The Great Grid Upgrade

North Humber to High Marnham

NHHM-AEC-CNS-CPR-0006

North Humber to High Marnham

Volume 6: Environmental Statement

Document 6.6 Environmental Statement Chapter 6 - Landscape

Final Issue A

October 2026

Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN020034

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

nationalgrid

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6. Landscape

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 This chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) presents the assessment of likely significant landscape effects that could result from the North Humber to High Marnham Project (the Project) as described in **Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project**.

6.1.2 This chapter describes relevant legislation and policy, the scope of the assessment, the methodology used, the datasets that have informed the assessment, the baseline conditions, mitigation measures, and the landscape residual significant effects that could result from the Project.

6.1.3 The Order Limits, which illustrate the boundary of the Project, are shown on **Application Document 6.1.F1 Figure 1.1 Project Location and Route Sections**.

6.1.4 This chapter should be read in conjunction with the following ES chapters:

- **Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project**;
- **Application Document 6.5 Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology**;
- **Application Document 6.7 Chapter 7 Visual**;
- **Application Document 6.8 Chapter 8 Ecology**;
- **Application Document 6.10 Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage**;
- **Application Document 6.14 Chapter 14 Traffic and Transport**;
- **Application Document 6.20 Chapter 20 Intra-project Cumulative Effects**; and
- **Application Document 6.21 Chapter 21 Inter-project Cumulative Effects**.

6.1.5 This chapter is supported by the following figures:

- **Application Document 6.6.F1 Figure 6.1 Landscape Designations and Features**;
- **Application Document 6.6.F2 Figure 6.2 Landform and Drainage**;
- **Application Document 6.6.F3 Figure 6.3 National Character Areas**; and
- **Application Document 6.6.F4 Figure 6.4 Landscape Character Types**.

6.1.6 This chapter is supported by the following appendices:

- **Application Document 6.6.A1 Appendix 6.1 Regional and Local Planning Policy**;
- **Application Document 6.6.A2 Appendix 6.2 Landscape Methodology**; and
- **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

6.1.7 This chapter is supported by the following application documents:

- **Application Document 6.5.A1 Appendix 5.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report**;
- **Application Document 6.5.A2 Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion**;
- **Application Document 6.5.A3 Scoping Response Tables**;
- **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**;
- **Application Document 7.14 Arboricultural Impact Assessment**; and
- **Application Document 7.16 Photomontages**.

6.2 Regulatory and Planning Context

6.2.1 This section sets out the legislation and planning policy that is relevant to the landscape assessment. A full review of compliance with relevant national, regional, and local planning policy is provided within **Application Document 5.5 Planning Statement** submitted as part of the application for development consent.

6.2.2 **Application Document 6.2 Chapter 2 Legislation and Policy Context** describes the overall regulatory and planning policy context for the Project. Key legislation, policy, and planning guidance relevant to the assessment of landscape effects of the Project is presented below.

Legislation

6.2.3 The legislation listed below has been considered when identifying potential constraints to the Project, design options and mitigation.

European Landscape Convention 2007

6.2.4 The European Landscape Convention 2007 (Council of Europe, 2000) was ratified in the UK in 2006. In Article 1, it defines landscape as:

'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'.

6.2.5 The European Landscape Convention promotes an approach founded on the recognition of value in all landscapes. It recognises that the landscape is important as a component of the environment and of people's surroundings in both town and country, and whether it is ordinary landscape or outstanding.

Electricity Act 1989

6.2.6 Section 38 and Schedule 9 Paragraph 1 (1) of the Electricity Act 1989 (HM Government, 1989) places a duty on all electricity transmission and distribution licence holders, in formulating proposals for new electricity networks infrastructure, to:

'have regard to the desirability of preserving natural beauty, of conserving flora, fauna and geological or physiographical features of special interest and of protecting sites, buildings and objects of architectural, historic or archaeological interest; and …

do what [they] reasonably can to mitigate any effect which the proposals would have on the natural beauty of the countryside or on any such flora, fauna, features, sites, buildings or objects'.

Town and Country Planning Act

6.2.7 The Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (HM Government, 1990) (Part VIII, Chapter 1 of the Act) and The Town and Country Planning (Trees Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 (HM Government, 2012) are relevant as they can inform the development of mitigation proposals, in the event any individual trees, groups of trees or woodlands that are protected by a Tree Preservation Order have to be removed.

National Policy

National Policy Statements

6.2.8 National Policy Statements (NPSs) set out the primary policy tests against which the application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the Project will be considered.

6.2.9 Table 6.1 and Table 6.2 provide details of the elements of the Overarching NPS for Energy (EN-1) (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2025), referred to hereafter as NPS EN-1, and NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2025), referred to hereafter as NPS EN-5, that are relevant to the assessment of the Project on landscape and how and where related information is provided in the ES and the application.

Table 6.1 – NPS EN-1 sections relevant to landscape

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the application
5.10.6 'Projects need to be designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape. Having regard to siting, operational and other relevant constraints the aim should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and appropriate.'	Landscape has been a key consideration during the design process. The design approach and principles are set out in **Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report** which discusses how routeing has sought to minimise effects on landscape receptors. This has included routeing parallel with existing overhead lines and synchronising of pylon locations where possible to reduce the spread of effects and achieve a coherent appearance in line with the Holford Rules (National Grid, 1992) (Rule 6).
5.10.12 'Outside nationally designated areas, there are landscapes that may be highly valued locally. Where a local development document in England or a local development plan in Wales has policies based on landscape or waterscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, locally valued landscapes should not be used in	Local policies based on landscape character assessment have been considered as listed in **Application Document 6.6.A1 Appendix 6.1 Regional and Local Planning Policy**. This includes relevant polices from local plans and neighbourhood plans, both adopted and emerging.

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the application
themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development.'	
5.10.16 'The applicant should carry out a landscape and visual impact assessment and report it in the ES, including cumulative effects. Several guides have been produced to assist in addressing landscape issues.'	This chapter details the likely significant effects of the Project on landscape receptors. **Application Document 6.7 Chapter 7 Visual** details the likely significant effects of the Project on visual receptors. **Application Document 6.20 Chapter 20 Intra-project Cumulative Effects** and **Application Document 6.21 Chapter 21 Inter-project Cumulative Effects** sets outs the cumulative assessment for both landscape and visual receptors.
5.10.17 'The landscape and visual assessment should include reference to any landscape character assessment and associated studies as a means of assessing landscape impacts relevant to the proposed project. The applicant's assessment should also take account of any relevant policies based on these assessments in local development documents in England and local development plans in Wales.'	A number of published landscape character assessments have been used to inform the baseline conditions and assessment of the effects on landscape character. These are listed in section 6.4 of this chapter with details in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**. Planning polices relevant to landscape and how they have been considered is presented in **Application Document 6.6.A1 Appendix 6.1 Regional and Local Planning Policy**.
5.10.19 'The applicant should consider landscape and visual matters in the early stages of siting and design, where site choices and design principles are being established. This will allow the applicant to demonstrate in the ES how negative effects have been minimised and opportunities for creating positive benefits or enhancement have been recognised and incorporated into the design, delivery and operation of the scheme.'	Landscape and visual matters have been a key consideration during the design process. The design approach and principles are set out in **Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report** which discusses how routeing has sought to minimise effects on landscape and visual receptors.
5.10.20 'The assessment should include the effects on landscape components and character (including key characteristics) during construction and operation.'	This chapter details the likely significant effects of the Project on landscape receptors during both construction and operation.
5.10.22 'The assessment should also address the landscape and visual effects of light pollution, and other emissions (see Section 5.2 and Section 5.7), from construction and operational activities on residential amenity and on sensitive locations, receptors and views, and how these will be minimised.'	This chapter details the likely significant effects of the Project on landscape receptors and **Application Document 6.7 Chapter 7 Visual** details the likely significant effects of the Project on visual receptors. Residential receptors are considered in **Application Document 6.7.A5 Appendix 7.5 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment** in line with the methodology

NPS EN-1 section	Where this is covered in the application
	presented in **Application Document 6.7.A2 Appendix 7.2 Visual Methodology**.
5.10.27 ‘Adverse landscape and visual effects may be minimised through appropriate siting of infrastructure within its development site and wider setting. The careful consideration of colours and materials will support the delivery of a well-designed scheme, as will sympathetic landscaping and management of its immediate surroundings.’	Landscape and visual matters have been a key consideration during the design process. The design approach and principles are set out in **Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report** which discusses how routeing and pylon choice has sought to minimise effects on landscape and visual receptors.
5.10.35 ‘The scale of energy projects means that they will often be visible across a very wide area. The Secretary of State should judge whether any adverse impact on the landscape would be so damaging that it is not offset by the benefits (including need) of the project.’	The adverse impacts on the landscape are described in this chapter and in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.
5.10.36 ‘In reaching a judgement, the Secretary of State should consider whether any adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the Secretary of State considers reasonable.’	Where landscape effects are temporary, this is stated in this chapter and in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.
5.10.37 ‘The Secretary of State should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by appropriate mitigation.’	Landscape has been a key consideration during the design process. The design approach and principles are set out in **Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report** which discusses how routeing has sought to minimise effects on landscape receptors. This has included routeing parallel with existing overhead lines and synchronising of pylon locations where possible to reduce the spread of effects and achieve a coherent appearance in line with the Holford Rules (National Grid, 1992) (Rule 6). This chapter outlines additional measures to mitigate landscape effects and proposals presented in **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**.

Table 6.2 – NPS EN-5 sections relevant to landscape

NPS EN-5 section	Where this is covered in the application
2.9.7 '*While the government does not believe that the development of overhead lines is incompatible in principle with applicants' statutory duty under Schedule 9 to the Electricity Act 1989, to have regard to visual and landscape amenity and to reasonably mitigate possible impacts thereon, in practice new overhead lines can give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts*'.	This chapter details the likely significant effects of the Project on landscape receptors. **Application Document 6.7 Chapter 7 Visual** details the likely significant effects of the Project on visual receptors.
2.9.8 '*These impacts depend on the type (for example, whether lines are supported by towers or monopole structures), scale, siting, and degree of screening of the lines, as well as the characteristics of the landscape and local environment through which they are routed*'.	**Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project** sets out the details of the Project and **Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report** sets out the approach to routeing and the environmental considerations had during the routeing process.
2.9.10 '*Cumulative adverse landscape, seascape and visual impacts may arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms, and/or other new sources of generation.*'	**Application Document 6.21 Chapter 21 Inter-project Cumulative Effects** sets out the cumulative assessment for both landscape and visual receptors in respect of the Project interacting cumulatively with other developments.
2.9.11 '*Landscape and visual benefits may arise through the reconfiguration, rationalisation, or undergrounding of existing electricity network infrastructure. Though mitigation of the landscape and visual impacts arising from overhead lines and their associated infrastructure is usually possible, it may not always be so, and the impossibility of full mitigation in these cases does not countermand the need for overhead lines.*'	Where third party assets require works to facilitate the Project, e.g. undergrounding of lower voltage overhead lines, the assessment presented in this chapter includes those works and the subsequent landscape effects. For information on how reconfiguration, rationalisation and undergrounding have been considered refer to **Application Document 7.17 Strategic Options Report Including Needs Case** and **Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report**.
2.9.14 '*Where the nature or proposed route of an overhead line will likely result in particularly significant landscape and visual impacts, as would be assessed through seascape, landscape and visual impact assessment (SLVIA), the applicant should demonstrate that they have given due consideration to the costs and benefits of feasible alternatives to the overhead line. This could include, where appropriate re-routing, underground or subsea cables and*	An overhead line was identified as being the preferred strategic option and information is presented in **Application Document 7.17 Strategic Options Report Including Needs Case**. The routeing and siting study set out in **Application Document 7.18 Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study** took account of landscape and visual receptors and identified a preferred corridor. Subsequently, a refined overhead line alignment was developed within the preferred corridor and is described in **Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project**, with the

NPS EN-5 section	Where this is covered in the application
the feasibility e.g. in cost, engineering or environmental terms of these.' 2.9.15 '*The ES should set out details of this consideration, including the applicant's rationale for eschewing feasible alternatives to the overhead line, and the mitigation cost-calculation methodology that this rationale may rely upon.*'	**Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report** setting out the approach to routeing and the environmental considerations had during the routeing process. **Application Document 6.3 Chapter 3 Main Alternatives Considered** sets out the reasonable alternatives considered and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the Project on the environment. While significant effects on landscape have been identified as described in this chapter, in line with National Grid statutory duties these have not been considered to be 'particularly significant' to require alternative technology choices as set out in paragraph 2.9.14 of EN-5.
2.10.6 '*Additionally, there are more specific measures that might be taken, and which the Secretary of State could mandate through DCO requirements if appropriate, as follows:* • *Landscape schemes, comprising off-site tree and hedgerow planting, are sometimes used for larger new overhead line projects to mitigate potential landscape and visual impacts, softening the effect of a new above ground line whilst providing some screening from important visual receptors. These may be implemented with the agreement of the relevant landowner(s), or the developer may compulsorily acquire the land or land rights in question. Advice from the relevant statutory authority should be sought on the design of such schemes, with particular consideration given to the selection of species mix which is appropriate to the local landscape character; and* • *Screening, comprising localised planting in the immediate vicinity of residential properties and principal viewpoints can also help to screen or soften the effect of the line, reducing the visual impact from a particular receptor.*'	This chapter outlines measures to mitigate landscape effects and proposals presented in **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**. This includes indicative species mixes for each planting type e.g. woodland, scrub and hedgerow. Final selection of mixes will be agreed with relevant local authorities as part of the approvals set out in Requirement 4 in **Application Document 3.1 Draft Development Consent Order**.
2.10.7 '*As set out in the paragraphs above, where landscape schemes and/or screening*	This chapter outlines additional measures to mitigate landscape effects and proposals

