



THE DROVES
SOLAR FARM

The Droves Solar Farm

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume I, Chapter 6: Landscape and Visual

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6 Landscape and Visual

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 This chapter of the PEIR presents the preliminary information of the potential for significant effects in relation to landscape and visual. The information presented within this chapter has been informed by the design information of the Scheme provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**. A glossary of definitions for terminology used within this chapter is included within **Volume III, Appendix 6.1**.
- 6.1.2 Information considered in this chapter includes relevant landscape and visual policy and guidance, baseline landscape and visual, sets out the methodologies and approaches intended to be used to inform the Landscape and Visual chapter of the Environmental Statement (ES) for the Scheme. This is realised through a description of the landscape and visual baseline conditions (as they are understood at time of writing). This chapter details the findings of work undertaken to date and presents a preliminary assessment of the likely significant effects arising from the Construction, Operational and Decommissioning Phases of the Scheme upon landscape and visual. The chapter also considers proposed avoidance, mitigation and compensation measures and any residual effects following the implementation of such measures.
- 6.1.3 Embedded mitigation measures are presented, where necessary, and discussed to minimise the impacts of the Scheme to an acceptable level (i.e. to a residual minor or negligible effect), during the Construction, Operation and Decommissioning Phases.
- 6.1.4 This chapter should be viewed as a preliminary assessment that will be updated and Refined as necessary, particularly as the results of further evaluation become available and as the Scheme design evolves. Initial assumptions have been made based on the survey and background information available to date and professional judgement. The PEIR does not replicate or act as a draft ES but rather aims to enable consultees to understand the likely environmental effects of the Scheme and helps to inform consultation responses during the pre-application stage.

Consultation

- 6.1.5 The content and assessment methodology contained within this chapter has been informed by the Scoping Opinion from PINS dated 18 December 2024 (**Volume III, Appendix 2.2**) as well as further updated and informed following consultation with key stakeholders in relation to landscape and visual matters.
- 6.1.6 Consultation feedback received throughout the pre-application phase of the Scheme has been considered in preparing this PEIR chapter. Further detail on consultation undertaken is included at **Volume III, Appendix 6.2 Consultation**. Copies of the correspondence with relevant stakeholders are appended, in full, in **Volume III, Appendix 6.2**.

Legislation, Planning Policy, Guidance

- 6.1.7 A review of the Legislation, Policy and Guidance that is relevant to the landscape and visual assessment of the Scheme is included at **Volume III, Appendix 6.6**. The review demonstrates



that the Scheme has been developed in accordance with the requirements identified in the **Volume III, Appendix 6.1**.

6.2 Assessment Methodology

Assessment Scope

6.2.1 Paragraph 1.1 of the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3rd Edition, LI and IEMA, 2013) ('GLVIA') [Ref 6-1] states:

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

6.2.2 Paragraphs 2.20 to 2.22 of the same guidance indicate that the two components (the assessment of landscape effects and the assessment of visual effects) are “*related but very different considerations*”.

6.2.3 This section describes the methodology used for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), Reflecting the approach and terminology used in the following published guidance and accepted good practice:

- GLVIA3 (LI and IEMA, 2013)
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment (Natural England, 2014) [Ref 6-2]
- Technical Information Note 05/2017: Townscape Character Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2017, revised April 2018) [Ref 6-3]
- Technical Guidance Note 2/19 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (Landscape Institute, 2019) [Ref 6-4]
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, 2021) [Ref 6-5]
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals (Landscape Institute, 2019) [Ref 6-6]
- **Volume III, Appendix 6.3** Supporting Information to Assessment Methodology contains supporting information concerning the LVIA methodology; supplementing the information provided in this section; and
- **Volume III, Appendix 6.4** Methodology for Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Studies and Visualisations sets out the approach to the production of ZTV studies and visualisations.

6.2.4 It should be noted that the assessment methodology outlined below varies slightly from what was submitted within the landscape and visual scoping request chapter regarding thresholds and definitions. The changes made to the landscape and visual assessment methodology were limited and have been included to align with the wider Scheme thresholds and definitions



included within **Volume I, Chapter 1: Introduction** through to **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description** of this PEIR.

6.2.5 The key terms used within this assessment are:

- Susceptibility and Value – which contribute to the Sensitivity of the Receptor
- Scale, Duration and Extent – which contribute to the Magnitude of effect; and
- Significance.

6.2.6 These terms are described in more detail below and a full glossary of assessment terms is provided in **Volume III, Appendix 6.1**.

Scoped In

6.2.7 This LVIA has identified a number of receptors which are likely to be affected in landscape and visual terms. These have been identified through theoretical visibility mapping and verified on site through ongoing field surveys.

6.2.8 The scope of the landscape and visual receptors assessed during the Construction Phase and Decommissioning Phase would be the same as those identified within the Operational Phase below. Whilst the effects during the Construction Phase and Decommissioning Phase are likely to be short term and temporary in nature, given the rural context of the Site and nearby sensitive visual receptors, there is potential for significant effects to be experienced during these phases. As such, these potential effects will be scoped in for further assessment.

