCA to the south, which would be perceptible within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland, scrub, and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA, and this together with the valley landform would result in a negligible effect experienced across areas along the eastern edge of Little Horkesley.

13.3.478 The construction activity would result in a medium scale of change across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, which extend east-west along the southern edge of the LCA. Beyond 0.5 km, construction activity would be filtered and screened by intervening areas of woodland along the slopes and undulating and narrow valley topography. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be

partially reversible. The magnitude of the landscape change would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.479 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible (not significant)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.480 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from upper valley sides, particularly in the south in proximity to the Project.

13.3.481 The Stour River Valley Slopes LCA sub area A7a would not be directly affected by the Project. The section of the Project which would run directly adjacent to the southern boundary would be underground cabling. Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated, although tree planting directly above the cables could not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replanted. Above ground link boxes may form small and infrequent components in the adjacent landscape. They would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features. The nearest section of overhead line and the Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound would be located within 1 km to the south-west and would be perceptible from the southern tip of this LCA. Mature field boundaries and hedgerow trees in the adjacent LCA would filter views, as would mitigation planting along the north-eastern edges of Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound.

13.3.482 The Project and its underground cable route elements would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD. These effects would be concentrated within the sloping pasture fields immediately beyond the southern edge of the LCA. Above ground link boxes would be intermittently perceptible in the adjacent LCA to the south but would not have an effect on the key characteristics of this LCA sub area. Although the Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound and section of overhead line would be visible from the southern edge of the LCA, intervening vegetation and gradually rising landform would filter and screen views towards the Project. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be low within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.483 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, reducing to **negligible (not significant)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.484 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified in year 1 of operation (low within 0.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km and **negligible (not significant)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.485 Table A13.2.37 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT A: River Valley, LCA Sub Area A7a: Stour River Valley Slopes.

Table A13.2.37 Landscape assessment summary for LCT A: River Valley, LCA Sub Area A7a: Stour River Valley Slopes (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)	Negligible (not significant)

LCT A: River Valley, LCA Sub Area A7b: Stour River Valley Slopes (Section C)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.486 The Stour River Valley Slopes LCA has a sub area (A7b) which is centred on Black Brook to the north of Langham, a small part of which is located within Dedham Vale National Landscape. Key characteristics include:

- '*Intimate, tranquil, relatively steep-sided river valley which is narrow in places and has the narrow meandering Black Brook running through the floodplain*
- *Damp pasture and willows*
- *Dominant electricity lines running along the valley floor*
- *Small farmsteads*
- *Mixture of woodland and plantation types, including cricket bat plantations and pine on sandy soils*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.487 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the intimate and narrow valley form, meandering Black Brook, and vernacular settlement, balanced with the prominent electricity lines along the valley floor and visual containment due to the narrow valley form and areas of woodland which limit outward views.

13.3.488 Ancient woodland covers the majority of the landscape, providing an intimate and tranquil landscape. There are a small number of listed buildings across the area. A number of PRoW cross the landscape, and NCN Route 1 crosses a short section through the centre. Overall, landscape value is medium-high.

13.3.489 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.490 A small section of the Stour River Valley Slopes LCA sub area A7b to the north of Langham would be directly affected by construction activity. Direct effects arising from construction would include the removal and fragmentation of landscape features, and the introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage features, works associated with the open cut crossing of Black Brook and trenchless crossing of the A12 and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly pastoral). There would be a notable loss of trees within the construction swathe including a linear block of woodland in a field to the east of Springfield Farm, a section of woodland immediately north of Black Brook, riparian vegetation either side of the brook and overgrown hedgerows with hedgerow trees to the east of Grove Farm. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the underground cables including the open cut crossing of Black Brook and trenchless crossing of the A12. For assessment purposes, it is assumed that construction of the trenchless crossing may include overnight working. This would require night-time lighting of the working areas on both sides of the trenchless crossing but is likely to be an exceptional and infrequent occurrence. Construction would affect the *'intimate, tranquil, relatively steep-sided river valley'*, a key characteristic of the LCA sub area.

13.3.491 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, layers of dense woodland and scrub vegetation would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA, including from along the flat valley floor where longer views along the valley are intermittently afforded.

13.3.492 The construction activity would result in a medium scale of change across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, which extend north-south along the eastern edge of the LCA sub area. Beyond 0.5 km, construction activity would be filtered and screened by intervening areas of woodland and field boundaries along the slopes and valley floor, and the undulating and narrow valley topography. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of the landscape change would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere.

13.3.493 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.494 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the upper valley sides. Theoretical visibility is reduced along the floor of the Black Brook valley and from areas of woodland.

13.3.495 The section of the Stour River Valley Slopes LCA sub area A7b to the north of Langham would be directly affected by the Project. Above ground link boxes may be introduced to a small part of the LCA. If so, these would form small and infrequent

components in the landscape. They would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features.

13.3.496 Parts of the landscape affected during construction of the underground cables would be reinstated. Although tree planting directly above the cables could not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replaced. There would be a long-term direct effect on landcover pattern and connectivity, most notably due to the fragmentation of tree cover along Black Brook. This would affect the key characteristic of the *'intimate, tranquil, relatively steep-sided river valley which is narrow in places and has the narrow meandering Black Brook running through the floodplain'.*

13.3.497 The Project and its underground cable route elements would result in a medium scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral underground cable LoD. These effects would be concentrated along the western edge of the LCA sub area, immediately west of the A12 and north of Langham, crossing Black Brook and areas of woodland and scrub vegetation. Although above ground link boxes would be intermittently perceptible and would not have an effect on the key characteristics of this sub area, the fragmentation of areas of woodland and riparian vegetation would affect the intimate river valley and its characteristic areas of '*damp pasture and willows*'. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the lateral underground cable LoD, and low elsewhere.

13.3.498 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, reducing to **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.499 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 0.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** beyond 0.5 km.

Assessment Summary

13.3.500 Table A13.2.38 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT A: River Valley, LCA Sub Area A7b: Stour River Valley Slopes.

Table A13.2.38 Landscape assessment summary for LCT A: River Valley, LCA Sub Area A7b: Stour River Valley Slopes (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Low	N/A, as LCA is entirely within 1.5 km
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	N/A, as LCA is entirely within 1.5 km
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Low	N/A, as LCA is entirely within 1.5 km

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	N/A, as LCA is entirely within 1.5 km
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Low	N/A, as LCA is entirely within 1.5 km
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	N/A, as LCA is entirely within 1.5 km

LCT A: River Valley, LCA Sub Area A7c: Stour River Valley Slopes (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.501 The Stour River Valley Slopes LCA has a sub area (A7c) which is centred on small streams and ponds to the north of Workhouse Hill, a small part of the area is located within Dedham Vale National Landscape. Key characteristics include:

- '*Narrow, steep-sided valley to the east of Boxted and west of Boxted Cross containing a tributary of the River Stour*
- *Large patches of mixed woodland (the majority of which is ancient) on the valley sides*
- *Network of public footpaths crossing the valley and running along the valley floor*
- *Small, linear dammed lakes contained within floodplain and running along the valley floor*
- *Small farmsteads, orchards and a vineyard (Carter's Farm) to the north of Workhouse Hill*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.502 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the intimate and narrow valley form, large areas of ancient woodland, dense PRoW network, balanced with the areas of settlement along the peripheries and visual containment due to the narrow valley form which limits outward views.

13.3.503 The northern part of the LCA sub area lies within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. There is a conservation area at Boxted. The PRoW network is consistent along the valley floor and includes a short section of the Essex Way, although there are no areas of open access land. Overall, landscape value is medium-high.

13.3.504 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.505 The LCA sub area would not be directly affected by construction activity. Although the Order Limits fall within 1 km to the east of the Stour River Valley Slopes LCA sub area A7c it is unlikely that construction activity would be perceptible, except from along the easternmost periphery of the area on Sky Hall Hill, looking east across the immediately adjacent arable field. This is due to intervening landform, buildings, and layers of vegetation west of Sky Hall Hill and further west within the LCA sub area. Construction activity would not affect the key characteristics of the sub area, as activity would not be perceptible from within the intimate wooded valley further west.

13.3.506 The construction activity would result in small scale of change across a small geographical extent, limited to the easternmost edge of the sub area, although the Order Limits lie 1 km to the east. West of Sky High Hill, intervening areas of woodland and field boundaries along the slopes and valley floor, and the undulating and narrow valley topography would entirely screen construction activity. The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be barely perceptible.

13.3.507 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **negligible and not significant**.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.508 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from upper valley sides. Theoretical visibility is reduced along the valley floor and within areas of woodland.

13.3.509 The Project would be introduced at more than 1 km to the south and east of the Stour River Valley Slopes LCA sub area A7c. The underground cables would be imperceptible to the east. It is unlikely the overhead line element of the Project would be perceptible to the south from this sub area of the LCA due to a combination of distance together with intervening landform, built up areas, and layers of vegetation.

13.3.510 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.511 No additional landscape mitigation and enhancement would occur directly within or be visible from the LCA and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect, and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.512 Table A13.2.39 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT A: River Valley, LCA Sub Area A7c: Stour River Valley Slopes.

Table A13.2.39 Landscape assessment summary for LCT A: River Valley, LCA Sub Area A7c: Stour River Valley Slopes (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)

LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B5: Rochfords Farmland Plateau (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.513 The Rochfords Farmland Plateau LCA is located to the south of the Stour Valley and includes the settlement of Wormingford. Northern parts of the LCA fall within Dedham Vale National Landscape. Key characteristics include:

- '*Mixture of medium and large rolling arable fields interspersed with small woodland patches*
- *Fields enclosed by gappy hedges, with occasional mature trees within field boundaries*
- *Landscape feels more open and exposed in places than the adjacent Great Horkesley farmland plateau to the west*
- *Large weatherboarded vernacular barns (for example at Fordham)*
- *Settlement pattern consists of villages with varying forms, small hamlets, and scattered farmsteads*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.514 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the large-scale rolling landform, medium to large-scale field patterns mostly in arable use, pockets of woodland, gappy field boundaries, and presence of larger scale rural industrial buildings, balanced with the smaller scale and vernacular settlement, rural and tranquil character, and localised areas of open and exposed landscape.

13.3.515 A narrow band of the LCA is within the Dedham Vale National Landscape in the north. There are two conservation areas at Little Horkesley and Wormingford. The PRoW network is relatively dense and consistent across the character area, and National Cycle Route 13 runs through the southern and western extents, although areas of open access land are limited. There are a few Local Wildlife Sites within the area. There is a disused airfield (RAF Wormingford) to the centre of the LCA, on the

edge of the Study Area. Valued characteristics are more strongly expressed in the north of the LCA, within the National Landscape. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.516 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.517 A small part of the eastern fringe of the Rochfords Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected by construction activity between Vinesse Road and Highfield Farm. This would include construction activity associated with the undergrounding of cables, the construction of Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound and overhead lines between TB35 and TB40. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection, works to third party infrastructure and other works associated with the construction of the underground cables, Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound and the overhead line, and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields) and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees, especially along local roads such as Crabtree Lane as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). There would also be disturbance to the *'open and exposed'* character of the LCA, with effects concentrated at the southern edge of the character area south of the Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound, where vertical elements including partially constructed pylons and cranes would be located.

13.3.518 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity within the LCA and in adjacent character areas, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland and field boundary trees, as well as scattered settlement, would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.519 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change generally experienced within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, across the rolling arable and pastoral fields along Crabtree Lane and either side of the B1508 at the south-eastern edge of the area. It would also be experienced within 1.5 km in the fields south-east of Wormingford where marginally higher elevations and open outlooks afford longer distance views. In the smaller scale fields south-west of Packards Lane, more extensive fields boundaries, roadside vegetation, and areas of intervening woodland would provide increased filtering of views and would reduce intervisibility with the wider landscape. Construction activity would affect field boundaries in localised areas, particularly south of the B1508. The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.520 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.521 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA. Larger numbers of pylons are theoretically visible in the east around Crabtree Lane and in the west around the airfield.

13.3.522 The eastern fringes of the Rochfords Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected by the Project, between Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound at TB35 and TB40, to the east of Grove Lodge. An overhead line, Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound and associated gantries would be introduced to a localised part of the LCA. Above ground link boxes may be introduced to a small part of the LCA where the underground cable is located. These would form small and infrequent components in the landscape and would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features. These elements would not affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCA, due to the large scale arable fields and rolling topography, but may affect the key characteristics of openness and exposure, particularly south of Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound as proposed pylons would appear on the skyline as noticeable new features. Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound itself would be located in a lower-lying part of the LCA, and would have reduced intervisibility with the wider LCA, being relatively screened by surrounding rising topography and intervening vegetation along its northern and western peripheries.

13.3.523 To the south-east of Grove Lodge, proposed pylons and Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound would be noticeable new features in the local landscape, partially screened but perceptible above the treetops on the horizon. The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including a minor road network, small settlements and larger scale agricultural buildings and would not affect the underlying scale of the LCA due to its relatively large-scale. The proposed overhead line would be perceptible from longer distance, with the tops of pylons visible above field boundaries and appearing within the broad arable fields. Bands of woodland on the skyline would provide partial backclothing of proposed pylons. Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated although tree planting directly above the cables would not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replanted. In the longer term, proposed planting within the Environmental Area around Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound would reduce effects locally.

13.3.524 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 1.5 km of the Project lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal CSE compound LoD. These effects would be concentrated in the south of the LCA, where the overhead line route crosses rolling arable fields near Grove Lodge, and extends across the B1508. Proposed pylons would appear on the skyline, and would interrupt existing field boundaries, but would not affect the scale of existing field patterns in the landscape. Between Vinesse Farm and Crabtree Lane, the underground cable route elements would result in a reduced scale of change, with more localised effects. The duration would be long-term, and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the LoD, with reduced effects experienced in proximity to the underground cable elements and elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.525 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal CSE compound LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.526 Landscape mitigation and enhancement around Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound is shown in Appendix D of the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.4) (Revision D). At year 15, proposed planting would have matured, helping to integrate Great Horkesley (Tilbury side) CSE compound within the surrounding landscape. The planting would be localised and there would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal CSE compound LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.527 Table A13.2.40 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B5: Rochfords Farmland Plateau.

Table A13.2.40 Landscape assessment summary for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B5: Rochfords Farmland Plateau (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B6: Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau (Sections C and D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.528 The Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau LCA is located to the north of Colchester and includes the settlements of Great Horkesley and West Bergholt and a small section of the northern part of this LCA is located within Dedham Vale National Landscape. Key characteristics include:

- '*Small to medium scale arable fields with concentrations of mature trees at field boundaries*

- *Interesting field pattern consisting of small, regular fields to the south of Boxted and to the east of Great Horkesley*
- *Orchards near Great Horkesley*
- *Farmland plateau crossed in a north-south direction by two straight roads, which connect with Colchester's northern settlement fringe. Linear settlement pattern extends from the layout of these roads*
- *A network of narrow lanes (sometimes sunken), which are lined by trees and hedges connect the remainder of the character area with the two main north south roads*
- *Hedgerows are diverse and well managed/ clipped in most places*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.529 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the smaller-scale field patterns, mature and well-managed field boundaries, traditional orchards in localised areas, and historic wooded narrow lanes, balanced with the presence of main roads and scattered areas of modern residential development (particularly near Colchester), and the undulating and broad plateau landform.

13.3.530 The northern edge of the LCA is encompassed within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. The PRoW network is relatively dense in the north, with the long-distance footpath Essex Way in the centre, and National Cycle Route 1 in the eastern half of the area. There are a few areas of ancient woodland and Local Wildlife Sites scattered within the character area, with a concentration along Black Brook to the north-east Valued characteristics are more strongly expressed in the north of the LCA, within the National Landscape. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.531 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.532 A central part of the Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected by construction activity across a large section from the western edge of the former airfield at Langham to Vinesse Road, south-west of Little Horkesley. A small section in the north-east corner of the LCA near Langham Hall would also be directly affected. Construction works would be related to the proposed overhead line, underground cables, and Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound. Direct effects would result in the removal of some landscape features. Direct effects would also arise because of temporary and permanent access tracks, works to third party infrastructure, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection and materials storage alongside other associated activity related to the introduction of an overhead line, Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound and underground cables, and lighting in the hours of darkness. Disturbance would take place through arable farmland resulting in the loss of hedgerows and hedgerow trees, including along roads such as Langham Road, Straight Road, Vinesse Road, School Lane, London Road, Colchester Road and The Causeway and shelter belts, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6)

(Revision B). Construction of Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound would introduce a small concentration of activity near Horkesley Plantation.

13.3.533 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity which would be perceptible within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, undulating topography, built development within scattered settlements, and layers of vegetation including woodland, roadside vegetation and field boundary trees, would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA. Longer distance views within 1.5 km of the Order Limits would be occasionally afforded towards construction activity, from areas of higher elevation with open outlooks such as from open arable fields south of London Road or east of Horkesley Heath.

13.3.534 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographic extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits which extend east-west through the centre of the area. There would be effects on the key characteristic of '*interesting field pattern consisting of small regular fields'*, to the south of Boxted and east of Great Horkesley, with effects on the characteristic hedgerows and '*well managed*' field boundaries. Construction activity would also intersect with the two distinctive linear roads and resultant linear settlement patterns, which cross north-south through the character area, also noted as a key characteristic of the LCA. Beyond 0.5 km, although layers of vegetation and mature hedgerow trees on the skyline would reduce visibility of construction activity, taller elements would remain visible above the treeline, with a small scale of change experienced within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Additionally, occasional longer views from higher ground within the LCA would be afforded towards the construction works. The duration would be short-term, and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.535 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.536 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA. Larger numbers of pylons are theoretically visible in the west of the LCA, with reduced theoretical visibility from areas of settlement.

13.3.537 A central part of the plateau of the Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB27 and TB34, where the Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound would also be located. An overhead line and Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound would be introduced into part of the LCA which is already influenced by other man-made infrastructure such as the A12 main road and large commercial and farm buildings and telecoms masts along the A12. The Project would introduce a large-scale overhead line into a small to medium scale landscape, with defined field boundaries. Along the underground cable alignment, above ground link boxes would be introduced to a small part of the LCA. These would form small and infrequent components in the landscape. They would be locally perceptible as relatively discrete features. The Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound would be located immediately south of Broad Lane and north of Horkesley Plantation and would have reduced intervisibility with the surrounding landscape due

to intervening areas of woodland and mature hedgerows, particularly to the north-east and south-west where woodland is a more prominent landscape feature.

13.3.538 Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated, including where underground cables are located, although in some areas this would not be possible, particularly where access is required. Tree planting directly above the cables could not be reinstated, although hedgerows would be replanted. This would affect the key characteristics of the LCA which highlight that '*hedgerows are diverse and well managed/clipped in most places*'. In the longer term, proposed planting within the Environmental Area around Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound would reduce effects within a localised area.

13.3.539 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal CSE compound LoD. These effects would be concentrated along the centre of the LCA, where the overhead line route crosses undulating arable fields west of Langham Lane, and extends towards Horkesley Plantation in the west. Although pockets of woodland and layers of field boundary vegetation would filter views, proposed pylons would intermittently appear on the skyline and would interrupt existing field boundaries, affecting the '*small scale*' and '*interesting*' field patterns. Between Horkesley Plantation and Vinesse Road, the underground cable route elements would result in a small scale of change with effects experienced more locally. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal CSE compound LoD, particularly near the overhead line elements to the west of Langham Lane and Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound south of Broad Lane. The magnitude of effect would be low elsewhere in the LCA.

13.3.540 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal CSE compound LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.541 Landscape mitigation and enhancement around Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound is shown in Appendix D of the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.4) (Revision D). At year 15, proposed planting would have matured, helping to integrate Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound within the surrounding landscape. The planting would be localised and there would be no change to the magnitude of effect (high within 0.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line and underground cable LoD / lateral and longitudinal CSE compound LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere within the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.542 Table A13.2.41 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B6: Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau.

Table A13.2.41 Landscape assessment summary for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B6: Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Low	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Low	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT A: River Valley, LCA A5: Colne River Valley Slopes (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.543 The Colne River Valley Slopes LCA is located either side of the River Colne to the west of Colchester. Key characteristics include:

- '*Relatively steep v-shaped valley slopes facilitate attractive and open views across and along the River corridor*
- *Principal road network consisting of narrow tree-lined (sometimes sunken) lanes traversing the valley sides to the north and south*
- *A mosaic of medium to large-sized irregular and regular, predominantly arable fields with medium hedgerows containing semi-mature/ mature hedgerow trees*
- *Some larger semi-enclosed arable fields to the west of Wakes Colne; and concentrations of smaller fields with intact hedge boundaries adjacent to settlements*
- *Settlement pattern consists of small linear village settlements such as Wakes Colne and Eight Ash Green, adjacent to the north-south roads, which cross the River Valley: small hamlets and farmsteads*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.544 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the distinctive valley slopes on either side of the river, and alongside some of the tributaries, availability of open views from more elevated areas (such as near Fordham Place) and framed views along the valley, mixture of regular and irregular field patterns and scales, and the presence of historic wooded lanes, balanced with

pressures from expanding settlements along the periphery of the character area, main roads crossing the valley to the east of the LCA, larger industrial structures, and frequent settlement with a dense minor road network along the valley slopes.

13.3.545 There are two conservation areas at Chappel (on the western edge of the Study Area) and Fordstreet. There are a number of listed buildings including the Grade I listed Church of All Saints at Fordham, and Church of St Mary at West Bergholt. The PRoW network is relatively dense throughout the area, and there are areas of open access land surrounding Fordham village. The long-distance footpath Essex Way and the National Cycle Route 13 pass through the central valley landscape. There are a few areas of ancient woodland and Local Wildlife Sites scattered within the character area, with a concentration in the east, including Fiddlers Wood Ancient Woodland to the east of Fordstreet. Overall, landscape value is medium-high.

13.3.546 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.547 A central part of the Colne River Valley Slopes LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between TB39 and TB51, to the east of Fordham and Fordstreet as the alignment crosses the River Colne. Between TB49 and TB50 there is a narrow gap in the LCA where the Colne River Valley Floor LCA separates the north and southern area of the Colne River Valley Slopes LCA. Although located within the adjacent LCA, construction activity along the valley bottom would indirectly affect the LCA.

13.3.548 Within this LCA direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction laydown areas, temporary and permanent access tracks, works to third party infrastructure, temporary drainage works, road crossing protection and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be disturbance to farmland (both arable and pastoral) and open access land, and a loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerows along roads such as the A1124 and Fossetts Lane, hedgerow trees, semi-mature and mature field trees, clumps of woodland/scrub and recently planted areas of young woodland in open access land to the south of Fordham and riparian vegetation along the River Colne. Tree removal would be noticeable to the north-east and south-west of Watercress Hall, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Located near to TB50, Fiddlers Wood ancient woodland is near the construction activity but would not be directly affected and would be protected during construction. Construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line would cause a disturbance to the '*attractive and open'* character of the LCA. This would be particularly evident to the east of Fordham Place where the construction would be visible along an elevated plateau.

13.3.549 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance the valley topography and layers of vegetation including woodland, riparian vegetation, hedgerows, and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.550 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographic extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits which extend north-

south across the valley slopes. Beyond 0.5 km of the Order Limits construction activity would result in a reduced scale of change, as numerous woodland bands, intervening hedgerow vegetation, and undulating topography would screen and filter views of activity along the ground. However, taller elements such as cranes and partially built pylons would be visible above the treeline, particularly from areas of higher elevation including in the south, to the north and east of Hoe Wood, from the elevated plateau near Fordham Place, and from pockets along the western edge of West Bergholt. There would be effects on the '*attractive and open views'* across the valley. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium within 1.5 km, and barely percepible elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.551 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.552 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA. Larger numbers of pylons are theoretically visible on the north side of the Colne Valley in the vicinity of Fordham.

13.3.553 A central part of the Colne River Valley Slopes LCA would be directly affected by the Project, between TB39 and TB512, to the east of Fordham and Fordstreet crossing the River Colne. Between TB49 and TB50 there is a narrow gap in the LCA where the Colne River Valley Floor separates the north and southern area of the Colne River Valley Slopes LCA.

13.3.554 The Project would be introduced into a landscape characterised by arable and pastoral farming, agricultural buildings, small linear settlements, and associated infrastructure such as small roads. Due to the complex landform and other constraints, several changes in direction of the overhead line would require slightly heavier angle pylons. The overhead line would be uncharacteristic for this landscape which is otherwise relatively absent of notable modern infrastructure. Although the Project would not particularly affect the predominant landcover of the LCA, it would affect the sense of openness and attractiveness which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. There would be some conflicts with landform where the overhead line would rise up to cross a localised ridgeline to the east of Fordham (see Figure 7.12.F112: Viewpoint 4.14 Fordham Road, north-east of Fordham (document reference 7.12)); where it would cross the Colne Valley Floor (a neighbouring LCA); and where pylons TB51 to TB53 would sit more prominently in the landscape due to their elevated position on the valley slopes and at the edge of the plateau (a neighbouring LCA). Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated and although tree planting directly above the cables could not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replaced

13.3.555 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Project lateral overhead line LoD. These effects would be concentrated along the centre of the LCA, where the overhead line route crosses a local ridgeline east and south of Fordham, before crossing the River Colne and extending across the southern valley slopes. Large areas of woodland south of Fordham would intermittently screen the Project, although the proposed pylons would appear on the skyline and would form prominent features in the

landscape, particularly as they cross and ascend the intricately wooded slopes either side of the River Colne. The Project would be introduced into the relatively pastoral valley, with resulting effects on the '*attractive and open views'* across the valley. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.556 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.557 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.558 Table A13.2.42 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A5: Colne River Valley Slopes.

Table A13.2.42 Landscape assessment summary for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A5: Colne River Valley Slopes (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)

LCT A: River Valley, LCA A4: Colne River Valley Floors (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.559 The Colne River Valley Floors LCA is located along the River Colne to the west of Colchester. Key characteristics include:

- '*Floodplain of the Colne River – relatively narrow in the upper reaches of the river valley and broader as the River moves eastwards towards Colchester and the Colne estuary*
- *Meandering River Colne is narrow in comparison with the broad spread of the floodplain across which the river flows*
- *Colne River is bridged by several roads and lanes, which connect the north and south valley slopes and facilitate views along the river corridor to the east and west*
- *Floodplain corridor sprinkled with mills and weirs*
- *Striking landmark viaduct crossing the river corridor at Chappel*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.560 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the smaller-scale field patterns, strong character associated with the floodplain and River Colne, and views along the river corridor afforded by several crossings, and historic mills and weirs, balanced with the more enclosed character associated with the landform and woodlands within the valley.

13.3.561 The River Colne flows through the LCA, and there are two Local Wildlife Sites associated with the river. Chappel and Fordstreet both have conservation areas and there are listed buildings across the LCA. PRoW including the Essex Way run through the LCA, as well as NCN Route 13. There is a perception of tranquillity in the rural areas. Overall, landscape value is medium-high.

13.3.562 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.563 A narrow part of the Colne River Valley Floor LCA would be directly affected by construction activity between TB49 and TB50, to the east of Fordstreet. Direct effects would include the removal of some landscape features including riparian vegetation on the banks of the River Colne and woodland to the south of the river as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). There would also be disturbance to open access land. Direct effects would also arise due to the introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line, although no pylons would be directly located within this LCA.

13.3.564 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including waterside vegetation, fragmented woodland and shelter belts would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.565 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographic extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits which extend north-south through the centre of the area, south of Fordham. There would be effects on the characteristic views along the river corridor, with construction activity appearing in proximity to a weir near Fordham Bridge. Beyond 0.5 km, meandering valley landform and woodland along the slopes would reduce visibility of construction activity, although taller elements would remain visible above the treeline, with a medium scale of change experienced within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, particularly where longer views towards the ridgeline east of Fordham are afforded from the valley floor. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium within 1.5 km, and barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.566 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.567 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, with larger numbers of pylons theoretically visible from upper slopes including at Fordstreet.

13.3.568 The Colne River Valley Floor LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB49 and TB50, to the east of Fordstreet. Although no pylons would be directly located within this LCA, an overhead line would be introduced to a localised part of the LCA, and the Project would be a prominent feature crossing the river valley which would affect the narrow, meandering river corridor which is noted as a key characteristic. There would be a permanent reduction in height of a short section of riparian vegetation and woodland along the River Colne where the overhead line crosses the river. The Project would introduce an overhead line into a narrow landscape dominated by floodplain grazing with scattered settlements and associated infrastructure such as local road networks.

13.3.569 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD. These effects would be concentrated south of Fordham, where the overhead line route crosses the slopes of the Colne Valley and oversails the valley floor. Although pockets of woodland and layers of field boundary vegetation would filter views within the valley floor, proposed pylons would appear above the treeline and would interrupt existing field boundaries. The Project would frequently appear backclothed by the valley slopes to the south and north. Where the alignment ascends the slopes, the proposed pylons would appear on the skyline and would form noticeable features within the relatively rural valley landscape. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.570 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and**

significant (adverse) within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.571 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, low within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effects on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.572 Table A13.2.43 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A4: Colne River Valley Floors.

Table A13.2.43 Landscape assessment summary for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A4: Colne River Valley Floors (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible (not significant)

LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B4: Great Tey Farmland Plateau (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.573 The Great Tey Farmland Plateau LCA is located to the south of the River Colne and contains the settlements of Great Tey and Aldham. Key characteristics include:

- '*Floodplain of the Colne River – relatively narrow in the upper reaches of the river valley and broader as the River moves eastwards towards Colchester and the Colne estuary*
- *Gently sloping farmland plateau consisting of a mixture of medium to large-scale enclosed, predominantly arable fields*

- *Linear belts and small patches of predominantly deciduous woodland*
- *Small nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads*
- *Comprehensive network of footpaths and winding lanes*
- *Peaceful and tranquil atmosphere*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.574 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the linear belts of woodland and field boundaries, and comprehensive network of footpaths and historic lanes, balanced with the gently sloping plateau landform, medium to large scale field patterns, and presence of scattered areas of modern residential development.

13.3.575 Areas of ancient woodlands are designated as Local Wildlife Sites. Great Tey has a conservation area and there are a number of listed buildings across the LCA. Many PRoW cross the LCA, as well as the NCN Route 13. The LCA has a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.576 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.577 The eastern part of the Great Tey Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected by construction activity associated with the overhead line, between TB50 and TB56, running east of and parallel to the village of Aldham. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks and works to third party infrastructure including the undergrounding of an existing wood pole line, alongside other associated activity related to the introduction of an overhead line and lighting in the hours of darkness.

13.3.578 There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable), and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, including along local roads such as at Gallows Green, and hedgerow trees. There would be removal of hedgerow trees along the A1124, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, a veteran tree (an irreplaceable and highly valued landscape element), would be affected to the west of the A1124 between TB51 and TB52, which would have a localised effect on the wooded character in this area. There would also be disturbance to the '*peaceful and tranquil'* character of the LCA. Located near to TB055, Aldamhall Wood Ancient Woodland is near the construction activity but would not be directly affected and would be protected during construction.

13.3.579 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance the undulating topography associated with the Colne Valley to the north and east, gently sloping landform further west, and layers of vegetation including woodland, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.580 Construction activity would result in a large-scale of change experienced across a medium geographic extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits which extend north-

south through the centre of the area, near Aldham. There would be effects on the relatively rural landscape and the '*peaceful and tranquil'* character. Beyond 0.5 km, although layers of vegetation and mature hedgerow trees on the skyline would reduce visibility of construction activity, taller elements would remain visible above the treeline, with a small scale of change experienced within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.581 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.582 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, with larger numbers of pylons theoretically visible from more elevated parts of the plateau including at Hoe Farm and Gull's Farm, either side of Great Tey.

13.3.583 The Great Tey Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB50 and TB56, to the east of Aldham. The Project would be introduced into a landscape comprising arable farming, agricultural buildings, small, nucleated settlements, and associated infrastructure such as small roads.

13.3.584 An overhead line would be introduced to a localised part of the LCA. This would not affect the predominant landcover of the LCA but may affect the sense of peace and tranquillity which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. Pylons TB52 and TB53 would be located at the edge of the plateau and therefore sit more prominently in the landscape. Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.585 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the Project lateral overhead line LoD. Effects would be particularly concentrated in the gently sloping fields near Aldham, where the proposed pylons would appear more prominent on the higher ground south of the Colne Valley and on the edge of the plateau. Beyond 0.5 km, although pockets of woodland and layers of field boundary vegetation would filter views, proposed pylons would intermittently appear above the treeline and on the skyline, perceptible in the distance and affecting the sense of rurality in the landscape. These effects would be experienced across the gently sloping fields west of Aldham and west of Eight Ash Green. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.586 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.587 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. The magnitude of change would remain as identified in year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium within 15 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within

0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.588 Table A13.2.44 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B4: Great Tey Farmland Plateau.

Table A13.2.44 Landscape assessment summary for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B4: Great Tey Farmland Plateau (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Low	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B2: Easthorpe Farmland Plateau (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.589 The Easthorpe Farmland Plateau LCA is located to the west of Colchester and contains the settlements of Marks Tey and Copford. Key characteristics include:

- '*Raised farmland plateau, dissected by the wooded Roman River valley in the east*
- *A mixture of small, medium, and large irregular, predominantly arable fields*
- *Small patches of deciduous woodland and several ponds/ reservoirs*
- *Area crossed by a network of narrow, sometimes winding lanes*
- *Airfield, surrounded by large open fields has a dominant influence on the landscape character in the south of the area*
- *Settlement pattern consists of small villages and hamlets with scattered farmsteads amongst predominantly arable agricultural land*' (CBA, 2005).

Sensitivity

13.3.590 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the mix of irregular fields of varying scales, small and scattered areas of woodland and waterbodies, narrow and characteristic lanes, as well as vernacular and smaller scale settlement, balanced with the presence of the airfield and surrounding large scale open fields, and the relatively large scale plateau landform.

13.3.591 A SSSI lies in the north, and there are a number of Local Wildlife Sites. Mulbarton has a conservation area and there are a number of listed buildings across the LCA. PRoW cross the LCA including the promoted Essex Way. There is a perception of tranquillity away from the larger settlements. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.592 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.593 The northern part of the Easthorpe Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between TB55 and TB74, north of Marks Tey and Little Tey and running broadly parallel to the north of the A120. Direct effects would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction compounds, construction laydown areas, road crossing protection, temporary and permanent access tracks, works to third party infrastructure, including the undergrounding of a short section of a wood pole line near Little Tey, and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable), and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees and field trees as well as hedgerows along local roads such as along East Gores Road and Great Tey Road. Hedgerow loss would be noticeable along Brook Road to the west of TB57, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, two veteran trees, irreplaceable and highly valued landscape elements, would be affected between TB58 and TB60, which would have a localised effect on the wooded character in this area. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. Located near to TB56 and TB59-TB60 respectively, Aldamhall Wood and Church House Wood Ancient Woodland are near the construction activity but would be protected during construction and not directly affected.