NPS EN-5 section	Where this is covered in the application
mitigation of the kind described above is required, rights over the land necessary for such measures may be compulsorily acquired as part of the DCO.'	presented in **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan.**
2.10.8 '*Furthermore, since long-term management of the selected mitigation schemes is essential to their mitigating function, a management plan, developed at least in outline at the conclusion of the examination, and which sets out proposals within a realistic timescale, should secure the integrity and benefit of these schemes. This should also uphold the landscape commitments made to achieve consent, alongside any pertinent commitments to environmental and biodiversity net gain.*'	**Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** sets out the management for reinstatement and mitigation planting. Reinstatement and mitigation planting will be subject to a five-year management plan whilst any areas included for biodiversity net gain as set out in **Application Document 7.1 Biodiversity Net Gain Report** will be subject to a 30-year management plan in line with legislation (HM Government, 2021).
2.11.2 '*The Secretary of State should be satisfied that the development, so far as is reasonably possible, complies with the Holford and Horlock Rules (please see paragraphs 2.9.16 - 2.9.19) or any updates to them and has had regard to the ETDP (please see paragraph 2.9.20) once published.*'	**Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report** sets out the approach to routeing and the environmental considerations during the routeing process and contains commentary on how the Project has considered the Holford Rules (National Grid, 1992). The Horlock Rules (National Grid, 2003) are not relevant to this Project. The new substations to which this Project would connect have been granted under separate planning applications and so do not form part of the Project. The ETDP (National Energy System Operator , 2026) was published in June 2026. This document reinforces the principles set out in both the Holford Rules (National Grid, 1992) and Horlock Rules (National Grid, 2003) and the Project complies to the relevant principles.
2.11.3 '*The Secretary of State should also be satisfied that all feasible options for mitigation, including the rationalisation, reconfiguration, or undergrounding of existing electricity networks infrastructure, have been considered and evaluated appropriately.*'	An overhead line was identified as being the preferred strategic option and information is presented in **Application Document 7.17 Strategic Options Report Including Needs Case**. The routeing and siting study set out in **Application Document 7.18 Corridor and Preliminary Routeing and Siting Study** took account of landscape and visual receptors and identified a preferred corridor. Subsequently, a refined overhead line alignment was developed within the preferred corridor and is described in **Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project**, with the **Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report** setting out the approach

NPS EN-5 section	Where this is covered in the application
	to routeing and the environmental considerations had during the routeing process. This chapter outlines additional measures to mitigate landscape effects and proposals presented in **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**.

National Planning Policy Framework

6.2.10 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as revised in August 2026 (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2026) sets out national planning policies that reflect priorities of the Government for the operation of the planning system and the economic, social, and environmental aspects of the development and use of land. The NPPF (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2026) has a strong emphasis on sustainable development, with a presumption in favour of such development. Although the NPSs set out the primary policy tests for the Project, the NPPF (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2026) has the potential to be considered important and relevant to the consideration of the Project by the Secretary of State (SoS).

6.2.11 Table 6.3 provides details of the elements of the NPPF (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2026) that relate to the landscape assessment, and how and where they are covered in the ES and application.

Table 6.3 – NPPF sections relevant to landscape

NPPF section	Where this is covered in the application
Policy N2: Improving the natural environment This policy sets out the requirement for developments to consider the qualities of landscape character and the natural beauty of the countryside and to identify opportunities for those qualities to be conserved and enhanced.	Landscape has been a key consideration during the design process. The design approach and principles are set out in **Application Document 5.9 Design Development Report** which discusses how routeing has sought to minimise effects on landscape receptors. This has included routeing parallel with existing overhead lines and synchronising of pylon locations where possible to reduce the spread of effects and achieve a coherent appearance in line with Rule 6 of the Holford Rules (National Grid, 1992). This chapter outlines embedded mitigation measures, control and management measures and additional mitigation measures to mitigate landscape effects and proposals presented in **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**.

National Planning Practice Guidance

6.2.12 The NPPF (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2026) is supported by Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) which was first published in March 2014. This guidance is updated on a regular basis and provides advice on a range of topics related to the implementation of NPPF (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2026) policies. The PPG that is relevant to the landscape assessment is summarised below.

Planning Practice Guidance for Natural Environment

6.2.13 The PPG for Natural Environment (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2025) considers the '*key issues in implementing policy to protect and enhance the natural environment*'. This includes specific reference to landscape.

6.2.14 This PPG (Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, 2025) states the need to consider landscape and adverse effects to landscapes, including nationally and locally designated landscapes, and the wider countryside.

6.2.15 It makes reference to Natural England's National Character Areas (NCAs), noting that Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) can be used to demonstrate the likely effects of a proposed development.

Regional and Local Policy

6.2.16 **Application Document 6.2 Chapter 2 Legislation and Policy Context** lists relevant regional and local policy documents.

6.2.17 A range of regional and local planning policies are in place that seek to protect and enhance landscape designations and landscape character; these have been given due regard in the landscape assessment and have been considered as part of the design development process of the Project. Full details of local policies relevant to this assessment are presented in **Application Document 6.6.A1 Appendix 6.1 Regional and Local Planning Policy**.

6.3 Scoping Opinion and Consultation

Scoping Opinion

6.3.1 A Scoping Report for the Project was issued to the Planning Inspectorate on 21 August 2023 (**Application Document 6.5.A1 Appendix 5.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report**) and a Scoping Opinion was received from the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the SoS for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on 29 September 2023 (**Application Document 6.5.A2 Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion**). Table 6.4 sets out the comments raised in **Application Document 6.5.A2 Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion** that are relevant to landscape and how these have been addressed in this assessment. **Application Document 6.5.A2 Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion** takes account of responses from prescribed consultees as appropriate. **Application Document 6.5.A3 Appendix 5.3 Scoping Response Tables** provide responses to the comments made by the prescribed consultees at the scoping stage that relate to the scope of the assessment and how each comment has been considered.

Table 6.4 – Comments raised in the Scoping Opinion

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
3.1.1	**Maintenance activities during Operation** Paragraph 6.8.6 states that it is anticipated that no significant effects will arise from the maintenance activities. For the landscape assessment the maintenance activities are set out in Table 6.4. As per ID 2.1.11 of this Scoping Opinion, the Inspectorate is of the view that the maintenance phase is not a separate phase and that maintenance activities associated within this phase form part of the operational phase. Given the nature of the proposed maintenance activities proposed, the Inspectorate is content to scope these specific maintenance activities from the operational assessment.	This matter has been scoped out of further assessment as agreed.
3.1.2	**Yorkshire Wolds Provisional Candidate Area – Construction and Operation.** The Scoping Report proposes to scope out the Yorkshire Wolds Provisional Candidate Area, an area with the potential to be designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)[1], during the construction and operation phases on the basis that at its closest point it lies some 14 km from the Proposed Development site. Table 6.3 states that at a distance of 14 km, the 110 m high pylons would "appear to be 48 mm tall in the landscape" and so even if these were visible alongside the existing pylons in views out from the Provisional Candidate Area, they would not fundamentally alter the character of those views or indirectly influence the character of the landscape. On the basis of the distance between the Proposed Development site and the Provisional Candidate Area the Inspectorate considers that it is unlikely	The Applicant acknowledges that **Application Document 6.5.A2 Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion** refers to a distance of 14 km between the Provisional Candidate Area and the Scoping Boundary as this was the distance provided in **Application Document 6.5.A1 Appendix 5.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report**. On 4 February 2026, Natural England issued notice of intention to 'make' the designation Order. The Draft Yorkshire Wolds AONB (Designation) Order 2026 (Natural England, 2026) proposes an area slightly larger than the Provisional Candidate Area originally published for consultation; the area expanded as a result of consultation responses. This means that the distance between the proposed boundary of the Candidate AONB to the nearest point of the Limits of Deviation (LoD) is 11.4 km. At this distance, the special qualities and statutory purposes of the AONB are

[1] In November 2023, AONBs in England and Wales were given the new, public-facing name of 'National Landscapes' to better reflect their equal status and importance alongside UK National Parks. However, AONB remains the official, statutory legal designation written into legislation. Therefore, throughout this chapter the term AONB is used.

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	significant effects would occur. However, it is understood that the boundary of the Provisional Candidate Area has not yet been confirmed and could be subject to change. The Inspectorate considers that the potential for an impact pathway to this receptor should be kept under review regarding the designation of this Provisional Candidate Area. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from Natural England (Appendix 2 of this Opinion). Furthermore, the Inspectorate notes a discrepancy between the height stated here and the calculations provided within footnote 2 in Appendix 6.5A of the Scoping Report. The ES should clarify the apparent height of the proposed infrastructure from the Provision Candidate Area.	unlikely to be significantly affected by the Project, and no further assessment has been undertaken. The calculation should read 4.8 mm based on a 110 m high pylon at 14 km distance. However, the distance between the taller pylons at the River Ouse crossing and the closest area proposed for designation is now 20 km and the height of the crossing pylons is 128.6 m. This means that the pylons would appear to be 3.9 mm tall in the landscape, which would not give rise to significant effects. The calculations in the footnotes on page 5 of Appendix 6.A and on page 5 of Appendix 7.A of **Application Document 6.5.A1 Appendix 5.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report** are also correct. The calculation is set out in Appendix 5 of the report 'Wind Turbines and Pylons: Guidance on the Application of Separation Distances from Residential Properties' (Gillespies, 2014).
3.1.3	**Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and proposed extension area – Construction and Operation.** The Scoping Report proposes to scope out the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB and proposed extension area during the construction and operation phases of the Proposed Development on the basis that at its closest point the Lincolnshire Wolds lies some 30 km from the nearest point to the Scoping Boundary. The Scoping Report proposes to exclude the Area from assessment given the distance to the Proposed Development and lack of potential intervisibility, the potential for significant effects is not likely. In addition, the Scoping Report proposes to exclude the Proposed AONB extension area on the basis that it has no formal status at this time (paragraph 6.2.24). The Inspectorate agrees that the impact of the Proposed Development upon the extension area, whilst not designated, can be scoped	The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB proposed extension area has been kept under review during the production of this landscape assessment, and there is currently no formal proposal to designate any additional areas at this time. It has therefore not been considered in the assessment.

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	out in relation to the phases identified, on the basis of the evidence presented. However, should the area in question become designated, the Applicant should undertake further assessment work.	
3.1.4	**Isle of Axholme – Consideration of area as a nationally designated landscape.** The Scoping Report proposes that the 5 km study area encompasses part of the Isle of Axholme, an area of raised ground locally designated by North Lincolnshire Council as an Area of Historic Landscape Interest (AHLI) and that an assessment of effects on the AHLI will be included within Cultural Heritage and informed by the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA). The Scoping Report explains, however, that North Lincolnshire Council has stated their intention to submit a bid for the Isle of Axholme to be designated as an AONB. At the time of the scoping submission Natural England had not undertaken any consultation on this matter, therefore the Applicant proposes not to include the Isle of Axholme as a potential nationally designated landscape. The Inspectorate agrees that consideration of the area as a nationally designated landscape can be scoped out, on the basis of the evidence presented. However, should the area in question become nationally designated, the Applicant should undertake further assessment work as part of the Development Consent application. If possible, the Applicant should also seek to agree the sensitivity of the Isle with North Lincolnshire Council	To clarify, the designation is an Area of Special Historic Landscape Interest (ASHLI). The potential landscape designation of the Isle of Axholme ASHLI as an AONB, now known as National Landscape, has been kept under review during the production of the landscape assessment and currently there is no plan to designate this area by Natural England. A description and assessment of the effects of the Project on the Isle of Axholme ASHLI is presented in **Application Document 6.10 Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage**. The assessment of the effects on the landscape of the Isle of Axholme is presented in section 6.9 of this chapter under the following Landscape Character Types (LCTs) from the North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment (North Lincolnshire Council, 2022): • Trent Levels: Flat Drained Farmland; • Trent Levels: Open Island Farmland; • Trent Levels: Flat Drained Treed Farmland; and • Trent Levels: Flat Wooded Farmland.
3.1.5	**Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors Important Landscape Area (ILA) – Construction.** The Scoping Report proposes to scope out the Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors ILA during the construction phases of the Proposed Development on the basis that	The Thorne, Crowle and Goole Moors ILA lies outside, but close to, the 5 km study area boundary shown on **Application Document 6.6.F1 Figure 6.1 Landscape Designations and Features**. Given the sensitivity of the landscape and its close proximity to the

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	construction activities would be distant and only present at each pylon location for a short period of time, therefore the works would not fundamentally alter the composition or character of the views out from the ILA or indirectly influence the character of the landscape within the ILA. The Inspectorate does not consider that there is sufficient information and certainty regarding the proposed location of the pylons or the definition of a 'short period of time' at this stage to scope out the construction phase from further assessment.	5 km study area, an initial assessment of the likely effects of the Project on the landscape during construction and operation was undertaken and subsequently this designation was not taken forward for assessment. For justification refer to Table 1 of **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.
3.1.6	**Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLVs) around Gainsborough – Construction and Operation.** The Applicant proposes to exclude AGLVs around Gainsborough during the construction and operational phases. It is stated that significant effects are not likely to occur on the basis that construction activities and the 400 kV pylons once operational would be distant and therefore would not fundamentally alter the composition or character of the views out from the AGLV or indirectly influence the character of the landscape. It also stated that construction works would only be present at each pylon location for a short period of time. The Inspectorate does not consider that there is sufficient information on the figures provided regarding this area. Moreover, there is a lack of certainty regarding the proposed location of the pylons to conclude that significant effects upon the receptors identified would not be likely. As such the Inspectorate does not agree to scope this matter out at this stage.	Assessment of the likely effects on the AGLVs is included in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.
3.1.7	**National Character Areas (NCA) within/close to scoping boundary.** Eight NCA profiles lie within or close to the Proposed Development. The Scoping Report proposes to scope out an assessment of the effects of the Proposed Development on these NCA	The assumption is that the last sentence should have stated that NCAs should not be scoped out, given the previous sentence. The assessment provided in this chapter includes an assessment of effects on