6.2.9 The effects listed in Table 6.1 have been scoped into the assessment, during Construction, Operation and Decommissioning Phases of the Scheme, for landscape and visual. The scope has been defined following the EIA scoping process and further baseline assessment undertaken based upon the PEIR Concept Masterplan.

Table 6.1 Landscape and Visual Receptors Scoped in

Type of Effect	Receptor
Local Landscape Character	(B) Settled Tributary Farmland Local Character Type (LCT); (B7) River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA
	(D) The Brecks – Heathland with plantation LCT; (D1) Swaffham Heath LCA
	(E) Plateau Farmland LCT; (E6) North Pickenham Plateau LCA
	(F) Chalk Rivers LCT; (F1) River Nar Valley LCA
	(G) Farmland with Woodland and Wetland LCT; (G3) Gayton and East Winch LCA
	(I) Rolling Open Farmland LCT;(I9) Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA



Type of Effect	Receptor
Visual Effects	Visual Receptor Groups (VRGs) within the Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI)
	Key Transport Route – A1065 Castle Acre Road
	The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coast Path
	The Nar Valley Way
	The Castle Acre Circular Walk
	Rebellion Way Cycling Route
	Castle Acre Priory
	Castle Acre Castle
Landscape Designations	None Identified
Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)	Residential properties within 800m distance of the Site.
Amenity and Recreation Assessment (ARA)	Local Public Rights of Way located within the Site and those present within the Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI)
	The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path
	The Nar Valley Way
	The Castle Acre Circular Walk
	Castle Acre Priory
	Castle Acre Castle



Scoped Out

- 6.2.10 The receptors listed in Table 6.2 have been scoped out of the assessment for landscape and visual as agreed through the EIA Scoping and consultation process.
- 6.2.11 Visual receptors at Castle Acre Common and along key transport route A47 have since been scoped out of the assessment following additional field surveys, Refinement of the Scheme and subsequent remodelling within the ZTV. For the same reason, Castle Acre Common has also been scoped out of the ARA.

Table 6.2 Landscape and Visual Receptors Scoped Out

Type of Effect	Receptor
National and Regional Landscape Character	National Character Areas and Suffolk Regional Landscape Character Areas
Local Landscape Character	(B) Settled Tributary Farmland LCT; (B5) River Wissey Tributary Farmland LCA
	(E) The Fens LCT; (E2) Saddlebow and Wormegay LCA
	(H) Settled Farmland with Plantations LCT; (H2) Fincham LCA
	(J) Plateau Farmland LCT; (J3) Great Massingham LCA
Visual Effects	Visual Receptor Groups (VRGs) located outside of the ZVI
	Key Transport Route - A47
	Castle Acre Common
	Broadmeadow Common
	Emanuel's Common
	Newton Common
Landscape Designations	Bradmoor Common
	None Identified
Residential Visual Amenity	Residential properties beyond 800m distance of the Site.



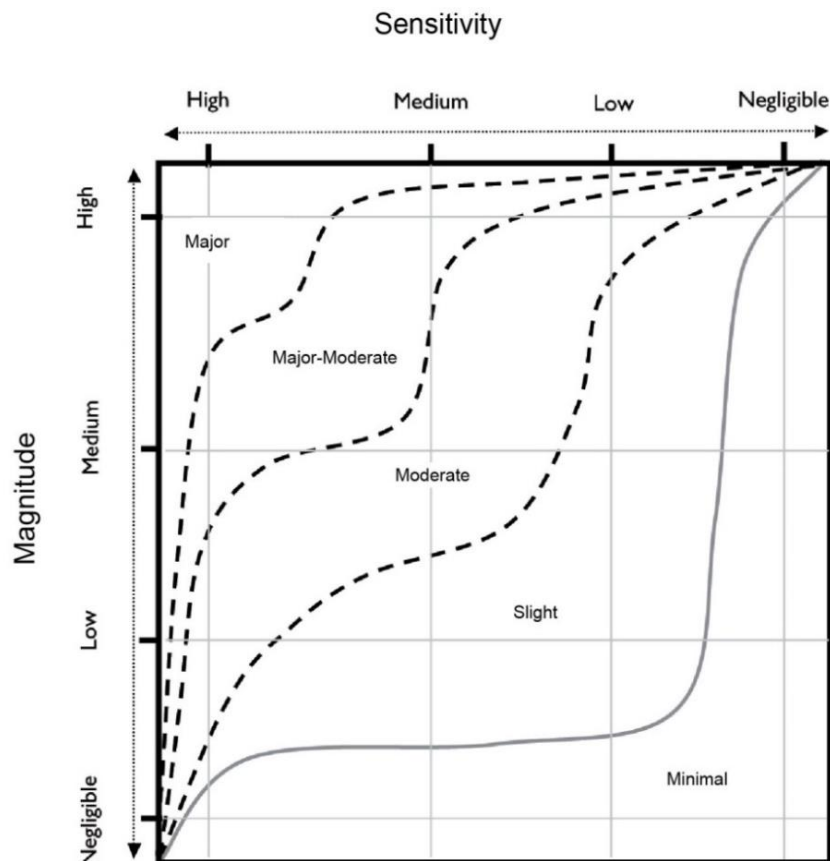
Type of Effect	Receptor
Assessment (RVAA)	
Amenity and Recreation Assessment (ARA)	Local PRow located outside of the ZVI, and those which are no longer used, accessible or identifiable on the ground.
	Broadmeadow Common
	Emanuel's Common
	Newton Common
	Bradmoor Common
	Castle Acre Common
Night-Time Effects and Lighting	All