13.3.594 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance the layers of vegetation including woodland, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.595 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographic extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits which extend north-east to south-west through the centre of the area. Effects would be concentrated along the irregular arable fields north Marks Tey and Little Tey, and near Church House Wood. There would be effects on the characteristic '*mixture of small, medium, and large*' irregular fields, with effects concentrated in proximity to the smaller scale and intricate field patterns and wooded areas along the Roman River and smaller tributaries. Beyond 0.5 km, intervening layers of vegetation and mature hedgerow trees on the skyline as well as areas of settlement and the main road south of Marks

Tey would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA, although taller elements would remain intermittently visible above the treeline and on the skyline. A medium scale of change would be experienced within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, particularly as the route crosses marginally higher ground in the west. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.596 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.597 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, with larger numbers of pylons theoretically visible from more elevated parts of the plateau south and west of Marks Tey.

13.3.598 The Easthorpe Farmland Plateau LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB55 and TB73, north of Marks Tey and Little Tey. The Project would be introduced into a relatively flat landscape which gradually rises to the north-west, comprising arable farming, agricultural buildings, small settlements, and associated infrastructure such as small roads, the A120 and railway lines to the south of Marks Tey.

13.3.599 An overhead line would be introduced to the north part of the LCA, north of the A12 and railway line. This would generally not affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCA due to the mixture of field sizes, including large, although effects would be more pronounced where the route crosses smaller scale and intricate fields near the Roman River and tributaries. Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.600 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across the larger arable fields in the plateau north of Marks Tey and Little Tey, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD (see Figure 7.12.F118: Viewpoint 4.21 Brook Road, north of Marks Tey (document reference 7.12)). Although the characteristic *'patches of deciduous woodland'* and vegetation in proximity to the '*several ponds/ reservoirs'* would filter views towards the Project, the proposed pylons and overhead lines would appear above the intervening treeline and would form noticeable vertical features within the relatively rural landscape, with glimpsed views from the '*network of narrow, sometimes winding lanes*' which cross the plateau. Beyond 0.5 km the Project would result in a medium scale of change, concentrated across the higher ground in the north-west of the LCA (see Figure 7.12.F129: Viewpoint 4.32 Essex Way, west of Teybrook Farm (document reference 7.12)) and across the larger fields west of Marks Tey where longer views are afforded across the broad plateau. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.601 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.602 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified in year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, and barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.603 Table A13.2.45 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B2: Easthorpe Farmland Plateau.

Table A13.2.45 Landscape assessment summary for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B2: Easthorpe Farmland Plateau (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant)

LCT: River Valley LCT, LCA A2: Wooded Roman River Valley (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.604 The Wooded Roman River Valley LCA is located along the Roman River to the south of Colchester. Key characteristics include:

- *'Relatively steep and wooded slopes of narrow v-shaped Roman River valley (tributary of the Colne River)*
- *Large areas of deciduous and coniferous (mixed) woodland on the valley slopes (e.g., Donyland Wood, Friday Wood and Chest Wood)*
- *Small patches of ancient woodland on the valley sides*
- *Large regular fields on northern valley slopes with a concentration of smaller irregular fields at High Park Corner*

- *Several areas of historic parkland, often associated with halls, overlooking the valley floor*
- *Views across and within the valley restricted by large woodland areas'.*

Sensitivity

13.3.605 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the steep and distinctive valley topography, areas of historic parkland, and views across the valley, balanced with the large areas of woodland which filter and screen outward views, and proximity to settlement and industrial land use.

13.3.606 There are no conservation areas within the character area, and there is one scheduled monument near Birch Hall. Ancient woodland is identified at Hanging Wood, and there are multiple Local Wildlife sites. A number of PRoW cross the LCA. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.607 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.608 Although the Order Limits fall within 2 km of the Wooded Roman River Valley LCA it is unlikely that construction activity would be perceptible due to the valley topography, residential areas and low-lying landform of the LCA, together with intervening layers of vegetation.

13.3.609 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.610 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates limited theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the valley sides.

13.3.611 The overhead line would be over 1.5 km from the Wooded Roman River Valley LCA and is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the valley topography and low-lying landform of the LCA together with intervening layers of vegetation and built up areas.

13.3.612 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.613 No additional landscape mitigation and enhancement would occur directly within or be visible from the LCA and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect, and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.614 Table A13.2.46 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A2: Wooded Roman River Valley.

Table A13.2.46 Landscape assessment summary for LCT A: River Valley, LCA A2: Wooded Roman River Valley (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT: Farmland Plateau LCT B, LCA B3: Southern Colchester Farmland Plateau (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.615 The Southern Colchester Farmland Plateau LCA is located to the south-west of Colchester. Key characteristics include:

- *'An area of sloping farmland plateau (with a mixture of small, medium, and large predominantly arable fields) bordered by Colchester settlement fringes to the north and the wooded Roman River Valley to the south*
- *Influence of the military (East Donyland military training area and Middlewick Rifle Ranges) – disturbs tranquillity whilst firing practice is taking place*
- *Several large patches of woodland extend from the northern slopes of the Roman River valley, onto the plateau*
- *Several small lakes and ponds, within disused sand and gravel works*
- *Character area provides physical and visual separation between Colchester urban area and the Roman River Valley*
- *Fragmented and sometimes chaotic landscape structure with numerous unrelated land uses'.*

Sensitivity

13.3.616 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the large scale and sloping plateau landform, fragmented land use, and military uses which impact on overall tranquillity, balanced with rural character and areas of transitional woodland close to the valley.

13.3.617 There are no conservation areas within the character area, although there are multiple scheduled monuments near Butcher's Wood. Ancient woodland is identified at Butcher's Wood, and there are multiple Local Wildlife sites. A number of PRoW cross the LCA. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.618 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.619 The Order Limits fall beyond 2 km of the Southern Colchester Farmland Plateau LCA and it is unlikely that construction activity would be perceptible due to the intervening layers of vegetation, landform and residential areas.

13.3.620 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.621 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates limited theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the area.

13.3.622 The overhead line would be over 1.5 km from the Southern Colchester Farmland Plateau LCA and is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the intervening topography, built up areas, and layers of vegetation including along the Great Eastern Main Line outside the LCA.

13.3.623 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.624 No additional landscape mitigation and enhancement would occur directly within or be visible from the LCA and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect, and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.625 Table A13.2.47 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B3: Southern Colchester Farmland Plateau .

Table A13.2.47 Landscape assessment summary for LCT B: Farmland Plateau, LCA B3: Southern Colchester Farmland Plateau (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No magnitude

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT: Wooded Farmland LCT F, LCA F1: Messing Wooded Farmland (Section D)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.626 The Messing Wooded Farmland LCA is located to the east of Kelvedon. Key characteristics include:

- *'Sparse settlement pattern consisting of the small village of Messing, and several small, isolated farmsteads*
- *Elevated plateau landform which is situated on a broad ridge and dissected by small streams, providing undulations in topography*
- *Large areas of mixed woodland (for example Layer Wood and Pods Wood)*
- *Number of small ponds and lakes*
- *Single mature trees at field boundaries or standing within fields'.*

Sensitivity

13.3.627 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the undulating and broad plateau landform, transit corridors, and areas of woodland which screen views, balanced with the rural character and sparse, vernacular settlement.

13.3.628 There is one conservation area at Messing. There are multiple areas of ancient woodland along the eastern edge of the character area, and there are multiple Local Wildlife sites. The PRoW network is relatively sparse and fragmented. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.629 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.630 The Order Limits fall beyond 2 km of the Messing Wooded Farmland LCA and it is unlikely that construction activity would be perceptible due to the intervening layers of vegetation, landform and residential areas.

13.3.631 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.632 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates limited theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the area.

13.3.633 The overhead line would be over 1.5 km from the Messing Wooded Farmland LCA and is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the intervening topography, built up areas, and layers of vegetation including along the Great Eastern Main Line and along the River Blackwater outside the LCA.

13.3.634 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.635 No additional landscape mitigation and enhancement would occur directly within or be visible from the LCA and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect, and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.636 Table A13.2.48 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT F: Wooded Farmland, LCA F1: Messing Wooded Farmland.

Table A13.2.48 Landscape assessment summary for LCT F: Wooded Farmland, LCA F1: Messing Wooded Farmland LCA (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT: Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes, LCA B4: Gosfield Wooded Farmlands (Section E)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.637 The Gosfield Wooded Farmlands LCA is located to the north and east of Coggleshall. Key characteristics include:

- '*Flat to gently undulating landform*

- *Strong pattern of large and small woods, including distinctive ancient limewoods*
- *Irregular medium size arable fields, bounded by thick hedgerows with mature hedgerow trees*
- *Enclosed character*
- *Many small farmsteads, occasional hamlets, and villages*' (CBA, 2003).

Sensitivity

13.3.638 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the flat to gently undulating landscape and presence of small scale settlements, balanced against the strong pattern of woodlands and enclosed character, and presence of existing overhead lines, large roads and railway line.

13.3.639 There is one conservation area at Great Tey and two scheduled monuments at Warren's Farm and Marks Tey Hall. Ancient woodland is identified at Witch Wood, and there is one Local Wildlife Site north of Coggeshall. A number of PRoW cross the LCA including the promoted Essex Way. Away from settlements there is a perception of tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.640 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.641 The Gosfield Wooded Farmlands LCA is partially covered by LCAs within the Colchester Borough Landscape Character Assessment (namely Great Tey Farmland Plateau LCA and the Easthorpe Farmland Plateau LCA) which are assessed above. This assessment therefore refers to the small area of the Gosfield Wooded Farmlands LCA which does not overlap with the Colchester LCAs within Section E.

13.3.642 A small part in the centre of the Gosfield Wooded Farmlands LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between TB70 and TB75, east of Coggeshall, intersecting the A120 east of Surrex. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary road crossing protection, PRoW mitigation, temporary and permanent access tracks, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would also be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable) and the loss of some boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees alongside fields and roads including the A120 and rural lanes such as Old Road, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). There would also be some loss of field trees, which are noted as a key characteristic of the LC. To the south of Cockerells Farm and Langley Cottages near to TB074 the LCA would be directly affected by construction activity associated with the temporary diversion and undergrounding of an existing 33 kV overhead line.

13.3.643 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.644 The construction activities, including the loss of hedgerows, field trees and hedgerow trees, which contribute to the character of the landscape, would result in a medium scale effect within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. The geographical extent of the landscape effect would be medium, the duration of effect short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.645 The magnitude of the landscape change would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, from Surrex to Langley Green and low elsewhere.

13.3.646 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.647 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, with larger numbers of pylons theoretically visible north-east of Coggleshall and north-east of Feering.

13.3.648 The Gosfield Wooded Farmlands LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB70 and TB75, east of Coggeshall. The Project would be introduced into a landscape comprised of arable farming with agricultural buildings and small, nucleated settlements. The LCA is crossed by the A120 and A12.

13.3.649 An overhead line would be introduced to a localised part of the LCA. Although this would introduce an overhead line into a medium scale landscape, it would not affect the predominant landcover of the LCA. Part of an existing 33 kV overhead line in the south-west would be removed to accommodate the Project. The undergrounding of a small section of existing overhead line in the south of the LCA would help to reduce cumulative 'wirescape' effects within a localised area. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary and roadside hedgerows, which are noted as a key characteristic of the LCA.

13.3.650 The Project would result in a medium scale of change within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD. Beyond this, the Project would result in a small scale of change. The geographical extent would be medium, the effect long-term and irreversible. The magnitude of the landscape change would be medium within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low elsewhere.

13.3.651 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.652 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified in year 1 of operation (medium within 0.5 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and **minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.653 Table A13.2.49 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes, LCA B4: Gosfield Wooded Farmlands.

Table A13.2.49 1Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes, LCA B4: Gosfield Wooded Farmlands (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes, LCA B1: Central Essex Farmlands (Sections F and G)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.654 The Central Essex Farmlands LCA occurs as three discrete areas across Braintree District and Chelmsford District. The easternmost areas are located south of Braintree and include the settlements of Silver End and Great Leighs. The westernmost area is located to the west of Chelmsford. Key characteristics include:

- '*Irregular field pattern of mainly medium size arable fields, marked by sinuous hedgerows and ditches*
- *Many small woods and copses provide structure and edges in the landscape*
- *Scattered settlement pattern, with frequent small hamlets, typically with greens and ponds. A concentration of isolated moated farmsteads*
- *Network of narrow, winding lanes*
- *Mostly tranquil character away from major roads and Stansted Airport*' (CBA, 2003).

Sensitivity

13.3.655 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the medium-sized fields, frequent presence of small woodlands, small historic settlements, and largely tranquil character.

13.3.656 There are a number of ancient woodlands, and the River Ter in the east is designated as a SSSI. A number of the woodlands are also designated as Local Wildlife Sites. Terling and White Notley have conservation areas, and Terling Place is a registered park and garden. A number of PRoW cross the LCA including the

promoted routes the Essex Way, Saffron Trail and Centenary Circle. Three National Cycling Network Routes also pass through the LCA. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.657 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.658 The Central Essex Farmlands LCA is split into three discrete areas across Braintree District and Chelmsford District and the central region of all three areas within the Study Area would be directly affected by construction activity. From north to south, the first area would be directly affected between TB89 and TB100 south of Silver End and north of Rivenhall. The second area of the LCA would be directly affected between TB102 and TB135, south of Great Leighs and north of Gamble's Green, Fairstead and Fuller Street. A small section of underground cable route and Fairstead (EACN side) and Fairstead (Tilbury side) CSE compounds would also be located within this area of the LCA, at TB110 and TB115 to the south-east of Westocks Farm, to facilitate the crossing of an existing overhead line. A small part of the LCA near TB122 west of Fuller Street would be directly affected by construction activity associated with the temporary diversion and undergrounding of an existing 132 kV overhead line. Land around TB134 would be directly affected by the construction of a temporary construction compound. A third area of the LCA would be directly affected between TB147 and TB168, east of Boyton Cross and west of Chelmsford.

Area One (TB89-TB100)

13.3.659 Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of construction laydown areas, road crossing protection, PRoW mitigation, works to third party infrastructure, temporary and permanent access tracks and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. This would result in disturbance to farmland (mainly arable), and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees including along local lanes such as Church Road, Parkgate Road and Cressing Road, field trees, and areas of woodland, notably to the east of Waterfall Cottage as described in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). There would also be disturbance to the '*tranquil*' character of the LCA in the vicinity of the construction activity. Ancient woodland at Rivenhall Thicks south of TB96 would be protected during construction and would not be directly affected.

Area Two (TB102-TB135)

13.3.660 Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction compounds, road crossing protection, PRoW mitigation, temporary and permanent access tracks and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would also be activity associated with the removal and undergrounding of an existing 132 kV overhead line around TB122, and the introduction of Fairstead (EACN side) and Fairstead (Tilbury side) CSE compounds at TB110 to TB115 to facilitate the crossing of an existing overhead line. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable), and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees, field trees, and woodland, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6)

(Revision B). There would also be disturbance to the '*tranquil*' character of the LCA. This includes along the A131, minor roads east of the A131 and along Fairstead Road. Fairstead Lane and Fairstead Lodge Road as well as Cole Hill and Goodmans Lane, are designated as Protected Lanes and would be directly affected by the construction activity as they are within the Order Limits and cross under the works. There would also be disturbance of the '*narrow, winding lanes'*, especially where the overhead line would over sail Protected Lanes at TB115, TB121, TB124, TB127, and TB128.

13.3.661 Ancient woodlands south of TB117, at Mann/Parsons Wood north of TB122 and TB123 and at Sheepcotes Wood south of TB134 are all near the construction activity, including activity associated with the removal and undergrounding of an existing 132 kV overhead line west of Fuller Street at TB122. The ancient woodlands would be protected during construction and would not be directly affected. The Project would cross the River Ter at TB125.

13.3.662 There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line, Fairstead (EACN side) and Fairstead (Tilbury side) CSE compounds, and underground cables to the east of Westocks Farm near TB111 and the temporary diversion and undergrounding of an existing overhead line to the west of Fuller Street.

Area Three (TB147-TB168)

13.3.663 Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of material stockpiles, road crossing protection, PRoW mitigation, and works to third party infrastructure, temporary and permanent access tracks and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable) and semi-natural habitat, and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees, field trees, and riparian vegetation. This includes along the minor roads west of Chelmsford such as Chignal Road, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Ancient woodland at Bushy Wood north of TB151 would be protected during the construction activity and would not be directly affected. The Project would cross the River Can near TB158, and the Roxwell Brook near TB162. The Project would also oversail the A1060 at TB161.

13.3.664 There would be disturbance to the '*tranquil*' character of the LCA close to the construction activity. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. There would also be disturbance of the '*narrow, winding lanes'*, especially at the Protected Lane between TB165 to TB166, which would be directly affected by the construction activity (hedgerow and hedgerow tree loss) as it is within the Order Limits and crosses under the works.

13.3.665 Across the three areas, the LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including woodland, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.666 The construction activities, including the loss of hedgerows, field trees, hedgerow trees, and riparian vegetation, which contribute to the character of the landscape, and the disturbance to the tranquillity, would result in a large scale effect within 0.5 km of the Order Limits: in the northern area, between Pargate Road, Church Road and Cressing Temple; in the middle area between White Notley and Faulkbourne, Fairstead and Fuller Street and Chatham Green and Sheepcotes Farm; and in the

southern area between Chignall St James and the western edge of Chelmsford, and Newney Green and the western edge of Writtle. Construction activities would result in a medium scale effect between 0.5 km and 1.5 km from the Order Limits and a small scale effect beyond 1.5 km.

13.3.667 The geographical extent of the landscape effect would be medium, the duration of effect short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.668 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium between 0.5 and 1.5 km of the Order Limits and low elsewhere.

13.3.669 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km of the Order Limits and **minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.670 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA. Larger numbers of pylons would be theoretically visible from more elevated parts of the plateau including along the Project alignment west of White Notley, south of Rank's Green, south of Chatham Green and between Great Waltham and Chignall Smealy.

13.3.671 The central regions of the three areas of the Central Essex Farmlands LCA within the Study Area would be directly affected by the Project, between TB89 and TB100, TB102 and 135 and TB147 to TB168. This includes the addition of the overhead line to the LCA and Fairstead (EACN side) and Fairstead (Tilbury side) CSE compounds and associated gantries between TB110 and TB115. Part of the existing 132 kV overhead line (PSB39 to PSB343) would be removed to the west of Fuller Street at TB122 to accommodate the Project (as shown on Figure 7.12.F158: Viewpoint 6.02 Essex Way, west of Fuller Street (document reference 7.12)). There would be a permanent reduction in height of short sections of riparian vegetation and woodland along unnamed watercourses between TB92 and TB93 and between TB115 and TB116, Straw Brook between TB127 and TB128, the River Can between TB158 and TB159, and Roxwell Brook between TB161 and TB162 for safety clearance where the overhead line crosses the river.

13.3.672 This would not affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCA but may affect the sense of tranquillity which is identified as a key characteristic of the LCA. The Project would also oversail a number of the '*narrow, winding lanes'* which are identified as a key characteristic.

13.3.673 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced some by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure such as 400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines, particularly evident near to Fuller Street, small to large settlements and agricultural buildings. Although tree planting directly above the cables between Fairstead (EACN side) and Fairstead (Tilbury side) CSE compounds could not be reinstated, hedgerows would be replaced across the LCA. In the longer term, proposed planting within the Environmental Area around Fairstead (EACN side) and Fairstead (Tilbury side) CSE compounds would reduce effects. The undergrounding of short sections of existing overhead lines would help to reduce cumulative 'wirescape' effects within a localised area.

13.3.674 The Project would result in a large scale of change within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, in the northern area between Pargate Road and Rivenhall Hall and Hungry Hall and Whitehead's Farm; in the central area along the minor road network and narrow lanes between White Notley and Faulkbourne, Fairstead and Littlebury Farm, Rank's Green and Fuller Street and in the south between Chignall St James and Brickbarn Cottages and Cow-watering Lane. Between 0.5 and 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD the Project would result in a medium scale of change, at the edges of Silver End and Rivenhall and Cressing Temple in the north, White Notley, Faulkbourne, Fairstead, Ranks Green, Fuller Street and Chatham Green in the centre, and in the southern area the western edge of Chelmsford, Roxwell and the western edge of Writtle. Beyond 1.5 km the Project would result in a small scale of change. The geographical extent would be medium, the effect long-term and irreversible.

13.3.675 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium between 0.5 and 1.5 km from the lateral overhead line LoD and low elsewhere.

13.3.676 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.677 At year 15, proposed planting would be semi-mature, helping to integrate Fairstead (EACN side) and Fairstead (Tilbury side) CSE compounds within the surrounding landscape in the middle area. The planting would be localised and would not mitigate the effects of the overhead line. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect at identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.678 Table A13.2.50 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes, LCA B1: Central Essex Farmlands.

Table A13.2.50 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes, LCA B1: Central Essex Farmlands (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)
	Magnitude	High	High	Low

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 1	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	High	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: River Valley Landscapes, LCA C6: Blackwater and Brain Valley (Section E)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.679 The Blackwater and Brain Valley LCA follows the course of the Rivers Blackwater and Brain between Braintree, Witham and Coggeshall. Key characteristics include:

- '*Shallow valleys*
- *Predominantly arable farmland with well hedged medium to large fields*
- *The Brain and the Upper Blackwater Valleys are narrow with undulating valley sides*
- *The Lower Chelmer, and the Blackwater near Maldon, have wide flat valley floors, and gentle valley sides*
- *Extensive linear poplar and willow plantations are a distinctive feature*' (CBA, 2003).

Sensitivity

13.3.680 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the shallow valley landform, undulating valley sides, medium-large field size, extensive tree cover and limited modern development.

13.3.681 The Rivers Brain and Blackwater flow through the landscape, and there are a number of ancient woodlands and Local Wildlife Sites. Many of the villages have conservation areas including Coggeshall, Feering and Kelvedon. There are registered parks and gardens at Braxted and Faulkbourne Hall. There is good recreational access along PRoW including the promoted Essex Way and NCN Route 16. Pantling's Lane is an area of Open Access Land. Away from the larger settlements there is a perception of tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.682 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.683 The Order Limits intersect the Blackwater and Brain LCA at two points which would directly affect the LCA, between TB74 and TB90, south of Coggeshall and north of Kelvedon crossing the River Blackwater, and through a narrow finger of the LCA, between TB99 and TB103, crossing the River Brain south of White Notley.

Section One (TB74-TB90)

13.3.684 Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary road crossing protection, PRoW mitigation, works to third party infrastructure, temporary and permanent access tracks and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line, including the temporary diversion and undergrounding of an existing 33 kV overhead line to the north of Littlebury between TB75 and TB76. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable), semi-natural habitats and woodland, and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees, including along Coggeshall Road and Pantling's Lane as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Field trees and riparian vegetation associated with the River Blackwater would also be disturbed.

Section Two (TB99-TB103)

13.3.685 Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of PRoW mitigation, temporary and permanent access tracks and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line, including rail protection works over the railway line and works to third party infrastructure. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable), semi-natural habitats and woodland, and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees, field trees and riparian vegetation associated with the River Brain, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). The Grade II Registered Park and Garden at Faulkbourne Hall south of TB99 is within 400 m of the Order Limits although would not be directly affected.

13.3.686 Across the two sections, the LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits due to the flat valley floor, although riparian vegetation would provide some screening. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including linear poplar/willow plantations, hedgerows, woodland, and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.687 The construction activities, including the loss of riparian habitat, hedgerows, field trees and hedgerow trees which contribute to the character of the landscape, would result in a large scale effect within 0.5 km of the Order Limits and a medium scale effect up to 1.5 km. The geographical extent of the landscape effect would be medium, the duration of effect short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.688 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium between 0.5 and 1.5 km of the Order Limits and low elsewhere.

13.3.689 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km of the Order Limits and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.690 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, with larger numbers of pylons theoretically visible south and west of Coggeshall and north-west of Kelvedon. Theoretical visibility is reduced within areas of settlement including Coggeshall and Kelvedon and along the valley floor between Black Notley and Witham.

13.3.691 The Blackwater and Brain LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB74 and TB90, south of Coggeshall and north of Kelvedon (as shown on Figure 7.12.F140: Viewpoint 5.05 Coggeshall Road, Coggeshall Hamlet (document reference 7.12) and Figure 7.12.F153: Viewpoint 5.18 PRoW south of Coggeshall Hamlet (Kelvedon 1) (document reference 7.12)) crossing the River Blackwater, and through a narrow finger of the LCA, between TB99 and TB103, crossing the River Brain south of White Notley.

13.3.692 The Project would be introduced into a landscape dominated by arable farming, semi-natural riparian habitats associated with the two rivers, and small settlements with associated infrastructure including local small roads.

13.3.693 Although an overhead line would be introduced into a landscape noted for its narrow valleys and riparian vegetation these key characteristics would be affected for a short section of the LCA and overall, it would not affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCA due to its characteristic medium to large arable fields. In further distances, intervening vegetation would reduce the effect of the Project. Part of an existing 33 kV overhead line to the north-east of Bury Lodge near TB75 would be removed to accommodate the Project. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.694 The Project would result in a large scale of change within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD south of Coggeshall and north of Feering Place in the northern section and south of White Notley and north of Faulkbourne Hall in the southern section. Between 0.5 and 1.5 km the scale of change would be medium between Coggeshall Hamlet and the railway line in the northern section and White Notley and Faulkbourne Hall in the southern section. Beyond 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD the Project would result in a small scale of change. The geographical extent would be medium, the effect long-term and irreversible.

13.3.695 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium between 0.5 and 1.5 km and low elsewhere.

13.3.696 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.697 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.698 Table A13.2.51 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: River Valley Landscapes, LCA C6: Blackwater and Brain Valley.

Table A13.2.51 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: River Valley Landscapes, LCA C6: Blackwater and Brain Valley (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: River Valley Landscapes, LCA C5: Chelmer Valley (Section F)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.699 The Chelmer Valley LCA is located to the north of Chelmsford and follows the course of the River Chelmer. It encompasses the settlements of Great and Little Waltham. Key characteristics include:

- '*Narrow valley, with a restricted valley bottom*
- *Dense riverside trees*
- *Arable valley sides with an open character*
- *Small linear settlements occupy the upper valley sides or straggle down to a few bridging points*
- *Historic watermills and Second World War pillboxes are distinctive features*
- *Mostly tranquil character*' (CBA, 2003).

Sensitivity

13.3.700 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the narrow valley topography, dense riverside trees, small linear settlements and historic features, and mostly tranquil character.

13.3.701 The River Chelmer runs through the LCA, which contains a number of Local Wildlife Sites and areas of ancient woodland. Great Waltham and Little Waltham have designated conservation areas, and the Grade II Langleys Registered Park and Garden, with its associated Deer Park, is adjacent to Great Waltham. A number of PRoW including the promoted Saffron Trail, Essex Way, Centenary Circle and NCN Route 50 pass through the LCA. There is an area of Common Land at Littley Green, and Little Walthams Meadows Nature Reserve lies to the south of Little Waltham, along the River Chelmer. Away from the fringes of Chelmsford there is a perception of tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium-high.

13.3.702 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **high**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.703 The southern area of the LCA would be directly affected by the construction activity, between TB134 and TB148, south of Great Waltham and north of Little Waltham, and crossing the River Chelmer between TB139 and TB140. The Grade II Langleys Registered Park and Garden lies north of TB139-TB141 and would not be directly affected.

13.3.704 Direct effects arising during construction would be associated with the construction activity and equipment of the overhead line. The introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road crossing protection and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. These works would include the removal of some landscape features. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields) and '*dense riverside trees'* and riparian habitat associated with the River Chelmer, which is a key characteristic. Construction activity would also result in the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, field trees, and hedgerow trees. This includes along the B1008 and minor roads between Little Waltham and Great Waltham, as well as Lark's Lane, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Lark's Lane is a designated Protected Lane and would be directly affected by the construction activity as it is within the Order Limits and crosses under the works. Sparrowhawk Wood Ancient Woodland south-east of TB144 is close to the Order Limits but would be protected during construction and would not be directly affected. Construction activities would also disturb the *'tranquil'* character of the LCA.

13.3.705 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including hedgerows and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.706 Direct and indirect construction activities, including the loss of riparian habitat, hedgerows, field trees and hedgerow trees which contribute to the character of the landscape, would result in a large scale effect within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, including the east of Langleys Registered Park and Garden and the west of Little Waltham. A medium scale effect would occur up to 1.5 km. Beyond that, the scale would be small. The geographical extent of the landscape effect would be medium, the duration of effect short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.707 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and low elsewhere.

13.3.708 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **moderate-major** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.709 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, with larger numbers of pylons theoretically visible from the upper valley sides. Theoretical visibility is reduced from the valley floor and within settlements including Great Waltham and Little Waltham.

13.3.710 The LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB134 and TB148, south of Great Waltham and north of Little Waltham.

13.3.711 The Project would be introduced into a landscape of arable fields, historic parkland (Grade II Langleys Registered Park and Garden), riparian habitat associated with the River Chelmer, small settlements, and associated infrastructure such as small roads.

13.3.712 An overhead line would be introduced to a localised part of the south of the LCA. This would introduce a large-scale feature into the medium-scale landscape, but would not affect predominant landcover, which includes woodland and mature trees. There would be a permanent reduction in height of a short section of riparian vegetation along the River Chelmer between TB139 and TB140 for safety clearance where the overhead line crosses the river. The overhead line may affect the sense of tranquillity when it is in close proximity. Screening from woodland within the wider LCA would limit the intrusion of the overhead line. Woodland belts within Langleys Registered Park and Garden would largely screen views of the Project, although the tops of some pylons would be seen above the treeline. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.713 The Project would result in a large scale of change within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD in the south of the LCA, from Scurvy Lane and Sheepcote Lane to Broad's Green and the western edge of Broomfield hospital. Between 0.5 and 1.5 km the Project would result in a medium scale of change, reducing to a small scale of change beyond 1.5 km. The geographical extent would be medium, the duration of effect long-term and it would be irreversible.

13.3.714 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium between 0.5 and 1.5 km and low elsewhere.

13.3.715 Taking account of the high sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.716 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.717 Table A13.2.52 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: River Valley Landscapes, LCA C5: Chelmer Valley.

Table A13.2.52 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: River Valley Landscapes, LCA C5: Chelmer Valley (sensitivity: high)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low-
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Urban Landscapes, LCA G2: Chelmsford and Environs (Section F)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.718 The Chelmsford and Environs LCA encompasses Chelmsford and its wider setting. Key characteristics include:

- '*Historic town with extensive residential estate development spreading over a gently sloping valley side landform*
- *Wide riverside corridors of green space except in the town centre*
- *Fringe of mixed farmland with variable size hedgerowed fields, with few woods or copses*
- *Large villages of Writtle…physically separated from the town, but with much development of an urban character*' (CBA, 2003).

Sensitivity

13.3.719 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the varied field size, gently sloping valley landform, limited woodlands and extensive urban development at Chelmsford and Writtle.

13.3.720 The Rivers Chelmer, Wid and Can flow through the LCA. Moulsham Thrift Wood is recorded as ancient woodland, and there are a number of Local Wildlife Sites.

Galleywood Common in the south is a Local Nature Reserve. The Grade II* Hylands Park Registered Park and Garden extends into this LCA. Writtle has a conservation area with a number of listed buildings. PRoWs provide recreational access including the promoted Centenary Circle and NCN Route 1. This is a largely urban area, although there are pockets of tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is therefore low-medium.

13.3.721 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.722 A small area of relatively open farmland near the A414 in the west of the LCA would be directly affected by the construction activity, between TB167 and TB169, west of Great Oxney Green and Writtle.

13.3.723 Direct effects arising during construction would occur in the west of the LCA and would include the removal of some landscape features and works to third party infrastructure. The introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works and lighting in the hours of darkness would also have direct effects. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields), and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees, especially along a PRoW to the north of TB168. The PRoW also contains a veteran tree (an irreplaceable and highly valued landscape element) which would be affected, impacting the wooded character of the area. The Project would also cross the A414 between TB168 and TB169.

13.3.724 The wider LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance layers of vegetation including hedgerows and field boundary trees, and settlement at Writtle would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.725 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change within 0.5 km of the Order Limits to the west of Writtle. Beyond this, the construction activity would result in a small scale of change. The geographical extent would be small, the duration of effect short-term and effects would be partially reversible.

13.3.726 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere.

13.3.727 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.728 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from settlement fringes including west of Broomfield and east of the River Chelmer at Gardener's Farm, with reduced theoretical visibility within Chelmsford and Broomfield.

13.3.729 The LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB167 and TB169, west of Great Oxney Green.

13.3.730 The Project would be introduced into an open farmland landscape, although one that is influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure, extensive residential estates, and large villages. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows. An overhead line would be introduced to a localised part in the west of the LCA. This would not affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCA due to the presence of large-scale fields and existing overhead lines, although the Project pylons would be larger in scale. Buildings at Writtle and Chelmsford would largely screen views towards the Project from the centre and east of the LCA.

13.3.731 The Project would result in a large scale of change within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD in the west of the LCA. Beyond this, the Project would result in a small scale of change. The geographical extent would be small, the duration of effect long-term and effects would be irreversible.

13.3.732 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and low between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and barely perceptible beyond 1.5 km.

13.3.733 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.734 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 0.5 km, low within 1.5 km, and barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.735 Table A13.2.53 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: Urban Landscapes, LCA G2: Chelmsford and Environs.

Table A13.2.53 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Urban Landscapes, LCA G2: Chelmsford and Environs (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 15	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridge Landscapes, LCA D2: Brentwood Hills (Sections F and G)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.736 The Brentwood Hills Wooded Hills and Ridges LCA extends across the Chelmsford and Brentwood Districts, between the A414 on the edge of Writtle in the north and the settlement of West Horndon in the south, to the west of Basildon. Key characteristics include:

- '*Gently to strongly undulating hills/ridges*
- *Semi enclosed character due to presence of numerous small woods, large interlocking blocks of woodland and frequent hedgerow trees*
- *Patchwork of small irregular pasture and arable fields, opening out to medium to large regular arable fields in the centre of the area*
- *Dense linear settlement pattern along major south west to north east road/rail routes*' (CBA, 2003).

Sensitivity

13.3.737 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the undulating topography, small-scale field pattern, and small linear hamlets balanced against the high woodland cover, semi-enclosed character, medium-large villages along major roads, proximity to Billericay and Brentwood and existing overhead lines.

13.3.738 Thorndon Park SSSI lies in the south of the LCA, and there are a number of ancient woodlands, some also designated as Local Wildlife Sites. Many villages including Ingatestone Station Lane and Margaretting have conservation areas. Hylands Park Registered Park and Garden lies in the north-east and Thorndon Park Registered Park and Garden lies in the south. PRoWs provide access to the landscape, and there are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land. Away from the settlements and major roads there is a perception of tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium, although it is acknowledged there are pockets of higher value.