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	on the basis that the assessment of effects on regional and local character areas will provide a more detailed prediction of the likely effects. The Applicant proposes, however, that the NCA will be included in the baseline assessment to provide relevant background information. The Inspectorate considers that given the linear route, length, and geographical coverage of the Proposed Development, that a landscape character assessment at a wider level than district level is required as part of the ES in order to understand the potential for likely significant effects to occur. On this basis, the Inspectorate agrees that NCAs can be scoped out of the ES.	LCTs and Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCTs). An assessment of the Project's effects on the NCA, which cover a wider area, is presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.
3.1.8, 3.1.9 and 3.1.10 (Duplicated comment)	**Local Character Types (LCTs) – Construction and Operation**. The Applicant proposes to scope out various Local Character Types (LCTs), including Regional LCTs (RLCTs), from the assessment on the basis of composition of views and that they would be distant from the works. Given the uncertainty regarding the likely location of the pylons, as well as the limited information regarding the baseline conditions within these areas and the specific distances from LCTs/ RLCTs, the Inspectorate is not in a position to scope out impacts during the construction or operational phases at this stage. However, based on the description of the proposed maintenance activities provided within Section 4.5 of the Scoping Report, the Inspectorate is content to scope out maintenance activities on the basis that these are unlikely to lead to significant effects. Figure 6.5 does not clearly label the LCT numbers; the ES should include plans which are clearly labelled.	An assessment of construction and operational effects on the landscape of LCTs (East Riding and North Lincolnshire) and RLCTs (East Midlands) within the 5 km study area is presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment** and summarised in section 6.9 of this chapter. The assessment of maintenance effects during operation of the Project has been scoped out in line with the Inspectorate's comment. The figures that accompany this chapter of the ES are all now clearly labelled, including **Application Document 6.6.F3 Figure 6.3 National Character Areas** and **Application Document 6.6.F4 Figure 6.4 Landscape Character Types**.
3.1.11	**Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment – Effects on Landscape Character and/or setting from night-time lighting of construction**	Since scoping, it is now proposed that certain construction operations may take place outside of the proposed core working hours. These are set out in

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
	activities – All landscape receptors. Within Table 6.5 the Scoping Report proposes to scope out this matter on the basis that no night-time construction activity is anticipated. However, at Table 6.6, the Applicant scopes this matter into the assessment. The Inspectorate would be content to scope out this matter on the basis that no overnight working is anticipated in the area identified. However, due to discrepancies within the documentation provided, the Inspectorate requests that the Applicant clarify its position regarding the presence of any night-time working, including its duration, as per ID 2.1.10 of this Scoping Opinion.	section 4.7 of **Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project**. The assessments have considered the proposed core working hours and those operations that may take place outside of them, as appropriate. An assessment of night-time lighting is included in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**, although given the temporary nature of the works which may require night-time lighting, this does not result in significant landscape effects in its own right.
3.1.12	**Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) – Construction.** The Scoping Report proposes to scope out preparation of a ZTV for the construction phase of the Proposed Development on the basis that there is a great degree of variability in the extent and timeframes of visibility of construction activity. In addition, the Applicant proposes that tall construction plant (for example tower cranes and piling rigs) rarely gives rise to significant landscape effects as it is present at each pylon location for a short period of time. Although the Inspectorate appreciates the transient nature of the construction activities proposed, a worse-case ZTV should be prepared in order to fully assess the potential for significant effects for the phase identified.	The tallest construction equipment is anticipated to be the mobile cranes for pylon erection. The crane would be used to lift all sections of each pylon into place. However, the cranes would be extended for several hours only and would be retracted when not in use. Cranes would be moved consecutively along the route so any effects would be short-term and transient. The erection method for the two taller river crossing pylons either side of the River Ouse (4AF77 and 4AF78) has yet to be confirmed but could require the use of a taller crane. As with other projects of this type, the Applicant has not prepared a ZTV for the construction phase of the Project. This is because the information on crane height will not be known until post consent, after a Main Works Contractor(s) has been appointed. Also, the cranes would only be present for a short period at each pylon site, which would substantially moderate any effects on the landscape. The ZTV production assumes that the greatest effects on the landscape would arise from the presence of tall pylons in the landscape during the operational phase. The assessment of construction effects presented in this chapter uses professional judgement to take account

ID	Inspectorate's comments	Response
		of the presence of cranes where relevant.
3.1.13	**Heritage Assets**. The Scoping Report proposes that there are several heritage assets within the 5 km study area including conservation areas, areas of historic interest and registered parks and gardens, however the designations will not be assessed as part of the landscape assessment. Instead, the Applicant proposes that, as they contribute to the value and susceptibility of the landscape, the effects of the Proposed Development on these receptors is considered in the Cultural Heritage chapter and, where assets are open to the public, they will be included in the visual assessment as described in Chapter 7 Visual. The Inspectorate is content with this approach, subject to adequate cross referencing to the LVIA and ZTV, photomontages, and any relevant landscape management plans, where appropriate	The Applicant agrees. Refer to the following: • **Application Document 6.7 Chapter 7 Visual;** • **Application Document 6.10 Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage;** • **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan; and** • **Application Document 7.16 Photomontages.**
3.1.14	**Planning Policy.** The Inspectorate recommends that Lincolnshire County Council policy should be included as it lies within 10 km of the Project. The Applicant's attention is drawn to the consultation response from Lincolnshire County Council (Appendix 2 of this Opinion).	The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, 2023) is listed under regional and local policy in **Application Document 6.6.A1 Appendix 6.1 Regional and Local Planning Policy**. Reference is made to the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project in the data sources used for the assessment listed in section 6.4 of this chapter.
3.1.15	**Receptors** The Inspectorate advises that the ES should consider the potential impacts on coastal margin in the vicinity of the development, where relevant, in line with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 100[2].	An assessment of construction and operational effects on the landscape within the 5 km study area is presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment** and summarised in this chapter. This includes the coastal margins along the Humber Estuary.

[2] Paragraph 100 of the NPPF at the time of the Inspectorate's comments stated '*Planning policies and decisions should protect and enhance public rights of way and access, including taking opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails*'.

Statutory Consultation

6.3.2 Statutory consultation for the Project took place between 18 February and 15 April 2025. A summary of the relevant feedback received during statutory consultation relating to landscape is provided below in Table 6.5. Further details on how consultation responses have informed the assessment are provided in **Application Document 5.1 Consultation Report**.

Table 6.5 – Assessment aspects raised at statutory consultation and how these have been addressed

Stakeholder	Assessment aspect raised	How this has been addressed
Nottinghamshire County Council	Use of the East Midlands Region Landscape Character Assessment and lack of reference to the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment when both North Lincolnshire and East Riding character assessments are both considered.	The size and scale of the East Midlands Region LCTs were considered more comparable to the North Lincolnshire and East Riding character areas; therefore, they were used for the landscape baseline, the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Areas (LCA) being much smaller. Information from the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment (Bassetlaw District Council, 2009) has been incorporated into **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.
Nottinghamshire County Council	Lack of consideration of other development proposals within the preliminary assessment, for example One Earth Solar Farm.	**Application Document 6.21 Chapter 21 Inter-project Cumulative Effects** presents the cumulative assessment for landscape receptors and considers other developments within the landscape and visual Zone of Influence (ZoI) including One Earth Solar Farm. The assessment has considered the contribution of the Project to the total cumulative landscape effect created by the construction and operation of the relevant developments.
Marine Manageme Organisation	Requests that 'Seascape' be included within this chapter. The Applicant should consider how the project may affect the marine character of the area and discuss the possibility of adverse impacts.	The Marine Management Organisation character areas end at the confluence of the River Trent and the River Ouse. From there the Project would be seen in the context of the existing 400 kV overhead line as it crosses the River Ouse and therefore would be of no consequence for seascape character. Therefore, seascape is not considered within this assessment.

Stakeholder Engagement

6.3.3 National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (National Grid) has engaged with relevant stakeholders throughout the evolution of the Project including Bassetlaw District Council, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, North Lincolnshire Council, Nottinghamshire County Council[3], and Canal & River Trust.

6.3.4 A summary of discussions and how these have influenced the scope and the approach to the landscape assessment are provided in Table 6.6.

Table 6.6 – Further engagement

Organisation and date	Summary of issues raised	How this has been addressed
Thematic Group Meeting East Riding of Yorkshire Council Nottinghamshire County Council 4 September 2025	Landscape mitigation and enhancement Viewpoint locations	Mitigation planting is shown in **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**. No additional measures beyond the standard and embedded mitigation have been identified. NPS EN-5 (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2025) paragraph 2.9.11 is explicit that mitigation is not expected to result in the removal of landscape and visual effects for overhead lines '*and the impossibility of full mitigation in these cases does not countermand the need for overhead lines'*. Viewpoint locations have been discussed with each stakeholder as referenced in **Application Document 5.8 Statements of Common Ground**. Viewpoints are presented in **Application Document 6.7.A3 Appendix 7.3 Viewpoint Assessment**.

Summary of Scope of Assessment

6.3.5 The following summarises which aspects have been scoped into and out of the assessment through **Application Document 6.5.A1 Appendix 5.1 Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping Report** and **Application Document 6.5.A2 Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion** as set out in Table 6.4, statutory consultation as set out in Table 6.5 and further engagement with stakeholders as set out in Table 6.6.

[3] The Project is located within the administrative boundaries of East Riding of Yorkshire Council, North Lincolnshire Council and Bassetlaw District Council, which forms part of the two tier local government authority area of Nottinghamshire, where Nottinghamshire County Council is the upper tier authority.

Aspects scoped into the assessment

6.3.6 The following aspects have been scoped into the assessment:

- Effects of the Project on NCAs within the 5 km study area during construction and operation;
- Effects of the Project on LCTs, RLCTs and LCAs within the 5 km study area during construction and operation; and
- The effects on landscape designations, including ILAs and AGLVs within the 5 km study area during construction and operation.

Aspects scoped out of the assessment

6.3.7 The following aspects have been scoped out of the assessment:

- Potential landscape effects from the maintenance of the Project, as noted in ID 3.1.1 of **Application Document 6.5.A2 Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion**.
- Effects of the Project on the Yorkshire Wolds Provisional Candidate Area, as noted in ID 3.1.2 of **Application Document 6.5.A2 Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion**, and after the candidate area was published in October 2024.
- Effects of the Project on the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape and proposed extension area, as noted in ID 3.1.3 of **Application Document 6.5.A2 Appendix 5.2 Scoping Opinion**.
- Decommissioning, as explained in **Application Document 6.5 Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology**.

6.3.8 On 4 February 2026, Natural England issued notice of intention to 'make' the designation Order for the proposed Yorkshire Wolds AONB. The Draft Yorkshire Wolds AONB (Designation) Order 2026 (Natural England, 2026) identifies the areas to be designated. At its closest near Market Weighton, the area proposed for designation is approximately 11.4 km from the LoD. At this distance, the special qualities and statutory purposes of the AONB would not be significantly affected by the Project and no further assessment has been undertaken.

6.4 Assessment Approach and Methods

6.4.1 **Application Document 6.5 Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology** sets out the overarching approach which has been used in preparing the information in this ES. This section describes the technical methods used to determine the baseline conditions, sensitivity of receptors, and magnitude of impacts and sets out the criteria that have been used for the landscape assessment. Where the assessment criteria terminology differs from the general assessment criteria terminology, as set out in **Application Document 6.5 Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology**, justification is provided.

Guidance Specific to the Landscape Assessment

6.4.2 Relevant guidance, specific to landscape, that has informed the approach to the assessment in this chapter comprises:

- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – 3rd Edition (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013);
- Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 01/24 Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of the 3rd Edition Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3) (Landscape Institute, 2024);
- Technical Information Note 08/2015: Landscape Character Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2016);
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, 2021);
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of Development Proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019);
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment (Planning Inspectorate, 2024);
- An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment – to inform spatial planning and land management (Natural England, 2019); and
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014).

Study Area

6.4.3 The 5 km study area for landscape is presented in **Application Document 6.6.F1 Figure 6.1 Landscape Designations and Features**.

6.4.4 As explained in the landscape methodology for the Project in **Application Document 6.6.A2 Appendix 6.2 Landscape Methodology**, the 5 km study area for the landscape assessment was determined by the potential visibility of the Project and is proportionate to the size and scale of the Project and nature of the surrounding landscape.

6.4.5 Guidance in GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) states that the study area should include:

'the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner'.

6.4.6 Based on this guidance, the study area for the landscape assessment extends 5 km from the LoD[4].

6.4.7 To inform the extent of the 5 km study area, a ZTV map was produced based on the pylon heights, as set out in **Application Document 6.4.A1 Appendix 4.1 Indicative Pylon Schedule** and following the approach set out in **Application Document**

[4] At scoping a 5 km offset from the Scoping Boundary was assumed as a worst-case scenario, but as the Project continued to be reviewed during the assessment (and following receipt of design information), it became apparent that likely significant effects would only derive from activities and infrastructure within the LoD, e.g. operation of the pylons, and not from temporary road widening or public right of way diversions outside the LoD. Therefore, a more focused study area was adopted based on an offset from the LoD for proportionality reasons.

6.7.A2 Appendix 7.2 Visual Methodology. The ZTV map is shown in **Application Document 6.7.F2 Figure 7.2 Zone of Theoretical Visibility**, and indicates the geographical area over which the proposed overhead line could potentially give rise to landscape effects.