Determining Significance of Effect

6.2.12 Significance indicates the importance or gravity of the effect. The process of forming a judgement as to the degree of significance of the effect is based upon the assessments of magnitude of effects and sensitivity of the Receptor to come to a professional judgement of how important this effect is. This judgement is illustrated by Diagram 6.1 below:

Diagram 6.1 Significance



6.2.13 The significance ratings indicate a 'sliding scale' of the relative importance of the effect, with Major being the most important and Minimal being the least. Effects that are Major or Major-Moderate are considered significant and "*likely to influence the eventual decision*" whilst those that are Slight or below are judged Not Significant and "*of lesser concern*" (GLVIA3, para 3.35). Moderate effects are considered to be potentially significant and professional judgment is used to determine whether the effect in question is Significant or Not Significant, with analysis provided to justify the rating. An effect is likely to be assessed as Significant where the sensitivity of the Receptor combined with magnitude of change results in a degree of effect that is towards the higher end of the Moderate range (illustrated in Diagram 6.1 above) and is therefore judged more "*likely to influence the eventual decision*". It should be noted that whilst an effect may be assessed as Significant, it does not necessarily mean that such an impact would be unacceptable or should necessarily be regarded as an "*undue consequence*" (GLVIA3, para 5.40).

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



closer to that higher rating but is done to facilitate the identification of the more significant effects within tables. Intermediate judgements may also be used for judgements of Magnitude.

Receptor Sensitivity

- 6.2.15 Susceptibility indicates the ability of a landscape or visual Receptor to accommodate the type of development proposed “without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies.” (GLVIA3, para. 5.40).

Table 6.3 Landscape Susceptibility

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

- 6.2.16 The susceptibility of landscape character areas or types are influenced by the ability of the overall character; quality/condition; elements and/or features; or particular aesthetic and perceptual aspects, to accommodate change. Reference is made to published landscape character assessments and/or sensitivity and capacity studies where relevant (where susceptibility can sometimes be documented as sensitivity).
- 6.2.17 The susceptibility of designated or defined landscapes is influenced by the nature of the natural beauty, special qualities and purposes of designation/definition and/or the valued elements, qualities or characteristics.
- 6.2.18 Landscape Value is “the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society” (GLVIA3, page 157).

Table 6.4 Landscape Value

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



- 6.2.19 National Planning Policy Framework [Ref 6-11] (NPPF) paragraph 187 states that “*Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environments by...protecting and enhancing valued landscapes*”. Areas of landscape of greater than Community value may be considered to be ‘valued landscapes’ because National and Local value landscapes are designated on a national or local scale due to their landscape value (greater than ordinary) and therefore could be deemed a valued landscape depending on their intrinsic qualities. The evaluation draws on existing assessments, policies, strategies, guidelines, site-specific survey and analysis to determine whether a landscape (entirely or part of it) should be considered ‘valued’ under NPPF paragraph 187.
- 6.2.20 As defined within paragraph 5.39 of GLVIA3, Landscape Sensitivity is assessed by combining the considerations of susceptibility and value described above.

Table 6.5 Landscape Sensitivity

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

- 6.2.21 For visual receptors, susceptibility and value are closely linked - the most valued views are also likely to be those where viewer’s expectations will be highest. Susceptibility of visual receptors is primarily a function of the expectations and occupation or activity of the receptors (GLVIA3, para 6.32). The value attributed relates to the value of the view, e.g. a National Trail is nationally valued for access, not necessarily for the available views. Consequently, separate criteria for susceptibility and value are not provided, and instead, typical examples of visual Receptor sensitivity are indicated in



6.2.23 Table 6.6 below. These typical examples may be varied based on specific factors relevant to the type of development proposed or the Site and its context.



Table 6.6 Visual Receptor Sensitivity

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

Typical Examples:

- (1) Visitors to valued viewpoints or routes, which people might visit purely to experience the view, e.g. promoted or well-known viewpoints, routes from which views that form part of the special qualities of a designated landscape can be well appreciated; key designed views; panoramic viewpoints marked on maps.
- (2) People in locations where they are likely to pause to appreciate the view, such as from local waypoints such as benches; or at key views to/from local landmarks. Visitors to local attractions, heritage assets or public parks where views are an important contributor to the experience, or key views into/out of Conservation Areas.
- (3) People in the streets around their home, or using Public Rights of Way, navigable waterways or accessible open space (public parks, open access land).
- (4) Users of promoted scenic rail routes.
- (5) Users of promoted scenic local road routes.
- (6) Users of cycle routes, local roads and railways.
- (7) Outdoor workers.
- (8) Users of A-roads which are nationally or locally promoted scenic routes.
- (9) Users of sports facilities such as cricket grounds and golf courses.