13.3.739 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.740 The Brentwood Hills LCA is partially covered by LCAs within the Basildon Landscape Character Assessment (namely West Billericay Wooded Farmlands LCA, Basildon

and Billericay Urban LCAs, Upper Crouch Valley Farmlands LCA, Dunton Settled Claylands LCA and Langdon Hills LCA) which are assessed above. This assessment therefore refers to the western and north-eastern area of the Brentwood Hills LCA which does not overlap with the Basildon LCAs.

13.3.741 The central area of the LCA would be directly affected by the construction activity, between TB168 and TB212, at TB220 to TB224 and at TB228 to TB230, running north to south from Little Oxney Green, through Havering's Grove to the railway line east of West Horndon. Construction activity would span the A414, A12, A129, A127, railway lines and several watercourses including the River Wid.

13.3.742 Direct effects arising during construction would include the introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, temporary road and rail crossing protection, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be direct works which would affect the Open Access Land at Handley Green. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields), riparian habitats associated with river crossings and a golf course, and the loss of some woodland copses, field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees, such as the land adjacent to Hawthorn Cottage and along Little Hyde Lane (designated Protected Lane) as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, two veteran trees (irreplaceable and highly valued landscape elements), would be affected to the north of Rayleigh Road and to the south of the A127, which would have a localised effect on the wooded character and wooded horizons in this area. A number of ancient woodlands are near the Project but would be protected during construction and would not be directly affected. These include Chapel Wood and Writtle-Writtlepark Wood by TB177 to TB180, Bushey Wood and Osborne's Wood by TB183 to TB184, Harespring Wood by TB199 to TB200, James's Wood by TB210 to TB211, and Friern Manor Wood by TB224.

13.3.743 Land in the south of the LCA between TB206 and TB212 east of Hutton and between TB226 and TB231 east of Dunton Hills Farm would be directly affected by the removal and undergrounding of existing 132 kV overhead lines to accommodate the Project.

13.3.744 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. This distance would be reduced at Ingatestone and Hutton as the settlement would reduce intervisibility with the construction activity. Beyond 1.5 km layers of vegetation including woodland, hedgerows and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.745 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, which extends north-south through the centre of the LCA. Between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the Order Limits, the construction activity would result in a medium scale of change. The geographical extent would be large, the duration of effect short-term and effects would be partially reversible.

13.3.746 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and low elsewhere.

13.3.747 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.748 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA. Larger numbers of pylons are theoretically visible from more elevated areas including around Edney Common, west of Stock, from parts of Thorndon Country Park and at Dunton Hills Farm.

13.3.749 The LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB168 and TB230, running north to south from Little Oxney Green, through Havering's Grove to the railway line east of West Horndon. The Project route would run north to south and would not follow the '*major south west to north east road/rail routes*' described as a key characteristic of the landscape.

13.3.750 The Project would be introduced into a mixed landscape which is characterised by arable farming, semi-natural habitats, recreational land and small to large settlements. The landscape is also currently influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure, extensive residential estates, rail networks and major roads. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows. The undergrounding of sections of the existing 132 kV overhead line east of Dunton Hills Farm and west of Havering's Grove would help to reduce cumulative 'wirescape' effects within a localised area. There would be a permanent reduction in height of a short section of riparian vegetation along the River Wid for safety clearance where the overhead line crosses the river.

13.3.751 An overhead line would be introduced to a large part of the centre of the LCA. This would not affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCA. The undulating landform, '*numerous small woods, large interlocking blocks of woodland and frequent hedgerow trees*' and settlements at Ingatestone, Brentwood, Ingrave, Herongate and West Horndon would reduce visibility of the Project across the LCA.

13.3.752 The Project would result in a large scale of change within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and a medium scale of change between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD. The geographical extent would be large, the duration of effect long-term and effects would be irreversible.

13.3.753 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium between 0.5 and 1.5 km and low elsewhere.

13.3.754 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Project, reducing to **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.755 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.756 Table A13.2.54 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridge Landscapes, LCA D2: Brentwood Hills.

Table A13.2.54 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridge Landscapes, LCA D2: Brentwood Hills (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridges, LCA 10: East Billericay Wooded Hills and Ridges (Section G)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.757 The East Billericay Wooded Hills and Ridges LCA is located to the east of Billericay. Key characteristics include:

- '*Undulating and sloping landform to edge of plateau*
- *Small-medium sized fields separated by network of mature hedges with numerous hedgerow trees*
- *Marked rural character within area*
- *Number of large to medium ancient woods*
- *Norsey Wood – LNR, SSSI and SM with notable earthworks*
- *Mill Meadows – LNR & SSSI important ancient grazing meadows and for fungi*
- *Few isolated properties and farm buildings*
- *Break Egg Hill Plotland*
- *Minor roads and some rights of way*' (The Landscape Partnership, 2014).

Sensitivity

13.3.758 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due

to the undulating topography, extensive woodland cover and proximity to the edge of Billericay.

13.3.759 The LCA has a large area of ancient woodland at Norsey Wood which is also designated as a SSSI and Local Nature Reserve. Mill Meadows in the south-west is also designated as a SSSI and Local Nature Reserve. The settlement pattern is limited, but many of the farmhouses are listed buildings. Norsey Wood is a scheduled monument. This is a rural landscape, although proximity to Billericay reduces tranquillity in the west. A few PRoW allow access, while Norsey Wood is a popular recreation spot. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.760 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.761 The Order Limits would be more than 2 km from the majority of the LCA which lies east of Billericay, and construction activity is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the intervening settlement and woodland within the LCA.

13.3.762 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.763 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates limited theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the north-eastern fringes of Billericay. Elsewhere, theoretical visibility is reduced by woodland.

13.3.764 The Project would be more than 2 km from the majority of the LCA and is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the intervening settlement and woodland within the LCA.

13.3.765 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.766 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA, and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.767 Table A13.2.55 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridges, LCA 10: East Billericay Wooded Hills and Ridges (sensitivity: medium)2 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridges, LCA 10: East Billericay Wooded Hills and Ridges.

2Table A13.2.55 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridges, LCA 10: East Billericay Wooded Hills and Ridges (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	No magnitude	No magnitude	No magnitude

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
	Significance	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	No magnitude	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	No magnitude	No magnitude	No magnitude
	Significance	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)	No effect (not significant)

LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridges, LCA 14: Langdon Hills (Section G)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.768 The Langdon Hills Wooded Hills and Ridges LCA is located to the south of Basildon. Key characteristics include:

- '*The landform is strongly undulating encompassing the elevated Langdon Hills with sloping sides and secondary valleys*
- *Grid-like former plotland sites to the north west of the area at Langdon Hills Nature Reserve*
- *Irregular, curvilinear field patterns and former plotlands in the centre wrapping round the hillside at Westley Heights*
- *Medium sized rectilinear arable fields and small scattered pastures with mixed tall and clipped hedgerows to the south east*
- *Extensive woodland cover, predominantly Oak with a mix of Sycamore, Ash, Field Maple, Hawthorn, and Elm*
- *Some secondary woodland on former plotlands and mature Oaks and Poplars throughout golf course.*
- *Higher ground allows some extensive views overlooking the Thames Estuary*
- *Isolated farmhouses, dispersed roadside ribbon settlement of 20th century origin and some Plotland retaining a grid-like structure*
- *Ecological designations cover large parts of the character area and comprising an extensive country park and nature reserve*
- *Small number of intrusive commercial development in open locations and some major roads dissecting the landscape*
- *All Saints Church in Vange is an important viewpoint and landmark*
- *Extensive network of Public Rights of Way run through and connect areas of informal recreation within the parcels of the Country Park and nature reserve*' (The Landscape Partnership, 2014).

Sensitivity

13.3.769 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the small to medium-scale field size, small scale settlements, the strong undulating and valley landscape and extensive woodland cover, balanced with the large areas of mature woodland along the western edges of the LCA which contribute to an intermittently enclosed character, and proximity to existing electrical infrastructure, including solar farms, substation, and views to overhead lines in the west.

13.3.770 The majority of the LCA is designated as the Langdon Ridge SSSI for its grassland and deciduous woodland mix. There are some recorded ancient woodlands. There are a small number of listed farmhouses. There is a high density of PRoW providing recreational access, and a perception of tranquillity away from the settlement fringes. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.771 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.772 The LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity which would be perceptible from the western edge of the LCA up to 1.5 km of the Order Limits. The construction activity would include the installation of temporary construction compounds, access tracks and drainage west of Lower Dunton Road, along the LCA boundary, and the installation of a permanent substation extension north of the Dunton Plotlands, as well as permanent access tracks and lighting in the hours of darkness. Beyond 1.5 km, layers of vegetation (including woodland and vegetation at Dunton Plotlands), the strongly undulating landform, and the presence of residential, agricultural buildings and road infrastructure, would reduce intervisibility of the construction activity with the wider LCA.

13.3.773 The construction activity would result in a medium scale of change experienced over a small geographical extent in the west of the LCA, and a small scale of change experienced over a wider geographical extent across west-facing slopes in the LCA. The change would be experienced within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, from more open parts of Dunton Plotlands and open south-west facing slopes at Lincewood Nature Reserve which are afforded longer views. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.774 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and low within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.775 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.776 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the elevated south-western fringes of Basildon. Larger areas of woodland reduce theoretical visibility across parts of the LCA.

13.3.777 The Project would be introduced into a landscape characterised by its strongly undulating landform and extensive woodland cover. Across the lower-lying western edge of the LCA, mature woodland near the Dunton Plotlands would filter outward views and the Project would not appear as a prominent feature within the landscape. Although there are some *'extensive views'* from higher ground, these tend to be south looking towards the Thames Estuary and not west looking towards the Project. Additionally, where views extend west towards the Project, the proposed overhead line would be seen in the context of existing overhead lines, substation, and solar farm, reducing the prominence of the infrastructure.

13.3.778 The Project would result in a small scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). The change would be experienced from more open parts of Dunton Plotlands and open south-west facing slopes at Lincewood Nature Reserve. The duration would be long-term, and the effects would be irreversible.

13.3.779 The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.780 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within

13.3.781 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.782 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (low within 1.5 km, and barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.783 Table A13.2.56 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridges, LCA 14: Langdon Hills.

Table A13.2.56 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Wooded Hills and Ridges, LCA 14: Langdon Hills (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Low	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
	Magnitude	Low	Low	Barely perceptible

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 15	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Wooded Farmlands, LCA 11: West Billericay Wooded Farmlands (Section G)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.784 The West Billericay Wooded Farmlands LCA is located to the west of Billericay. Key characteristics include:

- '*Gently undulating plateau topography*
- *Predominantly medium to large scale arable fields with mix of hedgerow field boundaries and occasional mature tree rows*
- *Open fields largely used for arable farming, with smaller grazed paddocks closer to the residential urban edge*
- *Several formal recreational land uses that are well valued by local communities including Queens Park Country Park, Little Burstead Golf Club, Cricket, Tennis and Football clubs adjacent to Billericay, Hannakins Farm Recreation Ground and Stock Brook Golf and Country Club*
- *Scattered mature woodlands form strong features within the landscape, gaining in size and connectivity to the north and south of the Billericay urban area*
- *Mixture of irregular field patterns with some areas of coaxial fields*
- *Scattered, isolated farms and houses connected with quiet, rural tracks and lanes*
- *Laindon Common secondary woodland being managed to revert to heath*' (The Landscape Partnership, 2014).

Sensitivity

13.3.785 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the medium to large-scale field pattern, scattered woodland coverage, absence of strong topographical features, scattered small-scale development, and proximity to and views of the urban edge of Billericay and recreational land uses.

13.3.786 There are two areas of ancient woodland and a number of woodland Local Wildlife Sites. Little Burstead has a conservation area and there are several listed buildings across the LCA. A number of PRoW cross the LCA, and there are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land. There is a perception of tranquillity away from the settlement fringes. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.787 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.788 The western part of the LCA would be directly affected by construction activity in three small discrete areas, between TB197 and TB198 south of Little Farm, between TB202 and TB204 east of Gooseberry Green, and between TB211 and TB214 east of Blind Lane. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction compounds, road crossing protection, PRoW mitigation, temporary and permanent access tracks and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields) and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees, such as along Sudsbury's Farm Road, as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). This would include the loss of some riparian vegetation along the River Wid and its tributaries between TB201 and TB204, and between TB211 and TB212. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line.

13.3.789 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation including hedgerows, field boundary trees, woodland and intervening settlements at Tye Common and Havering's Grove would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.790 Layers of woodland and field boundary vegetation including at North Nook would reduce visibility in the north-east of the LCA. Around Lawness, Little and Great Cowbridge Farms and Sudburys Farm Road the construction activity would result in a medium scale of change (within 0.5 km of the Order Limits). Around Little Burstead and Tye Common the scale of change would be small due to layers of intervening vegetation, although the taller elements would be perceptible above the tree line. Beyond 1.5 km these distances the construction activity would result in a barely perceptible scale of change. The geographical extent would be medium. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.791 The magnitude of the landscape change would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere.

13.3.792 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.793 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the elevated north, west and south-western sides of Billericay. Larger numbers of pylons are theoretically visible to the west of Billericay in the vicinity of Little Cowbridge Grange.

13.3.794 The Project would directly affect the LCA between TB202 and TB204 and between TB211 and TB214. The overhead line would also oversail the LCA between TB197 and TB198.

13.3.795 The Project would be introduced into a landscape characterised by medium-large scale arable fields, semi-natural habitats, woodland, parkland, golf courses, and small settlements along minor lanes. An overhead line would be introduced to two

discrete areas in the west of the LCA and would oversail a third area. This would not affect the underlying scale or predominant landcover of the LCA, which generally comprises medium-large scale open fields and a gently undulating landform. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated although there may be permanent reduction in height of a short section of riparian vegetation along the River Wid for safety clearance where the overhead line crosses.

13.3.796 The Project would result in a medium scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). The duration would be long-term, and the effects would be irreversible.

13.3.797 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low elsewhere.

13.3.798 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.799 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 1.5 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.800 Table A13.2.57 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: Wooded Farmlands, LCA 11: West Billericay Wooded Farmlands.

Table A13.2.57 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Wooded Farmlands, LCA 11: West Billericay Wooded Farmlands (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Sloping Farmland, LCA 12: Burstead Sloping Farmland (Section G)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.801 The Burstead Sloping Farmland LCA is located between Billericay and Basildon. Key characteristics include:

- '*Sloping landform with marked secondary undulations to edge of plateau*
- *Large fields with remnant hedges and hedgerow trees apart from a settlement boundaries*
- *Marked rural and arable character to most of area*
- *Noak Hill and associated ribbon development along A176*
- *Two Plotlands areas at Broomhills Chase and Green Lanes/The Chase*
- *Discrete woodlands and linear green lane*
- *Few isolated farms and farm buildings*
- *Minor roads and networks of local rights of way*
- *St Mary's Little Burstead and St Mary Magdalene Great Burstead churches are notable landmark buildings*' (The Landscape Partnership, 2014).

Sensitivity

13.3.802 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a high susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This judgement is due to the limited woodland cover, sloping topography, rural character, limited modern development and historic churches at Little Burstead and Great Burstead forming important historic landmarks.

13.3.803 There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites, generally around woodlands. Great Burstead has a conservation area, and there are several listed buildings within the LCA. A number of PRoW cross the landscape, and Burstead Common is Open Access Land. There is a perception of tranquillity in the rural areas. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.804 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.805 The western part of the LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between TB213 and TB221, west of Little Burstead. Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction compounds, road crossing protection, PRoW mitigation, temporary and permanent access tracks and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields), and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees, including along minor roads west of Little Burstead, for example near Botney Hill between TB216 and TB217, as

detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line.

13.3.806 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, between the western edge of the LCA, Little Burstead and Rectory Road. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation, including vegetation along the River Crouch, hedgerows and hedgerow trees, would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.807 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, between the western edge of the LCA, Babshole Farm, Hatches Farm and Lady Spring Wood. Between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the Order Limits, the construction activity would result in a medium scale of change. Although layers of vegetation and the sloping topography would reduce visibility of construction activity, taller elements would be perceptible above the treeline. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.808 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium out to 1.5 km and low beyond 1.5 km.

13.3.809 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.810 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, with larger numbers of pylons theoretically visible from elevated slopes west of Little Burstead. Theoretical visibility of pylons is reduced in the east of the LCA at Noak Hill and Great Burstead.

13.3.811 The Project would be introduced into a rural landscape characterised by arable farming, woodland copses, and small to medium settlements. An overhead line would be introduced to the west of the LCA and could be seen to contrast with the '*sloping landform*', particularly where it crosses to the east of Botney Hill Farm. The predominant landcover of the LCA would not be affected. The overhead line could be seen to detract from St Mary's Church, Little Burstead, which is identified as a notable landmark. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated.

13.3.812 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, including the setting of St Mary's, Little Burstead). There would be a medium scale of change experienced across open areas of higher elevation within 1.5 km, including from south of Little Burstead. The duration would be long-term, and the effects would be irreversible.

13.3.813 The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low elsewhere.

13.3.814 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to

moderate and significant between 0.5 and 1.5 km, and to **minor and not significant (adverse)** beyond 1.5 km.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.815 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 and 1.5 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.816 Table A13.2.58 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: Sloping Farmland, LCA 12: Burstead Sloping Farmland.

Table A13.2.58 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Sloping Farmland, LCA 12: Burstead Sloping Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT: Lowland Farmland, LCA 9: Upper Crouch Valley Farmlands (Section G)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.817 The Upper Crouch Valley Farmlands LCA is located to the north of Basildon. Key characteristics include:

- '*Gently sloping landform throughout most of area*
- *Local higher ground at Crays Hill to south east*
- *Large scale arable fields to east and west of area with limited hedges and trees particularly along the A129*

- *Intact historic pattern of medium scale fields with good hedges and mixed arable and pasture to centre of area running north south between Crays Hill and Barrenleys Wood*
- *Absence of woodland*
- *Urban fringe uses including playing fields, recycling centre and Barleylands Farm/Craft Centre with seasonal exhibitions and markets*
- *Scattered intrusive commercial development in open locations*
- *Settlement limited to isolated properties and farm buildings*
- *Panoramic views to north towards Wooded Hills and ridge*
- *Sense of separation created between Billericay (including Great Burstead/South Green), Wickford and Basildon*
- *A129 runs through part of area, elsewhere minor roads, and several rights of way running north south*' (The Landscape Partnership, 2014).

Sensitivity

13.3.818 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the gently sloping landform, medium to large scale field pattern, large road infrastructure associated within the A129, and urban fringe land uses. The panoramic views to the north and absence of woodland increase the susceptibility.

13.3.819 There is some woodland priority habitat. There is one listed building within the LCA. A number of PRoW and NCN Route 13 cross the LCA. There is a perception of tranquillity away from the edge of Basildon. Overall, the landscape value is medium.

13.3.820 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.821 The Upper Crouch Valley Farmlands LCA would be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible from the west of the LCA within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, layers of vegetation and the presence of residential, agricultural buildings and road infrastructure would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.822 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the Order Limits). The change would be experienced from the north-facing farmland slopes between Dunton Wayletts and Rectory Road. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.823 The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to barely perceptible beyond 1.5 km.

13.3.824 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.825 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA along the northern edge of Basildon.

13.3.826 The Project would be introduced into a landscape characterised by arable farming, agricultural and industrial buildings, and small settlements with associated infrastructure such as small roads. The Project may be seen to affect the '*Panoramic views to north towards Wooded Hills and ridges*' which is described as a key characteristic, from the western edge of the LCA.

13.3.827 The Project would result in a small-scale of change across a small geographical extent, along the western fringes of the LCA (within 1.5 km of the Project). The change would be experienced from the north-facing farmland slopes between Dunton Wayletts and Rectory Road. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.828 The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to barely perceptible beyond 1.5 km.

13.3.829 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.830 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (low within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.831 Table A13.2.59 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT: Lowland Farmland, LCA 9: Upper Crouch Valley Farmlands.

Table A13.2.59 Landscape assessment summary for LCT: Lowland Farmland, LCA 9: Upper Crouch Valley Farmlands (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Low	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Low	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
	Magnitude	Low	Low	Barely perceptible

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 15	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Urban (Billericay, Basildon) (Section G)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.832 The Urban LCT occurs in Billericay and Basildon. These settlements occupy part of the Northern Thames Basin. Key characteristics include the following information about Basildon:

- '*Basildon New Town occupies gently undulating land to the south and east of the steeper Langdon Hills. There is a distinct pattern of compact residential neighbourhoods, industrial areas and town centre interspersed with broad corridors of green space along the roads, and several large parks and playing fields. The area is characterised by large areas of dense urban development, with frequent views of an urban skyline*' (The Landscape Partnership, 2014).

13.3.833 Billericay was established in the 13th century and occupies part of a gently undulating plateau. There are large recreational areas on the fringes of the settlement including at Queen's Park to the north and Norsey Wood to the east.

Sensitivity

13.3.834 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a low susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the urban character of the landscape, with residential and other development and existing large-scale energy infrastructure, gently undulating landform, limited inter-visibility with adjacent landscapes and frequent urban skylines.

13.3.835 This is an urban LCT, with small areas of deciduous woodland within the settlements, some in Basildon which is designated as Local Wildlife Sites. Billericay town centre is covered by a conservation area and has a number of listed buildings. There are PRoW through the settlements, but a lack of tranquillity due to the urban land uses. Overall, landscape value is low-medium.

13.3.836 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **low**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.837 Both urban areas of the LCT at Billericay and Basildon would be indirectly affected by construction activity 0.5 km to the west of the settlement edges. This includes the construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line and works to underground an existing 132 kV overhead line to the west of Friern Manor and Dunton Park Caravan Site.

13.3.838 Beyond 0.5 km, residential and industrial buildings and layers of vegetation including trees along roads, the railway line and on the edge of the settlement would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCT.

13.3.839 The construction activity would result in a medium scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent (the western edge of the LCT around Southfields, Basildon and Bluebell Wood/Mountnessing Road in Billericay). The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.840 The magnitude of effect would be low within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.841 Taking account of the low sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCT.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.842 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the fringes of the settlements including at Southfields on the edge of Basildon and Tye Common on the edge of Billericay.

13.3.843 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure, large urban settlements and associated road and rail infrastructure. There would be no direct effects during operation.

13.3.844 The Project would result in a small scale of change across a small geographic extent, to the west of the LCT (around Southfields, Basildon and Bluebell Wood/Mountnessing Road in Billericay). The duration of the effect would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.845 The magnitude of effect would be low within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to barely perceptible elsewhere.

13.3.846 Taking account of the low sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to **negligible and not significant** elsewhere within the LCT.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.847 No additional landscape mitigation and enhancement would occur directly within or be visible from the LCT. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (low within 0.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCT would remain **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere).

Assessment Summary

13.3.848 Table A13.2.60 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Urban LCT: Billericay, Basildon.

Table A13.2.60 Landscape assessment summary for Urban LCT: Billericay, Basildon (sensitivity: low)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant

LCT: Lowland Settled Claylands, LCA 13: Dunton Settled Claylands (Section G)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.849 The Dunton Settled Claylands LCA is located to the west of Basildon. Key characteristics include:

- '*Predominantly flat landform with gentle slopes in the south towards the railway*
- *Typically, medium to large sized arable fields. Medium sized paddocks are subdivided with post and barbed wire fencing*
- *Predominantly open farmland with occasional tall hedgerows forming fragmented enclosure*
- *Field boundaries delineated with some tall hedgerows, post and wire fencing and mature tree rows without hedgerows*
- *Narrow rural lanes connect dispersed roadside settlement and agricultural barns*
- *Dunton Park static caravan park occupies the south east corner of the character area*
- *Small area of mature Oak and Birch woodland north of the caravan park*
- *Church and hall complex at Dunton Hall are local landmarks*
- *Houses are predominantly 20th century with some Victorian gault brick buildings including the Old Rectory and Friern Manor*' (The Landscape Partnership, 2014).

Sensitivity

13.3.850 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure and undergrounding. This is due to the medium to large field size, predominantly 20th century development including the Dunton Park static caravan park in the south-east of the LCA, the A127 in the north and railway line in the south, existing 132 kV overhead line near Friern Manor, some screening provided by tall hedgerows and mature tree

rows and limited inter-visibility with adjacent sensitive landscapes or viewpoints. Factors which increase susceptibility include the predominantly flat topography.

13.3.851 There are small areas of woodland priority habitats and several listed buildings. There are a number of PRoW providing recreational access and a perception of tranquillity in the west away from Basildon. Overall, landscape value is low-medium.

13.3.852 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.853 The western edge of this small LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between TB223 and TB232 west of Southfields and Great Berry (Basildon). Direct effects arising during construction would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction compounds, road crossing protection, PRoW mitigation, temporary and permanent access tracks and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable fields), and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows and hedgerow trees to the north and south of the A127, and the south-west of Friern Manor as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additionally, a veteran tree (an irreplaceable and highly valued landscape element), would be affected to the west of the junction between West Mayne and Lower Dunton Road, which would have a localised effect on the wooded character in this area. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the construction of the overhead line, and the temporary diversion and undergrounding of the existing 132 kV overhead line between Friern Manor and Dunton Plotlands. Undergrounding of the 132 kV overhead line would take place east of Sheddings Farm, east of TB227 to TB232. Most of the LCA would also be indirectly affected by the associated construction activity.

13.3.854 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a large geographical extent (the whole LCA) within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.855 The magnitude of the landscape change would be high across the LCA.

13.3.856 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** across the whole of the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.857 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, with larger numbers of pylons theoretically visible in the north at Dunton Wayletts and along the Project alignment in the west of the LCA.

13.3.858 The LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB223 and TB232 west of Southfields and Great Berry (Basildon). The Project would be introduced into a landscape characterised by arable farming, and small to medium settlements (including Dunton Park caravan park) with associated infrastructure including the A127. An overhead line would be introduced along the entire western edge of the

LCA. The overhead line may be seen to conflict with the historic church and hall complex at Dunton Hall which is identified as a key characteristic.

13.3.859 In the south of the LCA, part of an existing 132 kV overhead line would be removed and undergrounded between Friern Manor and Dunton Plotlands, to accommodate the Project. This would help to reduce cumulative 'wirescape' effects within a localised part of the LCA, between Friern Manor and Dunton Plotlands.

13.3.860 Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.861 The Project would result in a medium scale of change experienced across a large geographical extent (the whole of the LCA). The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.862 The magnitude of effect would be medium across the LCA. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** across the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.1.2 No additional landscape mitigation is planned within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect (medium across the LCA), and the effect would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** across the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.863 Table A13.2.61 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Lowland Settled Claylands LCT, LCA 13: Dunton Settled Claylands.

Table A13.2.61 Landscape assessment summary for Lowland Settled Claylands LCT, LCA 13: Dunton Settled Claylands (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	High	N/A
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	N/A
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	N/A
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	N/A
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Medium	N/A
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	N/A

LCT J: Lower Hill Slopes, LCA J1: Langdon Lower Hill Slopes (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.864 The Langdon Lower Hill Slopes LCA is located between Dunton in the north, Horndon on the Hill in the south, and Standford-le-Hope and Fobbing in the east. Key characteristics include:

- '*Small scale steep, rounded sand, and gravel hills.*
- *Gently sloping and undulating lower slopes of the Langdon Hills with views up to the higher wooded Langdon Hills.*
- *The underlying clay geology gives rise to slowly permeable clayey soils which results in moderate quality agricultural land.*
- *The hills slopes have a strong field pattern comprising a mixture of smaller scale pre-18th century enclosures and large 20th century enclosures.*
- *These arable and pastoral fields are well-defined by hedgerows with trees and tree belts that provide a strong pattern and texture.*
- *Well-vegetated brooks and drainage ditches form field boundaries and drain into the marshes in the south. Water courses are often well vegetated with trees and hedgerows, providing attractive features in the landscape.*
- *Small areas of deciduous woodland and semi-improved grassland provide additional texture and add to the visual appeal of the hills as well as being of nature conservation significance.*
- *The settlement pattern is typically scattered isolated farmsteads situated along minor roads traversing the area. However, this pattern has been altered by 20th century ribbon development, for example to the north of Fobbing.*
- *The typical built style is of individual farmsteads and rural buildings located close to existing rural roads, typically constructed from red brick or white rendered with clay tile roofs and weatherboarding, with weather-boarded barns.*
- *This area has a relatively high scenic quality as a result of the undulating topography, intact field pattern and hedgerow network, elevated landform that enables a sense of prospect, the texture provided by trees and woodlands and the attractive historic buildings.*
- *A tranquil rural landscape compared to other parts of Thurrock.*
- *There are long-distance, panoramic views to the east and south over the Fobbing Marshes and River Thames from the ridge north of Fobbing.*
- *Surprise views up to the wooded Langdon Hills from winding tree-lined roads.*' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.865 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the strong field pattern of small and medium fields, undulating topography and small-scale hills, scenic rural quality and intact hedgerow network, and long distance views

towards the Fobbing Marshes and towards the Langdon Hills, balanced by the presence of existing solar farms, large scale industrial buildings, transport corridors and modern ribbon development.

13.3.866 There are small areas of woodland including one Local Wildlife Site and a few listed buildings across the LCA. There are a number of PRoW and a golf club providing recreational access and some long views to the south-east. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.867 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.868 The western half of the Langdon Lower Hill Slopes LCA would be directly affected by the construction activity, between TB231 and TB244, south of Dunton and running generally parallel to Lower Dunton Road. Direct effects would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction compounds, construction laydown areas, road crossing protection, temporary and permanent access tracks, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would also be activity associated with the dismantling, rerouting and underground cable diversion route of an existing 132 kV overhead line in the north near the Dunton Plotlands Nature Reserve, as well as the construction of a substation extension to the west of the UKPN Basildon Grid Substation at Dunton Hills. There would be disturbance to farmland (mainly arable), and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees and field trees as well as hedgerows along local roads such as Doesgate Lane as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B).

13.3.869 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance the undulating topography and layers of vegetation including woodland, shelterbelts, hedgerows, and field boundary trees would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.870 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographic extent, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits which extend north-south through the west of the area. Effects would be particularly concentrated along the western edge of the LCA, where construction activity would interrupt the characteristic '*surprise views up to the wooded Langdon Hills*' further east, and in the north in proximity to the substation extension and undergrounding of the existing 132 kV overhead line. There would also be effects on the key characteristics of a '*strong field pattern*' with its mixed small and large scale fields along the western half of the LCA, and on the surrounding '*tranquil rural landscape'*. Beyond 0.5 km, undulating topography and layers of mature hedgerows and trees on the skyline would reduce visibility of construction activity. Taller elements would remain visible above the treeline, with a small scale of change experienced within 1.5 of the Order Limits. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and low elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.871 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.872 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line concentrated west of Lower Dunton Road, with widespread visibility across the more elevated landforms in the south-west of the LCA, and limited or no theoretical visibility across the eastern half of the LCA.

13.3.873 Parts of the LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB228 and TB244, west of Lower Dunton Road, and through the introduction of the 132 kV substation extension near the Dunton Plotlands Nature Reserve. The proposed overhead line and permanent access tracks would be introduced into the western half of the LCA, and part of an existing 132 kV overhead line would be diverted and undergrounded in the north of the LCA, to accommodate the Project. The Project would result in the loss of some characteristic hedgerows and field boundaries, which contribute to a '*strong field pattern*', and would affect some of the long distance easterly views towards the Langdon Hills afforded from the western edge of the LCA. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated, including the reinstatement of field boundary hedgerows.

13.3.874 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the introduction of the Project, which would be intermittently visible from within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD.

13.3.875 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is currently influenced by other man-made features, particularly in the north near the existing solar farm and substation, and an existing 132 kV overhead line in the west that the Project roughly parallels.

13.3.876 The Project would result in a large scale of change of experienced across a small geographical extent (within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD in the west of the LCA), and a small scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). Effects would be particularly concentrated in the north and west of the LCA, with the introduction of the substation extension in the north, and the overhead line along the western edge of the LCA. In easterly views from the western edge of the LCA, the overhead line would form a new vertical feature in '*views up to the wooded Langdon Hills*' and in longer views towards the Fobbing Marshes. Beyond 0.5 km the overhead line would be intermittently visible, filtered by intervening bands of vegetation and undulating topography, and the proposed pylons would not form notable features within the wider landscape. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.877 The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and low elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.878 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within a 0.5 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD reducing to **minor and not significant (adverse)** beyond 0.5 km.

Assessment Summary

13.3.879 Table A13.2.62 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT J: Lower Hill Slopes, LCA J1: Langdon Lower Hill Slopes.

Table A13.2.62 Landscape assessment summary for LCT J: Lower Hill Slopes, LCA J1: Langdon Lower Hill Slopes (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Low	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Low	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Low	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT K: Higher Hills, LCA K1: Langdon Higher Hills (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.880 The Langdon Higher Hills LCA wraps around the south-western edge of Basildon and is located north-west of the A13. Key characteristics include:

- '*The upper slopes of the prominent rounded gravel and sand hills, reaching heights of 110m AOD on the edge of Langdon Hill, that are discernible from considerable distances.*
- *The underlying clay geology gives rise to slowly permeable clayey soils which give rise to moderate quality agricultural land, with some better drained soils on hill tops.*
- *Drained by minor streams which form wooded features on the hill sides.*
- *A mosaic of irregular shaped pastoral fields well-defined by trees and hedgerows, blocks of deciduous woodland (including much ancient woodland of oak and coppiced hazel/sweet chestnut), arable fields and herb rich meadows (including the Hawkesbury Grasslands local wildlife site and Basildon Meadows SSSI).*
- *Historic features including remains of medieval embanked woodland enclosures and ancient field systems, historic buildings around Langdon Hall Farm and the Church of St Mary and All Saints, and at Hawkesbury Manor, and abandoned plotlands that are now wooded.*
- *A well-integrated and dispersed low density pattern of historic farmsteads and halls/ manors with scattered houses/ bungalows in a wooded setting, some on former plotlands.*

- *Older buildings demonstrate the use of traditional materials including red brick, white render and weatherboarding with red tile roofs, which gives the area sense of place.*
- *Recreational value provided by the Langdon Hills Country Park, One Tree Hill Country Park and footpaths.*
- *Cultural interest provided by the remains of the Tilbury Brick Company's brick kilns, sand pits and ponds that were active from 1886-1906 (at One Tree Hill).*
- *Deeply tranquil landscape with woodland a strong and unifying element and narrow country lanes.*
- *The combination of undulating landform, intact field patterns, views framed by woodland, and historic buildings create visual variety and a high scenic quality.*
- *Long-distance, panoramic views towards London and the Thames across the fen and marshes from elevated landform.*
- *The wooded hills are visually prominent from the lower lying landscape and form a landmark and a backdrop in views across the marshes.*' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.881 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the irregular and small scale field pattern, undulating topography and small-scale hills, scenic rural quality and intact hedgerow network, historic and vernacular settlement, and long distance views towards the London skyline, balanced by the proximity to settlement and main roads, and large blocks of enclosing woodland along the upper slopes.

13.3.882 There are multiple informal footpaths and PRoW, and two Country Parks, contributing to strong recreational value. Overall, landscape value is medium-high.