6.4.8 A ZTV cut-off distance of 10 km was used to test the likely extent of theoretical visibility of the proposed pylons. The LVIA study area was subsequently defined as 5 km, based on the extent of theoretical visibility, landscape sensitivity, the location of likely receptors, and the scale and prominence of the pylons. This approach reflects the fact that, unlike many built developments, pylons can remain visible over several kilometres due to their height and repetitive vertical form. The wider ZTV therefore provides a conservative assessment of potential visibility, ensuring that any distant landscape receptors, viewpoints, or designated areas with potential views of the infrastructure are identified and considered. The assessment found there is no potential for likely significant effects beyond the 5 km study area. Where receptors have been identified outside the 5 km study area, the residual effects have been identified in section 6.9 on a case-by-case basis.

6.4.9 The 10 km ZTV was also been used to inform the assessment of potential cumulative effects as presented in **Application Document 6.21 Chapter 21 Inter-project Cumulative Effects**.

6.4.10 Further information on the production of the ZTV is provided in **Application Document 6.7.A2 Appendix 7.2 Visual Methodology**.

Baseline Data Gathering and Forecasting Methods

6.4.11 The landscape assessment is based on the LCT and RLCT defined in the documents in paragraph 6.4.13 and verified through site survey.

6.4.12 The LCT or RLCT identified are general categories that describe broad, recurring patterns of landform, vegetation, land use, and settlement across a region or country. These types are typically defined by shared characteristics (like open moorland, coastal plains, or wooded valleys) and can be found in multiple locations. Areas of consistent landscape character such as NCAs are specific geographic areas where a particular LCT is expressed uniquely. Each character area is distinct, with particular local features, cultural history, and sense of place that make it unique even if it belongs to a broader LCT. For example, two different valleys might be classed as the same LCT but are classified as separate LCAs due to their unique local qualities.

Data sources

6.4.13 The baseline information presented in this chapter has been informed by a desk study which has drawn on the following information sources:

- Mapping and data:
  - Ordnance Survey (OS) 1:10,000, 1:25,000, 1:50,000 and 1:250,000 base mapping;
  - Ordnance Survey Terrain® 50 mid-resolution and LIDAR Composite 2017– 50 cm Digital Terrain Model;
  - Aerial imagery 2025, Google Earth Pro aerial photography, and Google Maps Street View;

  - base mapping from ArcGIS Map Service; and
  - Open Source Geographic Information System (GIS) data.
- Published Landscape Character Assessments:
  - National Character Area Profiles (Natural England, 2026);
  - East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment (East Riding of Yorkshire Council, 2018);
  - North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment (North Lincolnshire Council, 2022);
  - Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment and Capacity Study (Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, 2007);
  - East Midlands Region Landscape Character Assessment (East Midlands Landscape Partnership, 2010);
  - Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment (Bassetlaw District Council, 2009);
  - Doncaster Landscape Character Assessment Update – Sensitivity to Wind Energy Development (Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, 2020);
  - The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire (Lincolnshire County Council, 2011); and
  - Walkeringham Character Study and Design Guide (Walkeringham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, 2018).
- Designated Landscape Publications:
  - East Riding of Yorkshire Important Landscape Areas Boundary Refinement (East Riding of Yorkshire Council, 2014);
  - Isle of Axholme and Hatfield Chase Landscape Partnership Landscape Character Assessment (Fiona Fyfe Associates and Countryscape, 2014);
  - Review of Isle of Axholme Historic Landscape Character Assessment (JBA Consulting, 2021);
  - The Isle of Axholme Historic Landscape Characterisation Project (Miller, 1997);
  - Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, 2023); and
  - Central Lincolnshire Policy S62: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of Great Landscape Value Evidence Report (North Kesteven District Council, 2022).
- Data from other chapters of the ES:
  - Information on viewpoints including viewpoint photographs and wirelines provided in **Application Document 6.7.A3 Appendix 7.3 Viewpoint Assessment**;
  - Information from ecological surveys including vegetation and species provided in **Application Document 6.8 Chapter 8 Ecology**;

- Information on the location and setting of heritage designations provided in **Application Document 6.10 Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage**;
- Date on traffic numbers and routes provided in **Application Document 6.14 Chapter 14 Traffic and Transport**; and
- Information on trees including Tree Preservation Orders and works to vegetation provided in **Application Document 7.14 Arboricultural Impact Assessment** and **Application Document 2.13 Trees and Important Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plans**.

Site visits and surveys

6.4.14 The baseline within this chapter has been supported by field survey work carried out during several visits under differing weather conditions between Spring 2023 and Winter 2025/2026, and records were made in the form of field notes and photographs. Field survey work included extensive travel around the 5 km study area shown on **Application Document 6.6.F1 Figure 6.1 Landscape Designations and Features** to consider likely effects on locally designated landscapes and on landscape character. The work was undertaken during Summer and Winter months to fully understand the maximum level of visibility and therefore potential landscape effects as part of the landscape baseline.

Assessment Methods and Criteria

6.4.15 The full methodology for undertaking the landscape assessment is presented in **Application Document 6.6.A2 Appendix 6.2 Landscape Methodology**. The approach builds on the general assessment methodology presented in **Application Document 6.5 Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology**.

6.4.16 The methodology has been based on principles set out in GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) and its associated Notes and Clarifications (Landscape Institute, 2024).

6.4.17 The guidance in GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) is established good practice for landscape assessment and complies with the requirements of EN-1 (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2025) and EN-5 (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2025). GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) emphasises that the assessment should reflect the scale and complexity of the development, focusing on the likely significant effects rather than every possible effect. This approach allowed for scoping out receptors where significant effects are unlikely, resulting in a more concise and meaningful assessment.

Sensitivity

6.4.18 As explained in **Application Document 6.6.A2 Appendix 6.2 Landscape Methodology**, the sensitivity of landscape receptors has been determined through separate consideration of the value attached to the landscape and the susceptibility of the landscape to change arising from the Project. These have been determined through informed professional judgement guided by the indicative criteria set out in Table 2.3 and Table 2.4 of **Application Document 6.6.A2 Appendix 6.2 Landscape Methodology**. In separating sensitivity into the two components of value and susceptibility, the approach differs slightly from the general assessment methodology

presented in **Application Document 6.5 Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology**. It does, however, accord with guidance in GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) and its associated Notes and Clarifications (Landscape Institute, 2024).

6.4.19 Professional judgements on the value attached to a landscape are unrelated to the nature of the development being proposed, whereas professional judgements on susceptibility can vary depending on the nature of the landscape and the nature of the development being proposed.

6.4.20 Judgements on value and susceptibility are recorded as either very high, high, medium or low.

Magnitude

6.4.21 As explained in **Application Document 6.6.A2 Appendix 6.2 Landscape Methodology**, professional judgements on the magnitude of predicted change have been made through consideration of the likely size and scale of the change and geographical extent, which is informed by professional judgement and guided by the indicative criteria set out in Table 2.5 of **Application Document 6.6.A2 Appendix 6.2 Landscape Methodology**.

6.4.22 Professional judgements of magnitude are recorded as either large, medium, small or very small. Consideration of the duration and reversibility of effect is used to further inform the final professional judgements.

6.4.23 For the purposes of the assessment, duration is determined in relation to the phases of the Project, as follows:

- Short-term – assumed to cover construction plus one-year reinstatement.
- Medium-term – assumed to be 2-15 years post construction and include the effects of permanent vegetation loss on the baseline environment.
- Long-term – assumed to be of a duration that extends longer than 15 years post construction, once any committed mitigation planting has achieved its design intention.

Significance of effects

6.4.24 The 'overall profile' approach described in GLVIA3 Page 92, paragraph 5.55 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) is used to assess the likely significance of landscape effects, as explained in **Application Document 6.6.A2 Appendix 6.2 Landscape Methodology**. The approach involved compiling all the professional judgements made against the individual criteria related to landscape effects to provide a comprehensive overview or ‘profile’ of the effects on the landscape. This allowed for a more complete understanding of how various factors collectively contribute to the overall impact of the Project.

6.4.25 Significance is categorised as major, moderate, minor, or negligible. Effects judged to be moderate or major are considered significant in the context of The Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 (HM Government, 2017). Effects are considered during construction, at Year 1 and at Year 15 when mitigation planting has established.

6.4.26 Each of the significance categories covers a broad range of effects and represents a continuum or sliding scale. Where an effect falls at the upper or lower end of the category, this has been noted and explained in the detailed assessment presented in this chapter.

6.4.27 In accordance with GLVIA3 (Landscape Institute and IEMA, 2013) and its associated Notes and Clarifications (Landscape Institute, 2024), the use of an overly mechanistic approach through reliance upon a matrix is avoided. Instead, professional judgements have been made on a case-by-case basis guided, but not bound by, the matrix set out in **Application Document 6.5 Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology**. This determination requires the application of professional judgement and experience to balance the different variables.

6.4.28 Once the significance of effect likely to be experienced by each landscape receptor has been predicted, a separate description of the geographical distribution of significant effects across the 5 km study area has been provided in the landscape assessment summary.

Assumptions and Limitations

6.4.29 The assessment of construction effects assumes that the final structures being constructed would not be present in the landscape. For instance, assessment of construction effects of the Project has taken into consideration working areas, access tracks, foundations and the presence of construction vehicles/equipment etc. but not the finished structure of each pylon and conductors. The presence of the finished structures has been assessed in the operational phase.

6.4.30 The assessment has been based on assumptions of the impacts of potential construction working areas and potential vegetation loss described in **Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project** and as presented on **Application Document 2.13 Trees and Important Hedgerows to be Removed or Managed Plans**.

6.4.31 The assessment assumes that vegetation removed during construction would be reinstated, except where there are planting restrictions, for example trees cannot be planted under conductors as safe electrical clearance distances to the proposed overhead line need to be maintained. Further details on planting restrictions and assumptions can be found in **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**.

6.4.32 The assumptions for growth rates for proposed landscape replacement/mitigation planting are presented in Table 8.3 in **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**. Trees planted as whips are expected to provide an effective visual screen by around Year 15, subject to successful establishment and management. With typical growth rates and initial planting at standard sizes, vegetation is anticipated to reach sufficient density and canopy structure to substantially filter or fully screen lower-level elements of a development. While some limited seasonal or filtered visibility may remain in Winter, depending on species mix, the overall screening effect is expected to be robust and long-term.

6.5 Basis of Assessment

6.5.1 This section sets out the assumptions that have been applied in respect of design flexibility maintained within the Project.

6.5.2 Details of the available flexibility and assessment scenarios are presented in **Application Document 6.5 Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology**

Flexibility Assumptions

6.5.3 The landscape assessment has been undertaken based on the description of the Project provided in **Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project**. To take account of the flexibility allowed in the Project, consideration has been given to the potential for effects to be of greater or different significance, should any of the permanent or temporary infrastructure elements be moved within the LoD (horizontal, vertical or longitudinal) or Order Limits.

6.5.4 The assumptions made regarding the use of flexibility for the assessment are set out in Table 6.7 below.

Table 6.7 – Flexibility assumptions

Element of flexibility	How this has been considered within the assessment
Hortizontal LoD	Each pylon has been assessed in its designed location and centreline as shown on **Application Document 2.4 Works Plans**. The assessment has then considered the possible effects of locating pylons (including for conductor swing) anywhere within the LoD.
Vertical LoD	Each pylon has been assessed at the height set out in **Application Document 6.4.A1 Appendix 4.1 Indicative Pylon Schedule**. The assessment has then considered the possible effects of additional extensions being required also set out in **Application Document 6.4.A1 Appendix 4.1 Indicative Pylon Schedule**.
Longitudinal LoD	The proposed overhead line has been initially assessed in its current location and centreline as shown on **Application Document 2.4 Works Plans**. The assessment has then considered the possible effects of locating pylons (including for conductor swing) anywhere within the LoD.
Pylon footprint	The pylon footprint would have no material difference to the landscape assessment and therefore has not been considered.
Foundation types	Foundations would be within the working areas shown on **Application Document 2.4 Works Plans** and once constructed would not be visible. Therefore, foundation types would have no material difference to the landscape assessment and therefore have not been considered.
Order Limits – temporary construction works	Construction access tracks and temporary working areas have initially been assessed as being located where they are currently shown on **Application Document 6.4.F3 Figure 4.3 Temporary Construction**

Element of flexibility	How this has been considered within the assessment
	Works. The assessment has then considered the possible effects of locating access tracks and working areas anywhere else within the Order Limits.
Watercourse crossings	It is assumed that a bridge would be required at all watercourse crossings as this would result in the worst case for landscape effects. Bridges would all be temporary and, after removal, land would be returned to previous use.
Modifications to third party assets – construction methodology	Access tracks for construction and temporary working areas for third party assets have been assessed as being located where they are currently shown on **Application Document 6.4.F4 Figure 4.4 Third Party Works**. Open cut construction has been considered as worst case. There is no flexibility under the DCO and therefore is not considered.

Optionality

6.5.5 As set out in **Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project** and shown on **Application Document 6.4.F3 Figure 4.3 Temporary Construction Works** optionality has been included at the following five locations:

- Two alternative options for temporary construction access between Pennyhill Cottages (Main Street) Primary Access Route (PAR 34) and proposed pylon 4AF82 and satellite construction compound S-3:
  - Bellmouths BM-040/41, associated construction access track and watercourse crossings C-169 and BC-11; or
  - Bellmouths BM-040A/41A, associated construction access track and watercourse crossings C-220A, C-169A and BC-11A.
- Two alternative options for temporary construction access tracks to proposed pylon 4AF88:
  - Watercourse crossing BC-36 and BC-37; or
  - Watercourse crossing B-06A.
- Two alternative options for the construction access track between proposed pylons 4AF130 and 4AF131:A63
  - Watercourse crossing BC-29; or
  - Watercourse crossings BC-26A and BC-29B.
- Two alternative options for taking access off High Melwood (PAR 63) and the associated construction access track:
  - Bellmouth BM-078; or
  - Bellmouth BM-110.
- Two alternative power supply connections to the proposed main construction compound (M1) as shown on Application Document 6.4.F4 Figure 4.4 Third Party Works.