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

Magnitude of Impact

- 6.2.24 The magnitude of effect is informed by combining the scale, duration and extent of an effect. The criteria for the assessment of magnitude are set out below.
- 6.2.25 Scale of effect is assessed for all landscape and visual receptors and identifies the degree of change which would arise from the Scheme.

Table 6.7 Scale

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

- 6.2.26 Duration of effect is assessed for all landscape and visual receptors and identifies the time period over which the change to the Receptor as a result of the development would arise.

Table 6.8 Duration

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



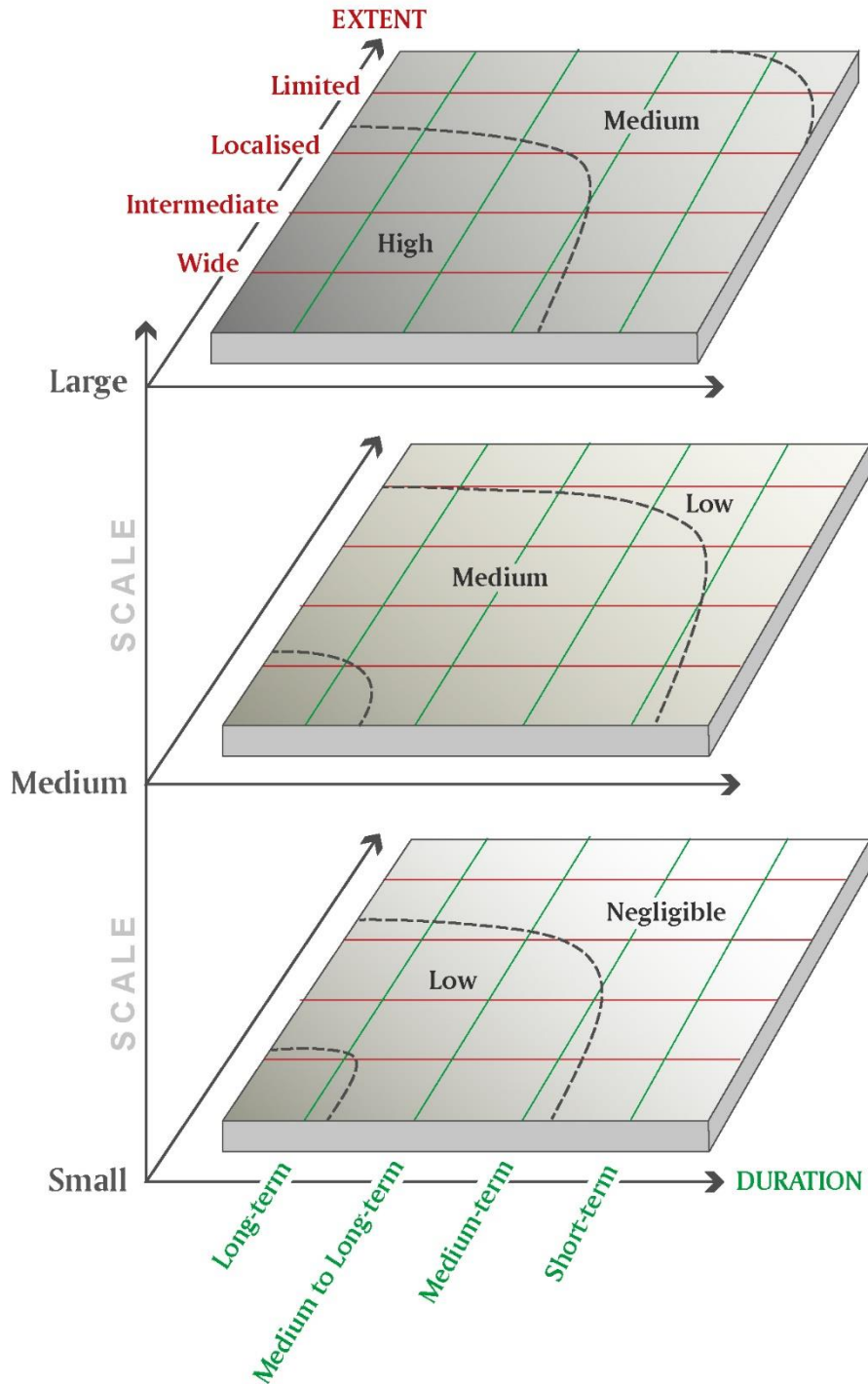
- 6.2.27 Effects arising from most types of development and associated infrastructure and mitigation would typically be Long-term. It is reasonable to also expect these changes to be permanent and irreversible.
- 6.2.28 Some forms of development, such as solar arrays and wind farms, may also result in Long-term effects. Still, the intention is that the development would be decommissioned at the end of its defined operational period, and effects would, therefore, no longer occur beyond that timeframe. These are assessed to be long-term but reversible
- 6.2.29 Medium or Short-term effects may be identified where mitigation planting is proposed, or local factors will result in a reduced duration of effect where, for example, new woodland planting would screen views of the Scheme once fully established.
- 6.2.30 The effects arising from the construction and decommissioning of the Scheme will usually be Short-term.
- 6.2.31 The extent of effects is assessed for all receptors and indicates the geographic area over which the effects will be felt.