13.3.883 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.884 The Langdon Higher Hills LCA is located 1 km from the Order Limits at the closest point and would not be directly affected by the construction activity. There would be indirect effects across the western half of the LCA, with longer westerly views afforded from the elevated areas in the north and south-west of the LCA. Ground level construction activity would frequently be screened by intervening bands of hedgerow and woodland within the lower-lying fields to the west. Taller elements of construction including partially built pylons and crane movements would be visible above the intervening treeline. Due to the elevated vantages within the LCA, construction activity would appear entirely backclothed by more distant arable and pastoral fields, reducing the prominence of the works. There would be longer distance views of disturbance to farmland (mainly arable), and the loss of some field boundary hedgerows, hedgerow trees and field trees, which would be perceptible but not notable within the landscape.

13.3.885 Construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a medium geographic extent, within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Effects would be particularly concentrated across the areas of higher elevation in the north of the LCA within Langdon Hill Country Park, where the higher vantage affords unobstructed views to the west, and along the western edge of the LCA. From further east within the LCA, the construction activity would be barely perceptible, and would not have effects on the key characteristics of the LCA. The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCA.

13.3.886 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.887 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, particularly from open hill slopes. Theoretical visibility is reduced within and areas wooded areas.

13.3.888 The LCA would be indirectly affected by the Project, located 1 km from the closest proposed pylon (TB238). The proposed overhead line and substation extension near the Dunton Plotlands Nature Reserve would be introduced into longer distance views from the western edge of the LCA and from areas of higher elevation in the north. The Project would result in new vertical features being introduced into the characteristic '*panoramic views towards London and the Thames across the fen and marshes from elevated landform'*. From these elevated areas the Project would be visible across a wide horizontal field of view, but the proposed pylons would not form prominent features within the landscape. The proposed pylons would be almost entirely backclothed by more distant and lower-lying landform to the west. Additionally, the Project would be seen in context of other man-made features, particularly in views to the north-west near the existing solar farm and substation, and existing 132 kV overhead line to the west.

13.3.889 The Project would result in a small scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent (within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD). Effects would be particularly concentrated in the north and elevated areas in the west of the LCA, although the intervening distance and filtering by extensive woodland would reduce the prominence of the infrastructure in key views. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.890 The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and barely perceptible elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** further east in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.891 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identity in year 1 of operation (low within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere.

Assessment Summary

13.3.892 Table A13.2.63 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT K: Higher Hills, LCA K1: Langdon Higher Hills.

Table A13.2.63 Landscape assessment summary for LCT K: Higher Hills, LCA K1: Langdon Higher Hills (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT A: Fenland, LCA A1: Bulphan Fenland (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.893 The Bulphan Fenland LCA is located between West Horndon in the north and Orsett in the south, and encompasses Bulphan in the east. Key characteristics include:

- '*An open flat and low-lying landscape, contained within a gentle bowl-like landform that contains the upper catchment of the Mar Dyke which is marked by a line of wetland vegetation.*
- *Superficial deposits of alluvium of Head cover the whole area (underlain by clay), giving rise to fine silty over clayey soils affected by ground water which in turn gives rise to moderate quality agricultural land.*
- *A mixture of arable and pasture farmland predominates with a few scattered coverts of deciduous trees (a priority habitat) interspersed throughout.*
- *Many waterbodies including infield ponds and small reservoirs are situated throughout the landscape.*
- *A considerable portion of the area is Flood Zone 3 and the area has a long history of being drained, with a strong, geometric field pattern aligned on a north/south axis, probably of pre-Roman origin.*
- *Many field patterns have been lost to 20th century intensive farming – some smaller rectilinear pasture fields around Bulphan are more well-defined by field boundaries.*

- *Few remaining areas of fenland, although there are some small areas of floodplain grazing marsh (a priority habitat) and an area of registered common land at Orsett Fen.*
- *A sparse pattern of settlement with individual farmsteads and halls located close to existing rural roads, typically constructed from red brick or white rendered with clay tile roofs and weather-boarded barns and many recognised by listed status.*
- *The area has a tranquil, rural character and a feeling of remoteness with relatively dark skies which contrasts with the built-up and industrial parts of Thurrock.*
- *Long distance views from the edge of Bulphan across the fenland towards Thurrock and London in the south with tall industrial chimneys and buildings prominent on the skyline.*
- *A well-wooded ridge running between Romford and Basildon provides a subtle but distinctive backdrop to views from this area.*
- *St Mary the Virgin Church in Bulphan forms a local landmark to routes through the village.*
- *Intervening mature hedgerows and lack of street lighting allows Bulphan to assimilate into an otherwise remote and rural landscape although Bulphan By-Pass and associated street lighting have a minor urbanising influence.*' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.894 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the flat and open landform, large scale arable fields, presence of existing electrical infrastructure clearly visible to the east of the LCA as well as in the north and south, and wooded horizons to the north-east and north which provide a backdrop. This is balanced with the rural and relatively tranquil character, and long distance views towards Thurrock and London in the south.

13.3.895 There is one Local Wildlife Site, and small areas of woodland. There are a few listed buildings. There is a dense network of PRoW running north-south through the centre of the area, and Open Access Land at Orsett Fen. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.896 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.897 The eastern fringes of the Bulphan Fenland LCA would be directly affected by construction activity, between TB232 and TB234 in the north-east, and between TB243 and TB247 in the south-east. The introduction of temporary and permanent access tracks, temporary drainage works, road crossing protection, construction laydown areas, the undergrounding of part of an existing 132 kV overhead line and lighting in the hours of darkness would have direct effects. Direct effects arising from construction would include the removal of some landscape features including disturbance of arable farmland and the loss of some hedgerow trees as detailed in

Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B).

13.3.898 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, particularly within the eastern half of the LCA. Construction activity would be visible across the characteristic flat and broad arable fields, with effects on the '*tranquil, rural character and a feeling of remoteness*'. The construction activity would be seen in the context of existing electrical infrastructure, particularly in the north-east. Additionally, the wooded horizons to the north and east would provide backclothing to ground level activities, reducing their prominence. Beyond 1.5 km, intervening layers of hedgerows, roadside vegetation and buildings including at Bulphan, scattered large-scale farmsteads and light industrial buildings would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.899 Construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, concentrated in the north-east and south-east corners of the LCA. Between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the Order Limits, construction activities would result in a small scale of change, with effects concentrated across the open areas surrounding Bulphan. Construction activity would affect the relatively tranquil and rural experience which characterises the centre of the LCA away from major roads and existing infrastructure. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to low beyond this distance.

13.3.900 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.901 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, particularly east and west of Bulphan. Theoretical visibility is reduced within Bulphan itself.

13.3.902 The LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB232 and TB234 in the north-east near Dunton Plotlands Nature Reserve, and between TB243 and TB247 to the north-west of Horndon on the Hill. An overhead line would be introduced into a small part of the LCA, with localised effects on the '*tranquil, rural character and a feeling of remoteness*'. The Project would be introduced into a landscape with existing man-made influences including existing overhead lines in the north and south, and '*tall industrial chimneys and buildings prominent on the skyline*' to the south. The LCA would also be indirectly affected by the Project, with longer views to the north-east taking in the proposed pylons against a backdrop of '*well-wooded ridge*' near the Langdon Hills and Basildon, which would moderately reduce the prominence of the infrastructure. The Project would not affect the longer views south towards Thurrock and London, as these characteristic views would generally be directed away from the proposed alignment. In many parts of the LCA, the Project would be seen in parallel with an existing overhead line visible beyond the eastern edge of the LCA, as well as a telecommunication tower. Parts of the landscape affected during construction would be reinstated, including hedgerows.

13.3.903 The Project would result in a medium scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD in the north-east

and south-east of the LCA. These effects would be concentrated along the eastern fringes of the LCA, where the overhead line route crosses gently undulating arable fields and behind mature bands of shelterbelts and hedgerows. Proposed pylons would appear on the skyline, and would cross existing field boundaries. A small scale of change would be experienced between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, with effects concentrated across the relatively flat fields surrounding Bulphan (see Figure 7.12.F196: Viewpoint 8.02 Doesgate Lane, Bulphan (document reference 7.12) (Revision C)). Proposed pylons would generally occupy a large extent of the skyline to the east, but would typically be seen in the context of existing overhead lines, and intermittently screened and filtered by intervening buildings and vegetation. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.904 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD and low elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.905 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 0.5 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.906 Table A13.2.64 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for Fenland LCT, LCA A1: Bulphan Fenland.

Table A13.2.64 Landscape assessment summary for Fenland LCT, LCA A1: Bulphan Fenland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT F: Undeveloped Marsh, LCA F2: Tilbury Marshes (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.907 The Tilbury Marshes LCA is located to the north and east of Tilbury, north of the River Thames. Key characteristics include:

- '*Low lying flat and open drained marshland landscape, mostly lying below 5m AOD but with some artificially raised landfill area reaching 10m AOD, all enclosed by a sea wall.*
- *In use as agricultural land – a mixture of grazing marsh (a priority habitat many areas of which are designated as Local Wildlife Sites) and productive arable fields with drainage ditches marking field boundaries.*
- *Some of the original irregular field patterns still remain but most have been straightened since the 1950s.*
- *Broad borrow dykes at the back of the sea wall are distinctive features, occasionally retaining the natural pattern of creeks and fleets; reed beds populate the watercourses.*
- *Located on the alluvial floodplain of the Thames, deep soils give rise to good agricultural land (except where the ground has been worked for mineral and infilled, or disrupted by industry).*
- *Historically the area was free of development, and settlement is not characteristic of this area today, with the exception of a small area of late 20th century housing associated at Little Thurrock Marshes.*
- *Tilbury Fort is an historic defensive site and unique feature due to its four diamond shaped buttresses forming an overall pentagon, and one of the best preserved examples of late 17th century military engineering in England.*
- *Tilbury Power Station (built in the 1950s and now partly demolished) is the site of a new port and power station – such structures stand out in an otherwise relatively undeveloped landscape.*
- *The dramatic Chadwell Ridge forms a backdrop to the north – St James Church sits on the top of this scarp, providing a local landmark at West Tilbury.*
- *The open character means skylines are dominated by any tall structures – including pylons and Tilbury Power Station within the LCA and industrial development outside the area. Despite this, the marshes have a relatively remote character.*
- *There are views across the Thames from the sea wall and waterside, including from Tilbury Fort from where there are panoramic views towards Gravesend.*' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.908 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the low-lying, level topography and horizontal landform, balanced against the large-scale

landscape, proximity to residential areas and existing electricity infrastructure including overhead lines and Tilbury Power Station.

13.3.909 The PRoW network is limited although NCN Route 13 follows along the southern LCA boundary, and there are small areas of open access land in the centre of the LCA. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.910 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.911 The LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity. This would be perceptible particularly from the north of the LCA, which lies 0.5 km from the Order Limits. Construction activity associated with the overhead line, underground cable route, and Tilbury North (Warley side) and Tilbury North (Tilbury side) CSE compounds would be visible. This would include the temporary overhead line diversions onto temporary pylons for the existing YYJ overhead line. Beyond 1.5 km from the Order Limits, intervening vegetation and buildings including the existing Tilbury Substation and works would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA. From much of the LCA, the construction activity would be seen in the context of and beyond the existing overhead lines and the Tilbury Substation, which are prominent features in the generally flat landscape.

13.3.912 The construction activity would result in a medium scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, concentrated in the north of the LCA within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond 1.5 km, the scale of change would be barely perceptible, with intervening distance and existing infrastructure reducing prominence of the activity. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of the landscape change would be medium within 1.5 km of the Order Limits and barely perceptible across the rest of the LCA.

13.3.913 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.914 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line in the east of the LCA between Tilbury Fort, Low Street and Coalhouse Fort.

13.3.915 The Project would be seen in views from the northern fringes of the LCA, which lie beyond 1.8 km from the CSE compound at Tilbury. The proposed overhead line would be seen beyond and in the context of existing overhead lines, and would not form notable features in the landscape. The closest existing overhead lines (YYJ and ZB) would be modified, moving further west to accommodate the Project, but would not appear closer in views. The flat landscape would afford longer distance views towards the Project, although the presence of existing infrastructure would reduce prominence of the new pylons.

13.3.916 The Project would result in a small change experienced across a small geographical extent, concentrated in the north of the LCA. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.917 The magnitude of effect would be barely perceptible across the LCA. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **negligible and not significant**.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.918 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation. The effect on the LCA would remain **negligible and not significant**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.919 Table A13.2.65 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT F: Undeveloped Marsh, LCA F2: Tilbury Marshes.

Table A13.2.65 Landscape assessment summary for LCT F: Undeveloped Marsh, LCA F2: Tilbury Marshes (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Medium	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Negligible and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Barly perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Negligible and not significant (adverse)

LCT F: Undeveloped Marsh, LCA F3: Mucking Marshes (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.920 The Mucking Marshes LCA is located between Stanford-le-Hope and East Tilbury and includes part of the settlement of East Tilbury. Key characteristics include:

- ‘*Low lying flat and open drained marshland landscape, mostly lying below 5m AOD but with some artificially raised landfill areas, all enclosed by a sea wall.*
- *Predominantly restored grazing marsh over old mineral extraction sites, with an active landfill site in the centre (one of the largest in Europe).*

- *Drained by a series of artificial drains and naturalistic watercourses – Mucking Creek is notable for its meandering course and floodplain grazing marsh/ reedbed habitats (priority habitats identified in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan).*
- *Large areas of mineral extraction sites have been restored to nature reserves (now open water bodies and wetland habitats of reedbeds, marsh, rough grassland and deciduous wet woodland), but some 18th century field patterns survive e.g. just north of Coalhouse Fort.*
- *Notable areas of naturalistic areas of undrained saltmarsh along the coast, outside the sea wall, and in the lower reaches of Mucking Creek – these form part of the Mucking Flats & Marshes SSSI and Thames Estuary and Marshes SPA and Ramsar site.*
- *Settlement is not characteristic of this area today, except for the small marshland hamlet of Mucking that lies alongside Mucking Creek.*
- *Coalhouse Fort is an historic defensive site, built in the 1860s to protect against seaborne attack (a scheduled monument).*
- *The circular wooden visitor centre at Thurrock Thameside Nature Park is reminiscent of the 19th Century Martello towers and has a roof-top viewing deck enabling views across the marshes.*
- *Despite man's influence on the landscape, the area has a strong sense of remoteness and relative wildness: this is an exposed and windswept rural landscape with relatively dark skies especially along the coast.*
- *There are wide panoramic views along and across the Thames Estuary, particularly from the sea wall and coastal edge (e.g. from Coalhouse Fort).*
- *Views are influenced by industrial structures in adjacent character areas such as chimneys at Tilbury Power Station and container cranes at London Gateway Port.*
- *The area forms a link between the Thames and inland areas. It is also important for nature conservation and recreation (there is a public footpath that runs almost the length of the sea wall).*
- *The landfilled areas are proposed as Strategic Semi-Natural Greenspaces in by the Thurrock Green Infrastructure Plan.*' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.921 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the low-lying and open landform with wide views, and strong sense of remoteness and rurality, balanced against the large-scale landscape, intervisibility with existing electricity infrastructure in adjacent LCAs, and areas of large-scale landfill and previous mineral extraction.

13.3.922 The PRoW network is limited but popular routes include the England Coast Path along the eastern edge. There are no areas of open access land. Overall, landscape value is medium-high.

13.3.923 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.924 The LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity. This would be perceptible particularly in the west of the LCA, which lies 1 km from the Order Limits. Construction activities would be perceptible from across the *'low lying flat and open drained marshland landscape' within* 1.5 km of the Order Limits, with effects on the key characteristic of *'exposed and windswept rural landscape'*. Construction activity would be viewed from across a main road, and would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure and other man-made influence. Beyond this distance, intervening vegetation and buildings would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.925 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, concentrated in the west of the LCA, within 1.5 km of the Order Limits. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.926 The magnitude of the landscape change would be low within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible elsewhere within the LCA including further east along the coast.

13.3.927 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere in the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.928 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, particularly south of Thurrock Thameside Nature Park and east of East Tilbury.

13.3.929 The LCA would be indirectly affected by the Project which has the potential to affect the *'strong sense of remoteness and relative wildness'* which is described as a key characteristic. The Project would be introduced into the neighbouring landscape which is currently strongly influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure. Additionally, main roads and existing infrastructure at the western edge of the LCA would reduce the prominence of the infrastructure within the wider landscape. The views towards pylons YYJ129 to YYJ124RD would remain largely the same, as the Project would modify locations of existing pylons which are already present in the landscape.

13.3.930 The Project would result in a small scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and a barely perceptible change further east within the LCA, particularly along the more rural and remote coastline. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.931 The magnitude of effect would be low within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and would be barely perceptible elsewhere in the LCA. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **negligible and not significant** elsewhere.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.932 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (low within 1.5 km, barely perceptible elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD.

Assessment Summary

13.3.933 Table A13.2.66 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT F: Undeveloped Marsh, LCA F3: Mucking Marshes.

Table A13.2.66 Landscape assessment summary for LCT F: Undeveloped Marsh, LCA F3: Mucking Marshes (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant

LCT G: Developed Marsh, LCA G2: Tilbury Docks (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.934 The Tilbury Docks LCA includes the docks to the south of Tilbury. Key characteristics include:

- '*Low-lying reclaimed and developed marshland underlain by river terrace deposits and enclosed by a drain.*
- *Dominated by operational docks (built by the East and West India Docks Company in the 1880s but now largely remodelled) incorporating a deep artificially created area of water and surrounded by a number of large scale warehouses up to five stories and dockside cranes.*
- *The International Cruise Terminal is a distinctive feature with its 1930s built terminal building (which is listed) being used as the backdrop for numerous films and television dramas.*
- *The Southend and Thurrock railway passes through the area creating a barrier to movement, as does the industrial style fencing.*

- *An artificial sea wall encloses the area and separating it from the tidal estuary. This means views across the Thames are only obtainable from the top of the sea wall.*
- *Notable for its lack of green space and biodiversity.*
- *Buildings typically comprise industrial style warehouses of corrugated steel with low pitched roofs and little architectural detail.*
- *A pub (The Worlds End) adjacent to Tilbury Fort provides a more interesting building in the local vernacular style with a weather-boarded exterior.*
- *The massing of buildings and freight infrastructure together with the almost constant noise intrusion from vehicles in and around the docklands creates an active and busy industrial landscape.*
- *Although this is an industrial area it is harmonious in that the docks provide a consistent land use and structure for the area. However, poor quality boundaries detract from scenic quality.*
- *Tilbury Docks was the landing place of the SS Empire Windrush in 1948, which was the first ship to bring a large group of migrants from the Caribbean to the UK.*
- *Portside cranes, chimneys, pylons and wind turbines all contribute to an industrial skyline – the dockside cranes are landmarks*.' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.935 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the low-lying, level topography and horizontal landform, balanced against the large-scale landscape, proximity to residential areas and existing electricity infrastructure.

13.3.936 Marshland extends into the LCA in the north and south adjacent to the River Thames. This is a highly industrial landscape, although views out to the Thames estuary are more natural with a sense of tranquillity. There is limited public access although part of the England Coast Path runs along the south-eastern edge. Overall, landscape value is considered low-medium.

13.3.937 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **low**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.938 The LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity. The east and north of the LCA lie 3 km from the Order Limits. The intervening buildings and distance would mean that construction activities would be barely perceptible.

13.3.939 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, concentrated in the west and north of the LCA, within 3 km of the Order Limits. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.940 The magnitude of the landscape change would be barely perceptible across the LCA.

13.3.941 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **negligible and not significant** within 3 km of the Order Limits.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.942 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the northern fringes of the LCA including north of Tilbury Fort.

13.3.943 The LCA would be indirectly affected by the Project, which would be 3 km to the north-east at its closest point. The Project would be introduced into the neighbouring landscape which is currently strongly influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure. The views towards pylons YYJ130 and ZB8 would remain largely the same as the Project would modify existing pylons.

13.3.944 The Project would result in a barely perceptible change experienced across a small geographical extent. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.945 The magnitude of effect would be barely perceptible across the LCA.

13.3.946 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **negligible and not significant**.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.947 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (barely perceptible across the LCA). The effect on the LCA would remain **negligible and not significant** within 3 km of the LoD.

Assessment Summary

13.3.948 Table A13.2.67 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT G: Developed Marsh, LCA G2: Tilbury Docks.

Table A13.2.67 Landscape assessment summary for LCT G: Developed Marsh, LCA G2: Tilbury Docks (sensitivity: low)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	Negligible and not significant

LCT G: Developed Marsh, LCA G3: Tilbury (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.949 The Tilbury LCA encompasses the settlement of Tilbury, including an area of allotments to the north-west. Key characteristics include:

- '*A main post-war residential settlement located on flat low-lying marshland, developed from a shanty town adjacent to Tilbury Docks in the1880s.*
- *Mostly inter- and post-war housing arranged around two perpendicular roads running north-south and east-west, meeting at the 'town centre' in the middle of the settlement.*
- *Housing is predominantly one or two-storey, post war semi-detached or detached houses and short terraces arranged around a number of linear roads, crescents and cul-de-sacs.*
- *Victorian buildings adjacent to the docks contribute to visual interest and scenic quality.*
- *Pockets of green space including parkland with trees around the edges punctuate the built form.*
- *The busy A126 and Feenan Highway contrast with quieter areas in residential areas off the main roads and away from the docks.*
- *Three residential tower blocks around Leicester Road in the north of Tilbury are visually prominent features.*
- *The open marshland landscape forms a setting on most sides, except the south-west where the docks provide a strong industrial setting.*
- *Long distance views across Tilbury Marsh towards the Chadwell Ridge to the north and across the Thames to the North Downs to the south.*
- *Associated with the Tilbury Band, formed in Tilbury in 1919, and one the UK's best brass bands.*' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.950 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a low susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the low-lying, level topography and long-distance views towards the Chadwell Ridge to the north, balanced against the large-scale landscape, urban land uses and views to existing electricity infrastructure.

13.3.951 As an urban LCA there is limited ecological value and one listed building in the town. The PRoW network is limited, and the urban character and proximity to industrial land uses reduces tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is low-medium.

13.3.952 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **low**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.953 The Order Limits are 2 km to the north-east. Construction activity is not likely to be perceptible from the LCA due to screening by the intervening landform (the Chadwell ridge to the north) and buildings within the settlement.

13.3.954 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.955 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates that there is no theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the LCA.

13.3.956 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.957 No additional landscape mitigation or enhancement is proposed within the LCA, and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.958 Table A13.2.68 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT G: Developed Marsh, LCA G3: Tilbury.

Table A13.2.68 Landscape assessment summary for LCT G: Developed Marsh, LCA G3: Tilbury (sensitivity: low)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT L: Local River Reaches, LCA L2: Gravesend Reach to Sea Reach (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.959 The Gravesend Reach to Sea Reach LCA lies to the south and east of Tilbury and East Tilbury and encompasses the River Thames within Thurrock Borough. Key characteristics include:

- '*A wide, shallow river reach reaching 15m deep in the centre of the river channel and at London Gateway Port to allow for access by large container ships.*
- *Thick deposits of marine alluvium revealed in wide expanses of internationally important intertidal mudflats which glisten and shimmer when exposed at low tide.*
- *Areas of reclaimed marshes protected behind seawalls.*
- *Dredged river channel with busy traffic of commercial and recreational shipping and numerous jetties, wharfs and piers.*
- *Some significant areas of mudflats between the high and low water mark including Mucking Flats, and creeks which fill and empty with the tides, providing interesting temporal variation.*
- *Intertidal mudflats and adjacent marshes provide habitats of international importance as well as remnants of the history of the area, linking it to the wider Essex and Thames estuary.*
- *Strong historic and military connections visible through the presence of Tilbury Fort and Coalhouse Fort which are also landmarks.*
- *Contrasts between the wild and remote marshy riverside landscape and the industrial buildings at London Gateway Port.*
- *Strategic function of the Thames Gateway estuary linking London to the coast.*
- *Open character, large scale and long views including to QEII Bridge visible from long distances along the river and inland.*
- *Wintering waders and wildfowl bring activity to the marshes and riverscape.*
- *Strong cultural associations of the River Thames as a conduit for settlers, traders and invaders.*' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.960 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a low susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the low-lying, level topography and sense of exposure and wildness, balanced against the large-scale landscape, and views to prominent manmade features including existing electricity infrastructure.

13.3.961 The LCA is of ecological importance as part of the Thames Estuary & Marshes Ramsar and SPA and Mucking Flats and Marshes SSSI. The PRoW network is limited but the promoted England Coast Path runs along the coastline. Overall, landscape value is medium-high.

13.3.962 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.963 The LCA is over 2.5 km east of the Order Limits, and construction activity is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the low-lying nature of the LCA and intervening layers of development and vegetation.

13.3.964 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.965 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line in the vicinity of Mucking Flats and north of Coalhouse Fort.

13.3.966 The Project would be more than 2.5 km from the LCA and is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the low-lying nature of the LCA and intervening layers of development and vegetation.

13.3.967 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.968 No additional landscape mitigation or enhancement is proposed within the LCA, and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.969 Table A13.2.69 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT L: Local River Reaches, LCA L2: Gravesend Reach to Sea Reach.

Table A13.2.69 Landscape assessment summary for LCT L: Local River Reaches, LCA L2: Gravesend Reach to Sea Reach (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT C: Farmed River Terrace Gravels, LCA C1: Belhus Farmed River Terrace Gravels (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.970 The Belhus Farmed River Terrace Gravels LCA lies to the north of Grays, and surrounds the villages of Aveley and South Ockendon in the north-west of Thurrock. Key characteristics include:

- '*Low lying gently rolling landscape comprising London Clay overlain by sands and gravels which have made it a focus for quarrying of clay and aggregate and for subsequent landfill. Relatively fertile soils support arable farmland, particularly in the north east part of the area.*
- *Concentration of lakes created by former quarry sites and clay pits and narrow stream valleys such as Running Water Brook.*
- *Wooded character, including ancient woodland in Belhus Park and Belhus Woods Country Park as well as recent tree planting associated with the Thames Chase Project.*
- *Individual farmsteads and barns of locally sourced red brick, many of them historic.*
- *Listed manors, some of which developed into country houses with landscaped parks in the 17th and 18th centuries.*
- *Rich in archaeological finds and potential archaeology, buried in Ice Age deposits tunnelled into the London Clay – site of the famous 'Aveley Elephants'.*
- *Narrow lanes, whose sense of history and aesthetic quality is often blighted by fly tipping.*
- *Fragmented character with a sense of intrusion from mineral extraction sites, landfill and infrastructure*.' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.971 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a low susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the low-lying topography and historic parkland manor houses, balanced against the woodland cover, manmade infrastructure including mineral extraction sites and proximity to human activities and development.

13.3.972 Pockets of ancient woodland are found particularly in the south and west, and there is one designated SSSI. Historic manor houses are often listed buildings, and Belhus Park is a registered park and garden. There is some access via PRoW and small areas of Open Access Land south of South Ockendon. Proximity to the M25 and nearby towns and villages reduces tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.973 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.974 The LCA is over 2 km west of the Order Limits, and construction activity is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the low-lying nature of the LCA and intervening layers of development and vegetation.

13.3.975 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.976 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates some limited theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line north of Grangewaters.

13.3.977 The Project would be more than 2 km from the LCA and is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the low-lying nature of the LCA and intervening layers of development and vegetation.

13.3.978 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.979 No additional landscape mitigation or enhancement is proposed within the LCA, and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.980 Table A13.2.70 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT C: Farmed River Terrace Gravels, LCA C1: Belhus Farmed River Terrace Gravels.

Table A13.2.70 Landscape assessment summary for LCT C: Farmed River Terrace Gravels, LCA C1: Belhus Farmed River Terrace Gravels (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT B: River Valley, LCA B1: Lower Mar Dyke River Valley (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.981 The Lower Mar Dyke River Valley LCA lies north of Grays/Chafford Hundred and south of South Oxendon. Key characteristics include:

- '*A defined but shallow valley landform, with a notable floodplain and valley sides that rise to around 15m AOD (steep in places), providing a break between adjacent urban areas.*
- *The Mar Dyke (meaning 'boundary ditch') meanders along the valley floor providing a connection between the inland fen and the Thames at Purfleet.*
- *The alluvial floodplain supports an ancient system of valley bottom pastures with the valley sides characterised by a mixture of pasture in 18th and 19th century enclosures and woodland – forming a relatively naturalistic landscape in the context of Thurrock.*
- *Much of the valley is designated as a Local Wildlife Site in recognition of its floodplain grazing marsh, lowland wet grassland and deciduous woodland, some of which is ancient (e.g. Hangman's Wood, Brickbarn Wood and Watt's Wood).*
- *Historic bridge crossing points including a stone bridge at Stifford that dates back to the medieval period (first built in1487).*
- *Mostly undeveloped, apart from a small hamlet at Stifford Bridge, a pumping station which was built in 1926-27 to extract water from a borehole in the chalk, and some more modern additions such as a caravan site.*
- *Typical historic building materials are red brick, white plaster, thatch and weather boarding.*
- *Major infrastructure crosses the valley - including a railway (on the Stifford Viaduct, a Victorian railway viaduct with14 arches opened 1892), the M25 and A13.*
- *The wooded valley sides provide a sense of enclosure and seclusion from the adjacent built-up areas, but traffic noise and lighting on the crossings disrupt the sense of rural tranquillity.*
- *The pastoral riverside meadows, historic bridge crossing points and wooded slopes contribute to attractive views that can be experienced from vantage points on the valley sides and from elevated bridges over the valley.*
- *The valley tops have prominent, typically wooded, skylines although these are intruded upon by tall structures (such as chimneys and pylons) in adjacent areas.*
- *Stifford Pumping Station provides a local landmark at Davy down - Davy Down is a riverside urban park which provides opportunities for open air recreational and enjoyment of the valley landscape*.' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.982 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a low susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the shallow

sided valley topography, balanced against the woodland cover, skyline views of chimneys and pylons in adjacent landscapes, and proximity to urban areas.

13.3.983 The majority of the LCA is designated as a Local Wildlife Site and there are pockets of ancient woodland in the centre and west. Major infrastructure including the railway and M25 cross the valley. There is a network of PRoW and Davy Down is an urban riverside park. There is some sense of enclosure and seclusion, but proximity to urban areas of transport infrastructure reduces tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is considered low-medium.

13.3.984 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **low**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.985 The LCA is over 2 km west of the Order Limits, and construction activity is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the low-lying nature of the LCA and intervening layers of development and vegetation.

13.3.986 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.987 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates that there is no theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line within the Study Area.

13.3.988 The Project would be more than 2 km from the LCA and is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the low-lying nature of the LCA and intervening layers of development and vegetation.

13.3.989 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.990 No additional landscape mitigation or enhancement is proposed within the LCA, and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.991 3Table A13.2.71 Landscape assessment summary for LCT B: River Valley, LCA B1: Lower Mar Dyke River Valley (sensitivity: low) summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT B: River Valley, LCA B1: Lower Mar Dyke River Valley.

3Table A13.2.71 Landscape assessment summary for LCT B: River Valley, LCA B1: Lower Mar Dyke River Valley (sensitivity: low)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

LCT I: Towns on Open Undulating Farmland, LCA I1: Chadwell St Mary (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.992 The Chadwell St Mary LCA encompasses the town of Chadwell St Mary to the east of Grays and north of Tilbury. Key characteristics include:

- '*A compact settlement sitting on a low ridge, with a noticeable scarp slope defining the southern edge of the town.*
- *Built form is characterised by 20th century residential development as a result of considerable post-war expansion, but the historic core at the crossroads and the Church of St Mary provides a strong focus, the character of which is enhanced by historic buildings of red brick and thatched roofs.*
- *The settlement has a semi-rural setting formed by undulating farmland at the settlement edges and areas of green space within the town interspersed with the built development.*
- *Open spaces form a notable green wedge, stretching into the centre of the settlement from the west.*
- *The Grade I listed Church of St Mary forms an important landmark feature at the crossroads in the historic core of Chadwell St Mary.*
- *Panoramic and long distance views of the neighbouring marshes, docks and Thames estuary to the south from the south of the area, as a result of its elevated landform relative to the surrounding landscape.*' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.993 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the scarp slope on the southern edge, limited woodland cover, long views south with strong intervisibility with the neighbouring marshes and Thames estuary balanced against the urban character, presence of contemporary structures including views to existing electricity infrastructure.

13.3.994 Ecological importance is limited due to the urban nature of the LCA. The historic core of the town is around the Grade I listed Church of St Mary. Open spaces form a green wedge and provide access into the town. There are long views south across

the marshes and Thames, but proximity to major transport infrastructure reduces tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is considered low-medium.

13.3.995 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.996 The LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity, and would be perceptible to the north and east of the LCA. Beyond 1 km of the Order Limits the concentration of settlement and urban infrastructure would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA. The construction activity would be associated with the diversion of the existing YYJ and ZB overhead lines to accommodate the Project.

13.3.997 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, concentrated in the north-east and east of the LCA, within 1 km of the Order Limits. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.998 The magnitude of the landscape change would be low within 1 km of the Order Limits and barely perceptible beyond that distance.

13.3.999 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)** within 1 km of the Order Limits, reducing to **negligible and not significant** beyond 1 km.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.1000 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the fringes of the settlement and areas of open space within the settlement.

13.3.1001 The LCA would be indirectly affected by the Project. The Project would be introduced into the neighbouring landscape which is currently strongly influenced by other man-made features including existing transmission and distribution infrastructure. The views towards the existing YYJ and ZB pylon routes would remain largely the same as the Project would modify existing pylons. There may be glimpsed views towards Tilbury North (Warley side) and Tilbury North (Tilbury side) CSE compounds, although these would be filtered by existing vegetation.

13.3.1002 The Project would result in a barely perceptible change experienced across a small geographical extent. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.1003 The magnitude of effect would be barely perceptible across the LCA. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **negligible and not significant**.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.1004 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. At year 15 the proposed planting within the Environmental Area around Tilbury North (Warley side) and Tilbury North (Tilbury side) CSE compounds would be semi-mature, helping to integrate the compound within the surrounding landscape. The planting would be localised and there would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1

of operation (barely perceptible across the LCA). The effect on the LCA would remain **negligible and not significant**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.1005 Table A13.2.72 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT I: Towns on Open Undulating Farmland, LCA I1: Chadwell St Mary.