- NPG-09A from the west – there is currently uncertainty whether capacity of the network would be sufficient for this this connection; or
- NPG-09B from the east.

6.5.6 Where differences in effects between options have been identified, these are set out within section 6.9, with clear reference to the nature, extent, and significance of any resulting landscape effects.

Sensitivity Test

6.5.7 Under the terms of the DCO, construction could commence any year up to five years from the granting of the DCO which is assumed to be 2028. Consideration has therefore been given to whether the effects reported would be different if the works were to commence in any year up to year five, following the granting of the DCO. Where there is a difference, this is reported in section 6.9 of this chapter.

6.5.8 In terms of the assessment of landscape effects, it is considered that there is no potential to alter the assessment findings reported in section 6.9 of this chapter. It has therefore not been necessary to undertake a more detailed assessment for an alternative programme. It is possible that some construction activities may take a longer or shorter length of time to complete than currently predicted in the construction programme used for the purposes of the assessment.

6.6 Baseline Conditions

Existing Baseline

6.6.1 This section describes the baseline landscape in the 5 km study area. Baseline conditions have been established from desk-based research and site surveys.

6.6.2 Where appropriate, Route Sections have been referred to throughout this section. For more information on the Route Sections of the Project see **Application Document 6.4 Chapter 4 Description of the Project**.

6.6.3 Detailed baseline information for each of the NCAs and LCTs across the 5 km study area is presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**. This includes a judgement on the relative value of the landscape and its susceptibility to change from a project of this type; these are summarised below. Where numbered, NCAs and LCTs are listed in numerical order.

6.6.4 Designated Landscapes are shown on **Application Document 6.6.F1 Figure 6.1 Landscape Designations and Features**. NCAs and LCTs are illustrated on **Application Document 6.6.F3 Figure 6.3 National Character Areas** and **Application Document 6.6.F4 Figure 6.4 Landscape Character Types**.

Overview of landscape character

6.6.5 The following provides an overview of the landscape through which the Project is located, from north to south.

6.6.6 From Creyke Beck near Beverley in the east to the village of Skidby in the west, in Route Section A much of the landscape comprises the undulating and rolling rural agricultural land between Hull and Beverley. To the south around Cottingham, the farmland becomes more fragmented and interspersed with horse-grazed pastures,

horticultural developments and other land uses. To the east, the landscape merges into the lower-lying, drained farmland around the River Hull, while to the west, it includes part of the east-facing dip slope of the Yorkshire Wolds.

6.6.7 From the village of Skidby to the A63 dual carriageway on the western edge of the Yorkshire Wolds in Route Section A, the landscape features the open, gently rolling farmland of the Yorkshire Wolds dip slope. To the southwest, this abruptly transitions into the southwest facing scarp slope, which is cut by many steep-sided, wooded dales, before becoming flatter and more settled towards the A63. Here, the landscape is transitional between the hills to the east and the flat, drained land of the Humberhead Levels around the River Ouse and the River Trent which merge to form the River Humber near Faxfleet.

6.6.8 To the south of the River Ouse in Route Section B, the landscape to the west of the River Trent forms part of the Humberhead Levels, a distinctive area of intensive arable farmland which has been shaped by artificial drainage over many centuries. Immediately to the east of the River Trent is the well-wooded, narrow and steep scarp slope known as the Lincolnshire Edge, above which is an area of rolling upland arable farmland.

6.6.9 Between Luddington and the Chesterfield Canal across Route Sections B, C, D and E, the landscape comprises mainly flat, expansive and highly productive arable farmland which displays centuries of artificial drainage. The scarcity of tree cover means much of the farmland is very open, although tree and woodland cover increases to the west, creating higher levels of enclosure. Elsewhere, small-scale variations in the underlying deposits create localised differences within the overall flat farmed landscape, including lowland raised mires and lowland heathland, some of which are of international ecological and historical importance. The area around the River Trent near Keadby and Gunness is identified as an industrial landscape.

6.6.10 The distinctive and historic landscape of the Isle of Axholme in Route Sections C and D provides some variation in character and landform in an otherwise flat landscape. Most of the landscape is very open with big skies, although to the east of the River Trent, woodland cover increases with some large woodlands at Laughton Woods and Scotton Common.

6.6.11 From the Chesterfield Canal in Route Section E, the landscape comprises flat or gently undulating and mainly arable farmland centred on the River Trent west of Gainsborough. It is a low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover where the redundant cooling towers of the former power stations, some of which have recently been demolished, and associated existing overhead lines are widely visible. To the west of the Trent floodplain, the landscape transitions into an area of rolling, well-wooded farmland and valleys, featuring a diverse mix of pastoral and arable agriculture. Further west, this landscape gradually merges into the low-lying, drained farmland along the floodplain of the River Idle.

6.6.12 To the southern end of the Project in Route Sections E and F, the landscape comprises the flat, low-lying arable farmland, centred on the River Trent, which gradually merges into a more undulating and enclosed landscape away from this river. Woodland cover is sparse, but hedgerow and riverside trees contribute to a perception of a well-treed landscape. The cooling towers of the former Trent Valley power stations and associated existing overhead lines are widely visible.

Landscape designations

Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area (ILA)

6.6.13 Between the A164 and A63, the Project falls within the Yorkshire Wolds ILA. It is designated under Policy ENV2 of the East Riding Local Plan Update (East Riding of Yorkshire Council, 2025) and comprises the chalk escarpment and gently, rolling landscape which '*instils a sense of openness and tranquillity provided by expansive views, sparse populations and agriculture*'.

6.6.14 The Yorkshire Wolds ILA is covered by LCT 13: Open High Rolling Farmland, LCT 12: Sloping Wooded Farmland and LCT 11: Jurassic Hills Farmland, as presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment** with a full description of the landscapes and key characteristics associated with this designation. This landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **high** susceptibility to the proposed overhead line.

Isle of Axholme Area of Special Historic Landscape Interest (ASHLI)

6.6.15 Route Section C and D include part of the The Isle of Axholme ASHLI, encompassing the landscape from the M180, Belton, Epworth and Haxey. It is identified under the saved Policy LC14 of the Saved Policies of the North Lincolnshire Local Plan 2003 Updated October 2024 (North Lincolnshire Council, 2024) for its unique historic character of medieval open strip fields. This designation has influenced the value and susceptibility of Trent Levels: Flat Drained Farmland LCT, Trent Levels: Flat Drained Treed Farmland LCT, Trent Levels: Flat Wooded Farmland LCT and Trent Levels: Open Island Farmland LCT, as presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**. As this is primarily a historic designation, the assessment of effects on this designation is provided in **Application Document 6.10 Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage**.

Registered Parks and Gardens

6.6.16 Risby Hall Grade II Registered Park and Garden lies approximately 380 m to the north of the nearest point on the LoD in Route Section A. It has been designated by Historic England for its late 17th and 18th century gardens, previously owned by the Ellerker family. This designation has influenced the value and susceptibility of LCT 13: Open High Rolling Farmland as presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**. As this is primarily a historic designation, effects on the designation and its setting are assessed in **Application Document 6.10 Chapter 10 Cultural Heritage**. Also, because the lakes are now used for fishing, the effects on people visiting Risby Park Fishing Ponds as recreational receptors are assessed in **Application Document 6.7 Chapter 7 Visual**.

Designations not taken forward for assessment

6.6.17 The following designations are not considered further in the assessment as, although within the 5 km study area, the review of their relationship to the Project concluded there to be no potential for significant effects on landscape character. Justification for excluding these is provided in Table 1 of **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

- Laughton Woods and Scotton Common AGLV; and
- Northeast and East of Gainsborough AGLV.

National Character Areas (NCAs)

6.6.18 Given the linear nature, length, and geographical extent of the Project, an assessment of likely landscape effects has been undertaken using Natural England's NCA framework. NCAs provide a broad spatial framework that divides England into distinct areas based on landscape character, biodiversity, geology, soils, hydrology, and cultural patterns (Natural England, 2026). This approach is used to provide strategic context and to understand how landscape character changes along the route at a national and regional scale, rather than to undertake detailed localised assessment. This helps identify broad patterns of sensitivity and variation, and informs how the Project may influence landscape character across its full extent.

6.6.19 A description and assessment for each NCA is presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**. It should be noted that NCAs are too large and internally varied to support a single meaningful judgement of landscape value or susceptibility. They often include multiple LCTs and RLCTs, along with a wide range of land uses, settlement patterns, and landscape conditions.

6.6.20 This means an NCA can contain very different landscapes, from remote rural areas to intensive agriculture, urban fringe, and industrial land, each with different value and susceptibility to change. As a result, single judgements on value and susceptibility for each NCA would oversimplify this variation and lack local relevance.

6.6.21 The assessment of likely effects is therefore based on professional judgement informed by the RLCT and LCT assessments.

6.6.22 The following NCAs are present within the 5 km study area as shown on **Application Document 6.6.F3 Figure 6.3 National Character Areas**.

NCA 27: Yorkshire Wolds

6.6.23 The Project is located in the southern part of NCA 27: Yorkshire Wolds, in Route Section A. Lying north of the River Humber, the NCA comprises a broad arc of gently rolling chalk uplands stretching from the Humber Estuary near Hull to the coast at Flamborough Head north of Bridlington. The NCA is defined by a prominent chalk escarpment rising from the surrounding lowlands, including the Vale of York, Vale of Pickering, and Holderness Plain. The landscape is predominantly rural and agricultural, with very limited urban development and only small, scattered woodland areas on higher ground and steeper slopes.

NCA 39: Humberhead Levels

6.6.24 The Project is located in two parts of NCA 39: Humberhead Levels, including to the north of the River Ouse in Route Section A and to the south of the River Ouse in Route Sections B, C, D and E. It is a large NCA, comprising a flat, low-lying and large-scale agricultural landscape bounded to the west by the low ridge of the Southern Magnesian Limestone and to the east by the Yorkshire Wolds (north of the Humber) and the Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (south of the Humber). To the north of the River Humber the landscape merges into the slightly undulating landscape of the Vale of York, at the line of the Escrick Moraine, and in the south, it merges into the Trent and Belvoir Vales and Sherwood.

NCA 40: Holderness

6.6.25 The Project is located in the southwestern part of NCA 40: Holderness in Route Section A. It is a low-lying, gently undulating rural plain, with the River Hull running through its centre. The river becomes tidal as it enters the Humber Estuary, where it is contained by flood banks before draining into the North Sea.

NCA 41: Humber Estuary

6.6.26 The Project is located in the westernmost part of the NCA 41: Humber Estuary, with a small section to the north of the River Ouse in Route Section A and another small section to the south of the River Ouse in Route Section B. The NCA encompasses the low-lying area where the River Ouse and River Trent converge to form the River Humber and its estuary as it flows into the North Sea. It is a highly dynamic estuarine landscape characterised by extensive intertidal habitats including mudflats, salt marshes, reedbeds, coastal dunes and wetlands. The area is of international environmental importance, designated as a Ramsar site, Special Protection Area and Special Area of Conservation.

NCA 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales

6.6.27 The Project is located in the northern part of the large NCA 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales within Route Sections E and F. The NCA is a largely rural, low-lying agricultural landscape centred on the River Trent, with gently undulating farmland and limited woodland. Semi-natural habitats are scarce due to intensive farming, although the River Trent remains a key ecological corridor supporting wetlands and wildlife movement. The area is bounded by surrounding escarpments including the Lincolnshire Edge. Former coal-fired power stations along the River Trent have largely been removed, but their associated overhead lines remain and continue to influence the wider landscape visually.

NCAs not taken forward for assessment

6.6.28 Although within the 5 km study area, the following NCAs are not considered further in the assessment as the review of their relationship to the Project concluded there to be no potential for significant effects on landscape character. Justification for excluding these NCAs is provided in Table 1 of **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

- NCA 45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands; and
- NCA 49: Sherwood.