Table 6.9 Extent

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



Diagram 6.2 Magnitude of effect





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

Beneficial / Neutral / Adverse

- 6.2.33 Effects are defined as Beneficial, Neutral or Adverse. Neutral effects are those which overall are neither Adverse nor Beneficial but may incorporate a combination of both.
- 6.2.34 The decision regarding the significance of effect and the decision regarding whether an effect is beneficial or adverse are entirely separate. For example, a rating of Major and Beneficial would indicate an effect that was of great significance and on balance positive, but not necessarily that the proposals would be extremely beneficial.
- 6.2.35 Whether an effect is Beneficial, Neutral or Adverse is identified based on professional judgement. GLVIA 3rd edition indicates in paragraph 2.15 that this is a “*particularly challenging*” aspect of assessment, particularly in the context of a changing landscape.

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment

- 6.2.36 The Landscape Institute’s Technical Guidance Note 02/19 (TGN 02/19) (para. 1.2) defines Residential Visual Amenity as: “*the overall quality, experience and nature of views and outlook available to occupants of residential properties, including views from gardens and domestic curtilage.*”
- 6.2.37 Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) is a separate assessment to LVIA, as stated within GLVIA3 para. 6.17, and focuses solely on private views and private visual amenity. It requires assessors to determine whether the effects of a Scheme reach the ‘Residential Visual Amenity Threshold’, described as the point at which a Scheme would be of “*...such nature and/or magnitude that it potentially affects ‘living conditions’ or Residential Amenity*” (TGN 02/19, para. 2.1).
- 6.2.38 The guidance note further indicates in para 1.6 that: “*It is not uncommon for significant adverse effects on views and visual amenity to be experienced by people at their place of residence as a result of introducing a new development into the landscape. In itself this does not necessarily cause particular planning concern. However, there are situations where the effect on the outlook / visual amenity of a residential property is so great that it is not generally considered to be in the public interest to permit such conditions to occur where they did not exist before.*”
- 6.2.39 This Landscape and Visual Chapter includes a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA) in **Volume III, Appendix 6.8**. The scope of this RVAA comprises an assessment of residential properties situated within 800m of the Site.

Amenity and Recreation Assessment

- 6.2.40 An Amenity and Recreation Assessment (ARA) is a separate assessment to the LVIA, included in **Volume III, Appendix 6.9**. The ARA relates to the impacts on users of recreational resources comprising Public Rights of Way (PRoW), including public footpaths; bridleways; restricted byways; and Byways Open to All Traffic (BOAT); permissive footpaths; open access



and common land; cycle routes, recreational facilities, nature reserves, parks and waterbodies used for recreation. The ARA assesses any physical changes (e.g. PRow diversions or closures) and other environmental impacts, including visual amenity, noise, traffic movements, dust and other emissions, and traffic movements which may affect the overall experience of the amenity and recreational resources.

- 6.2.41 Figure 6.6 identifies a number of amenity and recreational resources in the surrounding context. These comprise a variety of PRow, open access land, nature areas, cycle trails, walking routes and formal and informal recreation areas. The ARA considers the effects to the amenity and recreation resources within the same 3km Study Area as the LVIA.
- 6.2.42 The ARA is provided as separate appendix to the LVIA. There is no universally recognised guidance for the ARA, although the methodology follows the principles of the LVIA methodology and is informed by relevant policy and guidance, as well as the outcomes of relevant assessments such as transport and access, noise, air quality, and glint and glare.

Distances

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

Assumptions and Limitations

Desk-Study

- 6.2.44 The baseline conditions of the Site and its surrounding landscape are described in Section 6.2. They have been informed by a desk-based study that has reviewed known and published policy and guidance documents available at the time of this assessment (April 2025).
- 6.2.45 The desk-based study was informed by a number of ZTV studies modelled on the Scheme's maximum height and extent of infrastructure as outlined on the Concept Masterplan (**Volume III, Appendix 5.1**). The proposed maximum parameters of the Scheme demonstrate the worst-case scenario with regard to height and extent, all of which has been assessed within the LVIA, RVAA and ARA. Two ZTV figures have been produced to demonstrate potential worst-case visibility.
- 6.2.46 Figure 6.5a takes account the screening effect of existing intervening vegetation and built development - recorded in the digital surface datasets available at the time of assessment – in the Scheme's surrounding landscape.
- 6.2.47 Figure 6.5b does not take account for obstructions and instead is modelled on a 'bare earth' digital terrain model.
- 6.2.48 Further details of the ZTVs used to inform the LVIA are provided in Section 6.2.



Fieldwork

- 6.2.49 Fieldwork was undertaken in May and November 2024, and January 2025, with verified viewpoint photography taken in January 2025. This photography captures the ‘winter’ conditions of the landscape, when there would be the greatest degree of visibility.
- 6.2.50 Consideration has also been given to ‘summer’ conditions when vegetation would be in-leaf, and a greater degree of screening would likely occur. Where relevant to this assessment, this has been considered and set out in this chapter and its supporting figures.