Table A13.2.72 Landscape assessment summary for LCT I: Towns on Open Undulating Farmland, LCA I1: Chadwell St Mary (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Low	Low	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor-moderate and not significant (adverse)	Minor-moderate and not significant (adverse), reducing to negligible and not significant beyond 1 km	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant

LCT I: Towns on Open Undulating Farmland, LCA I2: Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.1006 The Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham LCA encompasses the settlements of Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham. Key characteristics include:

- '*Gently undulating landform underlain by sands, silts and clays and rising to just over 30m AOD in Corringham.*
- *Notable valley to the west of Stanford le Hope containing the course of Mucking creek and an alluvial floodplain with deciduous woodland, swamp and wet woodland – particularly at Grove house Wood and Marsh Local Nature Reserve.*
- *Historic core of Stanford-le-Hope (which dates back to Saxon times) is located close to Mucking creek, discernible in the form of the historic church, triangular green and the 'Inn on the Green' – the church tower provides a local landmark and focal point for the settlement (which is also a keynode).*
- *Stanford-le-Hope includes some remnants of Victorian streets around the historic core comprising a mixture of smaller terraced houses and larger villa-style houses in red brick often with bay windows, tile detailing, and brickwork patterns.*

- *The remainder of the area, and particularly in Corringham, is largely inter-war and post-war residential development comprising rectilinear streets, crescents and cul-de-sacs of post-war semi-detached and detached houses.*
- *Materials tend to be pre-fabricated and mass-produced and streets have limited street trees and on-street parking.*
- *The residential areas are punctuated by areas of green open amenity spaces, schools and recreation grounds.*
- *Corringham town centre, located on the ridge top, is a 1960's area incorporating retail, a leisure centre, some residential development in three storey blocks with extensive views to the north.*
- *Corringham incorporates some occasional historic elements such as listed Halls which would have once sat in rural settings and have been subsumed within the urban fabric (e.g. Hassenbrook Hall).*
- *The clock tower on Hassenbrook Academy forms a local landmark.*
- *The ridge top position allows some long distance views, for example northwards to the Langdon Hills from central Corringham (particularly when descending northwards), and from the southern edges of both settlements over the Thames Estuary (from Billett Lane on the south edge of Stanford-le-Hope and from the A1014 from the south edge of Corringham).*' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.1007 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the urban land uses within the LCA and enclosure provided by vegetation along the A1013 and the Tilbury-Stanford-le-Hope railway line, balanced against the elevated location and partially open views from the urban edges.

13.3.1008 Ecological importance is limited due to the urban nature of the LCA, although there are two Local Wildlife Sites and one Local Nature Reserve. There are a few listed buildings including the Grade I listed Church of St Mary of Antioch. There are limited PRoW, and the road and rail network acts as a barrier to accessing the adjacent marshes to the south and east and Langdon Hills to the north. There are long views north to the Langdon Hills and south across the marshes and Thames, but proximity to major transport infrastructure reduces tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is considered low-medium.

13.3.1009 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.1010 The LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity. Construction of the overhead line and associated work would be perceptible on the south-west of the LCA, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, the concentration of settlement and urban infrastructure would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA.

13.3.1011 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, concentrated in the south-west of the LCA, within 0.5 km

of the Order Limits. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.1012 The magnitude of the landscape change would be low within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, and barely perceptible across the rest of the LCA.

13.3.1013 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits and **negligible and not significant** beyond this distance.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.1014 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the fringes of Stanford-le-Hope including parts of the A13, A1013 and A1014. There is reduced theoretical visibility from within the settlement.

13.3.1015 The LCA would be indirectly affected by the Project which is currently influenced by urban development and road infrastructure, including the A13. There are existing views out of the LCA to existing electricity infrastructure.

13.3.1016 The Project would result in a barely perceptible change experienced across a small geographical extent. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.1017 The magnitude of effect would be barely perceptible across the LCA. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **negligible and not significant**.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.1018 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (barely perceptible across the LCA). The effect on the LCA would remain **negligible and not significant** across the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.1019 Table A13.2.73 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT I: Towns on Open Undulating Farmland, LCA I2: Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham.

Table A13.2.73 Landscape assessment summary for LCT I: Towns on Open Undulating Farmland, LCA I2: Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant

LCT E Settled Chalk Ridge, LCA E2: Grays, Chafford Hundred and South Stifford (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.1020 The Grays, Chafford Hundred and South Stifford LCA encompasses the towns north of the River Thames. Key characteristics include:

- '*A low chalk ridge on chalk geology which has been the basis of extensive chalk quarrying since the 18th century, altering its natural topography and creating deep pits in the landform -Hangman's Wood contains particularly old (medieval) chalk mines (The Deneholes Scheduled Ancient Monument).*
- *The north-east part of the area is overlain by hill gravels which mask the chalk and the areas adjacent to the Thames are overlain by River terrace deposits (also gravels) and alluvium beside the Thames.*
- *Chalk cliffs are typical where extraction has taken place - Lion Pit reveals the sequence of Pleistocene Thames deposits overlying Chalk, representing the northern edge of the river's floodplain at the time of deposition (a geological SSSI).*
- *A large urban conurbation of predominantly residential development (developed from smaller individual villages which have expanded and merged over time), with a number of schools, a hospital and recreation grounds interspersed.*
- *South Grays is a mixed age area including Victorian buildings and post-1980s high rise blocks which form landmarks.*
- *Housing predominantly dates from the post-war period on the outskirts of Grays and includes the distinctive State Cinema (1938) and Mecca Bingo Hall (a former cinema, constructed in 1939-40).*
- *Large areas of post war and 20th century housing, including large residential estates in restored quarries at Chafford Hundred.*
- *Large scale road and rail corridors, and areas of industrial development create significant barriers to pedestrian movement within the area, particularly including access to the waterfront.*
- *Notable areas of deciduous woodland, particularly around the chalk quarries and at Hangman's Wood (a SSSI and Ancient Woodland).*
- *Restored quarry sites provide valuable natural character and recreational amenity, with footpaths and information for visitors. Grays Chalk Pit supports rare calcareous flora and invertebrate fauna and is designated a SSSI for these rare assemblages.*
- *The River Thames to the south provides a valuable setting and sense of place – the location of Grays on the river enables panoramic views along and across the*

River Thames. There are also some framed views from the town toward the river, for example along High Street.' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.1021 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a low susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the large-scale landscape, urban land uses within the LCA and large infrastructure, balanced against the views to the Thames to the south.

13.3.1022 Ecological importance is found in former chalk quarries and ancient woodland at Hangman's Wood, with a number of designated SSSIs and Local Wildlife Sites. There are a handful of listed buildings within Grays and Chafford Hundred and a scheduled monument in Hangman's Wood. Former chalk pits form open spaces within the LCA and are recreationally important. There are views south to the River Thames, which forms a sense of place. Proximity to major transport infrastructure and industrial development reduces tranquillity. Overall, landscape value is considered low-medium.

13.3.1023 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **low**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.1024 The LCA would be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible from the east of the LCA up to 0.5 km of the Order Limits. Beyond this distance, the concentration of settlement and urban infrastructure would reduce intervisibility with the wider LCA. The construction activity would relate to the modification of the existing ZB and YYJ overhead lines.

13.3.1025 The construction activity would result in a small scale of change experienced across a small geographical extent, concentrated in the north-east of the LCA, within 0.5 km of the Order Limits. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible.

13.3.1026 The magnitude of the landscape change would be low within 0.5 km of the Order Limits and barely perceptible beyond that distance.

13.3.1027 Taking account of the low sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **minor and not significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits and **negligible and not significant** beyond that distance.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.1028 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line from the northern and eastern fringes of Grays.

13.3.1029 The LCA would be indirectly affected by the Project which is currently influenced by urban development and road infrastructure, including the A13 and A1089. There are existing views out of the LCA to existing electricity infrastructure. Modifications to the existing ZB and YYJ overhead alignments would result in a barely perceptible change experienced across a small geographical extent in the east of the LCA. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.1030 The magnitude of effect would be barely perceptible across the LCA. Taking account of the low sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **negligible and not significant** across the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.1031 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (barely perceptible across the LCA). The effect on the LCA would remain **negligible and not significant** across the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.1032 Table A13.2.74 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT E Settled Chalk Ridge, LCA E2: Grays, Chafford Hundred and South Stifford.

Table A13.2.74 Landscape assessment summary for LCT E Settled Chalk Ridge, LCA E2: Grays, Chafford Hundred and South Stifford (sensitivity: low)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	Low	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible	Barely perceptible
	Significance	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant	Negligible and not significant

LCT H: Open Undulating Farmland, LCA H1: East & West Tilbury Open Undulating Farmland (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.1033 The East & West Tilbury Open Undulating Farmland is located between the settlements of Grays and Stanford-le-Hope / Corringham, but excludes the settlement of Chadwell St Mary. Key characteristics include:

- '*Undulating landform, characterised by an underlying geology of sands, silts and clays, dropping in elevation to the south and east, and with a noticeable 'scarp' slope to the south.*
- *The scarp supports defensive military sites e.g. the gun batteries at Bowater's Farm and East Tilbury Village.*
- *Panoramic views from high points, across the neighbouring marshes and the Thames estuary as a result of the relatively elevated landform.*

- *Productive agricultural land (arable and pasture) with occasional small copses (hawthorn, elm, field maple and ash) as a result of the generally well drained, coarse and loamy soils over gravel.*
- *Mineral extraction sites (active and restored) are noticeable features of the landscape, as a result of surface geological deposits of river terrace sands and gravels (related to the River Thames).*
- *Semi-rural and open character, as a result of regular- large sized agricultural fields bounded by gappy hedgerows and relatively few trees (much lost post 1950, including due to Dutch Elm disease). The landscape provides a rural setting to Chadwell St Mary and Stanford-le-Hope as well as a rural backdrop to the adjacent marshes.*
- *Remnants of a historic settlement pattern of villages linked by a network of minor roads and lanes lined by hedgerows.*
- *Small tributary streams flow south and east to the marshes, forming minor valleys.*
- *Remnant Thames Terrace grasslands (semi-natural or unimproved grassland sites, now a scarce habitat but would formerly have spread along the ridge of sand and gravel from Grays eastwards through Chadwell St Mary and then upwards towards the Langdon Hills).*
- *Built form typically includes a mixture of pre-17th century timber framed buildings and later buildings in brick (red, yellow stock or grey gault) with lime washed render or weather boarded cladding.*
- *The 1930s BATA factory (designed by the Czech architects, Vladimir Karfik and Frantizek Gahura) and the adjoining distinctive 'garden village' at East Tilbury provide a distinctive feature of the area.*
- *Occasional areas of historic field patterns, common land, historic lanes and tracks (e.g. Hornsby Lane between Orsett Heath and Orsett) and medieval earthworks, provide time depth to the landscape.*
- *Noticeable urban influences such as pylons, gravel extraction operations, industrial development and modern residential development (in this and adjacent character areas).'* (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.1034 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the undulating large-scale landform, active mineral extraction sites, large scale fields, irregular field size, and presence of existing man-made influence including overhead lines and industrial developments, balanced by the occasional panoramic views from high points, areas of historic field patterns and earthworks, and open character.

13.3.1035 There are conservation areas at West Tilbury and East Tilbury. There is a relatively strong PRoW network, which radiates from Chadwell St Mary, and a number of Local Wildlife Sites in the centre of the LCA near Southfields. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.1036 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.1037 The LCA would be directly affected by construction activity of overhead lines and the new Tilbury North Substation, as well as re-routing and undergrounding of existing YYJ and ZB overhead lines to accommodate the Project. The central broad, rounded ridge (Buckingham Hill) in the north-east and centre of the LCA would be affected by the construction of the overhead line between TB255 and the new Tilbury North Substation. There would also be effects across the fields to the north and east of Chadwell St Mary, between YYJ115 north-east of Little Thurrock, and YYJ130 at the southern edge of the LCA near West Tilbury.

13.3.1038 Direct effects arising from the construction works would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness. There would be construction activity and equipment associated with the underground cables, Tilbury North (Warley side) and Tilbury North (Tilbury side) CSE compound and above ground link boxes for a short section of the ZB overhead line, including the digging of trenches and temporary spoil piles. During construction the existing overhead line YYJ would be temporarily diverted on an alternative centreline to the west, between YYJ122T and YYJ128TB. Construction activity would span the A13 near Southfields, and land near Collingwood Farm at TB261 would also be affected by the removal and undergrounding of existing 132 kV overhead lines to accommodate the Project. Construction activity would span the A1089 and A1013 at Orsett Heath. Between YYJ116 and YYJ129, and ZB9 and ZB22, pylons would need to be restrung. Tilbury North (Warley side) and Tilbury North (Tilbury side) CSE compounds would be constructed east of High House Lane at ZB16RC and ZB15RB, and at ZB13RB and ZB13RC. A large soil bund would be constructed to the south of Orsett Golf Club.

13.3.1039 There would be disturbance to arable fields, sections of the St Clere's golf course east of Buckingham Hill Road, and affected trees along the eastern edges of the Orsett golf course and east of Buckingham Hill Road as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Additional disturbance would occur in areas of the Buckingham Hill, Linford Pit and Mucking Heath Complex, Blackshots Nature Area, Southfields Local Wildlife Sites, and loss of small areas of scrub and rough grassland. There would also be some loss of vegetation along Holford Road, a Protected Lane, which would affect the sense of enclosure and tranquillity. This landscape is characterised by its urban fringe character and mixed land use, including light settlement, industrial mineral extraction, existing overhead lines and pylons, and the local road network. Views are extensive towards the south from the central ridge.

13.3.1040 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits (encompassing the majority of the LCA), where not screened by intervening vegetation or settlement. Beyond this distance, intervening shelterbelts, woodland, and gently falling topography to the south-east and north-west, would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA.

13.3.1041 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a large geographical extent, across most of the LCA (which lies almost entirely within 1.5 km of the Order Limits). Construction activity would affect the '*semi-rural and open character*' as a result of interrupting the pattern of '*regular-large sized agricultural fields*'. The large extent of the construction activity would also affect the

'rural setting to Chadwell St Mary and Stanford-le-Hope' and '*rural backdrop to the adjacent marshes*'. The characteristic and panoramic views from the high points in the LCA would also be affected, although views south towards the Thames would generally not be affected, being directed away from the construction works. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of the landscape change would be high within 1.5 km of the Order Limits.

13.3.1042 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the Order Limits.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.1043 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, particularly along the A13 and Buckingham Hill Road. There is reduced theoretical visibility in the south of the LCA including from Chadwell St Mary and East Tilbury.

13.3.1044 The LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB254 east of Southfields, and TB264 north-west of Linford, along a section of the broad central ridge. It would also be directly affected by the Project through the introduction of the new Tilbury North Substation into the centre of the LCA, and introduction of new overhead lines between the new Tilbury North Substation and YYJ121 in the west, and YYJ126R in the south. The introduction of an overhead line would not affect the underlying scale of the LCA but may affect the visually prominent ridge at Buckingham Hill in views from the south, as well as panoramic views from the higher points in the LCA, which are identified as key characteristics. Some woodland would be removed to accommodate the Project. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated. Part of an existing 132 kV overhead line (ZB) south of the new Tilbury North Substation would be undergrounded to accommodate the new YYJ connection to the proposed substation. This would include the introduction of Tilbury North (Warley side) and Tilbury North (Tilbury side) CSE compounds, east of High House Lane.

13.3.1045 The Project would be introduced into a landscape which is noted for its 'noticeable urban influences such as pylons, gravel extraction operations, industrial development and modern residential development' and would be seen in the context of multiple existing transmission lines. The Tilbury North Substation would be in close proximity to existing industrial workings north-west of Linford.

13.3.1046 The Project would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD / lateral and longitudinal substation/CSE compound LoD, and a medium scale of change within 1.5 km. The introduction of the Tilbury North Substation and overhead line, as well as Tilbury North (Warley side) and Tilbury North (Tilbury side) CSE compounds, would affect the '*panoramic views from high points*', although would generally not affect the views '*across the neighbouring marshes and the Thames estuary*' which are directed away from the Project. Seen in the context of existing infrastructure and set within the large scale field pattern and landform, the Project would not overwhelm the underlying landscape, but would be a noticeable new feature. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.1047 The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and medium within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and low elsewhere. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **major and**

significant (adverse) within 0.5 km, and **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.1048 Landscape mitigation and enhancement around Tilbury North Substation and Tilbury North (Warley side) and Tilbury North (Tilbury side) CSE compounds is shown in Appendix D of the Outline LEMP (document reference 7.4) (Revision D). At year 15 proposed planting would have matured, helping to integrate the Tilbury North Substation within the surrounding landscape. The planting would be localised, and there would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (high within 0.5 km, medium within 1.5 km, and low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 1.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** elsewhere in the LCA.

Assessment Summary

13.3.1049 Table A13.2.75 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT H: Open Undulating Farmland, LCA H1: East & West Tilbury Open Undulating Farmland.

Table A13.2.75 Landscape assessment summary for LCT H: Open Undulating Farmland, LCA H1: East & West Tilbury Open Undulating Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	High	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Major and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT H: Open Undulating Farmland, LCA H2: Orsett & Horndon on the Hill Open Undulating Farmland (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.1050 The Orsett & Horndon on the Hill Open Undulating Farmland is located north of the A13 between the settlements of Grays and Stanford-le-Hope / Corringham and

includes the small settlements of Horndon on the Hill and Orsett. Key characteristics include:

- '*Low lying and gently undulating rural area of productive agricultural land with locally prominent hills at Horndon-on-the-Hill and Sticking Hill.*
- *Underlying sand and loamy soils give rise to good agricultural land with a network of mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees creating a relatively strong landscape structure, with fields of varying sizes but with a generally irregular pattern.*
- *Small, rectilinear blocks of deciduous woodland typically associated with coverts and historic orchards contribute important elements to an otherwise open farmed landscape and provide historic and biodiversity interest.*
- *Settlement pattern of scattered historic halls and farmsteads located along minor roads and historic rural villages of Orsett (a nucleated fen edge settlement) and Horndon-on-the-Hill (a compact hilltop settlement).*
- *A strong historic landscape pattern of ancient rectilinear fields with hedgerows, historic lanes and roads.*
- *A strong local built vernacular including medieval timber frame buildings and post medieval buildings rendered in plaster and lime wash, red brick and white and black weatherboarding.*
- *Expansive views from elevated areas, for example from Horndon-on-the-Hill in all directions and from the northern edges of Orsett over the adjacent Bulphan Fen.*
- *The skyline of Horndon-on-the-Hill is particularly prominent and distinctive, with an attractive wooded skyline and the church spire forming a focal point.*
- *A relatively high scenic quality as a result of the undulating topography, areas of woodland, historic farmsteads, halls and villages and backdrop provided by the Langdon Hills*.' (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.1051 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the undulating landform, blocks of woodland and mature hedgerows, irregular field size and presence of manmade influences including existing electricity infrastructure and the A13, balanced by the locally prominent hills, historic landscape and settlement patterns, distinctive skyline at Horndon on the Hill, expansive views from elevated areas and open character.

13.3.1052 There are several Local Wildlife Sites designated for their grassland habitats. Orsett and Horndon on the Hill have conservation areas and a number of listed buildings. There are a number of historic houses and halls. PRoW connect the settlements, although the A13 is a barrier to access to the south. Overall, landscape value is medium.

13.3.1053 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.1054 The LCA would be directly affected by construction activity associated with the proposed overhead line between TB246 and TB255 in the east of the LCA.

13.3.1055 Direct effects arising from the construction works would include the removal of some landscape features and the introduction of temporary construction compounds, temporary and permanent access tracks, works to third party infrastructure and lighting in the hours of darkness. Construction activity would span the A13 along the southern edge of the LCA.

13.3.1056 There would be disturbance to arable fields, hedgerows and hedgerow trees along Orsett Road as detailed in Appendix 13.6: Arboricultural Impact Assessment (document reference 6.13.A6) (Revision B). Construction works would also affect the local lane network, with access tracks constructed to the west of Black Bush Lane and Pump Street. Construction activity would be visible from the elevated Horndon on the Hill, and seen in views east and west towards the '*prominent and distinctive*' skyline of Horndon on the Hill.

13.3.1057 The LCA would also be indirectly affected by construction activity, which would be perceptible within 1.5 km of the Order Limits (encompassing the majority of the LCA), where not filtered or screened by intervening vegetation or settlement. Beyond this distance, intervening shelterbelts and woodland including along the A13 would reduce intervisibility within the wider LCA. The modifications of the existing YYJ and ZB overhead lines would be within 0.5 km of the LCA to the south. Views of construction activities would be filtered and screened by vegetation along the A13 and A1089.

13.3.1058 The construction activity would result in a large scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent within the centre and east of the LCA, with 1.5 km of the Order Limits. The change would be experienced between the A128 Brentwood Road and Horndon House. The duration would be short-term and the effect would be partially reversible. The magnitude of effect would be high within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, medium between 0.5 and 1.5 km and low beyond 1.5 km.

13.3.1059 Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate-major and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km of the Order Limits, reducing to **moderate and significant (adverse)** between 0.5 km and 1.5 km, and **minor and not significant (adverse)** beyond 1.5 km.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.1060 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility of the proposed overhead line across the LCA, particularly west of the proposed overhead line alignment. Theoretical visibility would be reduced within Orsett and Horndon on the Hill, and from North Stifford.

13.3.1061 The LCA would be directly affected by the Project between TB246 west of Black Bush Lane and TB255 where it would cross the A13. The Project would be introduced into a rural landscape which is noted for its '*strong historic landscape pattern*'. The introduction of an overhead line would not affect the underlying scale of the LCA and would be seen in context of existing overhead lines, although the Project would be larger in scale than the existing pylons. The Project would affect the panoramic views from the higher points in the LCA and views towards the Horndon on the Hill skyline, which are identified as key characteristics. Some hedgerows and trees along the A13 would be removed to accommodate the Project. Parts of the landscape that were affected during construction would be reinstated.

13.3.1062 The Project would result in a medium scale of change experienced across a medium geographical extent, within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, between the A128 and edge of Horndon on the Hill. Between 0.5 km and 1.5 km the scale of change would reduce to small. The duration would be long-term and the effect would be irreversible.

13.3.1063 The magnitude of effect would be medium within 0.5 km of the lateral overhead line LoD, reducing to low between 0.5 km and 1.5 km. Taking account of the medium sensitivity, the effect is judged to be **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km, reducing to **minor and not significant (adverse)** beyond this distance.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.1064 No additional landscape mitigation is proposed within the LCA. There would be no change to the magnitude of effect identified at year 1 of operation (medium within 0.5 km, low elsewhere). The effect on the LCA would remain **moderate and significant (adverse)** within 0.5 km and **minor and not significant (adverse)** beyond 0.5 km).

Assessment Summary

13.3.1065 Table A13.2.76 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT H: Open Undulating Farmland, LCA H2: Orsett & Horndon on the Hill Open Undulating Farmland.

Table A13.2.76 Landscape assessment summary for LCT H: Open Undulating Farmland, LCA H2: Orsett & Horndon on the Hill Open Undulating Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	High	Medium	Low
	Significance	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	Medium	Low	Low
	Significance	Moderate and significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)	Minor and not significant (adverse)

LCT H: Open Undulating Farmland, LCA H3: Fobbing Ridge Open Undulating Farmland (Section H)

Location and Key Characteristics

13.3.1066 The Fobbing Ridge Open Undulating Farmland LCA is a narrow area located to the east of Stanford-le-Hope. Key characteristics include:

- ‘*Gently undulating ‘ridge’ of clay, silt, sand and gravel giving rise to good agricultural soils that are actively farmed.*
- *In the southern and northern areas, large scale arable fields (due to post 1950 boundary loss) bounded by denuded hedgerows and drainage ditches create an open and exposed landscape, crossed by pylons, and with long views south-east across the marshes and Thames beyond.*
- *The small valley between Fobbing and Corringham contains smaller fields of pasture and thicker hedgerows, providing a scenic rural and green setting to the historic villages of Corringham and Fobbing.*
- *Fobbing occupies a high point and St Michael’s church is a landmark on the skyline; there are notable panoramic views across the Thames valley from Fobbing.*
- *Areas of woodland and trees provide shelter around farmsteads and villages; small areas of broadleaved deciduous woodland on the edge of Corringham are areas of local nature conservation significance.*
- *Low-lying fields support areas of lowland wet grassland (a priority habitat).*
- *Settlement pattern is typically scattered isolated historic halls, farmsteads and historic villages (Corringham and Fobbing).*
- *Fobbing is a key feature at the end of the ridge and with a past as a thriving port and historic association with the smuggling trade, as well as being one of the main villages involved with the Peasants' Revolt in the14th century.*
- *There is a strong local built vernacular, particularly associated with the historic halls and villages, including timber framed pre-17th century buildings, and later buildings in brick (red, yellow stock or grey gault) with lime washed render or weather boarded cladding.*
- *Historic barns are typically timber framed with thatched or tiled roofs and horizontal weatherboard walls, typically white or black.*
- *The modern settlement of Corringham, which is located mostly in the adjacent character area, has a suburbanising influence due to the style of houses and presence of leisure and recreational land uses on its edge.*
- *The area forms a distinct but low ridge and rural backdrop to the marshes whose skyline is punctuated by trees, farm buildings and pylons/ powerlines*.’ (LUC, 2018).

Sensitivity

13.3.1067 Within the Study Area, the characteristics of this landscape are judged to combine to result in a medium susceptibility to linear energy infrastructure. This is due to the gently undulating topography, scarp slope, extensive views to the south and east, limited woodland and landmark buildings balanced with the existing overhead electricity lines and proximity to Stanford-le-Hope.

13.3.1068 There is limited ecological value although two Local Wildlife Sites extend into the LCA in the north and south-east. Fobbing and Corringham Hall have conservation areas, and there are a number of listed buildings in the settlements and scattered farmsteads. PRoW provide links between the ridge and the Thames marshes to the east. Overall, landscape value is therefore medium.

13.3.1069 Considering the judgements of susceptibility and value, overall sensitivity is judged to be **medium**.

Assessment of Effects

Construction

13.3.1070 The LCA would be over 2 km to the east of the Order Limits, and construction activity is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the intervening settlement of Stanford-le-Hope, road infrastructure and layers of existing vegetation.

13.3.1071 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 1 (Without Mitigation)

13.3.1072 The ZTV shown on Figure 13.8: ZTV of Proposed 400 kV Overhead Line (Numbers of Pylons) (document reference 6.13.F8) indicates theoretical visibility across the LCA within the Study Area, particularly in the south.

13.3.1073 The Project would be more than 2 km from the majority of the LCA and is not likely to be perceptible. This is due to the intervening settlement of Stanford-le-Hope, road infrastructure and layers of existing vegetation.

13.3.1074 It is judged that there would be **no effect (not significant)** on the LCA.

Operation Year 15 (With Mitigation)

13.3.1075 No additional landscape mitigation or enhancement is proposed within the LCA, and therefore effects would remain as identified in year 1 of operation. There would be no magnitude of effect and therefore **no effect (not significant)**.

Assessment Summary

13.3.1076 Table A13.2.77 summarises the sensitivity, magnitude and assessment judgements for LCT H: Open Undulating Farmland, LCA H3: Fobbing Ridge Open Undulating Farmland.

Table A13.2.77 Landscape assessment summary for LCT H: Open Undulating Farmland, LCA H3: Fobbing Ridge Open Undulating Farmland (sensitivity: medium)

Phase	Effects	Within 0.5 km	Between 0.5-1.5 km	Beyond 1.5 km
Construction	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 1	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)
Operation Year 15	Magnitude	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude
	Significance	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5 km	N/A, as LCA is not within 0.5-1.5 km	No effect (not significant)

13.4 Summary of Effects

Construction

13.4.1 The construction phase of the Project is predicted to result in a range of effects on landscape receptors (LCAs and LCTs) within the Study Area, including significant and not significant effects. Direct effects would occur on LCAs and LCTs within the Order Limits, resulting from the temporary loss of landscape features and the introduction of construction activity and equipment. There would be some permanent loss of vegetation where trees could not be planted underneath the proposed overhead line or above the proposed underground cable route. Indirect effects are also anticipated for some LCAs and LCTs outside of the Order Limits, up to a distance of 1.5 km. These effects are related to the perception of construction activity and the effect this has on the identified key characteristics of the landscape. Effects during construction would be short-term, partially reversible and adverse. A summary of effects on district/county scale LCAs and LCTs during construction is provided in Table A13.2.78.

Operation (and maintenance)

13.4.2 A summary of effects on district/county scale LCAs and LCTs during operation (and maintenance) is provided below and in Table A13.2.78.

13.4.3 The narrative summary below is structured by LCTs identified within the East of England typology, which is a regional study covering the whole of the Study Area. Some of the East of England LCTs occur in multiple parts of the Study Area and have been split into sections (using the nearest settlement for reference) when summarising the assessment.

Valley Meadowlands LCT

Norwich to Forncett St Mary (Section A)

13.4.4 The East of England Valley Meadowlands LCT occurs within Norfolk where it follows the River Yare and its tributary at Lower East Carleton to the south of Norwich, and the River Tas and its tributaries between Norwich and Cargate Common. There are tributaries of the River Tas at Shotesham Common, Saxlingham Nethergate, Flordon Common, Hapton Comon and Tasburgh. There are numerous settlements alongside the LCT including Keswick, Stoke Holy Cross, Newton Flotman, Tasburgh, Flordon, Hapton, Forncett St Mary and Forncett St Peter. The Project would directly affect the Valley Meadowlands LCT between RG24 and RG25 west of Flordon Common and between RG48 and RG50 near Cargate Common.

13.4.5 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Tas Tributary Farmland LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Diss (Section A)

13.4.6 The East of England Valley Meadowlands LCT occurs on the border of Suffolk and Norfolk where it follows the River Waveney between Low Common and Stuston, encompassing Bressingham Fen and Roydon Fen to the south of Diss. The LCT also runs along a tributary of the River Waveney between Diss and Thrandeston. The

Project would directly affect the LCT between RG86 and RG89 as it crosses the River Waveney to the west of Roydon Fen.

13.4.7 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze LCT; Wooded Valley Meadowlands and Fens LCT and Waveney Rural River Valley LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Stowmarket (Section B)

13.4.8 The East of England Valley Meadowlands LCT occurs within mid Suffolk where it follows the River Gipping from Stowmarket to Needham Market and also runs south along a tributary of the River Gipping from Needham Market to Barking Tye. The Project would directly affect the LCT between RG163 and RG166 as it crosses the River Gipping to the north of Badley Hill, and between RG169 and RG171 as it crosses the tributary of the River Gipping south of Badley Hill.

13.4.9 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Valley Meadowlands LCT – significant effects within 0.5 km.

Ipswich (Section B)

13.4.10 The East of England Valley Meadowlands LCT occurs within south Suffolk where it follows the River Gipping to the west of Ipswich, passing to the east of Sproughton and Bramford. The Project would not directly affect this part of the LCT and would be located 1.5 km to the west at its closest point.

13.4.11 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the county scale Valley Meadowlands LCT in the unit to the west of Ipswich.

Dedham Vale National Landscape (Section C)

13.4.12 The East of England Valley Meadowlands LCT occurs within the Dedham Vale National Landscape where it follows the River Stour and its tributaries of the River Brett and River Box, between Higham and Stratford St Mary and re-entering the edge of the Study Area to the south of Nayland. The Project would directly affect part of this LCT by introducing a section of underground cable to the west of Stratford St Mary.

13.4.13 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the county scale Valley Meadowlands LCT, Stour River Valley Floor LCA or the Wooded Valley Meadowlands LCT to the east of Stratford St Mary.

Colchester (Section D)

13.4.14 The East of England Valley Meadowlands LCT occurs in mid Essex, where it forms a narrow linear corridor following the Colne Valley from Fordstreet to Colchester. Although no pylons would be located within this section of the LCT, the Project would cross directly overhead between TB049 and TB050, east of Fordstreet.

13.4.15 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Colne River Valley Floor LCA; Colne River Valley Slopes LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Bulphan (Section G)

13.4.16 The East of England Valley Meadowlands LCT occurs within the south of Essex and is a linear LCT which covers Bulphan Fen and Orsett Fen to the west of Orsett, Bulphan and West Horndon. The Project would not directly affect this part of the LCT and would be located over 1.5 km to the east.

13.4.17 Although the following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance), these effects would not extend to the East of England Valley Meadowlands LCT:

- Bulphan Fenland LCA – significant effects within 0.5 km, and Brentwood Hills LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Valley Settled Farmland LCT

Norwich to Aslacton (Section A)

13.4.18 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT occurs over a large part of the Study Area within Norfolk where it follows the valley sides of the River Yare and the River Tas and their tributaries, between Norwich and Aslacton. It follows a tributary of the River Yare at Lower East Carleton and tributaries of the River Tas at Shotesham Common, Saxlingham Nethergate, Wreningham, Hapton Common and Tasburgh. This part of the LCT encompasses settlements including Swardeston, Keswick, Stoke Holy Cross, Swainsthorpe, Newton Flotman, Saxlingham Thorpe, Tasburgh, Flordon, Hapton, Tacolneston, Forncett St Mary, Forncett St Peter, Aslacton and Wacton. The Project would directly affect the Valley Settled Farmland LCT between RG7 and RG8 near Swainsthorpe, RG19 and RG26 to the west of Flordon, RG28 and RG34 to the south-west of Hapton and between RG37 and RG39 to the east of Forncett.

13.4.19 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Tas Tributary LCA; Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland LCA; and Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.20 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Tas Rural River Valley LCA, Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCA, Yare Valley Urban Fringe LCA or Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland LCA.

Diss (Section A)

13.4.21 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT occurs on the border of Norfolk and Suffolk where it follows the sides of the Waveney Valley from Fen Street to Diss and Palgrave, encompassing Wortham Ling. It also follows the sides of a tributary valley between Palgrave and Mellis, encompassing Thrandeston. This LCT also occurs to the west of Great Green on the edge of the Study Area. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between RG82 and RG87 to the west of Roydon and RG90 to RG92 west of Palgrave. The Project would re-enter the LCT between RG95 and RG103 to the west of Thrandeston. Part of an existing overhead line would be undergrounded to accommodate the Project, to the north-west of Mellis.

13.4.22 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Waveney Rural River Valley LCA; Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze LCT; Ancient Plateau Claylands LCT; and Rolling Valley Claylands LCT – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Thorndon (Section B)

13.4.23 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT occurs in north Suffolk where it follows the River Dove and its tributaries between Wickham Street and Brockford Street, via Thornham Magna and Thwaite. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between RG123 and RG126 to the west of Wickham Skeith.

13.4.24 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Rolling Valley Claylands LCT; and Plateau Claylands LCT – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Old Newton to Barking (Section B)

13.4.25 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs in north Suffolk where it follows the valley sides of the River Gipping between Stowmarket and Needham Market, and valley sides of its tributaries including the Wattisham Watercourse between the River Gipping and Barking Tye. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between RG160 and RG179 between Creeting Hall and Barking as it crosses the Gipping Valley.

13.4.26 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Rolling Valley Claylands LCT; Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze LCT; and Rolling Valley Farmland LCT – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Ringshall Stocks to Washbrook (Section C)

13.4.27 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs in mid Suffolk where it covers the valley slopes of small streams from Great Bricett and Ringshall Stocks to Washbrook, encompassing Offton, Somersham, Little Blakenham, Bramford, Sproughton, Burstall and Washbrook Street on the western edge of Ipswich. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between RG185 and RG191. An existing overhead line to the west of Offton would be undergrounded within this LCT to accommodate the Project. The Project would also re-enter the LCT between JC12 and JC20 to the north of Brook Street and existing overhead lines to the south-west of Sproughton would be undergrounded to accommodate the Project.