Local landscape character

6.6.29 The following LCTs and RCLTs are present within the 5 km study area as shown on **Application Document 6.6.F4 Figure 6.4 Landscape Character Types**. A summary description of each LCT is provided below. A full description of the baseline landscape, including justification for value and susceptibility judgements, is presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

East Riding of Yorkshire Landscape Character Assessment

LCT 4: River Corridors

6.6.30 This LCT comprises the River Ouse and its surrounding flat, open arable farmland north of Route Section B. The embankments stand out against a rectilinear landscape of fields and drainage systems. Several linear villages have developed along the River Ouse, with Saltmarshe and Yokefleet to the north and Swinefleet, Reedness, and Whitgift to the south. Distinctive remnants of historic parkland, notably at Sandhall and Saltmarshe Hall and Park, feature well-treed landscapes with veteran trees, with further parkland elements and estate cottages at Yokefleet. Wind turbines, pylons, Drax Power Station and development on the southern edge of Goole form discordant features within expansive views across this low-lying rural landscape. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCT 8: M62 Corridor

6.6.31 This LCT follows the M62 corridor in Route Section A. It encompasses the farmland on either side of the motorway and the villages of Newport and Gilberdyke along the parallel B1230 in Route Section A. The landscape is characterised by large to medium rectilinear arable fields defined by drainage ditches, scattered farmsteads, and sparse tree cover, mainly associated with road corridors and motorway crossings. The landscape is considered to be of **low** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCT 9: Drained Open Farmland

6.6.32 This LCT is located both north and south of the River Ouse in Route Sections A and B and forms part of the Humberhead Levels. It is characterised by intensive arable farmland shaped by centuries of artificial drainage, with embanked watercourses, dykes, and ditches defining large, open, geometric fields. The LCT includes small villages near the River Ouse, with otherwise scattered farmsteads accessed by long tracks. Away from settlements, the flat, open farmland is remote and quiet, defined by large rectilinear fields, although wind turbines and pylons are prominent in parts of the LCT. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCT 11: Jurassic Hills Farmland

6.6.33 This LCT extends along the southwestern edge of the Yorkshire Wolds between Hotham and Swanland in Route Section A. The northern part is highly scenic and forms part of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA identified in the East Riding Local Plan (East Riding of Yorkshire Council, 2025), while development in the south has eroded traditional rural character and green space between settlements. The part of the LCT within the 5 km study area is also affected by the existing 400 kV overhead line, traffic on the A63, and commercial horticulture. Despite these detractors, the landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCT 12: Sloping Wooded Farmland

6.6.34 This LCT occupies the southwest-facing slopes of the Yorkshire Wolds in Route Section A, with a gently rolling plateau descending in a westerly direction, as a series of steep-sided wooded dales to the lower lying farmland of the Jurassic hills. The northern part is highly scenic and forms part of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA identified in the East Riding Local Plan (East Riding of Yorkshire Council, 2025), while development in the south has eroded traditional rural character and green space between settlements. Within the 5 km study area, the LCT is affected by the existing 400 kV overhead line, traffic on the A63, and commercial horticulture. Despite these detractors, the landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **high** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCT 13: Open High Rolling Farmland

6.6.35 This LCT is part of the distinctive, highly scenic Yorkshire Wolds landscape in Route Section A. Its importance is recognised in its designation as part of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA identified in the East Riding Local Plan Update (East Riding of Yorkshire Council, 2025). The LCT comprises a large-scale, expansive rolling landscape with big skies and long views from the escarpment and plateau, contrasting with more enclosed, dry and sheltered valleys incised along its western and northern fringes. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **high** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCT 16: Sloping Farmland

6.6.36 This LCT is located on the edge of the Yorkshire Wolds to the west and south of Beverley in Route Section A. It has a strong sense of character shaped by its landscape pattern, land use, and settlement character. The area north of the A164 is scenic and forms part of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA, as identified in the East Riding Local Plan Update (East Riding of Yorkshire Council, 2025). The area between Beverley and Hull is less rural and more urban but is valued for separating the two settlements and for providing views of Beverley Minster. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCT 17: Farmed Urban Fringe

6.6.37 This LCT encompasses Cottingham and its surrounding urban fringe farmland in Route Section A. It comprises mainly arable fields with some improved pastures. Fields are medium to large-scale, often bordered by hedgerows and ditches, though many appear neglected. The LCT also includes Willerby Business Park, horticultural glasshouses, industrial and residential buildings, farmsteads, university accommodation, and associated infrastructure such as roads, railways, pylons, and communications masts. The landscape is considered to be of **medium** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCT 23: Humber Banks

6.6.38 This LCT lies along the Humber near the confluence of the Rivers Ouse and Trent in Route Section B. The landscape is dominated by the River Ouse, flood-protection embankments, and large-scale arable fields, with some grazing near the river. Blacktoft Sands Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Reserve is important for wildfowl. Settlements include the small villages of Yokefleet, Blacktoft, and Faxfleet, with dispersed farmsteads accessed by minor lanes and tracks, giving

a strong sense of remoteness. The tidal rivers create a dynamic, ever-changing landscape, while wind farms and pylons, including two taller pylons either side of the River Ouse, are notable detractors. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCTs not taken forward for assessment

6.6.39 Although within the 5 km study area, the following LCTs are not considered further in the assessment as the review of their relationship to the Project concluded there to be no potential for significant effects on landscape character. Justification for excluding these LCTs is provided in Table 1 of **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

- LCT 6: Wooded Open Farmland;
- LCT 18: Low Lying Drained Farmland; and
- LCT 22: Humber Levels.

North Lincolnshire Landscape Character Assessment

Lincolnshire Edge: Steep Wooded Scarp Slope LCT

6.6.40 Lincolnshire Edge: Steep Wooded Scarp Slope LCT is a long narrow LCT located on the east side of the 5 km study area in Route Section B. It comprises a prominent west-facing scarp slope rising steeply from 2 m to 60 m Above Ordnance Datum, with ecologically rich woodland, pasture, scrub, and rough grassland. Known locally as 'The Cliff' it affords expansive views across the Trent Levels and the confluence of the Rivers Trent, Ouse, and Humber. The landscape is considered to be of **medium** value and **high** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

Trent Levels: Flat Drained Farmland LCT

6.6.41 This large LCT is situated on either side of the River Trent in Route Sections B, C, and D. It is defined by its flat, open terrain and strong sense of remoteness. The landscape offers high visibility, but the long views towards the rising land of the Trent valley sides are interrupted and dominated by the wind farms and existing overhead lines within the valley. On the west bank of the River Trent, to the south of the A18, the area forms part of the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, where open pockets of historic strip farming have been retained. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

Trent Levels: Flat Drained Treed Farmland LCT

6.6.42 Trent Levels: Flat Drained Treed Farmland LCT occurs in two areas within the 5 km study area – a smaller area around Eastoft in Route Section B and a larger area west of Epworth, extending from Route Section C south to the River Idle Mother Drain in Route Section D. The landscape is heavily influenced by modern farming and flood management, with large regular fields, few hedgerows, but frequent boundary and field trees and woodland copses. The larger area partly lies within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI. Unlike the neighbouring Flat Drained Farmland, this LCT retains pockets of woodland and tree cover, providing enclosure and containing long views. While predominantly arable, there are pockets of industrial development, a small airfield at Sandtoft, and former and active sand and gravel extraction sites now often

forming open water, with the M180 having a localised impact in the north. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **high** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

Trent Levels: Flat Open Remote Farmland LCT

6.6.43 Trent Levels: Flat Open Remote Farmland LCT is located to the north and west of Crowle in Route Sections B and C. It is characterised by flat topography, large geometric arable fields, straight embanked rivers and ditches, straight roads, and expansive skies. Settlement is limited to scattered farmsteads near Eastoft and Crowle. Historic features, including the Crowle Ribbons, contribute to the distinctive character. The sense of openness varies, with expansive views north of Eastoft, enclosed views near Crowle by settlement and surrounding woodlands, and further enclosure created by the elevated railway and Stainforth and Keadby Canal. Few roads cross the area, with farm access primarily via private tracks. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

Trent Levels: Flat Wooded Farmland LCT

6.6.44 This small, narrow LCT extends south from Crowle, encompassing Hirst Priory, Belton Grange, and woodland near Mosswood Grange, and partially follows the M180 in Route Sections C and D. The landscape is characterised by enclosed pastoral and arable farmland, woodland, tree-lined avenues along roads, drainage channels, and former railways as distinctive features. Much of the area lies within the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, although historic features are less prominent than in other LCTs. Transport infrastructure and existing overhead lines along the eastern boundary detract from the otherwise rural character. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **high** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

Trent Levels: Open Island Farmland LCT

6.6.45 Trent Levels: Open Island Farmland LCT occurs in two areas within the 5 km study area – one north of the M180 in Route Sections B and C, and one south of the motorway in Route Section D. The area is characterised by well-preserved historic settlements and field patterns, winding tree-lined lanes contrasting with straighter lowland roads, and prominent landmarks such as windmills and water towers. The larger area south of the M180 extends between the Stainforth and Keadby Canal and the A161 on the Crowle fringes and is part of the Isle of Axholme ASHLI, reflecting the area's well-preserved historic landscape. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **high** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

LCTs not taken forward for assessment

6.6.46 Although within the 5 km study area, the following LCTs are not considered further in the assessment as the review of their relationship to the Project concluded there to be no potential for significant effects on landscape character. Justification for excluding these LCTs is provided in Table 1 of **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

- Humber Estuary: Flat Drained Farmland LCT;
- Lincolnshire Edge: Despoiled Landscape LCT; and
- Lincolnshire Edge: Elevated Wooded Farmland LCT.

RLCT 2b: Planned and Drained Fens and Carrlands

6.6.47 This RLCT is located to the north and west of Misterton in Route Sections D and E, and comprises low-lying, open farmland with a geometric field pattern shaped by centuries of drainage. Hedgerows are sparse, tree cover is limited to shelterbelts, and settlements are scattered farms or linear villages along the River Trent. Expansive views under vast skies are interrupted by development, industrial uses, large farm buildings, and existing overhead lines, reducing the sense of remoteness. The landscape is considered to be of **medium** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys

6.6.48 This RLCT covers much of the broad, low-lying River Trent floodplain south of Gainsborough, with flat, expansive terrain, washlands along the eastern edge, and some enclosure from rising land and woodlands. Arable farming dominates, with large geometric fields, sparse hedgerows, and drainage ditches, while remaining trees and pockets of meadowland provide a pastoral character. Villages on slightly higher ground retain traditional character and more tree cover. Former power stations, existing overhead lines and associated infrastructure are prominent in the otherwise open floodplain. The landscape is considered to be of **medium** value and **medium** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

6.6.49 This RLCT is located in Route Sections E and F between Gringley-on-the-Hill and High Marnham. Lying to the west of the River Trent floodplain, it consists of mixed farmland, nucleated villages, and dispersed farmsteads, with low woodland and soft relief creating open views from ridges and more intimate valley settings. Rising land to the east and west provides visual containment, while distant pylons generally do not affect the rural and tranquil quality of the farmland, except near High Marnham, where four existing overhead lines converge toward the substation. The landscape is considered to be of **medium** value and **high** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

RLCT 5b: Wooded Village Farmlands

6.6.50 This RLCT comprises well-wooded, rolling farmland and valleys drained by small rivers with narrow floodplains. It features mixed farmland with patchy hedgerows, floodplain pastures, and many small to medium woodlands, including widely distributed ancient woodlands, parklands, estate copses, and willow-lined streams. Villages, hamlets, and farmsteads are dispersed along narrow, winding lanes, with historic field patterns and sinuous hedgerows reflecting traditional land management. The landscape is considered to be of **high** value and **high** susceptibility to a new 400 kV overhead line.

RLCTs not taken forward for assessment

6.6.51 Although within the 5 km study area, the following RLCTs are not considered further in the assessment as the review of their relationship to the Project concluded there to be no potential for significant effects on landscape character. Justification for

excluding these RLCTs is provided in Table 1 of **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

- RLCT 3b: Sandland Farmlands;
- RLCT 4b: Wooded Vales; and
- RLCT 10b: Sandstone Forests and Heaths.

Future Baseline

6.6.52 As detailed in **Application Document 6.5 Chapter 5 Environmental Impact Assessment Approach and Methodology**, a review has been undertaken to determine whether the existing baseline conditions might change between the time of undertaking the assessment and the future years in which the Project is planned to be constructed and become operational.

6.6.53 Consideration has been given to the following types of change that could potentially alter the baseline environment associated with landscape:

- The natural evolution of the vegetation in the landscape, for example whether the growth or dieback of existing vegetation would alter existing landscape character.
- Ash trees (*Fraxinus excelsior*) within the 5 km study area may be affected by ash dieback, a frequently fatal disease caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*[5]. The future baseline assumes long-term ash tree loss, with other species filling gaps in the short-term, keeping overall vegetation levels similar. The arboricultural surveys carried out for the Project (within the Order Limits plus a 30 m buffer) have identified a number of trees exhibiting various degrees of infection and decline, further details are provided in Appendix C of **Application Document 7.14 Arboricultural Impact Assessment**.
- Changes in land management practices, particularly farming and forestry, that could change the landscape and how it is perceived.
- The settlement pattern should broadly reflect the existing spatial distribution. Although there are committed developments which extend residential and commercial areas, these tend to be within or adjacent to existing built-up areas and are not considered to affect the landscape character or baseline views towards the Project.
- Climate change may alter future baseline conditions by affecting vegetation, land use, and the overall character of the landscape. Potential shifts in species composition, seasonal appearance, and increased risks of erosion, flooding, or storm damage could alter both the landscape's sensitivity and visual qualities. For the purposes of this assessment, however, such potential changes cannot be predicted with any certainty, and the effects of climate change on the landscape and on views have therefore not been assessed.

[5] Ash dieback is a destructive fungal disease (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) that attacks ash trees (*Fraxinus* species), especially the United Kingdom's (UK) native ash species, common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*). It is present in most parts of the UK and causes leaf loss, dark bark lesions, and dieback of the tree crown by blocking water and nutrient transport. It is widely fatal and has the potential to cause significant damage to the UK's ash population.

Construction year baseline

6.6.54 The vegetation pattern would reflect the existing baseline, with a combination of roadside hedgerows and blocks of woodland interspersed across a predominantly open landscape. The impact of ash dieback (*Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*)[5] on the landscape, particularly where there is a high proportion of ash in woodlands and hedgerows, is noted where relevant in the assessment.

6.6.55 The settlement pattern would broadly reflect the existing spatial distribution. Although there are committed developments which extend residential areas, these tend to be within or adjacent to existing built-up areas such as Woodmansey, Belton, Elloughton, West Willerby and Hull and are not considered to affect the landscape character to an extent that would interact with the Project.

6.6.56 A review of other, non-residential, committed developments within the 5 km study area identified no other developments that would alter the land use changes in the 5 km study area or influence baseline landscape character. This was either due to distance from the Project or that the development would be too small in scale to materially influence landscape character and would not noticeably alter the perception of existing local character or its components.

Operation year baseline

6.6.57 Land cover, and land use, would remain as reported above for the construction year baseline as the committed developments listed are assumed to be complete by 2028.

6.6.58 It is possible that, by 2031, most mature ash trees may have been lost through ash dieback, noting that surveys (within the Order Limits and a 30 m buffer) have identified a number of trees exhibiting various degrees of infection and decline (Appendix C of **Application Document 7.14 Arboricultural Impact Assessment**). Other tree species would occupy the gaps left in woodlands and hedgerows, but these would be immature meaning that landscape character and views could be locally affected in the short- to medium-term.