Visualisations

- 6.2.51 A range of visualisations have been prepared in support of the LVIA within this PEIR chapter. These visualisations are based on the verified viewpoint photography captured. They have been generated on the maximum development parameters set out within the Concept Masterplan.
- 6.2.52 The visualisations represent a simple 3D wireline block model of the areas that could be developed, correctly placed in its photographic context, otherwise Referred to as a ‘photowire’ Type 3 visualisation. This demonstrates the scale and siting of the maximum development parameters at PEIR stage, without the screening effects of new mitigation planting.
- 6.2.53 Within the Concept Masterplan, the exact siting of the larger infrastructure, such as the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure, are yet to be defined. To fully consider the worst-case scenario, the PEIR photowire visualisations have been modelled to show the full extent of the indicative siting zones, even though in reality a much smaller area will only be required to accommodate the Customer and National Grid Substations. The indicative size of the Customer and National Grid Substation compounds are approximately 4 hectares (ha) per substation as outlined within **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**.
- 6.2.54 In terms of the Grid Connection Infrastructure, this has not been modelled within the PEIR photowire visualisations, due to the additional flexibility within the Scheme for options. Instead, the Grid Connection Infrastructure has been accounted for and assessed within the main body of the assessment later in this chapter. The three options being considered for the Grid Connection Infrastructure are all considered as part of the assessment of the Concept Masterplan (**Volume I, Appendix 5.1**), detailed within Section 6.5.
- 6.2.55 For the ES, once the proposed maximum development parameters have been Refined further, Type 3 photomontages of an illustrative scheme will also be produced as well as the photowire visualisations. The Type 3 photomontages will demonstrate potential views of the Scheme at both year 1 (demonstrating visual effects in the short term, following construction) and year 15 (demonstrating medium to long term effects once any proposed mitigation planting has matured and established). The Grid Connection Infrastructure parameters will be modelled within the ZTV and visualisations as part of the ES, as the design and clarity on option approach for this element of the Scheme would likely be confirmed and refined further by the time the ES assessment is undertaken.
- 6.2.56 Within the ES photomontages, the assumed vegetation growth rate will be 400mm/year. This is based on Forestry Commission growth rates, although it is acknowledged that growth rates vary based on a few variables. This would be applicable to all elements of the proposed



vegetation within the Site and will be taken into account for the year 15 visualisations of the Scheme.

6.2.57 Further details of the visualisations are provided in **Volume III, Appendix 6.4**.

Consideration of Climate Change

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

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

Parameters Based Assessment and the Rochdale Envelope

6.2.60 The various assessments undertaken within the LVIA, RVAA and ARA reports, which are included within this Landscape and Visual Chapter, are based upon the proposed Scheme parameters shown on the Concept Masterplan.

6.2.61 As discussed above, given that this is a Concept Masterplan, the exact siting of the larger infrastructure, such as the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure, are yet to be defined. Whilst the maximum heights are broadly accurate at this stage, the indicative siting zones shown for the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure are much larger than what would actually be required for the Scheme.

6.2.62 In order to fully consider the worst-case scenario and assess a Scheme which currently has the high degree of flexibility currently built into the Concept Masterplan (**Volume I, Appendix 5.1**), the LVIA/RVAA/ARA reports and their subsequent interim conclusions at PEIR stage, are based upon the worst-case scenarios of the Scheme, for each Receptor. This approach clearly identifies where adverse effects may arise for each Receptor and clearly states which siting zone(s) and element(s) of the Scheme could lead to potentially significant adverse effects.

Study Area

6.2.63 For the purposes of this LVIA, the Study Area includes the Site itself and 3km from its boundary, this has been agreed as being appropriate to cover all potentially material landscape and visual impacts. Further detail on the ZTV study used to inform this LVIA is set out below within Section 6.3.

6.2.64 Where responses were received during consultation, agreement on the extent of the Study Area is outlined within Volume III, Appendix 6.2 Consultation.

6.2.65 16no. representative viewpoints have been selected to assess the effects on visual receptors. These viewpoint locations have been selected based upon the ZTV figures, extensive



fieldwork and additional viewpoints requested by the Borough Council of West Norfolk and Kings Lynn.

- 6.2.66 In addition, ‘illustrative viewpoints’ may be identified to “demonstrate a particular effect or specific issues, which might, for example, be the restricted visibility at certain locations” (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para 6.19); and ‘specific viewpoints’ where there are key promoted viewpoints within the Study Area.
- 6.2.67 For the purpose of this LVIA, 7no. illustrative viewpoints have been identified to demonstrate particular effects or issues. No specific viewpoints were identified.
- 6.2.68 Additional viewpoints requested by the Borough Council of King’s Lynn & West Norfolk have also been considered as either representative or illustrative viewpoints, depending on the visibility towards the Site. These viewpoint locations include:
- Views from Priory Road and Castle Acre
 - Views from the high points of River Road and Petticoat Drove, within the Site
 - Views from the Grade II Listed temple at Narford Lane; and
 - Any of the ‘Important Views’ listed within the Castle Acre Neighbourhood Plan, where the Site may be visible.