13.4.28 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Rolling Valley Farmland LCT; and Plateau Farmlands LCT – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.29 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT and Rolling Estate Farmlands LCT.

Upper Layham (Section C)

13.4.30 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs in south Suffolk where it covers the valley slopes of the River Brett near to Upper Layham. The Project would not directly affect this part of the LCT, and the overhead line would be located approximately 1.5 km to the east at its closest point. The underground cable would be located directly adjacent to the LCT west of Holton St Mary.

13.4.31 There are predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Rolling Valley Farmland LCT – however these effects are associated with the Project where

it is located within the LCT further north and further south, and effects are unlikely to be significant in this part of the Valley Settled Farmland LCT.

Capel St Mary (Section C)

13.4.32 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs in south Suffolk where it follows the valley of a stream which runs through Little Wenham and to the west of Capel St Mary. The Project would not directly affect this part of the LCT, and the overhead line would be located approximately 1.3 km to the north at its closest point.

13.4.33 There are predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Rolling Valley Farmland LCT – however these effects are associated with the Project where it is located within the LCT to the north and further south, and effects are unlikely to be significant in this part of the Valley Settled Farmland LCT.

Stratford St Mary and Dedham (Section C)

13.4.34 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs on the border of Suffolk and Essex where it covers the valley slopes of the River Stour and the River Brett at Stratford St Mary and Black Brook to the north of Langham. The LCT encompasses Higham, Stratford St Mary and Dedham and extends to the west of Lawford. Much of this section of the LCT is located within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an underground cable between Bobbitts Hall and Plumb's Farm, west of Stratford St Mary. A section of underground cable would also cross through the LCT in the small valley of the Black Brook north and east of Langham.

13.4.35 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Rolling Valley Farmland LCT; Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau LCA; and Langham Farmland Plateau LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.36 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Plateau Farmlands LCT, Stour River Valley Floor LCA and Stour River Valley Slopes LCA, and there would be no effect on the Stour Valley System LCA.

Ardleigh (Section C)

13.4.37 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs within Essex where it covers the valley slopes of the Salary Brook and Ardleigh Reservoir between Ardleigh and Fox Street. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB15 and TB16 to the west of Ardleigh.

13.4.38 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Ardleigh Valley System LCA – significant effects within 0.5 km.

Boxted to Wormingford (Section D)

13.4.39 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs on the border of Suffolk and Essex where it follows the valley slopes of the River Stour. Partially within the Dedham Vale National Landscape, this part of the LCT encompasses the farmland to the north of Wormingford, Little Horkesley, Boxted and Workhouse Hill. The Project would directly affect a small part of this area by introducing a section of underground cable south of Little Horkesley near Knowles's Farm.

13.4.40 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Rochfords Farmland Plateau LCA; and Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.41 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Stour River Valley Floor LCA and Stour River Valley Slopes LCA.

Chappel to Eight Ash Green (Section D)

13.4.42 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs within Essex where it follows the valley of the River Colne, between Chappel and West Bergholt, to the west of Colchester, encompassing Fordstreet and Eight Ash Green. The LCT also follows the tributaries of the River Colne including to the north. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB35, where a CSE compound would also be located, and TB52 where the overhead line crosses the Colne Valley.

13.4.43 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Colne River Valley Slopes LCA; Colne River Valley Floor LCA; Rochfords Farmland Plateau LCA; and Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Coggeshall to Rivenhall (Section E)

13.4.44 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs within Essex where it follows the valley of the River Blackwater, between Coggeshall and Witham, encompassing Coggeshall Hamlet, Feering, Kelvedon, Rivenhall End and Rivenhall. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB76 and TB82, between Coggeshall Hamlet and Feering, between TB85 and TB87 to the north-west of Kelvedon and between TB91 and TB94 north of Rivenhall.

13.4.45 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Blackwater and Brain Valley LCA; Gosfield Wooded Farmland LCA; and Central Essex Farmlands LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.46 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Messing Wooded Farmland LCA.

Black Notley to Witham (Section E)

13.4.47 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs within Essex where it follows the valley of the River Brain, between Black Notley and Witham, encompassing White Notley and Faulkbourne. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB99 and TB104 between White Notley and Faulkbourne.

13.4.48 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Blackwater and Brain Valley LCA; and Central Essex Farmlands LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Kelvedon (Section E)

13.4.49 The East of England Valley Settled Farmlands LCT occurs in mid Essex, where it forms a narrow linear corridor, following the eastern fringe of the River Blackwater

between Kelvedon and Kelvedon Hall Wood. The Project would not directly affect this part of the LCT and would be located approximately 1.5 km to the north-west at its closest point.

13.4.50 There are predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Blackwater and Brain Valley LCA – however these effects are associated with the Project where it is located within the LCT to the north-west and effects are unlikely to be significant in this part of the Valley Settled Farmland LCT.

Little Leighs to Terling (Section E, F)

13.4.51 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs within Essex where it follows the valley of the River Ter between Great Leighs and Terling, encompassing Little Leighs and Fuller Street. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB121 and TB129 between Little Leighs and Fuller Street. Part of an existing overhead line would be undergrounded in this area to accommodate the Project.

13.4.52 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Central Essex Farmlands LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Great and Little Waltham (Section F)

13.4.53 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs within Essex where it follows the valley of the River Chelmer between Howe Street and Chelmsford, encompassing Great Waltham, Little Waltham and Blasford Hill. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB137 and TB144 between Great Waltham and Little Waltham.

13.4.54 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Central Essex Farmlands LCA; Chelmsford and Environs LCA; and Chelmer Valley LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Writtle (Section F)

13.4.55 The East of England Valley Settled Farmland LCT also occurs within Essex where it follows the valleys of the River Can, Sandy Brook and Roxwell Brook between Roxwell and Chelmsford, encompassing Roxwell and part of Writtle. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB157 and TB165 to the east of Roxwell and west of Writtle.

13.4.56 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Central Essex Farmlands LCA; Chelmsford and Environs LCA; and Brentwood Hills LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Wooded Plateau Claylands LCT

Swardeston to Bunwell Hill (Section A)

13.4.57 The East of England Wooded Plateau Claylands LCT occurs in Norfolk, between Keswick on the southern edge of Norwich and Bunwell Hill, and encompasses the settlements of Swardeston, Mulbarton, Bracon Ash, Wreningham, Fundenhall, Tacolneston, Forncett End, Bunwell and Little Green. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between Norwich Main Substation at RG1 and RG22 near Flordon Hall. The Project would then re-enter the LCT between RG26 and RG28 to

the east of Fundenhall and between RG34 north-west of Forncett St Mary and RG49 to the south-east of Bunwell Hill. The Wooded Plateau Claylands LCT also occurs on the western fringes of the Study Area in Norfolk, over 2 km from the Project, east of Stoke Holy Cross, south-west of Shotesham and north-east of Tasburgh.

13.4.58 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Tas Tributary Farmland LCA; Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland LCA; and Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.59 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCA and Tas Rural River Valley LCA.

Palgrave to Gislingham (Section A)

13.4.60 The East of England Wooded Plateau Claylands LCT occurs in north Suffolk, between Palgrave and Gislingham, encompassing Wortham, Mellis, Yaxley and Thornham Parva. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between RG90 and RG96 west of Palgrave. The Project would then re-enter the LCT between RG103 north-west of Mellis and RG118 north-east of Gislingham, where an existing overhead line would also be undergrounded to accommodate the Project.

13.4.61 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Ancient Plateau Claylands LCT and Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze LCT – significant effects within 1.5 km.

North Stowmarket (Section B)

13.4.62 The East of England Wooded Plateau Claylands LCT occurs in mid Suffolk, between Gipping and Creeting St Peter and encompassing Stowupland, Forward Green and the northern edge of Stowmarket. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between RG152 and RG161 as it runs to the east of Stowupland and Creeting St Peter.

13.4.63 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Ancient Plateau Claylands LCT – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Needham Market to Great Wenham (Section B)

13.4.64 The East of England Wooded Plateau Claylands LCT occurs in mid Suffolk, between Needham Market and Great Wenham. The LCT encompasses Battisford, Barking, Barking Tye, Willisham Tye, Ringshall Stocks, Elmsett, Flowton, Burstall, Hintlesham, Duke Street, Chattisham, Raydon and Capel St Mary. The LCT is partially within the Dedham Vale National Landscape to the west of Raydon. The Project would directly affect the LCT between RG171 and RG173 to the south-west of Needham Market and between RG179 and RG189 to the east of Ringshall Stocks. The LCT would also be directly affected over a long section of the Project between RG190 and JC13 which includes Bramford Substation and the undergrounding of existing overhead lines to accommodate the Project. The Project would then re-enter the LCT between JC20 to the east of Chattisham and JC34 east of Raydon Great Wood, where a CSE compound would be located. The Project would introduce an underground cable at this location, which would run south between Raydon and Great Wenham, up to the southern edge of the LCT north-east of Higham.

13.4.65 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Ancient Plateau Claylands LCT; and Ancient Estate Claylands LCT – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.66 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT.

Plateau Estate Farmland LCT

Holton St Mary (Section A)

13.4.67 The East of England Plateau Estate Farmland LCT occurs in in south Suffolk, between Great Wenham and Higham. This part of the LCT encompasses Holton St Mary and is partially within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. The Project would directly affect the LCT by introducing a section of underground cable from Bacon's Green to Higham Lodge, west of Holton St Mary.

13.4.68 There are predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Plateau Farmlands LCT – however these effects are associated with the Project where it is located within the LCT to the north and effects are unlikely to be significant in this part of the LCT to the west of Holton St Mary.

North Colchester (Section C, D)

13.4.69 The East of England Plateau Estate Farmland LCT also occurs within Essex, to the north of Colchester, extending from Great Bromley in the east to Great Horkesley in the west. The LCT encompasses Little Bromley, Bromley Cross, Burnt Heath, Ardleigh, Dedham Heath, Langham, Great Horkesley, Boxted Cross and Tye Green. The northern part of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT over a long section between the EACN Substation at TB1 and TB34 at the Great Horkesley (EACN side) CSE compound where it becomes an underground cable east of Great Horkesley. The Project would also directly affect the LCT between Langham and the EACN Substation where there would be a section of underground cable.

13.4.70 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Ardleigh Valley System LCA; and Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau LCA – significant effects within 0.5 km, and Langham Farmland Plateau LCA; and Bromley Heaths LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.71 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Stour River Valley Slopes LCA or Stour Valley System LCA.

West Colchester (Section D)

13.4.72 The East of England Plateau Estate Farmland LCT occurs within Essex, extending from the western edge of Colchester to Aldham and encompassing Copford and Eight Ash Green. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT over a short section between TB52 and TB54 to the north-east of Aldham.

13.4.73 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Great Tey Farmland Plateau LCA; Easthorpe Farmland Plateau LCA; and Colne River Valley Slopes LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.74 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Southern Colchester Farmland Plateau LCA and Wooded Roman River Valley LCA.

Settled Plateau Claylands LCT

Tibenham to Diss (Section A)

13.4.75 The East of England Settled Plateau Claylands LCT occurs in Norfolk between Tibenham and Diss, encompassing Tibenham, Winfarthing, Gissing, Shelfanger, Burston and Bressingham. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT over a long section between RG50 north-west of Tibenham and RG82 at Snow Street.

13.4.76 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland LCA; Tas Tributary Farmland LCA; Great Moulton Plateau Farmland LCA; Waveney Tributary Farmland LCA; and Waveney Rural River Valley LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Gislingham to Mendlesham Green (Section B)

13.4.77 The East of England Settled Plateau Claylands LCT also occurs in north Suffolk between Gislingham and Mendlesham Green, and encompasses Finningham, Westhorpe, Cotton and Mendlesham. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT over a long section between RG117 east of Gislingham and RG151 south of Saxham Street.

13.4.78 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Plateau Claylands LCT – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Wooded Plateau Farmlands LCT

West Bergholt (Section D)

13.4.79 The East of England Wooded Plateau Farmlands LCT occurs within north Essex between Great Horkesley in the north and West Bergholt and Fordham in the south. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between Great Horkesley and TB34, where there would be an underground cable. There would also be direct effects on the LCT between the Great Horkesley (Tilbury Side) CSE compound at TB35 and TB49 within the Colne Valley.

13.4.80 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau LCA – significant effects within 0.5 km; and Colne River Valley Slopes LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.81 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Stour River Valley Slopes LCA.

Marks Tey (Section D, E)

13.4.82 The East of England Wooded Plateau Farmlands LCT also occurs within mid Essex between Aldham and Coggleshall and encompasses Great Tey, Little Tey and Marks Tey. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between TB54 east of Aldham to TB76 south of Surrex.

13.4.83 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Great Tey Farmland Plateau LCA; Easthorpe Farmland Plateau LCA; Colne River Valley Slopes LCA; Blackwater and Brain Valley LCA; and Gosfield Wooded Farmland LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Silver End (Section E)

13.4.84 The East of England Wooded Plateau Farmlands LCT also occurs within mid Essex between Coggeshall Hamlet and Witham and encompasses Silver End. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between TB82 south of Coggeshall Hamlet and TB91, east of Silver End. The Project would re-enter the LCT between TB94 and TB99, south of Silver End.

13.4.85 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Central Essex Farmlands LCA; and Blackwater and Brain Valley LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Fairstead (Section E)

13.4.86 The East of England Wooded Plateau Farmlands LCT also occurs within mid Essex between White Notley and Fuller Street, encompassing Ranks Green and Great Leighs. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between TB103 and TB124 and would include a short section of underground cable and two CSE compounds, Fairstead (Tilbury Side) and Fairstead (EACN side) near to Westocks Farm, north of Fairstead.

13.4.87 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Central Essex Farmlands LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Chatham Green (Section F)

13.4.88 The East of England Wooded Plateau Farmlands LCT also occurs within mid Essex between Mabbs Farm near Littley Green in the north and Boreham Airfield in the south, encompassing Chatham Green. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between TB128 and TB138, north of Little Waltham.

13.4.89 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Central Essex Farmland LCA; and Chelmer Valley LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Chignall Smealy (Section F)

13.4.90 The East of England Wooded Plateau Farmlands LCT also occurs within mid Essex between Great Waltham in the north, Chelmsford in the east and Boyton Cross in the south, encompassing Chignall Smealy and Chignall St James. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between TB143 at Broad's Green and TB157 south of Chignall St James and again between TB159 and TB161 north-east of Blackwall Bridge.

13.4.91 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Central Essex Farmlands LCA; and Chelmer Valley LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Writtle (Section F)

13.4.92 The East of England Wooded Plateau Farmlands LCT also occurs within mid Essex between Writtle to the east, Roxwell in the north and Edney Common to the south, encompassing Cooksmill Green. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT between TB164 and TB174 to the west and south-west of Writtle.

13.4.93 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Chelmsford and Environs LCA – significant effects within 0.5 km; and Central Essex Farmlands LCA; Chelmer Valley LCA; and Brentwood Hills LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

Wooded Hills and Ridges LCT (Section F, G)

13.4.94 The East of England Wooded Hills and Ridges LCT occurs within the south of Essex between Chelmsford and Basildon and encompasses Edney Common, Margaretting, Ingatestone, Stock, Havering's Grove, Billericay, Little Burstead, Ingrave and Herongate. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB173, east of Edney Common, and TB231, near Dunton Hall west of Basildon.

13.4.95 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Chelmsford and Environs LCA – significant effects within 0.5 km; and Dunton Settled Claylands LCA; Burstead Sloping Farmland LCA; West Billericay Wooded Farmlands LCA; and Brentwood Hills LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.96 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Langdon Hills LCA; Upper Crouch Valley Farmlands LCA; and East Billericay Wooded Farmlands LCA.

Lowland Settled Claylands LCT (Section G, H)

13.4.97 The East of England Lowland Settled Claylands LCT occurs within the south of Essex between Basildon in the north, Stanford-le-Hope in the south and Bulphan Fen in the west, encompassing West Horndon, Bulphan and Horndon on the Hill. The Project would directly affect this part of the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB231 and TB253, west of Horndon on the Hill and Dunton Plotlands and east of Bulphan.

13.4.98 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Bulphan Fenland LCA; Langdon Lower Slopes LCA; Orsett and Horndon on the Hill Open Undulating Farmland LCA – significant effects within 0.5 km; and East and West Tilbury Open Undulating Farmland LCA; and Brentwood Hills LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.99 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Langdon Higher Hills LCA; Belhus Farmed River Terrace Gravel LCA; and Langdon Hills LCA.

Lowland Settled Farmlands LCT (Section H)

13.4.100 The East of England Lowland Settled Farmlands LCT occurs along the southern coastal fringe of Essex between Stanford-le-Hope and Chadwell St Mary, and encompasses Orsett, Southfields, Linford and East Tilbury. The Project would directly affect the LCT by introducing an overhead line between TB251 and Tilbury North Substation.

13.4.101 The following landscape receptors are predicted to experience significant effects during operation (and maintenance):

- Orsett and Horndon on the Hill Open Undulating Farmland LCA – significant effects within 0.5 km; and East and West Tilbury Open Undulating Farmland LCA – significant effects within 1.5 km.

13.4.102 There are no predicted significant effects on landscape character within the Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham LCA, Chadwell St Mary LCA; Fobbing Ridge Open Undulating Farmland LCA; Tilbury Marshes LCA; Mucking Marshes LCA; or Grays, Chafford Hundred and South Stifford LCA.

Table A13.2.78 Summary of effects on LCAs and LCTs

Note: all effects set out in Table A13.2.78 are adverse.

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Section A - Breckland District Landscape Character Assessment (2007)						
LCA E2: Snetterton Heath LCA			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible	Barely perceptible	Negligible	Barely perceptible	Negligible
Section A - South Norfolk Landscape Character Assessment (2001)						
Norwich Urban Area			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
LCA D1: Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (Settled Plateau Farmland LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA D2: Poringland Settled Plateau Farmland (Settled Plateau Farmland LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
LCA F1: Yare Valley Urban Fringe (Valley Urban Fringe LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
LCA C1: Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA E1: Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland (Plateau Farmland LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA E2: Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (Plateau Farmland LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	High	Moderate and significant (adverse)	High	Moderate and significant (adverse)
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA B1: Tas Tributary Farmland (Tributary Farmland LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA B4: Waveney Tributary Farmland (Tributary Farmland LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA A1: Tas Rural River Valley (Rural River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA A5: Waveney Rural River Valley (Rural River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: High (Medium value, High susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Sections B and C - Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (2010)						
	Ipswich and Capel St Mary (LCT: Urban)			Sensitivity: Low (Low-medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
	Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze LCT			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	High	Moderate-major and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium (within 1 km)	Moderate and significant	Medium (within 1 km)	Moderate and significant	Medium (within 1 km)	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
	Wooded Valley Meadowlands Fens LCT			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
	Rolling Valley Claylands LCT			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
	Ancient Plateau Claylands LCT			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
	Plateau Claylands LCT			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
	Ancient Estate Claylands LCT		Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
	Rolling Estate Farmlands LCT		Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
	Valley Meadowlands LCT		Sensitivity: High (Medium-high value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
	Rolling Valley Farmlands LCT			Sensitivity: High (High value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)	High	Moderate-major and significant (adverse)
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
	Ancient Rolling Farmlands LCT			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium-high value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
	Plateau Farmlands LCT			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
	Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, High susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
	Wooded Valley Meadowlands LCT			Sensitivity: High (High value, High susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Barely perceptible	No effect (not significant)	Barely perceptible	No effect (not significant)
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	No effect (not significant)	Barely perceptible	No effect (not significant)
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	No effect (not significant)	Barely perceptible	No effect (not significant)
Section C – Tendring District Landscape Character Assessment (2001)						
	LCA 6A: Stour Valley System (Clay Valleys LCT)			Sensitivity: High (Medium value, High susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
LCA 7A: Bromley Heaths (Heathland Plateaux LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA 6B: Ardleigh Valley System (Clay Valleys LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA 6C: Arlesford Valley System (Clay Valleys LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Low-Medium value, High susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
LCA 6D: Holland Valley System (Clay Valleys LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Low value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
Sections C and D – Colchester Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2005)						
LCA B7: Langham Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA A8: Stour River Valley Floor (River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: High (High value, High susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
LCA A7: Stour River Valley Slopes (River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: High (High value, High susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA A7a: Sub-area A7a Stour River Valley Slopes (River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: High (Medium-High value, High susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA A7b: Sub-area A7b Stour River Valley Slopes (River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: High (Medium-High value, High susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
LCA A7c: Sub-area A7c Stour River Valley Slopes (River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: High (Medium-High value, High susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
LCA B5: Rochfords Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA B6: Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Moderate-major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
LCA A5: Colne River Valley Slopes (River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: High (Medium-High value, High susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA A5: Colne River Valley Floors (River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: High (Medium-High value, High susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA B4: Great Tey Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Moderate-major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
LCA B2: Easthorpe Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Moderate-major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant	High	Moderate-major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Sections D, E, F and G – Essex Landscape Character Assessment (2003)						
LCA B4: Gosfield Wooded Farmlands (Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor-moderate and not significant	Low	Minor-moderate and not significant	Low	Minor-moderate and not significant
LCA B1: Central Essex Farmlands (Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	High	Moderate and significant (adverse)	High	Major and significant (adverse)

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor-moderate and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA C6: Blackwater and Brain Valley (River Valley Landscapes LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA C5: Chelmer Valley (River Valley Landscapes LCT)				Sensitivity: High (Medium-High value, High susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	High	Moderate-major and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor-moderate and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA G2: Chelmsford and Environs (Urban Landscapes LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Low-medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely Perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA D2: Brentwood Hills (Wooded Hills and Ridges Landscapes LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Section G – Basildon Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2014)						
LCA 10: East Billericay Wooded Hills and Ridges (Wooded Hills and Ridges Landscapes LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
Between 0.5-1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
LCA 14: Langdon Hills (Wooded Hills and Ridges Landscapes LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA 11: West Billericay Wooded Hills and Ridges (Wooded Hills and Ridges Landscapes LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA 12: Burstead Sloping Farmland (Sloping Farmland LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, High susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA 9: Upper Crouch Valley Farmlands (Lowland Farmland LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA: Billericay, Basildon (Urban LCT)				Sensitivity: Low (Low-medium value, Low susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA 13: Dunton Settled Claylands (Lowland Settled Claylands LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Low-medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	High	Moderate-major and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	High	Moderate-major and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Section H – Thurrock Landscape Character Assessment (2018)						
LCA J1: Langdon Lower Hill Slopes (Lower Hill Slopes LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA K1: Langdon Higher Hills (Higher Hills LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium-high value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA A1: Bulphan Fenland (Fenland LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA F2: Tilbury Marshes (Undeveloped Marsh LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Minor-moderate and significant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA F3: Mucking Marshes (Undeveloped Marsh LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium-high value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA G2: Tilbury Docks (Developed Marsh LCT)			Sensitivity: Low (Low-medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA G3: Tilbury (Developed Marsh LCT)			Sensitivity: Low (Low-medium value, Low susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
LCA L2: Gravesend Reach to Sea Reach (Local River Reaches LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium-high value, Low susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
LCA C1: Belhaus Farmed River Terrace Gravels (Farmed River Terrace Gravels LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Low susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect
LCA B1: Lower Mar Dyke River Valley (River Valley LCT)			Sensitivity: Low (Low-medium value, Low susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
LCA I1: Chadwell St Mary (Towns on Open Undulating Farmland LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Low-medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Low	Minor-moderate and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Low	Minor-moderate and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA I2: Standford-le-Hope and Corringham (Towns on Open Undulating Farmland LCT)				Sensitivity: Medium (Low-medium value, Medium susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
LCA E2: Grays, Chafford Hundred and South Stifford (Settled Chalk Ridge LCT)				Sensitivity: Low (Low-medium value, Low susceptibility)		
Within 0.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant	Barely perceptible	Negligible and not significant

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
LCA H1: East and West Tilbury Open Undulating Farmland (Open Undulating Farmland LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant	High	Major and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	High	Major and significant (adverse)	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA H2: Orsett and Horndon on the Hill Open Undulating Farmland (Open Undulating Farmland LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	High	Moderate-major and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant	Medium	Moderate and significant
Between 0.5-1.5 km	Medium	Moderate and significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
Beyond 1.5 km	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant	Low	Minor and not significant
LCA H3: Fobbing Ridge Open Undulating Farmland (Open Undulating Farmland LCT)			Sensitivity: Medium (Medium value, Medium susceptibility)			
Within 0.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Between 0.5-1.5 km	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Construction		Year 1 Operation		Year 15 Operation	
	Magnitude	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**	**Magnitude**	**Effect**
Beyond 1.5 km	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect	No magnitude	No effect

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Reference
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CBA	Chris Blanford Associates
CSE	Cable Sealing End
DCO	Development Consent Order
EACN	East Anglia Connection Node
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ES	Environment Statement
LCA	Landscape Character Areas
LCT	Landscape Character Types
LEMP	Landscape and Ecological Management Plan
LoD	Limits of Deviation
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
NCA	National Character Areas
NCN	National Cycle Network
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RAF	Royal Air Force
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
WWII	World War Two
ZTV	Zone of Theoretical Visibility

Glossary

Term	Definition
Backclothing	The creation of a visual background to an element by the landscape or landscape features.
GLVIA3	The Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment's Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, Published by Routledge
Landscape character	A distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse [taken from An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England 2014]
Landscape Character Areas	These are single unique areas which are the discrete geographical areas of a particular landscape type. Each has its own individual character and identity, even though it shares the same generic characteristics with other types [taken from An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England 2014].
Landscape Character Assessment	This is the process of identifying and describing variation in the character of the landscape. It seeks to identify and explain the unique combination of elements and features (characteristics) that make landscapes distinctive. This process results in the production of a Landscape Character Assessment [taken from An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England 2014].
Landscape Character Types	These are distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character. They are generic in nature in that they may occur in different areas in different parts of the country, but wherever they occur they share broadly similar combinations of geology, topography, drainage patterns, vegetation, historical land use, and settlement pattern [taken from An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England 2014].
Landscape effects	Effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right [GLVIA3].
Landscape value	The relative value or importance attached to different landscapes by society on account of their landscape qualities [taken from Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations, Landscape Institute, 2021].
Magnitude (of effect)	A term that combines judgements about the size and scale of the effect, the extent of the area over which it occurs, whether it is reversible or irreversible and whether it is short or long term in duration [taken from GLVIA3].

Term	Definition
Natural beauty	The term ‘natural beauty’ is enshrined in the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (it was also subsequently included in the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands Order (NI) 1985), the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, and the Planning etc. (Scotland) Act 2006). Natural beauty is not exhaustively defined in the legislation, but its meaning has been clarified and interpreted through a series of studies, guidance documents and public inquiries. [taken from Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations, Landscape Institute, 2021].
Order Limits	The maximum extent of land within which the authorised development may take place.
Overhead line	Conductor (wire) carrying electric current, strung from pylon to pylon.
Pylons	Structures that support the overhead line (conductors). There are two types of pylons; suspension (line), where the conductors are simply suspended from the tower and tension (angle).
Quiet Lane	Quiet Lanes are minor rural roads, typically C or unclassified routes, which have been designated by local highway authorities to pay special attention to the needs of walkers, cyclists, horse riders and other vulnerable road users, and to offer protection from speeding traffic. [taken from CPRE’s Guide to Quiet Lanes, 2003].
Residual effects	The consequence of an ‘impact’ of construction, operation and decommissioning of the Proposed Development after mitigation measures have been applied.
Scoping	Scoping is the process of determining the content and extent of matters that should be covered in the environmental impact assessment.
Sensitivity	A term applied to specific receptors, combining judgements of the susceptibility of the receptor to the specific type of change or development proposed and the value related to that receptor [taken from GLVIA3].
Significance (in EIA)	A measure of the importance or gravity of the environmental effect, defined by significance criteria specific to the environmental topic [taken from GLVIA3].
Special qualities	A statutory expression used in (amongst other places) sections 5 and 11A of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as amended) and section 87 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Paragraph 87 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires a conservation board to have regard to the purpose of increasing the understanding and enjoyment by the public of the special qualities of the area of outstanding natural beauty.

Term	Definition
Primary Access Routes	These are the roads on the local road network that would be used by construction vehicles between the strategic road network and the access points within the Order Limits.
Visual amenity	The overall pleasantness of the views people enjoy of their surroundings, which provides an attractive visual setting or backdrop for the enjoyment of activities of the people living, working, recreating, visiting or travelling through an area [taken from GLVIA3].
Visual effects	Effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people [taken from GLVIA3].
Effects	Individuals and/or defined groups of people who have the potential to be affected by a proposal [taken from GLVIA3].
Visualisation	A computer simulation, photomontage or other technique illustrating the predicted appearance of a development [taken from GLVIA3].
Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)	A map, usually digitally produced, showing areas of land within which a development is theoretically visible [taken from GLVIA3].

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Annex A. Landscape Value Assessment

Annex A
Landscape Value Assessment

A.1.1 An appraisal of landscape value was undertaken for all LCAs and LCTs considered in the assessment, in accordance with the methodology in Appendix 13.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology (document reference 6.13.A1) (Revision B). For LCAs and LCTs which were identified as experiencing no effect, no appraisal of value was undertaken.

Table A1 Wymondham Settled Plateau Farmland (Settled Plateau Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There is an area of ancient woodland at Hethel Wood. There are a number of County Wildlife Sites including at Bracon Hall, north of Bracon Ash. There are many areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some areas of semi-natural grassland.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade I listed churches. There is a conservation area at Mulbarton.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields north of Wreningham. The LCA description notes '*Poor hedgerows generally, which accentuates the openness of the landscape…Some mature hedgerow trees are found, particularly beside roads, which are a distinctive feature. Areas of more intact hedgerow network sometimes occur around settlements*'.	Medium
Associations	Woodturning, weaving and brickwork were predominant trades in the early eighteenth century.	Low-medium
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Large expanse of flat landform with little variation over long distances with strong open horizons – the archetypal 'Norfolk' landscape of popular imagination*'. Some vernacular buildings and isolated churches are present.	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Mulbarton Common and Bracon Common.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	This LCA is described as having a '*simple, often monotonous, character*' which is typical of Norfolk. '*Long views from [the] plateau edge*' are described as a key characteristic of this LCA.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements.	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. small areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland.				Medium
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A2 Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland (Tributary Farmland with Parkland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are a number of County Wildlife Sites, including at Swardeston Common, the Carrs Woodland, and The Grove. There are also priority habitats located throughout the landscape, which largely consist of woodland, although there are small areas of traditional orchard, and good quality semi-improved grassland.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed buildings. There is a registered park and garden at Intwood Hall, which is Grade II* Listed.	Medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields east of Swardeston. The LCA description notes that there is '*sense of impenetrability and remoteness despite the presence of major roads'*.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Transitional landscape occupying the mid ground between the upland plateau of the Wymondham-Hethersett settled plateau farmland and the principal Yare Valley and forming part of the transition between the rural and urban landscape*'. Some vernacular buildings are present.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Swardeston and part of Mulbarton.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	This LCA is described as a '*Shelving landform with a gently undulating topography created by the presence of small tributary stream valleys cutting through the landscape providing a variety of open/more intimate landscape settings and long/framed views*'. The LCA description notes that there are '*fields surrounded by sparse hedges and hedgerow trees, with occasional mature/veteran oaks forming a distinctive feature alongside the lanes*'.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as having '*Peaceful farmland with small farm woodlands and intermittently wooded tributary valleys creating a quiet rural atmosphere*' and a '*sense of impenetrability and remoteness despite the presence of major transportation corridors*'. The LCA description notes that '*The Norwich Southern Bypass and A11 Wymondham Road trisect the landscape …These routes create corridors of movement and noise in this otherwise peaceful landscape*'.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Yare and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
	farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including orchard, grassland and woodland.				
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A3 Ashwellthorpe Plateau Farmland (Plateau Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are areas of ancient woodland at Fundenhall Wood, Bunwell Wood, Upper Wood and Lower Wood. There is also a Site of Special Scientific Interest at Lower Wood. There is one County Wildlife Site at Grove Wood. Priority habitats in the landscape primarily consist of woodland, although there are also small areas of traditional orchard.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II and II* listed buildings. There is a conservation area at Tacolneston.	Medium
Landscape condition	There are large areas of woodland north and west of Ashwellthorpe. The LCA description notes '*large-scale landscape of both openness and enclosure provided by woodland'*, although there is the '*presence of tall structures, with the prominent mast of Tacolneston transmitting station plus lines of telegraph poles*'.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the '*Distinctive flat, elevated landform, above the 50m contour*'. Some tall structures are present. There are re-occurring black timber and brick barns which are distinct to this area.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA.	Low-medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA description notes the '*large-scale landscape of both openness and enclosure provided by woodland*'. There are '*panoramic views and some framed views along roads*'.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as having an '*overall peaceful rural character created by the absence of main roads and development*'.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including orchards and woodland.	Medium

Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A4 Great Moulton Plateau Farmland (Plateau Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The landscape contains County Wildlife sites including at Gissing Common, Tibenham Airfield and a section of Home Wood & The Belt. Priority habitats in the landscape consist of areas of good quality semi-improved grassland, woodland and small areas of traditional orchard.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses and cottages. There is a conservation area at Wacton.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are large scale fields across the LCA, with the '*notable absence of boundaries*', as noted in the LCA description. The description also notes that '*Hedgerow trees are an important feature marking the lines of former boundaries*'. There are also '*large scale farm buildings, water towers, telegraph poles exposed in this open landscape*'.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the '*Flat, elevated plateau landform above the 50m contour with little topographic variation*'. Some farmhouses and large-scale farm buildings are present.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land at Gissing Common.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	This LCA is described as a '*large-scale landscape of openness and exposure*', with '*expansive skies a defining feature with distant views and farm buildings visible in the open landscape*'. Hedgerow trees are an important feature marking the lines of former boundaries.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in this LCA which has an absence of main roads and larger settlements.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributary streams and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including grassland at Tibenham Airfield.	Medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A5 Tas Tributary Farmland (Tributary Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The northern section of the landscape contains the Caistor St. Edmund Chalk Pit SSSI, as well as a section of the Foxes' Grove County Wildlife Site. The two western sections of the landscape contain a number of areas of ancient woodland, including at Great Wood, Howe Grove, Little Wood, Popes Wood and Doylys Grove. There are priority habitats throughout the landscape, which largely consist of woodland with some small areas of traditional orchard, particularly at Cargate Common. The section of the landscape encompassing the west and south contains a number of County Wildlife Sites, such as Brock's Watering, Carlton Rode Fen and Spring Meadow. Small areas of good quality semi-improved grassland are confined to the south-west of the landscape, and there are areas of traditional orchard throughout.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There are two Grade I listed buildings located at Hopton, Aslacton, and a Grade II* building at Flordon Hall. There are conservation areas at Forncett and Wacton, as well as a scheduled monument east of Caistor St Edmund.	Medium-high
Landscape condition	There are intact, large-scale fields north of Flordon. The LCA description notes '*Large open arable fields of cereal, sugarbeet and occasionally sweetcorn…Scattered remnant hedgerow trees, particularly oak, sometimes including intact avenues lining the roads or marking former, denuded, field boundaries*'.	Medium-high
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the '*Open, gently undulating to flat and sloping landscape incised by shallow tributary valleys, the tributary streams of which are not prominent landscape features*'. Some vernacular buildings and churches are present.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Hapton Common and Flordon Common. A short section of the Boudicca Way passes through the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as having '*framed open views across the countryside and into adjacent character areas*'. It is also noted that small blocks of deciduous woodland create wooded horizons, which add variety to, and create intimacy within the landscape.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and main roads.	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. The River Tas and its tributaries, and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including meadows and woodland.				Medium
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A6 Waveney Tributary Farmland (Tributary Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are three areas of ancient woodland contained wholly within the landscape, one located at Great Wood (other two unnamed), and a small part of ancient woodland at Lopham Grove is within the LCA. There are a number of County Wildlife Sites including at New Plant & Brick Kiln Covert, north of Gissing, and The Carr, south of Burston. There are many areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some areas of good quality semi-improved grassland, and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade I and II* listed churches, as well as Grade II listed farmhouses. There are conservation areas at Gissing, Burston, Dickleburgh and Winfarthing.	Medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes '*Predominantly arable farmland with a varied field pattern. Fields are small to the south of the character area, larger on the higher plateau areas...Mature hedgerow trees are very distinctive especially large mature oaks*'. Detracting features include '*large farm units and processing units are present plus pylons which cut through this area*'. There was some field boundary loss north of the A1066.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the '*undulating landform to the south of the area where it is dissected by tributaries. Land is higher and flatter towards the north of the character area adjoining the Great Moulton Plateau Farmland*'. Narrow streams, drainage channels (within grass verges) ponds and moats are characteristic of the LCA. A round tower and isolated churches are distinctive landmarks.	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Boyland Common and Brewers Green.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	This LCA is described as a having a '*large-scale open landscape on the higher ground with some distant views*'. Mature hedgerow trees are noted as being distinctive, especially large mature oaks.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as being a '*Peaceful and rural landscape*'.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Waveney. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including at Shelfanger Meadows.	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A7 Tas Rural River Valley (Rural River Valley LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The Shotesham Common SSSI is located close to the village of Shotesham. Part of the Flordon Common SSSI is located in the west of the LCA, which is also designated as a SAC. Aslacton Parish Land SSSI and Forncett Meadows SSSI are located in the south of the LCA. There are also County Wildlife sites within the landscape, most notably at Dunston Common, Long Plantation and Smockill Common, which is also a Local Nature Reserve. There are many areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some areas of good quality semi-improved grassland and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed cottages, and Grade II* listed churches. There is a registered park and garden at Rainthorpe, and a number of scheduled monuments, including Venta Icenorum and Tasburgh Hill Fort. There are conservation areas at Shotesham Park and Forncett St Peter.	High
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields north of Forncett St Peter. The LCA description notes the '*Pastoral valley floor with cattle grazing and distinctive willow pollards lining the watercourses on the valley floor*'. The influence of pylons, the railway and roads create a '*more disturbed character in the north of the area*'.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the '*Distinct, moderately wide simple valley form with medium-scale clearly defined flat valley floor, shallow side slopes and adjoining smaller-scale tributary valleys*'. There are a small number of distinctive halls and parkland including at Rainthorpe Hall Registered Park and Garden. Some vernacular buildings are present.	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including part of Flordon Common and Shotesham Common. Part of the Boudicca Way passes through the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	This LCA is described as '*less enclosed than some other valleys with a feeling of exposure and openness and some long views within the valley but restricted external views*'.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is noted to have a '*Network of narrow peaceful rural lanes throughout the valley including sunken lanes*' but '*A more disturbed character in the north of the area due to the influence of pylons, railway, and roads*'.	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the River Tas and its tributaries. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including at Shotesham Common, Flordon Common and Forncett Meadows.				Medium
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A8 Waveney Rural River Valley (Rural River Valley LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The River Waveney flows through this LCA, adjacent to which are fens, including Bressingham Fen, Roydon Fen and Horse Fen. There are number of County Wildlife Sites, including at Brewer's Green, north of Roydon. Roydon Fen, located to the south of Roydon is both a County Wildlife Site and a Local Nature Reserve. There are many areas of priority habitat, largely concentrated in the west of the landscape, which consist of woodland and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. Roydon Fen is a spring-fed fen with deep peat soil.	Medium-high
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed buildings with a large concentration of these within Diss Conservation Area. There are also three Grade I listed Churches. There was a history of utilising reeds, sedge, furze, hemp and flax in cottage industries in the 16th and 18th centuries.	Medium
Landscape condition	The condition of the landscape is mixed due to settlement expansion and infrastructure, and a number of overhead lines cross the valley, influencing its character. There are intact, small-scale fields at Bressingham. The LCA description notes '*Strong market town character at Diss… with nucleated and linear settlement occurring along the valley … the A1066 and A143 run along the upper valley sides, cutting into the character area in places. The A140 cuts across the character area west of Scole*'. The wetlands on the valley floor form remnants of a much more extensive area.	Low-medium
Associations	Potentially may have been the site of Villa Faustini, a posting station mentioned in the Antonine Itinery. The landscape has inspired local contemporary artists and is described in Richard Mabeys book Nature Cure (2004).	Medium
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the '*Flat, wide floodplain with gently sloping valley sides forming a broad valley*'. The course of the river is not always distinct, flowing across the character area boundary into Suffolk. Nucleated and linear settlement is present along the valley and associated with a strong market town character at Diss. There are vernacular cottages and farmhouses along rural lanes.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Roydon Fen, where there are walking trails along boardwalks, and part of Brewer's Green. Parts of NCN Route 30 are within the LCA.	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as a '*relatively large-scale open valley landscape (compared to other river valleys within the district) with some long views within the valley. More intimate and enclosed areas also occur along the river course*'. The River Waveney itself has little visual influence and it is crossed and fragmented by infrastructure. There is a strong market town character at Diss. The A1066 and A142 run along the upper valley sides, cutting into the character area in places. Wooded skylines define the valleys and reduce intrusion from development.				Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA description notes that '*A peaceful and tranquil character is retained away from the main roads*'. Tranquillity is reduced in the urban areas of Diss and Roydon, and along main roads.				Low-medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the River Waveney and its tributaries. Part of the LCA is farmland with some areas of landcover of greater diversity e.g. at Bressingham Fen. Part of the area is urban (Roydon and Diss), with some pockets of greenspace. This area is important for carbon sequestration, an important carbon sink and for floodwater storage.				Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A9 Rolling Valley Farmlands and Furze LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The Wortham Ling SSSI is located within the northernmost part of the LCT. Adjacent to the SSSI lies Hall Farm Meadow, a County Wildlife Site. A small section of the Waveney and Little Ouse Valley Fens SAC is within the LCT. There are some areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with small areas of traditional orchard and good quality semi-improved grassland. In the southernmost area of the LCT the Creeting St Mary Pits SSSI is located south of Creeting St Mary. The Lingwood Meadows, Earl Stonham SSSI is located east of Earl Stonham. A small part of the Gipping Great Wood SSSI and ancient woodland falls within the landscape, close to Bushes Grove. There are a number of County Wildlife Sites, including Creeting St Mary Churchyard, Creeting St Mary Meadows, and Fen Alder Carr, all located west of Creeting St Mary. There are many areas of priority habitat, most of which is woodland, with some small areas of traditional orchard.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCT including several Grade II listed cottages. There are conservation areas at Botesdale and Thrandeston. Manor House comprises a group of listed buildings, set within a former post-medieval park.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, large-scale fields across the LCT, although particularly to the north-east of Redgrave. The LCT description notes '*Co- axial field systems…fragmentary cover of woodland*'.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes the '*Valleys with prominent river terraces of sandy soil*'. The LCT has simple and open valley sides which contrast with the wooded valley bottom of the adjacent Waveney Rural River Valley LCA.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Wortham Ling, Stuston Common and Little Green. NCN Routes 30 and 51 pass through the LCT.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT description notes '*straight boundaries associated with late enclosure*'. There are also golf courses and sand and gravel extraction within the LCT.	Low
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and main roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River	Medium-high

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
	Waveney. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including heathland and woodland at Wortham Ling SSSI.				
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A10 Wooded Valley Meadowlands and Fens LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	Part of Wortham Ling SSSI is located within the centre of this narrow landscape. Gypsy Camp Meadows, Thrandeston SSSI is located north of Thrandeston. The Redgrave & South Lopham Fens, which is a SSSI, National Nature Reserve, Ramsar site, and Special Area of Conservation, is partly located within the west of the landscape. There are also two County Wildlife Sites; Railway Meadows, and Thrandeston Marsh, both located south of Palgrave. There are a variety of priority habitats within the landscape. These consist of areas of woodland, good quality semi-improved grassland, traditional orchard, and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.	High
Cultural heritage	There are four listed buildings within the LCT, which are Grade II listed farmhouses. Part of the conservation area at Botesdale is contained within the landscape.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCT description notes '*widespread plantation and carr woodland*' as well as '*cattle grazed pasture*'.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes '*Flat valley bottom...extensive peat deposits*'. There are localised settlements on the valley floor 'islands.'	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Wortham Ling and The Marsh. NCN Route 30 passes through the LCT.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT description notes a '*network of drainage ditches,* [and] *areas of unenclosed 'wild' fenland*'.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as having a '*Sense of quiet and rural isolation in many places*'.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the River Waveney and its tributaries. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including heathland and woodland at Wortham Ling SSSI. A history of poor drainage has led to the deposition of extensive peat deposits which are important for carbon storage.	Medium-high

Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A11 Rolling Valley Claylands LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	In relation to the largest unit of the LCT, there are a number of County Wildlife Sites including at Thornham Estate Woods, south of Thornham Magna. Part of Thrandeston SSSI, as well as the County Wildlife Site at Railway Meadows are located in the west of the LCT, south-west of Stuston. There are also areas of priority habitat largely consisting of woodland, although there is a small pocket of traditional orchard in the south. There are areas of ancient woodland at Temple Grove, Lower Wood, and Combs Wood, which are located south of Stowmarket. A section of the Combs Wood SSSI also falls within the landscape. The Church Meadow Local Nature Reserve is located south of Combs Ford. There are areas of priority habitat within the landscape, which largely consists of woodland, with some areas of good quality semi-improved grassland and coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCT including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There is a conservation area at Thornton.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCT comprises intact, large-scale fields, with focused settlements, and an absence of detracting features.	Medium-high
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes the '*gently sloping valleys on medium clay soils and occasional notable steeper slopes*'.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. NCN Route 51 passes through the LCT.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT is described as having '*gentle sloping valleys* [and] *occasional notable steeper slopes.*' Parkland has a localised influence.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and main roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Dove and River Gipping. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including orchards and woodland.	Medium

Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A12 Ancient Plateau Claylands LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The northernmost part of the LCT contains Wortham and Mellis, to the south of Diss. This part of the landscape includes a number of areas of ancient woodland, which include Gittin Wood, south of Wortham, and Duchess Wood, which is located north of Thornham Magna. There are a number of SSSIs within the landscape, which include Westhall Wood and Meadow SSSI, Burgate Wood SSSI, and Major Farm, Braiseworth SSSI. There are also County Wildlife Sites throughout the landscape. There are many areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some areas of good quality semi-improved grassland, and lowland meadows. The central part of the LCT includes the Gipping Great Wood SSSI. There are a number of County Wildlife Sites including at Guidepost Plantation at Gipping. There are some areas of priority habitat, which consist of woodland and traditional orchard. The southern part of the LCT includes a number of SSSIs which include Hintlesham Woods SSSI, which is also an area of ancient woodland, and Barking Woods SSSI. Priority habitats consisting of woodland and traditional orchard are located throughout the landscape.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCT including several Grade II listed farmhouses and Grade I listed churches such as the Church of St Mary and St Lawrence. There are conservation areas at Mellis, Palgrave and Naughton. Scheduled monuments include Great Bricett moated site.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCT contains intact, large-scale fields. The LCT description notes that there is a '*dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets, and isolated farmsteads of medieval origin*'. Field patterns within the LCT comprise '*ancient enclosure – random patterns in the south but often co-axial in the north. Small patches of straight-edged fields associated with the late enclosure of woods and greens*'.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes the '*Flat or gently rolling arable landscape of clay soils dissected by small river valleys*'. There is a dispersed settlement pattern of loosely clustered villages, hamlets, and isolated farmsteads of medieval origin.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Long Green and Spears Hill, Mellis Common	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
	and Barking Tye. NCN Routes 30 and 51 pass through the LCT.				
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT is described as having a '*field pattern of ancient enclosure...*[with] *small patches of straight-edged fields associated with the late enclosure of woods and greens*'. There are substantial open areas created as WWII airfields or by 20th century agricultural changes.				Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and main roads.				Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including meadowland and woodland.				Medium
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A13 Plateau Claylands LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are a number of County Wildlife Sites, including at Topcroft Farm Meadows, south of Westhorpe, and Thornham Estate Woods, south-east of Gislingham. Small areas of priority habitat woodland are located throughout the landscape.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCT including several Grade II listed cottages and farmhouses. There are also a number of Grade I listed churches. There are conservation areas at Mendlesham, Finningham and Wickham Skeith.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCT is characterised by intact, large-scale fields. The LCT description notes that key characteristics include '*Ancient organic pattern of fields, some co-axial in the north-east…Extensive areas of hedgerow loss creating 'arable prairies'*. The description also makes note of large modern agricultural buildings as a recurrent feature.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes the '*plateaux of heavy clay soil very gently undulating or flat dissected by small streams*'. There are villages with multiple nuclei, and scattered farmsteads and hamlets.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. There are several small areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at The Green.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT description notes the presence of '*extensive areas of hedgerow loss creating 'arable prairies"*. There are '*large greens – many now enclosed but with 'ghost' outlines'.*	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and main roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Dove and River Gipping. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including meadows and small areas of woodland.	Medium

Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A14 Ancient Estate Claylands LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	In the southernmost part of the LCT, there are a number of ancient woodlands, including at Raydon Great Wood, Long Wood, Brimlin Wood, Bentley Long Wood, Tare/Pedlars Groves, and Engry Wood. In the northernmost part of the LCT, there are two areas of ancient woodland at Coodenham Wood and Crowfield Wood. A small part of Lingwood Meadows, Earl Stonham SSSI extends into the west of the LCT. Priority habitats in both areas of the landscape consist of areas of woodland, and traditional orchard.	Medium-high
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCT including several Grade II listed churches and cottages. There is a scheduled monument south of Cobbler's Corner.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields north of Copdock and Washbrook. The LCT description notes the '*organic pattern of field enclosures*'. The character description makes note of the '*villages with dispersed hamlets and farmsteads*'.	Medium-high
Associations	WWII airfield at RAF Raydon, which still forms a feature in the landscape.	Low-medium
Distinctiveness	Some vernacular buildings are present, and distinctive estate cottages.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. NCN Route 1 passes through part of the LCT and part of the Hadleigh Railway Walk is within the LCT. Part of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT notes an '*organic pattern of field enclosures,* [and] *Straight boundaries where influence of privately owned estates is strongest*' as key characteristics.	Low
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and main roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. areas of woodland including Raydon Great Wood. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including meadowland and woodland. Part of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium

Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A15 Valley Meadowlands LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The River Gipping, River Stour, River Brett and River Box flow through this LCT, adjacent to which are various water bodies, such as Needham Lake, Bosmere and Alderson Lake. Bramford Meadows, a Local Nature Reserve and County Wildlife Site, is located at Bramford. There is also a Local Nature Reserve at Needham Lake, adjacent to Needham Market. Hascot Hill Pit SSSI is located south-west of Needham Market. Priority habitats largely consist of woodland, although there are also some areas of traditional orchard. In relation to the southernmost area of the LCT, there are large areas of good quality semi-improved grassland, coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, as well as woodland and traditional orchard. The River Gipping, Bramford Meadows and Fen Alder Carr are identified as County Wildlife Sites.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCT including several Grade I listed houses. There is a conservation area at Needham Market. A small part of the Baylham Roman site scheduled monument is located within the LCT.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCT comprises large scale arable fields, with '*Occasional carr woodland and plantations of poplar*'. There are a number of watercourses in the southernmost area of the LCT.	Medium
Associations	The Stour Valley is renowned as *'Constable Country'*, being the inspiration for many of the landscape paintings of John Constable. The landscape has inspired many other artists, such as Thomas Gainsborough, Sir Alfred Munnings, Sir Cedric Morris and John Nash. This artistic legacy led to its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970.	High
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Flat landscapes of alluvium or peat on valley floors*'.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. The Gipping Valley River Path passes through the northern unit of the LCT, and there is an area of Common Land / Open Access Land at Bramford Common. NCN Route 1 and the Stour Valley Path pass through the southern unit of the LCT. Part of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT is described as having '*confined views*', due to numerous hedgerows along smaller watercourses which filter and screen longer distance views. The southern	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
	extents are within the National Landscape and the rivers contribute to scenic quality.				
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and main roads.				Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the River Brett, River Box and River Gipping, and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including lakes and meadows along the River Gipping. Parts of the Box and Brett Valleys are within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.				Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High	**Medium-high**	Medium	Low-medium	Low

Table A16 Rolling Valley Farmland LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are areas of ancient woodland at Tyrells Grove, and Great Wood at Great Blakenham. There are also a number of County Wildlife Sites through the six discrete units of the LCT, including at Water Farm Meadow, west of Raydon, and a section of the Hadleigh Railway Walk, which is also a Local Nature Reserve. There are a number of SSSIs, which include the Little Blakenham Pit SSSI, as well as the Middle Wood, Offton SSSI. Priority habitats largely consist of woodland, although there are some areas of good quality semi-improved grassland.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a small number of listed buildings across the LCT including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There is a scheduled monument at Dodnash Priory. There are a number of conservation areas including at Higham, Stratford St Mary and East Bergholt.	Medium
Landscape condition	The LCT description notes that key characteristics of the LCT include the *'Organic pattern of fields smaller than on the plateaux…and distinct areas of regular field patterns'.* There are settlements throughout the LCT. Soil is of good health, as indicated by the LCT description, which describes it as *'deep well drained loamy soils.'*	Medium-high
Associations	The Stour Valley is renowned as '*Constable Country'*, being the inspiration for many of the landscape paintings of John Constable. The landscape has inspired many other artists, such as Thomas Gainsborough, Sir Alfred Munnings, Sir Cedric Morris and John Nash. This artistic legacy led to its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (National Landscape) in 1970.	High
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes the *'gentle valley sides with some complex and steep slopes'.* There are some towns and villages with distinctive medieval cores and late medieval churches.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. NCN Route 1, the Hadleigh Railway Walk and Stour Valley Path pass through part of the LCT. Parts of the LCT are within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT notes the presence of '*distinct areas of regular field patterns'* and there are some areas of parkland. The LCT contributes to scenic quality by forming part of the Stour Valley and its tributaries within Dedham Vale National Landscape.	Medium-high
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and main roads.	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Brett and River Stour, the Stutton Brook, the Belstead Brook, The Channel, and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including meadowlands and woodlands. Parts of the LCT are within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting, and the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths National Landscape.				Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	**High**	Medium-high	Medium	Low-medium	Low

Table A17 Plateau Farmlands LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	This LCT is located between the Dedham Vale National Landscape and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths National Landscape. Small parts of the Higham Meadow County Wildlife Site are located within the LCT. There are many areas of priority habitats, which largely consist of woodland, although there are also areas of good quality semi-improved grassland and traditional orchard. There is ancient woodland including at The Haugh and Rowley Grove.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCT including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There is a conservation area at East Bergholt, and a scheduled monument south of Holton St Mary.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields to the east of East Bergholt. The LCT description notes good health of soil, stating that there are '*loamy soils amenable to arable farming*'.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes the LCT forms a *'Plateau of land between river valleys'* and contains '*parkland and planting of exotic trees'.*	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. NCN Route 1 passes through the west of the LCT, west of Holton St Mary. Part of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT is described as having *'substantial elements of planned landscape'.* Although there is a feeling of isolation and tranquillity, the LCT is dissected by major roads.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCT is described as having a '*Feeling of isolation and tranquillity*' although this is locally reduced where the LCT is '*dissected by major roads*'.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the Stutton Brook and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed. Part of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting, and part is within the Suffolk Coasts & Heaths National Landscape.	Medium-high

Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A18 Ancient Estate Farmlands LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are a number of areas of ancient woodland, including at Old Hall Wood, Dodnash Wood and Great Martins Hill Wood. Old Hall Wood is also a County Wildlife Site. Towards Belstead there is a Local Nature Reserve at Bobbits Lane. There are many areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland and to the north there is also coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. There is a SSSI to the north of Broomhaughton Covert called Bobbitshole, Burstead and some areas of traditional orchard.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCT including several Grade II listed houses, as well as a Grade II* listed Church.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCT description notes the presence of '*Large-scale arable blocks divided into rectilinear fields*'. There is also a '*substantial number of ancient woodland*' and '*deep loamy soil*', which indicates good soil health.	Medium-high
Associations	The ancient woodland in the area is likely named after a French abbot who owned them c.1200.	Low-medium
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes that the LCT forms a *'Flat central spine of land, with sloping sides dissected by river valleys'.* There are some nucleated villages, with some dispersed farmsteads and clusters of houses.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. NCN Route 1 passes through the LCT, south of Washbrook. Part of the LCT is within the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths National Landscape.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT is comprised of *'large-scale arable blocks* [which are] *divided into rectilinear fields'.* There are nucleated villages, with some dispersed farmsteads and clusters of houses.	Low
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and main roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the Belstead Brook and large areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland or woodland. Part of the LCT is within the Suffolk Coasts & Heaths National Landscape.	Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A19 Wooded Valley Meadowlands LCT

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The River Stour flows through this LCT. The Stour Estuary RSPB nature reserve is located south of East Bergholt. Part of the Cattawade Marshes SSSI and the Stour and Orwell Estuaries Ramsar is within the LCT. Most of the LCT is covered by the coastal and floodplain grazing marsh. There are also areas of good quality semi-improved grassland, coastal saltmarsh, mudflats and traditional orchard.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are Grade I and II listed buildings in the LCT such as the Grade II listed Cattawade Bridge and Grade I listed Valley Farmhouse. A small part of Stratford St Mary Conservation Area is located in the west of the LCT.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields at Stratford St Mary. The LCT description notes good health of soils, with '*wet clay and peat soils*'. The LCT also includes '*Carr woodland and scrub*'.	Medium
Associations	The Stour Valley is renowned as '*Constable Country'*, being the inspiration for many of the landscape paintings of John Constable. The landscape has inspired many other artists, such as Thomas Gainsborough, Sir Alfred Munnings, Sir Cedric Morris and John Nash. This artistic legacy led to its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (National Landscape) in 1970.	High
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes the '*Flat narrow valley floors...*[with] *small meadows bounded by ditches or hedges*'.	Low
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. The Stour Valley Path and St Edmund Way pass through the LCT. NCN Route 1 passes through the LCT to the east of the A12. All of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCT contributes to scenic quality by forming part of the Stour Valley and its tributaries within Dedham Vale National Landscape. *'Confined views'* are a key characteristic of the LCT.	Medium-high
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas.	Medium-high
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the River Stour and its tributaries. Much of the landscape is farmed. All of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape.	Medium-high

Overall Evaluation	High	**Medium-high**	Medium	Low-medium	Low

Table A20 LCA 7A: Bromley Heaths (Heathland Plateaux LCT 7)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are areas of ancient woodland located within the LCA including at Money Wood. There are also a number of Local Wildlife Sites, including at Little Bromley Churchyard and Great Bromley Churchyard. There are many priority habitats, largely consisting of woodland, with some areas of traditional orchard.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There are two Grade I listed churches in the LCA, as well as a scheduled monument north-east of Lawford House, and two larger scheduled monuments at Ardleigh and south-west of St Mary's Church. There is a conservation area at Ardleigh.	High
Landscape condition	The LCA is comprised largely of intact, large-scale fields. The LCA description notes that there are '*Large scale productive arable fields divided by low, gappy hedgerows where hedgerow oaks stand out as silhouettes against the skyline*'. The description also notes that there are '*deep, coarse, loamy, and often stoneless brown soils which support a high-grade agricultural land*'.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCT description notes that the area comprises an *'Exposed and windswept plateau corresponding to the highest part of the district'.* There is a rural settlement pattern of scattered farms and halls and small villages.	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. A small part of the Essex Way passes through the north of the LCA. A small part of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	This LCT notes the presence of former heaths which have largely been converted to smallholdings or are regenerating as woodland. A '*Dramatic, dominating skyscape*' is noted as a key characteristic.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as an '*exposed and windswept plateau*' and has a sense of tranquility away from larger settlements and main roads.	Low-medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributary streams and small areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed. Part of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A21 LCA 6B: Ardleigh Valley System (Clay Valleys LCT 6)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	Ardleigh Reservoir (although a man-made feature) is a valued water body which covers a large part of the LCA. There are areas of ancient woodland at Walls Wood and Churn Wood. There are also several Local Wildlife Sites, including at Wall's Wood and Churn Wood, adjacent to Crockleford Heath. Woodland priority habitat is located throughout the landscape.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a small number of Grade II listed farmhouses and cottages in the LCA.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA contains large areas of woodland, as well as Arleigh Reservoir. The LCA description notes '*Ancient deciduous woodland clings to valley sides and alder and willow dominate streamlines*'.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the '*Steep sided wooded valley hidden from the surrounding farmed plateau*'. The Spring Valley Mill is the only remaining example of a river mill in Tendring.	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. Ardleigh Reservoir is used for recreational activities including fishing.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	This LCA is described as being a *'steep sided wooded valley hidden from the surrounding farmed plateau.'* It is noted that the *'A120 and railway line, in contrast, cut across the valley on embankments, fragment the valley both visually and physically.'*	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity around Ardleigh Reservoir, and away from main roads.	Medum
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. Ardleigh Reservoir and the Salary Brook, and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed or occupied by Ardleigh Reservoir.	Medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A22 LCA B7: Langham Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT B)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are areas of ancient woodland and Local Wildlife Sites at Birch Wood and Kiln Wood, Langham. Part of Black Brook is within the LCA. Priority habitats in the landscape primarily consist of woodland, although there are also small areas of traditional orchard.	Low-medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed cottages.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields east of Dedham Heath. In relation to Boxted (Langham) Airfield, the LCA description notes that *'Large-scale arable fields with some remnant orchards now cover the large expanse of airfield.'*	Medium
Associations	Boxted (Langham) Airfield was an American airfield used in WWII and is now home to Boxted Airfield Museum.	Low-medium
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic in relation to Boxted (Langham) Airfield: *'Large-scale arable fields with some remnant orchards now cover the large expanse of airfield.'*	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. NCN Route 1 passes through the west of the LCA. Part of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	This LCA is a largely rural plateau landscape with large fields and a former airfield. Part of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from the edge of Colchester and main roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of Ardleigh Reservoir and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland. Part of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High Medium-high Medium `	Low

Table A23 LCA A8: Stour River Valley Floor (River Valley LCT A)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	This LCA is within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. The River Stour flows through this LCA. There are areas of ancient woodland at Boxtedhall Great Wood, Creaks Grove and Cophedge Farm Wood. There are also a number of Local Wildlife Sites, including at Langham Water Works west of Stratford St Mary, as well as at Creak's Grove, which is located south of Nayland. Priority habitats in the landscape largely consist of woodland, although there are also areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh and a small part of the Cattawade Marshes SSSI.	Medium-high
Cultural heritage	There are a small number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There is a conservation area at Dedham which is partly within the LCA.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are some intact, small-scale fields south of Stratford St Mary. The LCA description notes the '*Meandering River Stour and associated wet floodplain consisting of several areas of damp pasture and meadows and ponds*'. The LCA description notes the presence of '*numerous mills, weirs, water works, and pumping stations*.'	Medium
Associations	The Stour Valley is renowned as '*Constable Country'*, being the inspiration for many of the landscape paintings of John Constable. The landscape has inspired many other artists, such as Thomas Gainsborough, Sir Alfred Munnings, Sir Cedric Morris and John Nash. This artistic legacy led to its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970.	High
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: *'Meandering River Stour and associated wet floodplain.'* There are numerous mills, weirs, water works, and pumping stations associated with the River Stour.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. The River Stour is used for recreational activities. There are visitor attractions including at Dedham. The St Edmund Way, Stour Valley Path and Essex Way pass through parts of the LCA. All of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape.	High
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as comprising *'large areas of open grazed grassland within the valley floodplain, traversed by a ditch network.'* The meandering River Stour forms a key characteristic, which contributes to the perceptual qualities of the landscape.	Medium-high
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a strong perception of tranquillity in rural areas.	Medium-high

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the River Stour and its tributaries, and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed. All of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape.				Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High	**Medium-high**	Medium	Low-medium	Low

Table A24 LCA A7: Stour River Valley Slopes (River Valley LCT A)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are areas of ancient woodland at Ash Wood and Boxtedhall Great Wood. There are also a number of Local Wildlife Sites, including at Black Brook and Gun Hill Place, located south of Stratford St Mary. Priority habitats in the landscape primarily comprise of woodland, although there are also areas of traditional orchard.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There are conservation areas at Dedham and Boxted.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes '*patches of deciduous woodland…mixture of irregular arable and pasture fields…sense of remoteness and tranquillity away from road network.*'	Medium-high
Associations	The Stour Valley is renowned as '*Constable Country'*, being the inspiration for many of the landscape paintings of John Constable. The landscape has inspired many other artists, such as Thomas Gainsborough, Sir Alfred Munnings, Sir Cedric Morris and John Nash. This artistic legacy led to its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970.	High
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the *'sloping valley side-topography'.* There are farmsteads and halls (with associated ponds and parkland).	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are visitor attractions including at Dedham. The St Edmund Way, Stour Valley Path and Essex Way pass through parts of the LCA. Most of the LCT is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	High
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as comprising *'large areas of open grazed grassland within the valley floodplain, traversed by a ditch network.'* The meandering River Stour forms a key characteristic, which contributes to the distinctive quality of the landscape.	Medium-high
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as having a '*Sense of remoteness and tranquillity away from road network*'.	Medium-high
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Stour and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed. Most of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High / **Medium-high** / Medium / Low-medium	Low

Table A25 LCA Sub Area A7a: Stour River Valley Slopes (River Valley LCT A)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There is an area of ancient woodland at Boxtedhall Little Wood. There are also Local Wildlife Sites including at Lodge Hills, which is to the south of Bures. There are areas of priority habitat including woodland and small areas of traditional orchard.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses, and a Grade I listed church. The Little Horkesley Conservation Area extends onto the valley slopes.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields '*on the lower valley slopes where tributary meets the main river Stour.*' The LCA description notes '*small woodland groves and farmsteads on the valley sides*.'	Medium
Associations	The Stour Valley is renowned as '*Constable Country'*, being the inspiration for many of the landscape paintings of John Constable. The landscape has inspired many other artists, such as Thomas Gainsborough, Sir Alfred Munnings, Sir Cedric Morris and John Nash. This artistic legacy led to its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970.	High
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the '*Steep-sided narrow, intimate valley containing a small southern tributary of the River Stour*'.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. A small part of the Essex Way passes through the LCA. The north of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape, and the south of the LCA is in its setting.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is a steep-sided, narrow and wooded valley, which is a tributary of the Stour Valley.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as an '*intimate valley*' and there is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas.	Medium-high
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Stour and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed. Most of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high

Overall Evaluation	High	**Medium-high**	Medium	Low-medium	Low

Table A26 LCA Sub Area A7b Stour River Valley Slopes (River Valley LCT A)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The landscape contains areas of woodland priority habitat, as well as a small area of traditional orchard. There is ancient woodland at Black Brook.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a small number of Grade II listed buildings within the LCA, and one Grade I listed building.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are large areas of woodland across the LCA. The LCA description details the LCA as an '*intimate, tranquil, relatively steep-sided river valley'.*	Medium
Associations	The Stour Valley is renowned as '*Constable Country'*, being the inspiration for many of the landscape paintings of John Constable. The landscape has inspired many other artists, such as Thomas Gainsborough, Sir Alfred Munnings, Sir Cedric Morris and John Nash. This artistic legacy led to its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1970.	High
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes that the LCA is an '*Intimate, tranquil, relatively steep-sided river valley'.*	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. Most of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as containing *'large areas of open grazed grassland within the valley floodplain, traversed by a ditch network.'* The meandering River Stour forms a key characteristic, which contributes to the distinctive quality of the landscape.	Medium-high
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as an '*Intimate, tranquil*' valley.	Medium-high
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Stour and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed. Most of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high

Overall Evaluation	High	**Medium-high**	Medium	Low-medium	Low

Table A27 LCA B5: Rochfords Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT B)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The northern part of this LCA is within the Dedham Vale National Landscape. There are Local Wildlife Sites within the LCA including at Rectory Wood, as well as at Aldercar, Wormingford. There are some areas of priority habitat, largely consisting of woodland, with small areas of traditional orchard.	Low-medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed cottages. There are conservation areas at Wormingford and Little Horkesley.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA comprises a '*mixture of medium and large rolling arable fields interspersed with small woodland patches.*' The LCA description notes that the *'landscape feels more open and exposed in places than the adjacent Great Horkesley farmland plateau to the west.'* There are *'large weatherboarded vernacular barns'* particularly at Fordham.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes that the LCA is a '*Narrow, steep-sided valley to the east of Boxted and west of Boxted Cross containing a tributary of the River Stour'*. There are small farmsteads, orchards and a vineyard.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. The Stour Valley Path runs along the northern edge of the LCA. NCN Route 13 passes through the LCA north and east of Fordham. Part of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as containing *'large scale productive arable fields... (and a) low density, rural settlement pattern.'* There are some long views across the heaths, and a *'dramatic, dominating skyscape.'*	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, and the LCA is described as being '*more open and exposed*' than adjacent parts of the plateau.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed. Part of the plateau is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium / Low	