6.7 Potential Effects

6.7.1 Based on the assessment scope (see section 6.3), the following sections describe how construction (C) and operation (O) activities are likely to affect landscape receptors in the 5 km study area. This takes account of the embedded mitigation measures which are defined **in Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments**. This section first lists the effects and impact pathways that could result from each phase of the Project and Table 6.8 sets out the potential effects on the receptors identified in section 6.6.

Construction

6.7.2 The potential impacts that could result from the construction of the Project are:

- Physical and perceptible effects on landscape character and/or setting from:
  - Site clearance, tree felling and boundary/hedgerow removal – the loss of landscape elements and features such as woodland, trees, scrub and hedgerows;

- Topsoil stripping and earthworks including those associated with temporary construction compounds and site accesses;
- Undergrounding of third party services;
- Movement of construction related traffic including delivery and removal of material to and from site and workers travelling to and from site;
- Movement of vehicles and plant along construction access tracks within the Order Limits;
- Construction of temporary bellmouths and construction access tracks;
- General construction activities including the use of large scale construction equipment, construction compounds and temporary buildings and scaffolding required for construction, parking on-site and material stockpiles;
- Temporary hoardings and/or security fencing or signage;
- Localised widening of public highways; and
- Construction lighting, particularly during the Winter months, and potentially at the canal and river crossings if night working was required.

6.7.3 The sources of potential landscape effects during the construction phase does not include the finished structures, i.e. pylons, so as not to double count the effects.

Operation

6.7.4 The potential impacts that could result from the operation of the Project are:

- Physical and perceptible effects on landscape character and/or setting from long-term loss of landscape elements and features;
- Physical and perceptible effects on landscape character and/or setting from and introduction of a 400 kV overhead line;
- Physical and perceptible effects on landscape character and/or setting from changes to landform and the introduction of new landscape elements such as trees and hedgerows; and
- Vegetation management to ensure safe electrical clearances to the conductors.

Potential Effects

6.7.5 Table 6.8 sets out the potential effects on the receptors identified in section 6.6 and during which phase of the Project.

Table 6.8 – Summary of potential landscape effects at each phase of the Project

Receptor	Potential effect	Description	C	O
Yorkshire Wolds ILA	Physical and/or perceptible effects on landscape character and/or setting	From construction including vegetation removal and presence of construction compounds, storage areas, access tracks, plant (including mobile cranes), vehicles and personnel. In operation from long-term loss of landscape elements and features, and introduction of new infrastructure.	✓	✓
NCAs	Physical and/or perceptible effects on landscape character and/or setting	From construction including vegetation removal and presence of construction compounds, storage areas, access tracks, plant (including mobile cranes), vehicles and personnel. In operation from long-term loss of landscape elements and features, and introduction of new infrastructure.	✓	✓
LCTs/RLCTs	Physical and/or perceptible effects on landscape character and/or setting	From construction including vegetation removal and presence of construction compounds, storage areas, access tracks, plant (including mobile cranes), vehicles and personnel. In operation from long-term loss of landscape elements and features, and introduction of new infrastructure.	✓	✓

6.8 Mitigation

Embedded Measures

6.8.1 Environmental appraisal has been an integral part of the Project design from the outset, which has meant that the Project has been able to avoid environmentally sensitive features as far as reasonably practicable. National Grid has also embedded measures into the design of the Project to avoid or reduce significant effects that may otherwise be experienced during construction and operation (and maintenance) of the Project.

6.8.2 Embedded measures are those that are intrinsic to and built into the design of the Project; these are presented in **Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments**. Embedded measures of relevance to this landscape assessment are:

- EDM01- Sensitive routeing and siting was undertaken to develop the proposed overhead line alignment and draft Order Limits. The routeing and siting avoids and reduces, as far as practicable, impacts on identified receptors, in line with the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (Department for Energy Security & Net Zero, 2025) and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2025)as well as the Holford Rules (National Grid, 1992).

- EDM02 – Where possible, the proposed overhead line has been designed to be parallel to or close parallel with the existing overhead lines. Route Sections where close parallel and pylon synchronicity has been achieved, considering constraints present along the existing overhead lines as well as technical complexity, include:
  - Sections within Route Sections A and B to reduce effects on the Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area and potential effects of collision risk, habitat loss and disturbance of interest features of the Humber Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site; and
  - Route Section D to reduce effects on the Isle of Axholme Area of Special Historic Landscape Interest.
- EDM03 – Where the proposed overhead line is in parallel or close parallel with existing overhead lines the design has sought to synchronise the pylons as far as possible taking account of all other technical, environmental and lands constraints.
- EDM06 – Construction effects have been designed out/ minimised as far as practicable through, for example, minimising land-take/habitat loss and locating construction access tracks and temporary construction compounds/ material storage areas outside of ecologically sensitive sites/ habitats (such as statutory and non-statutory designated sites, priority habitats and wetlands).
- DE1 – The Project will be delivered and operated in compliance with all relevant legislation, consents and permits.
- DE3 – The Project will seek to retain the pylon positions as shown on **Application Document 2.4 Works Plans** unless following detailed design there are engineering, safety, environmental or other reasons to move a pylon within the Limits of Deviation.
- DE4 – The Project will use lattice pylon as the most appropriate pylon type, to keep a consistent appearance with the existing NGET 400KV overhead line assets that the proposed new overhead line alignment interacts with the existing landscape.
- GG01 – The final versions of the outline environmental management plans will be submitted for approval in accordance with Requirement 4 (construction management plans) of **Application Document 3.1 Draft Development Consent Orde**r prior to commencement of development and will reflect the final construction methodologies produced by the Main Works Contractor(s). The following will be produced prior to construction:
  - Code of Construction Practice (CoCP);
  - Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP);
  - Soil Management Plan;
  - Public Right of Way Management Plan;
  - Noise and Vibration Management Plan;
  - Landscape and Ecology Management Plan;
  - Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation; and
  - Cultural Heritage Management Plan.

- Framework Construction Surface Water Management Plan (CSWMP)

6.8.3 All construction works will be undertaken in general accordance with these plans and all referenced subordinate plans.

- GG06 – Land used temporarily will be reinstated to its pre-construction condition and use (or as agreed with the relevant landowner). Hedgerows, fences, and walls (including associated earthworks and boundary features) will be reinstated to a similar style and quality to those that were removed, unless otherwise agreed.

Control and Management Measures

6.8.4 Control and management measures comprise management activities and techniques that will be implemented during construction and reinstatement to limit effects, through adherence to good site practices and ensuring legal compliance.

6.8.5 Measures relevant to the control and management of impacts during construction have been included within **Application Document 7.2 Outline Code of Construction Practice**, and **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** which are secured by Requirement 4 of **Application Document 3.1 Draft Development Consent Order**, and **Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments** secured by Requirement 5 of **Application Document 3.1 Draft Development Consent Order**. These outline management plans and the following measures in **Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments** have been taken into account in assessing the landscape effects of the Project:

- LV01 – The Main Works Contractor(s) will retain vegetation where practicable. Where vegetation is lost and trees cannot be replaced in situ due to the restrictions associated with operational safety, replacement vegetation will be planted as close by as practicable and will complement the landscape character and be sympathetic to the local habitat type in order to provide a high biodiversity value.
- LV02 – The Main Works Contractor(s) will apply the relevant protective principles as set out in British Standard (BS) 5837:2012: Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction (British Standards Institution, 2012). All works to trees will follow guidance in BS 3998:2010: Tree work – Recommendations. Tree work to veteran trees and those under Tree Preservation Orders will be undertaken by a suitably qualified arboriculturist and supervised by the Arboricultural Clerk of Works (ArbCoW).
- LV03 – A five-year aftercare period will be established for all reinstatement and mitigation planting.
- ARB18 – National Grid has committed to a 3:1 replacement for individual trees and individual trees within small groups. The Project will prioritise (where possible and practicable) the replanting for individual trees and small groups of individual trees within the Order Limits.
- GG02 – The Mains Works Contractor(s) will undertake site inspections to check conformance to the measures set out within each of the management plans and their subordinate plans as set out within GG01.

- GG23 – Construction lighting will be of the lowest luminosity necessary to perform each task safely. It will be designed, positioned and directed to reduce the intrusion into adjacent properties, moored boats on canals, and protected species and habitats including designated sites. Lighting used for construction will be switched off when not in use and positioned to minimise spill onto adjacent land or retained vegetation.

Additional Measures

6.8.6 Additional measures comprise mitigation measures over and above any embedded and control and management measures, for which assessment within this ES has identified a requirement to further reduce significant environmental effects.

6.8.7 The following additional measures in **Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments** have been taken into account in assessing the landscape effects of the Project:

- LV04 – Planting and seeding operations will be undertaken during an appropriate planting/seeding season, and where planting is in locations not affected by other construction activities, planting will be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

6.8.8 As set out in Table 8.2 of **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan**, a number of areas of mitigation planting have been identified to reduce landscape effects. These are shown on **Application Document 6.4.F1 Environmental Statement Figure 4.1 Proposed Project Design** and are listed out below with the corresponding mitigation reference number.

- Woodland planting north of pylon 4AF8 to the east of the A164 and adjacent to Jillywood Lane to mitigate for loss of vegetation along the A164 (Ref 01);
- Woodland planting at Socken Wood near pylon 4AF26 to mitigate for loss of woodland at Socken Wood, and also veteran tree T4[6] (if, following the detailed design of the Project, this were to be removed owing to the LoD being used to the south in its location, see **Application Document 7.14 Arboricultural Impact Assessment**) (Ref 02);
- Woodland planting to east of Woodale near pylon 4AF37 (Ref 03);
- Woodland planting adjacent to Cliffs Plantation to the west of pylons 4AF39 and 4AF40 to mitigate for loss of woodland between pylons 4ZQ78 and 4ZQ76 at Bilkshill Plantation (Refs 04, 05 and 06);
- Woodland planting off Whin Moor Lane to south of pylon 4ZQ72 to mitigate for loss of woodland between pylons 4ZQ72 and 4ZQ73 (Ref 07);
- Woodland planting to the west of Blacktoft House Drive near pylon 4AF73 to mitigate for loss of woodland between pylons 4AF72 and 4AF73 (Ref 08);

[6] Commitment ARB17 in **Application Document 7.3 Register of Environmental Actions and Commitments**: A replanting ratio of 30:1 for the loss of T4 has been agreed with Natural England and East Riding of Yorkshire Council. Planting at this ratio will be undertaken adjacent to Socken Wood in the location identified on **Application Document 6.4.F1 Environmental Statement Figure 4.1 Proposed Project Design.** The location of the planting and further information is presented within the **Application Document 7.8 Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** and **Application Document 7.14 Arboricultural Impact Assessment.**

- Tree planting on field boundary to the south of pylon 4AF93 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF93 and 4AF94 (Ref 11);
- Tree planting on field boundary to south of pylon 4AF116 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF116 and 4AF117 (Ref 12);
- Woodland planting to south of M180 adjacent to Mill Hill Wood to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF133 and 4AF134 along the M180 (Ref 13);
- Tree planting to the west of Hollingsworth Lane adjacent to 4AF138 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF137 and 4AF138 (Refs 17 and 18);
- Hedgerow and tree planting on field boundary to west of 4AF142 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF142 and 4AF143 (Ref 19);
- Woodland planting to west of pylon 4AF150 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF148 and 4AF151 (Ref 20);
- Woodland planting to west of pylon 4AF156 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylon 4AF155 and 4AF157 (Ref 21);
- Woodland planting to the south of Ferry Road south of pylon 4AF158 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF158 and 4AF159 (Ref 22);
- Native scrub planting to the north and south of Warping Drain to mitigate for loss of vegetation between pylons 4AF161 and 4AF162 along Warping Drain (Refs 23, 24 and 25);
- Woodland planting to east of Station Road near pylons 4AF166 to mitigate for loss of vegetation along the railway between pylons 4AF166 and 4AF167 (Ref 26);
- Tree planting on field boundary to south of pylon 4AF172 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF172 and 4AF173 (Ref 27);
- Hedgerow with tree planting on field boundary to west of pylon 4AF174 and to the north of Cornley Road to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF173 and 4AF174 (Ref 28);
- Woodland planting to north of access to Leys Farm and pylon 4AF184 to mitigate for loss of trees along the Project (Refs 29 and 31);
- Tree planting on field boundaries to south of pylons 4AF187 and 4AF188 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF187 and 4AF188 (Refs 34 and 35);
- Woodland planting to east of Wood Lane near pylon 4AF194 to mitigate for loss of vegetation between pylons 4AF193 and 4AF194 near Wood Farm (Ref 36);
- Woodland planting along watercourse to east of Wood Lane and north of pylon 4AF195 to mitigate for loss of vegetation between pylons 4AF193 and 4AF194 near Wood Farm (Refs 37 and 38);
- Woodland planting along watercourse to east of Dogholes Wood and northeast of pylon 4AF195 to mitigate for loss of vegetation between pylons 4AF195 and 4AF196 (Ref 39);
- Tree planting on field boundary to south of Gainsborough Road near pylon 4AF202 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF202 and 4AF203 (Ref 40);

- Hedgerow and tree planting on field boundary to west of pylon 4AF205 and south of High House Farm to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF205 and 4AF206 (Ref 41);
- Tree planting on field boundaries to south of pylon 4AF216 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF216 and 4AF217 (Refs 47 and 48);
- Woodland planting to west of Meeting House Lane near pylon 4AF225 to mitigate for loss of trees along the Project (Ref 51);
- Hedgerow and tree planting to north of pylon 4AF228 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF226 and 4AF228 and to increase connectivity between Lee Beck and wider landscape (Ref 52);
- Woodland planting adjacent to Lee Beck to the west of pylon 4AF228 and north of Forewood Lane to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF228 and 4AF229 (Ref 53);
- Woodland planting on field boundary between pylons 4AF229 and 4AF230 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF229 and 4AF230 which includes a veteran tree (Ref 54);
- Woodland planting and tree planting to east of North Beck near pylon 4AF234 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF233 and 4AF235 along North Beck (Refs 55, 56 and 57);
- Tree planting on field boundary to south of pylon 4AF238 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF238 and 4AF239 (Ref 58);
- Tree planting to the east of Darlton Road near pylon 4AF244 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF243 and 4AF244 (Ref 59); and
- Woodland planting to the west of Fledborough Road near pylon 4AF255 to mitigate for loss of trees between pylons 4AF255 and 4AF256 (Ref 60).