6.3 Baseline Conditions

Introduction

- 6.3.1 This section presents an overview of the baseline study, covering a review of the key local guidance documents and all the landscape and visual receptors identified within the Study Area, this including an initial assessment of all the identified receptors. receptors which merit further detailed consideration are Referred to in Section 6.5, as effects “*have been judged unlikely to occur or so insignificant that it is not essential to consider them further*” (GLVIA3, para. 3.19).
- 6.3.2 Both this baseline study section and Section 6.5 describe landscape character and visual receptors before considering any designated landscapes within the wider Study Area. It is common for designations to encompass both character and visual considerations within their special qualities or purposes of designation. It therefore makes a more natural reading sequence to draw together those aspects of character and views which relate to the designation if they have been described earlier in the chapter.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

- 6.3.3 A ZTV study was generated and modelled based on the maximum parameters available at the time of assessment for the Scheme and has been used as a tool to inform the professional judgements made in this LVIA during the iterative masterplan process and stages. The ZTV was produced using the viewshed routine in the ESRI ArcGIS Suite.
- 6.3.4 A detailed Refined ZTV has been produced which accurately identifies potential visibility considering local obstructions to views such as existing woodland. The areas shown are the maximum theoretical visibility, taking into account topography, vegetation and buildings which have been included in the model with the heights obtained from a LiDAR digital surface model.



Due to its resolution, the surface model does not take into account every localised feature such as walls, small hedgerows or small trees and therefore only gives an impression of the extent of visibility. As a result, the extent of actual visibility experienced on the ground would be less than suggested by the ZTV study.

- 6.3.5 The more Refined ZTV is included within Figure 6.5a. The proposed maximum development parameters have been modelled separately to demonstrate the theoretical visibility of both the PV panels, BESS and Customer and National Grid Substations.
- 6.3.6 As requested by the Planning Inspectorate in The Drovers Solar Farm Scoping Opinion Report, a 'bare earth' ZTV has been included within this PEIR chapter, as Figure 6.5b. The 'bare earth' ZTV utilises a Digital Terrain Model (DTM); and therefore, only demonstrates potential visibility with regard to topography and changes in local landform.
- 6.3.7 The ZTV includes an adjustment that allows for Earth's curvature and light Refraction. It is based on LiDAR terrain data with a 2m² resolution.
- 6.3.8 As outlined within **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**, the zoned areas for the Solar PV Arrays, BESS and the Customer and National Grid Substations within the Site are shown indicatively on the Concept Masterplan. Whilst the design, location and layout of the Scheme is subject to further Refinement and evolution following further technical assessment, the Concept Masterplan shows illustrative zones where the elements that form the Scheme could be situated. It is therefore notable that the parameter zones used for the ZTV are larger than the anticipated parameters and extents of key elements once constructed. The design is also subject to Refinement, with current reasonable worst-case scenarios presented on the ZTV.
- 6.3.9 This PEIR assessment is based upon the parameters as outlined within **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**. The maximum parameters have been modelled within the ZTV's (Figure 6.5a and Figure 6.5b), with their extents subject to further Refinement post PEIR stage, for final assessment within the ES. The maximum height parameters have been modelled within the ZTV as follows:
- Indicative Area for Solar PV Site - Maximum height of 4.5m
 - Indicative siting zone for Customer Substation and BESS – Maximum height of 13m; and
 - Indictive siting zone for National Grid Substation – Maximum height of 13m.
- 6.3.10 With regard to the 'indicative siting zone for Customer Substation and BESS', the BESS is proposed to have a height of 3.2m when compared to the 13m high Customer Substation, therefore the entirety of this area of the Concept Masterplan on the ZTVs has been modelled at 13m, in order to demonstrate potential visibility of the Customer Substation at any given location within that designated area.
- 6.3.11 It is notable that the Concept Masterplan and subsequent ZTVs show indicative siting zones for both the Customer Substation and National Grid Substation much larger than the actual footprint required for these elements. As outlined within **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**, both substations each require an approximate footprint of 4ha. As such, the actual visibility and siting zones for both substations will be much smaller in reality when compared to the theoretical modelling detailed within this PEIR chapter.
- 6.3.12 The Grid Connection Infrastructure parameters have not been modelled within the ZTVs due to the high degree of flexibility and optioneering currently required for this parameter. As outlined in **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**, there are currently three options being



considered with regard to the Grid Connection Infrastructure, all of which include a number of variables with varying spatial parameters. Modelling such a large number of potential outcomes within the ZTV and Type 3 photowire visualisations would not be useful in determining the likely significant landscape and visual effects for the PEIR, so instead, the likely effects are outlined within the main body of text within the assessment.