Table A28 LCA B6: Great Horkesley Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT B)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The northern part of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape. There are areas of ancient woodland at Pitchbury Wood, Slough Grove and Harrow Wood. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites including at Harrow Wood, south-west of Boxted. There are many areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some areas of traditional orchard.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed cottages. There is a scheduled monument north of West Bergholt, and another north of Boxted Cross.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields east of West Bergholt. The LCA description notes '*Small to medium scale arable fields with concentrations of mature trees at field boundaries…field pattern consisting of small, regular fields to the south of Boxted and to the east of Great Horkesley.*' The description also notes the presence of diverse and well-managed hedgerows.	Medium-high
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: *'Small to medium scale arable fields with concentrations of mature trees at field boundaries.'*	Low
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. The Essex Way passes through the LCA. NCN Route 1 passes along the eastern edge of the LCA. Part of the LCA is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as a farmland plateau *'crossed in a north-south direction by two straight roads, which connect with Colchester's northern settlement fringe.'* There is a network of narrow lanes, which are lined by trees and hedges.	Low
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from the edge of Colchester.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Colne and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled. Part of the plateau is within Dedham Vale National Landscape and its setting.	Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A29 LCA A5: Colne River Valley Slopes (River Valley LCT A)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are areas of ancient woodland, including at Hillhouse Wood, Stitching Wood, and Spring/Grove Wood. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites including at West Bergholt Alderwoods. There are some areas of priority habitat, which consist of woodland. There is a small traditional orchard near Wakes Colne.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are several listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses, and a small number of Grade I listed Churches. There are two conservation areas at Fordstreet and Chappel	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields south of Fordham. The LCA description notes the presence of *'a mosaic of medium to large-sized irregular and regular, predominantly arable fields with medium hedgerows containing semi-mature/ mature hedgerow tree…some larger semi-enclosed arable fields to the west of Wakes Colne.'*	Medium
Associations	Cooks Hall has links to Thomas Abell, who the chaplain to Katherine of Aragon.	Low-medium
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the '*Relatively steep v-shaped valley slopes facilitate attractive and open views across and along the River corridor.*' There are small linear villages, hamlets and farmsteads.	Medium-high
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW and large areas of open access land (particularly at Fordham) within the LCA. The Essex Way passes through the LCA. NCN Route 13 passes through the LCA.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: *'Relatively steep v-shaped valley slopes facilitate attractive and open views across and along the River corridor.'*	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from the edge of Colchester.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. tributaries of the River Colne and areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including at Chappel Meadow.	Medium-high

Overall Evaluation	High	**Medium-high**	Medium	Low-medium	Low

Table A30 LCA A4: Colne River Valley Floor (River Valley LCT A)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The River Colne flows through this LCA. There are two Local Wildlife Sites, which are Chappel Ponds and Millennium Green, at Chappel, and a section of Fordham Bridge Meadow, east of Fordstreet. There are many priority habitats, with much of the landscape covered in coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, with some areas of woodland and traditional orchard.	Medium-high
Cultural heritage	There are several listed buildings across the LCA largely consisting of Grade II listed buildings, with one Grade I listed Church. There is a conservation area at Fordstreet and also at Chappel. There is also the World War II Eastern Command Line Scheduled Monument at Chappel Viaduct.	Medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description states that the *'Colne River is bridged by several roads and lanes, which connect the north and south valley slopes and facilitate views along the river corridor to the east and west.'*	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*floodplain of the Colne River – relatively narrow in the upper reaches of the river valley and broader as the River moves eastwards towards Colchester and the Colne estuary*'. This landform forms part of the steep V shaped Colne Valley. There is a striking landmark viaduct crossing the river at Chappel.	Medium-high
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. The Essex Way runs through the LCA, following the River Colne. NCN Route 13 passes through the LCA.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as being *'bridged by several roads and lanes, which connect the north and south valley slopes and facilitate views along the river corridor to the east and west.'*	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from the edge of Colchester.	Medium
Functional	The River Colne runs through the landscape and contributes to its healthy functioning. Much of the landscape is farmland although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including Chappel Ponds.	Medium-high

Overall Evaluation	High	**Medium-high**	Medium	Low-medium	Low

Table A31 LCA B4: Great Tey Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT B)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are areas of ancient woodland at Hoe Wood, Fiddlers Wood and Aldamhall Wood. These areas of ancient woodland are also Local Wildlife Sites. There are also occasional traditional orchards.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There is a conservation area at Great Tey, which includes a Grade I listed Church. There is a Roman villa Scheduled Monument, located 450 m south of Warren's Farm.	Medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes that the LCA comprises '*a mixture of medium to large-scale enclosed, predominantly arable fields…Linear belts and small patches of predominantly deciduous woodland.'*	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Gently sloping farmland plateau consisting of a mixture of medium to large-scale enclosed, predominantly arable fields.'* There are small, nucleated settlements and scattered farmsteads.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. The Essex Way runs through the LCA, following the River Colne. NCN Route 13 passes through the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as having a '*Peaceful and tranquil atmosphere*' attributed to the presence of medium to large-scale enclosed, predominately arable fields, and patches of deciduous woodland.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as having a '*Peaceful and tranquil atmosphere*'.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the Roman River and small areas of woodland including at Hoe Wood. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled.	Medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A32 4 LCA B2: Easthorpe Farmland Plateau (Farmland Plateau LCT B)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The Marks Tey Brickpit SSSI is in the north of the LCA. There are also a number of Local Wildlife Sites, which include Marks Tey Brick Pit, and Little Tey Churchyard. There are areas of woodland priority habitat throughout the landscape, as well as small areas of traditional orchard.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade I listed churches. There is a conservation area at Mulbarton. The Medieval Moat Scheduled Monument is located at Marks Tey Hall.	Medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes that the LCA comprises '*a mixture of small, medium, and large irregular, predominantly arable fields.*' There are also '*small patches of deciduous woodland and several ponds/reservoirs.'*	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Raised farmland plateau, dissected by the wooded Roman River valley in the east.*' An airfield, surrounded by large open fields has a dominant influence on the landscape character in the south of the area. Some vernacular buildings are present.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. The Essex Way passes through the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is formed of a *'raised farmland plateau dissected by the wooded Roman River valley in the east'.*	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and major roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the Roman River and small areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled although there are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including at Marks Tey Brick Pit SSSI.	Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A33 Gosfield Wooded Farmland (Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There is an area of ancient woodland at Witch Wood. There are also Local Wildlife Sites, including The Squire's Plantation, which is north of Coggeshall. There are small areas of priority habitat, consisting of woodland.	Low-medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses, and one Grade II* listed Houchin's Farmhouse.	Medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description refers to the '*strong pattern of large and small woods, including distinctive ancient limewood…irregular medium size arable fields, bounded by thick hedgerows and mature hedgerow trees.'*	Medium-high
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristics: *'Strong pattern of large and small woods, including distinctive ancient limewoods'.* There are many vernacular buildings present.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. The Essex Way passes through the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is described as a *'flat to gently undulating landform...(with) an enclosed character.'* The presence of thick hedgerows contributes to this character.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from settlements and major roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. small areas of woodland. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled.	Medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A34 5LCA B1: Central Essex Farmlands (Glacial Till Plateau Landscapes LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are many areas of ancient woodland, including at Mann/Parsons Wood and Tarecroft Wood. The River Ter SSSI is located adjacent to Fuller Street, which is in the easternmost part of the landscape. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites including at Sandylay and Moat Woods, east of Great Leighs. There are many areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland, some coastal and floodplain grazing marsh with some areas of traditional orchard.	Medium-high
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There are also a number of Grade I listed buildings, which include churches. There is a conservation area at Terling, as well as at White Notley. There is a registered park and garden at Terling Place, which is adjacent to Terling Conservation Area. The Leez Augustinian Priory, fishponds and Tudor mansion Scheduled Monument is located south of Willows Green.	High
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields east of Great Waltham. The LCA description notes '*Irregular field pattern of mainly medium size arable fields, marked by sinuous hedgerows and ditches...Many small woods and copses provide structure and edges in the landscape.'*	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: *'Irregular field pattern of mainly medium size arable fields, marked by sinuous hedgerows and ditches'.* There is a concentration of moated farmsteads.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. The Essex Way, Saffron Trail and Centenary Circle pass through the LCT. NCN Routes 1, 16 and 50 pass through the LCT.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA description notes that *'Many small woods and copses provide structure and edges in the landscape'.* There is a scattered settlement pattern, with frequent small hamlets, typically with greens and ponds.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as having a '*Mostly tranquil character away from major roads*'.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the Roxwell Brook, River Can, tributaries of the River Chelmer and River Ter (a SSSI). There are larger areas of woodland including at Mann/Parsons Wood and Tarecroft Wood. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled.	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A35 LCA C6: Blackwater and Brain Valley (River Valley Landscapes LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The rivers Brain and Blackwater flow through this LCA. There is an area of ancient woodland at Adam's Wood and Stream Wood. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites including at Blackwater Plantation, adjacent to Coggleshall. There are many areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some small areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh and traditional orchard. There are also Local Nature Reserves in the LCA.	Medium-high
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II* listed buildings, and two Grade I listed churches. Faulkbourne Hall is a Grade II registered park and garden. There are multiple conservation areas, including at Coggeshall, Feering, and Kelvedon. There are also multiple scheduled monuments, which include Coggeshall Abbey, and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery 150 m east of Easterford Mill.	High
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields at Feering. The LCA description notes '*predominantly arable farmland with well hedged medium to large fields…extensive linear poplar and willow plantations are a distinctive feature*.'	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: *'The Brain and the Upper Blackwater Valleys are narrow with undulating valley sides.'* Extensive linear poplar and willow plantations are a distinctive feature.	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. The Essex Way passes through the LCA. NCN Route 16 passes through the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is characterised by the narrow valleys of the Rivers Blackwater and Brain, both of which have undulating valley sides. '*Extensive linear poplar and willow plantations are a distinctive feature*' within the LCA. Parts of the valleys are occupied by large settlements; in these areas' buildings and vegetation screen/filter outward views.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and major roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the Rivers Blackwater and Brain, and their tributaries. Much of the landscape is farmland or settled.	Medium

Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A36 LCA C5: Chelmer Valley (River Valley Landscapes LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The River Chelmer flows through this LCA. There are areas of ancient woodland at Sparrowhawk Wood and Sheepcotes Wood. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites including at Langleys Deer Park, adjacent to Great Waltham. There are some areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some small areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh and traditional orchard.	Medium-high
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses. There are two conservation areas at Great Waltham and Little Waltham. The Langleys Grade II Registered Park and Garden is largely contained within the Great Waltham Conservation Area. There is also a scheduled monument comprising a settlement site at Ash Tree Corner.	High
Landscape condition	There are some intact, small-scale fields west of Little Waltham. The LCA description notes '*dense riverside trees….arable valleys sides…small linear settlements*.'	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: *'Narrow valley, with a restricted valley bottom.'* Historic watermills and WWII pillboxes are distinctive features.	Medium-high
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There is an area of Common Land / Open Access Land at Littley Green. The Saffron Trail, Essex Way and NCN Route 50 pass through the LCA.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is a narrow valley, with dense riverside trees. Historic watermills and WWII pillboxes are distinctive features. Outward views are largely screened/filtered by the valley landform and vegetation.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from the fringes of Chelmsford and major roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the River Chelmer and its tributaries. Much of the landscape is farmland or small settlements.	Medium

Overall Evaluation	High	**Medium-high**	Medium	Low-medium	Low

Table A37 LCA G2: Chelmsford and Environs (Urban Landscapes LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The River Chelmer, River Wid and the River Can flow through this LCA. There is an area of ancient woodland at Moulsham Thrift Wood. There is also a Local Nature Reserve, located in the south at Galleywood Common. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites, including at Writtle Bridge Meadows, to the north of Writtle. There are some areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some small areas of traditional orchard.	Medium-high
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed buildings, which are contained within the conservation area at Writtle. The Grade II* Hylands Park Registered Park and Garden extends into this LCA. There is also a scheduled monument at a moated site known as Killigrews.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA is largely of an urban character, with a large concentration of residential development throughout the LCA. The LCA description notes '*Fringe of mixed farmland with variable size hedgerowed fields, with few woods or copses*.'	Low-medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Historic town with extensive residential estate development spreading over a gently sloping valley side landform.'*	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. The Centenary Circle and NCN Route 1 pass through the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The settlement of Chelmsford and its environs occupy the gently sloping sides of the Chelmer Valley, Can Valley and Wid Valley. There are some longer views, although many outward views are screened/filtered by buildings and vegetation.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There are pockets of tranquillity away from urban areas. Overall, there is a lack of perceived tranquillity due to urban land uses, transport and lighting.	Low-medium
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the Rivers Chelmer, Can and Wid, and their tributaries, and areas of woodland e.g. at Galleywood. Much of the landscape is urban or farmland.	Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High Medium-high Medium **Low-medium**	Low

Table A38 LCA D2: Brentwood Hills (Wooded Hill and Ridge Landscapes LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are many areas of ancient woodland, including at Hall Wood, Long Wood, and Rook Wood. The Thorndon Park SSSI is located in the south of the landscape. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites, including at White's Wood/Martin's Grove, in the west of the LCA. There are some areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some small areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, and traditional orchard.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed cottages, and Grade I listed churches. There are multiple conservation areas, including at Ingatestone, Station Lane and Margaretting. There is a scheduled monument, a Roman villa, which is 100 m north-west of Handley Barns. Thorndon Park Registered Park and Garden lies in the south, while Hylands Park Registered Park and Garden lies in the north.	High
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields west of Margaretting. The LCA description notes a '*Patchwork of small irregular pasture and arable fields, opening out to medium to large regular arable fields in the centre of the area … presence of numerous small woods, large interlocking blocks of woodland and frequent hedgerow trees*.'	Medium
Associations	Little Burstead was part of the estates of Earl Godwin, father of King Harold. Brentwood is the location of the reality TV show The Only Way Is Essex.	Medium
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: *'Gently to strongly undulating hills/ridges.'*	Low
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Mill Green.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is characterised by its gently to strongly undulating hills and ridges, and presence of woodland. There are some long distance views including to the south (e.g. from Thorndon Country Park and Dunton Hills).	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from settlements and major roads.	Medium
Functional	There are numerous rivers and streams within this large LCA, including the River Wid and its tributaries. There are numerous small woods and large interlocking blocks of woodland, which contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled.	Medium

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A39 Billericay, Basildon (Urban LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are limited natural heritage resources in the LCT. There are some areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland and a small traditional orchard in the south of the LCT.	Low-medium
Cultural heritage	Billericay has a conservation area. There are many listed buildings within the LCT which include Grade II listed buildings and three Grade II* listed buildings.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields south of Lee Chapel South. The LCA description refers to the LCA as a '*large areas of dense urban development*' The description also notes the presence of '*pylon routes (which) visually dominate farmland in the A130 corridor*'.	Low-medium
Associations	Billericay is known for its connection to the Pilgrim Fathers and is also mentioned in pop culture and the BBC sitcom 'Gavin and Stacey'.	Medium
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Basildon New Town occupies gently undulating land to the south and east of the steeper Langdon Hills. There is a distinct pattern of compact residential neighbourhoods, industrial areas and town centre*'.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. NCN Route 13 passes through the LCT in Billericay and Basildon.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	Basildon occupies gently undulating land to the south and east of the steeper Langdon Hills. There are '*frequent views of an urban skyline*'. Billericay occupies gently undulating and slightly elevated land.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a lack of perceived tranquillity due to urban land uses, transport and lighting.	Low
Functional	Elements of the landscape contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. areas of woodland and tributaries of the River Crouch. The majority of the area is urban, with some pockets of greenspace.	Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High Medium-high Medium **Low-medium**	Low

Table A40 LCA 11: West Billericay Wooded Farmlands (Wooded Farmlands LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There is an area of ancient woodland at Bluntshall Wood, as well as at Firth Wood. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites, which include Buckwyns Wood, north of Billericay. Priority habitats in the landscape largely consist of woodland, with small areas of traditional orchard and a small area of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a limited number of listed buildings across the LCA, which include two Grade II farmhouses. There is a conservation area at Little Burstead.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA comprises '*medium to large scale arable fields with a mix of hedgerow field boundaries and occasional mature tree rows…scattered mature woodlands form strong features within the landscape*.'	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Gently undulating plateau topography.'* There are scattered, isolated farms and houses connected with quiet, rural tracks and lanes.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including at Laindon Common.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is characterised by a gently undulating plateau. Its '*scattered mature woodlands form strong features within the landscape*'.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from settlement fringes and major roads.	Medium
Functional	There are some large areas of woodland which contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, including areas of ancient woodland. A tributary of the River Wid passes through the LCA. Much of the landscape is farmed or wooded. There are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including woodland and orchards.	Medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A41 LCA 12: Burstead Sloping Farmland (Sloping Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites, which include Little Burstead Wood, adjacent to Little Burstead, and Little Burstead Common, to the west of Little Burstead. There are small areas of priority habitats, which largely consist of woodland, with some small areas of traditional orchard.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a limited number of listed buildings across the LCA, which include two Grade II farmhouses, and a Grade I listed church. There is a conservation area at Great Burstead.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	There are intact, small-scale fields east of Little Burstead. The LCA description notes '*Large fields with remnant hedges and hedgerow trees apart from a settlement boundaries…discrete woodlands and linear green lane*.'	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Sloping landform with marked secondary undulations to edge of plateau.'* St Mary's Little Burstead and St Mary Magdalene Great Burstead churches are notable landmark buildings.	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There is an area of Common Land / Open Access Land at Burstead Common.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is characterised by its sloping landform, which allows for views across surrounding landscapes. St Mary's Little Burstead and St Mary Magdalene Great Burstead churches are notable landmark buildings.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and major roads.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the LCA contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. woodland and tributaries of the River Crouch. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled with some areas of greater diversity e.g. woodlands and orchards.	Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium / Low	

Table A42 6LCA 9: Upper Crouch Valley Farmlands (Lowland Farmlands LCT)

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are limited areas of priority habitats, which comprise woodland and a small area of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.				Low-medium
Cultural heritage	There is one Grade II listed cottage within the LCA.				Low
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes that there are '*large scale arable fields to east and west of area with limited hedges and trees particularly along the A129*.' The description also notes '*historic pattern of medium scale fields with good hedges and mixed arable and pasture to centre of area running north south between Crays Hill and Barrenleys Wood*'.				Medium-high
Associations	No known cultural associations.				Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Gently sloping landform throughout most of area'.* There are isolated properties and farm buildings.				Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. NCN Route 13 passes through the LCA.				Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is gently sloping. There are some '*panoramic views to north towards Wooded Hills and ridge*'.				Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and major roads.				Medium
Functional	Elements of the LCA contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. pockets of woodland, although these are small and fragmented. The River Crouch and its tributaries pass through the area. Much of the landscape is farmland with some settlements and small industrial areas.				Medium
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A43 7LCA 13: Dunton Settled Claylands (Lowland Settled Claylands LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are small areas of priority habitats, which largely consist of woodland, with one small area of traditional orchard.	Low-medium
Cultural heritage	There are a limited number of listed buildings across the LCA, consisting of three Grade II buildings.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description states that the LCA comprises '*medium to large sized arable fields…(it is) predominantly open farmland with occasional tall hedgerows forming fragmented enclosure*.'	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*Predominantly flat landform with gentle slopes in the south towards the railway.'* There are dispersed roadside settlement and agricultural barns. A church and hall complex at Dunton Hall are local landmarks.	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA.	Low-medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is flat to gently undulating and predominantly open. The church and hall complex at Dunton Hall are local landmarks.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from industrial areas and major roads.	Low-medium
Functional	Elements of the LCA contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. pockets of woodland, although these are small and fragmented. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled.	Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / Medium / **Low-medium**	Low

Table A44 8LCA 14: Langdon Hills (Wooded Hills and Ridges LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The Langdon Ridge SSSI occupies the majority of the area. There are also areas of ancient woodland at Northlands Wood, Hall Wood, Long Hall, and Marks Hill Wood. Priority habitats consist of mainly woodland and small areas of lowland meadows.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a limited number of listed buildings across the LCA, which include a small number of Grade II farmhouses.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes '*Irregular, curvilinear field patterns and former plotlands in the centre wrapping round the hillside at Westley Heights*.' The description also refers to the '*medium sized rectilinear arable fields and small scattered pastures with mixed tall and clipped hedgerows to the south east (and) extensive woodland cover.*' There are some major roads which dissect the landscape, notably the B1036 and B1007.	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: *'landform is strongly undulating encompassing the elevated Langdon Hills with sloping sides and secondary valleys.'* There are some isolated farmlands and dispersed roadside ribbon settlement of 20th century origin. All Saints Church in Vange is an important viewpoint and landmark.	Medium-high
Recreational	There is a high density of PRoW within the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA forms part of the elevated and wooded Langdon Hills. There are some extensive views south towards the Thames Estuary.	Medium-high
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from the settlement fringes and major roads.	Medium
Functional	There are large areas of woodland which contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. at Langdon Ridge SSSI. Much of the landscape is farmed or wooded. There are some areas of landcover with greater diversity including at Dunton Plotlands.	Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A45 LCA A1: Bulphan Fenland (Fenland Landscape LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The LCA contains small areas of woodland priority habitat, and traditional orchard. A small Local Wildlife Site at Stifford Clays Copse is located in the south of the area.	Low-medium
Cultural heritage	There are a limited number of listed buildings across the LCA including a small number of Grade II listed buildings, and a Grade I listed church.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA is described as having a '*relatively weak field pattern*' and '*smaller rectilinear pasture fields around Bulphan are more well defined by field boundaries*'.	Medium
Associations	Bulphan is recorded in the Domesday Survey as Bulgenen, which means marshland in a fortified place.	Low-medium
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes there are *'prominent industrial features on the skyline which create visual interest'* and *'St Mary the Virgin Church in Bulphan forms a local landmark to routes through the village*'.	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCT. There is an area of Common Land / Open Access Land at Orsett Fen.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA description notes there are '*long distance, panoramic views across the sparsely settled landscape*'.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA is described as having a *'a strong sense of rurality and tranquillity as a result of the open and mostly undeveloped landscape*.' The A128 runs through the area, locally reducing tranquillity.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the LCA contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. the Mar Dyke and its tributaries, which are tributaries of the River Thames. Much of the landscape is farmland or was modified by settlement.	Medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium / Low	

Table A46 LCA E2 Grays, Chafford Hundred and South Stifford (Settled Chalk Ridge LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	Although the area is predominantly urban, there are notable areas of deciduous woodland priority habitat, many of which are recognised as Local Wildlife Sites including Titan Works and Grey Pit and at Hangman's Wood (the latter is also a SSSI and ancient woodland). Greys Thurrock Chalk Pit is also an SSSI.	Medium-High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II* listed churches and there is a scheduled monument at Hangman's Wood.	Medium
Landscape condition	The LCA is largely urban with varying levels of quality within its open spaces.	Low-Medium
Associations	The State Cinema Grade II* listed building is one of the few remaining examples of the picture palaces that were built all over the country. It opened in 1938.	Medium
Distinctiveness	The chalk landscape at Grays Thurrock Chalk pit is distinctive, although the LCA is primarily a large urban conurbation which has expanded and merged over time.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are limited recreational opportunities in this area.	Low
Perceptual (scenic)	Low scenic quality due to buildings and infrastructure. There are areas of woodland and the nature reserve which add visual interest.	Low-Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a lack of perceived tranquillity due to urban land uses, transport and lighting.	Low
Functional	Much of the landscape is urban.	Low
Overall Evaluation	High Medium-high Medium **Low-medium**	Low

Table A47 LCA F2: Tilbury Marshes (Undeveloped Marsh LCT)

Value Criteria	Description				Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites including at Tilbury Power Station and Tilbury Marshes, east of Tilbury. There are many areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is coastal and floodplain grazing marsh with some areas of woodland.				Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a small number of listed building in the LCA, Tilbury Fort is a Grade II* listed fort and is also designated as a scheduled monument.				Medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes that this is a '*large-scale landscape with irregular field pattern*'.				Low-medium
Associations	In 1588 during the Spanish Armada Queen Elizabeth visited her troops assembled at West Tilbury. Here she gave her famous speech, including '*I know I have the body but of a weak and feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a King, and a King of England too*'.				Medium
Distinctiveness	Tilbury Power Station is a notable industrial feature in the flat landscape. Tilbury Fort is a star shaped fort which is a distinctive landmark along the River Thames.				Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. There are several areas of Common Land / Open Access Land including The Green and Hall Hill.				Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	There are large and open areas of marshland which contribute to scenic quality. There are a number of detracting features including electricity infrastructure.				Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	Tilbury Power Station and other prominent chimneys and buildings decrease the perceptual qualities of the LCA.				Low-medium
Functional	Much of the landscape is farmland with large areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh.				Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A48 LCA F3: Mucking Marshes (Undeveloped Marsh LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The landscape contains part of the Mucking Flats and Marshes SSSI, Thames Estuary and Marshes Ramsar site, and Special Protection Area. The landscape also contains the South Essex Marshes RSPB nature reserve. There are a number of Local Wildlife Sites located in the west of the landscape, including at Thurrock Thameside Nature Park, located at Mucking. There are small areas of priority habitat consisting of woodland.	High
Cultural heritage	There are three listed buildings within the LCA, which comprise a Grade II* listed church, a Grade II listed vicarage, and a Grade I listed church. There is a conservation area at East Tilbury. The Coalhouse Fort Battery and Artillery Defences Scheduled Monument is in the south of the LCA along the River Thames.	Medium-high
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes there are areas of open drained marshland with restored grazing marsh. Thurrock Thameside Nature Park and Stanford Warren Nature Reserve manage and conserve this landscape.	Medium-high
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA comprises a large-scale landscape that was '*modified through mineral extraction...and... restored (with) nature reserves...to accommodate landfill*'.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. Part of the England Coast Path passes through the LCA. Coalhouse Fort and nature reserves provide opportunities for recreation.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is flat and low-lying, with '*panoramic views along and across Thames Estuary*'. Views are also characterised by large-scale industrial development, including at London Gateway Port.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from areas of settlement and industry.	Medium
Functional	Much of the LCA forms part of the flood plain for the River Thames, and several tributaries of the Thames pass through the area. Much of the LCA is drained marshland.	Medium-high
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / Medium / Low-medium	Low

Table A49 LCA G3: Tilbury (Developed Marsh LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are some limited areas of priority habitat including coastal floodplain grazing marsh surrounding warehouses in the north-west.	Low-medium
Cultural heritage	Tilbury is a port town and was established in the late 19th Century. There is one Grade II Listed building located in Tilbury - The Tilbury Clock Tower.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA is mainly urban and industrial, with open boundaries to the adjacent flat marshland landscape.	Low
Associations	The Tilbury Band (a brass band) was formed in Tilbury in 1919 and Tilbury is occasionally used as a filming location.	Medium
Distinctiveness	Victorian buildings contribute to the distinctiveness of the settlement.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a small number of PRoW in the south, and narrow areas of common land / open access land in the east of the LCA at The Green, Hall Hill, Fort Road, Parsonage, Walton and Tilbury Fort Commons.	Low-medium
Perceptual (scenic)	There is limited visual amenity due to residential and industrial land uses.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a lack of perceived tranquillity due to urban land uses, transport and lighting.	Low
Functional	The majority of the area is urban, with some pockets of greenspace.	Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / Medium / **Low-medium** / Low	

Table A50 LCA H1 East and West Tilbury Open Undulating Farmland (Open Undulating Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are numerous Local Wildlife Sites such as Mucking Heath Complex, Buckingham Hill and Blackshots and a small Local Nature Reserve near Linford. Priority habitat, including deciduous woodland and traditional orchard, is clustered between Southfields and Linford and there is ancient woodland at Chadwell Wood.	Medium-high
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings in the LCA such as Heath Place and Turners Farm. There are also scheduled monuments, including-crop marks near Orsett, Causewayed enclosure near Southfields and earthworks in the south. There are conservation areas at West Tilbury and East Tilbury.	Medium-high
Landscape condition	There are medium-large scale fields enclosed by hedgerows which are often gappy.	Low-medium
Associations	Emily Mary Osborn, a Victorian painter from West Tilbury is associated with this area. John Nevison, one of Britain's most notorious highwaymen, is also associated with this area.	Medium
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: '*The lagoon and marshland at Stone Ness provides a distinctive and naturalistic area which is distinct from the adjacent industrialised areas*.'	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA and golf clubs at St Cleres and Orsett.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA has limited scenic qualities with '*gentle undulations and patchwork of fields*'. This area is heavily influenced by energy infrastructure, including overhead lines.	Low
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA has '*a moderate sense of tranquillity',* although the neighbouring settlement and A roads in the north and west reduce tranquillity.	Low-medium
Functional	Elements of the LCA contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. pockets of woodland, although these tend to be small and fragmented. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled, with some recreational uses e.g. at Langdon Hills Golf Club.	Low-medium

Overall Evaluation	High	Medium-high	**Medium**	Low-medium	Low

Table A51 LCA H2 Orsett & Horndon on the Hill Open Undulating Farmland (Open Undulating Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There is a Local Wildlife Site at Mar Dyke, in the western extents of the LCA at North Stifford.	Low-medium
Cultural heritage	There are a number of Grade II listed buildings throughout the LCA as well as conservation areas at Orsett and Horndon on the Hill. Scheduled monuments include the Crop mark complex and Bishop Bonner's Palace. There is evidence of human activity in the area dating back to the Palaeolithic period.	Medium-high
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes that there is '*an irregular pattern of small to large agricultural fields with remnant field boundaries...reinforced by mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees to create a strong landscape structure.'*	Medium
Associations	The villages of Orsett and Horndon on the Hill were historically important for trade, including the wool industry, deer and wildfowl. Orsett was the original seat of local government for the area and site of a palace of the Bishop of London in medieval times. Horndon on the Hill had a Royal Mint from the 11th Century.	Medium-high
Distinctiveness	The skyline of Horndon on the Hill is distinctive for its attractive wooded skyline and church spire.	Medium
Recreational	There is a network of PRoW across the area and recreational facilities at Orsett and Horndon on the Hill.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	There are expansive views from elevated areas such as from Horndon on the Hill towards an attractive rural backdrop, although existing pylons and major roads are detracting features.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	The LCA has a strong rural feel with unspoilt historic villages, creating a strong sense of history, richness and interest. The A13 and A1089 locally reduce tranquillity.	Medium
Functional	The LCA description notes that '*mixed arable and pasture fields are the prevalent land uses in the area. Small woodlands remnant orchards are also present.'*	Medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium / Low	

Table A52 LCA I1 Chadwell St Mary (Towns on Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are small areas of woodland and grassland within the LCA.	Low
Cultural heritage	The settlement has a historic core and there are a small number of listed buildings across the LCA including a Grade I listed church.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA is predominately residential comprising the settlement of Chadwell St Mary, which the LCA description notes as having *'frequent green spaces alongside roads and around buildings*' and the '*cemetery provide some natural interest.*'	Low-medium
Associations	World javelin champion Fatima Whitbread grew up in Chadwell St Mary.	Low-medium
Distinctiveness	The LCA is noted to be a '*compact settlement sitting on a low ridge, with a noticeable scarp slope defining the southern edge of the town*'.	Low-medium
Recreational	'*Open spaces form a notable green wedge*' within the settlement.	Low-medium
Perceptual (scenic)	Outward views are typically screened/filtered by buildings and vegetation, except in the south where there are '*Panoramic and long distance views of the neighbouring marshes, docks and Thames estuary to the south'*. There are some detractors within the LCA including major roads.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a lack of perceived tranquillity due to urban land uses, transport and lighting.	Low
Functional	The land use is predominantly post-war residential and many areas of green and open space are recreation.	Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / Medium / **Low-medium**	Low

Table A53 9 LCA I2 Stanford-le-Hope and Corringham (Towns on Farmland LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There is a Local Wildlife Site at Victoria Road Grassland and Mucking Creek Wetlands, which is in the west of the LCA. There are small areas of priority habitats which consist of woodland.	Low-medium
Cultural heritage	Stanford-le-Hope has a historic core with some Victorian streets. There are a small number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed halls, and a Grade I listed church.	Low-medium
Landscape condition	The LCA is largely residential with some amenity greenspace and farmland at the fringes of the settlement.	Low-medium
Associations	Joseph Conrad, the well-regarded novelist, lived in Stanford-le-Hope from 1896.	Medium
Distinctiveness	Stanford-le-Hope has a historic core with some Victorian streets.	Low-medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA. NCN Route 13 passes through the LCA.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The '*ridge top position allows some long distance views, for example northwards to the Langdon Hills from central Corringham (particularly when descending northwards), and from the southern edges of both settlements over the Thames Estuary*'. There are some detractors within the LCA including major roads.	Low-medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a lack of perceived tranquillity due to urban land uses, transport and lighting.	Low
Functional	Elements of the LCA contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. Mucking Creek. The majority of the area is urban, with some pockets of greenspace.	Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / Medium / **Low-medium**	Low

Table A54 LCA J1 Langdon Lower Hill Slopes (Lower Hill Slopes LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	There are '*small areas of deciduous woodland and semi-improved grassland are priority habitats, some of which are of local nature conservation significance*.' Priority habitats mainly include woodland, and a small area of traditional orchard. Fell-me-down Shaw is a Local Wildlife Site.	Medium
Cultural heritage	There are a small number of listed buildings across the LCA including several Grade II listed farmhouses.	Low-Medium
Landscape condition	The LCA description notes '*strong landscape structure across the area*' with '*small geometric blocks of woodland*'	Medium
Associations	No known cultural associations.	Low
Distinctiveness	The LCA description notes the following key characteristic: *'Gently sloping and undulating lower slopes of the Langdon Hills with views up to the higher wooded Langdon Hills.'*	Medium
Recreational	There are a number of PRoW within the LCA, as well as Langdon Hills Golf Club.	Medium
Perceptual (scenic)	The LCA is characterised by the steep-sided, rounded and wooded Langdon Hills, and their farmed lower slopes. There are some long views to the south-east.	Medium
Perceptual (tranquillity)	There is a perception of tranquillity in rural areas, away from larger settlements and major roads. The LCA is described as having a '*localised areas of enclosure with a sense of tranquillity*'.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the LCA contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape, e.g. pockets of woodland, although these tend to be small and fragmented. Much of the landscape is farmed or settled, with some recreational uses e.g. at Langdon Hills Golf Club.	Low-medium
Overall Evaluation	High / Medium-high / **Medium** / Low-medium	Low

Table A55 LCA K1 Langdon Higher Hills (Higher Hills LCT)

Value Criteria	Description	Evaluation
Natural heritage	The Langdon Ridge SSSI is located within the LCA. There is an area of ancient woodland at Great Sutton Wood, Hall Wood and Combe Wood. There are Local Wildlife Sites at Langdon Complex and Goldsmiths Meadow. There are large areas of priority habitat, the majority of which is woodland with some areas of traditional orchard.	High
Cultural heritage	There are a number of listed buildings around Langdon Hall Farm and the Church of St Mary and All Saints. There are also remains of medieval embanked woodland enclosures and ancient field systems.	Medium
Landscape condition	Landscape condition is good as a result of intact and well-defined irregular fields interlocking with mature woodland. Woodlands are typically well-managed as part of the Langdon Hills Country Park.	Medium-high
Associations	Plotlands began to establish in the late 1800s and up to WWII.	Low-medium
Distinctiveness	The irregular pattern of pre-18th century fields provide a sense of history and are relatively rare in the context of Thurrock. The steep landform and wooded hills are distinctive.	Medium-high
Recreational	Langdon Hills Country Park is a recreational destination, and a network of footpaths offer recreational uses across the LCA.	Medium-high
Perceptual (scenic)	An area of high scenic quality offering panoramic views across undulating landform framed by woodland and historic buildings.	Medium-High
Perceptual (tranquillity)	A relatively naturalistic landscape with rural tranquillity due to the woodland and narrow country lanes.	Medium
Functional	Elements of the LCA contribute to the healthy functioning of the landscape including woodland.	Medium
Overall Evaluation	High **Medium-high** Medium Low-medium	Low

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