6.9 Residual Effects Assessment

6.9.1 The following residual effects assessment focuses on the landscapes that have been fully assessed. It does not include the landscape designations, RLCTs and LCTs which have been scoped out of the assessment as explained in section 6.6 of this chapter and Table 1 of **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

Landscape Designations

Yorkshire Wolds Important Landscape Area

6.9.2 The full assessment of the Yorkshire Wolds ILA is presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

6.9.3 During construction, the southern part of the ILA would be directly affected by the construction of approximately 10 km of proposed overhead line, including pylons 4AF9 to 4AF40 and localised temporary highway widening works. Indirect effects would include a temporary reduction in rural character and scenic quality.

6.9.4 Overall, while the Project would alter the character and appearance of parts of the ILA, the impacts would be localised, temporary, and largely reversible. The most significant effects would occur near the working areas and in an area already affected by the existing 400 kV overhead line. These areas are also in a section of the ILA, which Natural England's Natural Beauty Assessment (Natural England, 2024) recognises as being of lower quality than further north. The construction effects on the landscape within the ILA are considered **minor adverse (not significant)**.

6.9.5 During operation, the southern part of the ILA would be directly affected by the presence of approximately 10 km of proposed overhead line, including pylons 4AF9 to 4AF40. It would be parallel with the existing 400 kV overhead line along the majority of the length of the proposed overhead line within the ILA.

6.9.6 Overall, while the Project would change the character and appearance of parts of the area, these effects would be localised, mainly within 1 km of the proposed overhead line. Much of the affected area is already influenced by existing infrastructure and is identified in Natural England's Natural Beauty Assessment (Natural England, 2024) as having lower landscape sensitivity than areas within the ILA further north. Being parallel, the proposed overhead line would be seen with the existing, limiting the spread of infrastructure. As the mitigation planting becomes established, the visual and landscape effects would be further reduced. The operational effects on the landscape within the ILA at Year 1 and Year 15 are considered **minor adverse (not significant)**.

National Character Areas

6.9.7 Table 6.9 provides a summary of the assessment results presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

6.9.8 All effects on NCAs are considered to be **minor adverse (not significant)** both during construction and operation at Year 1 and Year 15.

6.9.9 During construction, activities would directly affect the landscape; however, these effects would be short-term and require minimal vegetation removal when considering the sizes and scale of the NCAs being assessed. A small working area would be required around each pylon, with most activities undertaken at ground level and some limited at-height working, including the use of mobile cranes. The movement of construction vehicles and plant along temporary access tracks would introduce additional visual and noise disturbance beyond the main working areas. Construction effects would be seen in the context of existing settlements and large-scale infrastructure, such as pylons and wind turbines, already present in the NCAs being assessed.

6.9.10 During operation, the proposed overhead line would affect a limited area within each NCA and would be seen in the context of other existing 400 kV overhead lines within the wider area. As the Project looked to parallel to the existing 400 kV overhead where possible, this has limited the geographical extent of effects and would ensure that the overall quality or character of the NCAs is not fundamentally changed. Effects within the NCAs with a higher proportion of vegetation cover and more undulating landform, such as NCA 27: Yorkshire Wolds and NCA 40: Holderness, are limited to within 500 m of the LoD. Those NCAs which encompass landscapes which are flatter and more open, such as NCA 39: Humberhead Levels and NCA 41:

Humber Estuary, would be affected over a slightly wider area but still limited to within 1 km of the LoD.

Table 6.9 – Summary of effects on NCAs

Receptor	Construction	Operation Year 1	Operation Year 15
NCA 27: Yorkshire Wolds	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 500 m of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 500 m of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant**) and limited to within 500 m of the LoD
NCA 39: Humberhead Levels	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 1 km of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 1 km of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 1 km of the LoD
NCA 40: Holderness	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 500 m of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 500 m of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 500 m of the LoD
NCA 41: Humber Estuary	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 1 km of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 1 km of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 1 km of the LoD
NCA 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 1 km of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 1 km of the LoD	**Minor adverse (not significant)** and limited to within 1 km of the LoD

Landscape Character Types

6.9.11 During construction, significant adverse landscape effects are predicted for the majority of the LCTs and RLCTs which would be directly affected by construction activity within the Order Limits of the Project. These significant effects are related to the introduction of construction activity and equipment, including the temporary loss of some landscape features including field boundary vegetation. These effects tend to be most pronounced with 500 m to 1 km of the construction activities, depending on the openness of the landscape. Over this distance, indirect effects would occur from the presence of construction activity affecting the scenic quality or tranquillity of an area. RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys and RLCT 5b: Wooded Village Farmlands are not reported to be significant during construction, mainly due to the limited amount of direct effects within these character areas.

6.9.12 **Major adverse (significant)** effects are predicted for LCT 12: Sloping Wooded Farmland, LCT 13: Open High Rolling Farmland, and Trent Levels: Flat Drained Farmland LCT. The effects within these character areas are greater because of the higher values due to the locations within the Yorkshire Wolds ILA and Isle of Axholme ASHLI. These effects would be limited to areas close to the construction activities and in particular for locations where larger amounts of vegetation are affected, including Socken Wood and Bilkshill Plantation. Within the wider areas of these LCTs, effects reduce to minor (not significant) or negligible (not significant) where the presence of construction activities would not affect key characteristics or perceptual aspects of the landscape.

6.9.13 **Moderate adverse (significant)** effects are predicted for LCT 4: River Corridors, LCT 9: Drained Open Farmland, LCT 11: Jurassic Hills Farmland, LCT 16: Sloping Farmland, LCT 23: Humber Banks, Trent Levels: Flat Wooded Farmland LCT, Trent Levels: Open Island Farmland LCT, RLCT 2b: Planned and Drained Fens and Carrlands and RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales. These effects are limited to areas close to the construction activities, in more vegetated and undulating landscapes to within 500 m and in more open landscapes to within 1 km.

6.9.14 At Operation Year 1, **major adverse (significant)** landscape effects are limited to those areas where the proposed overhead line does not run parallel with existing overhead lines, affects a character area which does not already contain existing overhead lines or where vegetation removal which occurred during construction would continue to be noticeable. This includes LCT 12: Sloping Wooded Farmland, LCT 13: Open High Rolling Farmland, Trent Levels: Flat Drained Farmland LCT (in Route Section C) and RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales.

6.9.15 At Operation Year 15, although landscape mitigation would be maturing, significant effects relating to the proposed overhead line would remain. **Major adverse (significant)** effects would continue for Trent Levels: Flat Drained Farmland LCT (in Route Section C) and RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales.

6.9.16 All other effects on LCTs and RLCTs have been assessed as **minor adverse (not significant)** or **negligible (not significant)**.

6.9.17 Table 6.10 provides a summary of the assessment results presented in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**.

Table 6.10 – Summary of effects on LCTs

Receptor	Value/ susceptibility	Magnitude			Assessment of effect		
		Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)
LCT 4: River Corridors	High/medium	Medium < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	Medium < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	Medium < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km
LCT 8: M62 Corridor	Low/medium	Very small	Very small	Very small	**Negligible adverse (not significant)**	**Negligible adverse (not significant)**	**Negligible adverse (not significant)**
LCT 9: Drained Open Farmland	High/medium	Medium < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	Small < 500 m Very small > 500 m	Small < 500 m Very small > 500 m	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Minor adverse (not significant)** < 500 m **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 500 m	**Minor adverse (not significant)** < 500 m **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 500 m

Receptor	Value/ susceptibility	Magnitude			Assessment of effect		
		Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)
LCT 11: Jurassic Hills Farmland	High/medium	Medium < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	Small < 500 m Very small > 500 m	Small < 500 m Very small > 500 m	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Minor adverse (not significant)** < 500 m **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 500 m	**Minor adverse (not significant)** < 500 m **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 500 m
LCT 12: Sloping Wooded Farmland	High/high	Large < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	Large < 500 m Very small > 500 m	Medium < 500 m Very small > 500 m	**Major adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Major adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 500 m	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 500 m
LCT 13: Open High Rolling Farmland	High/high	Large < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small	Large < 500 m Medium 500 m – 1 km Very small	Medium < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small	**Major adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not**	**Major adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Moderate adverse (significant)** 500 m – 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km

Receptor	Value/ susceptibility	Magnitude			Assessment of effect		
		Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)
		> 1 km	> 1 km	> 1 km	**significant)** > 1 km	**Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km
LCT 16: Sloping Farmland	High/medium	Large < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	Medium < 500 m Very small > 500 m	Small < 500 m Very small > 500 m	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 500 m	**Minor adverse (not significant)** < 500 m **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 500 m
LCT 17: Farmed Urban Fringe	Medium/ medium	Very small	No change	No change	**Negligible adverse (not significant)**	No effect	No effect
LCT 23: Humber Banks	High/medium	Medium < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	Medium < 500 m Small > 500 m	Medium < 500 m Very Small > 500 m	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 500 m	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 500 m

Receptor	Value/ susceptibility	Magnitude			Assessment of effect		
		Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)
Lincolnshire Edge: Steep Wooded Scarp Slope LCT	Medium/high	Very small	Very small	Very small	**Negligible adverse (not significant)**	**Negligible adverse (not significant)**	**Negligible adverse (not significant)**
Trent Levels: Flat Drained Farmland LCT	High/medium	Large < 1 km Small > 1 km	Route Sections B and D Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km Route Section C Large < 1 km Small > 1 km	Route Sections B and D Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km Route Section C Large < 1 km Small > 1 km	**Major adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	Route Sections B and D **Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km Route Section C **Major adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	Route Sections B and D **Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km Route Section C **Major adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km
Trent Levels: Flat Drained Treed Farmland LCT	High/high	Small	Small	Small	**Minor adverse (not significant)**	**Minor adverse (not significant)**	**Minor adverse (not significant)**

Receptor	Value/ susceptibility	Magnitude			Assessment of effect		
		Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)
Trent Levels: Flat Open Remote Farmland LCT	High/medium	Very small	Small	Small	**Negligible adverse (not significant)**	**Minor adverse (not significant)**	**Minor adverse (not significant)**
Trent Levels: Flat Wooded Farmland LCT	High/high	Medium < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km	Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km
Trent Levels: Open Island Farmland LCT	High/high	Medium < 500 m Small 500 m – 1 km Very small > 1 km	Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km	Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 500 m **Minor adverse (not significant)** 500 m – 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km

Receptor	Value/ susceptibility	Magnitude			Assessment of effect		
		Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)
RLCT 2b: Planned and Drained Fens and Carrlands	Medium/ medium	Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km To the east of the existing 400 kV overhead line – Very small	Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km To the east of the existing 400 kV overhead line – Very small	Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km To the east of the existing 400 kV overhead line – Very small	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km Effects to the east of the existing 400 kV overhead line would be **Negligible (not significant)**	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km Effects to the east of the existing 400 kV overhead line would be **Negligible (not significant)**	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km Effects to the east of the existing 400 kV overhead line would be **Negligible (not significant)**
RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys	Medium/ medium	Small < 1 km Very small > 1 km	Small < 1 km Very small > 1 km	Small < 1 km Very small > 1 km	**Minor adverse (not significant)** < 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Minor adverse (not significant)** < 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Minor adverse (not significant)** < 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km
RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales	Medium/high	Medium < 1 km Small > 1 km	Large < 1 km Medium > 1 km	Large < 1 km Medium > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Major adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Moderate adverse (significant)** > 1 km	**Major adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Moderate adverse (significant)** > 1 km

Receptor	Value/ susceptibility	Magnitude			Assessment of effect		
		Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)
RLCT 5b: Wooded Village Farmlands	High/high	Small < 1 km Very small > 1 km	Medium < 1 km Very Small > 1 km	Medium < 1 km Very Small > 1 km	**Minor adverse (not significant)** < 1 km **Negligible adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km	**Moderate adverse (significant)** < 1 km **Minor adverse (not significant)** > 1 km

Flexibility

6.9.18 Table 6.7 set out the assumptions for flexibility with the design including the horizontal, longitudinal and vertical changes within the LoD.

6.9.19 The movement of pylons either horizontally or anywhere along the proposed alignment (longitudinally) and the resultant move in working areas and construction access tracks could result in changes to landcover including the temporary loss of vegetation during construction. Routeing has sought where practicable to avoid larger areas of vegetation along the alignment, therefore changes to landscape elements would be localised and would affect a small part of the wider LCT or RLCT. For LCTs and RLCTs which are directly affected by the Project, there would therefore be no change in the scale of effect. Indirect effects on the key characteristics of the LCT or RLCT would not be affected by localised changes to pylon location.

6.9.20 An increase in the height of pylons, if the full vertical LoD is utilised, would not result in any changes to landcover or vegetation. There would therefore be no change to the scale of effect on LCTs or RLCTs which are within the Order Limits and therefore directly affected. Indirect effects on the key characteristics of the LCT or RLCT would not be affected by an increase in pylon height.

6.9.21 Overall, there would be no change to the level or significance of effects on landscape character, set out in **Application Document 6.6.A3 Appendix 6.3 Landscape Baseline and Assessment**, as a result of changes to the Project within the LoDs assumed.

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