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

ZTV and Zone of Visual Influence (ZVI)

- 6.3.14 The ZTV study shown on both Figure 6.5a and 6.5b, indicates the theoretical visibility of the Scheme.
- 6.3.15 The 'bare earth' ZTV (Figure 6.5b) indicates potential visibility across the entirety of the Site, extending beyond the Site in some areas. Based upon the bare earth model, potential visibility is generally confined to within around 2km to the south and east, with sporadic potential visibility beyond this. To the north, west and south-west, potential visibility is in places sporadic, which accounts for the local undulations in topography and Nar Valley landform to the north. The bare earth modelling approach to understanding the zone of theoretical visibility is not the most useful approach given the context of the Site and surrounding landscape. The Site and surrounding landscape is well-wooded which includes the presence of well vegetated agricultural field boundaries; all of which serve to filter and restrict visibility towards the Site. The bare earth model does not take these characteristics into account.
- 6.3.16 The Refined ZTV for the Scheme (Figure 6.5a) shows that potential visibility is confined to within around 1km to the south and west, an area defined by the plateau landscape with generally flat landform and well vegetated field boundaries with scattered woodland blocks. Potential visibility extends beyond 1km to the north, on the northern side of the Nar Valley, and east, towards Palgrave. There is very limited potential visibility within the Nar Valley and settlements such as West Acre, Castle Acre and South Acre.
- 6.3.17 Woodland cover in the study area has an effect on visibility, breaking it up and resulting in gaps in several areas potential visibility to the north and east.
- 6.3.18 The anticipated main area of visibility, hereafter Referred to as the 'Zone of Visual Influence' ('ZVI'), is described below and shown on Figure 6.5a.
- 6.3.19 Site observations confirm that extensive vegetation within the wider landscape would significantly reduce the extent of visibility of the Scheme from that illustrated by the bare earth ZTV. The anticipated main area of visibility, based on site observations, is annotated on the ZTV study as the 'Zone of Visual Influence'. Across the study area vegetation cover is much more extensive than indicated by the Refined ZTV; field boundaries are typically formed from large, mature hedgerows with frequent hedgerow trees and there is extensive tree cover within settlements, particularly so within north of Swaffham and around South Acre, West Acre and Castle Acre. Realistically, views of the Scheme would generally be confined to the more open fields to the north and east of the Site, extending as far as Palgrave to the east (up to 1km) and Castle Acre to the north (up to 2km). Views from Castle Acre are generally limited to



higher ground at Castle Acre Castle and from Priory Road, Castle Acre Priory and East Green at its settlement edge.

- 6.3.20 There would also be some visibility from the A1065 corridor, which runs along the Site's eastern boundary, where the Scheme would be seen within fields located in the eastern Site area beyond gappy field boundary hedgerow and hedgerow trees.
- 6.3.21 Based on fieldwork observations, it is judged that effects on landscape and visual receptors outside the ZVI described above would be Negligible and, as such, are not assessed in further detail in this chapter. This does not mean that there would be no potential visibility outside the ZVI indicated, but rather that any visibility beyond the ZVI would be minimal or at such a distance that visibility would not affect views. This approach was agreed with the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk during a consultation meeting dated 20.01.2025. This approach has also been outlined during consultation with the Breckland Council local planning authority, but no response was received (at the time of writing).

Landscape Character

- 6.3.22 Paragraphs 5.13-5.15 of GLVIA, 3rd edition indicates that landscape character studies at a national or regional level are best used to “*set the scene*” and understand the landscape context. It indicates that LPA assessments provide more detail and that these should be used to form the basis of the assessment of effects on landscape character with (appropriately justified) adaptation, Refinement and interpretation where required.
- 6.3.23 Relevant Assessments are outlined below:
- **The Natural England National Character Areas Assessment: NCA85 The Brecks (2013)** [Ref-2] provides a broad context at a national level, highlighting the distinctive features of The Brecks. The Site is situated within National Character Area (NCA): The Brecks
 - **The Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (2013)** [Ref 6-7] identifies and describes the Landscape Character on a regional scale
 - **The Breckland Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment (2022)** [Ref 6-8] describes and analyses the character of Breckland's landscape and settlements, drawing upon relevant information from older landscape character assessments outlined below, as well as expanding the assessment to cover existing settlements within the district
 - **The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007)** [Ref 6-9] is the primary document that assesses landscape character within the district. This assessment covers the Site and large parts of the Study Area, to the south, east and northeast;
 - **The King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007)** [Ref 6-10] includes landscape character areas (LCA) within the wider study area, outside of the Site, which have been characterised; and



- 6.3.24 Copies of relevant maps and character assessment descriptions of areas taken forward for assessment in Section 6.5 are included in **Volume III, Appendix 6.7**.

National Landscape Character Profiles

- 6.3.25 The key characteristics of Natural England's National Landscape Character Area NCA 85 [Ref 6-2] observed within the Site and Study Area, are as follows:

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

- 6.3.26 Due to the scale of the NCA and the presence of more detailed character areas at a local level, effects on this NCA are not assessed within this LVIA. This NCA has been scoped out



from a detailed assessment as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate in the EIA Scoping Opinion (**Volume III, Appendix 2.2**).

Regional Landscape Character

Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (2013)

- 6.3.27 At the regional level, the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (2013) focuses on The Brecks. The assessment describes the region as “*a unique landscape of heaths, conifer plantations and farmland on part of the chalk plateau in south-west Norfolk and north-west Suffolk*”.
- 6.3.28 The Site is situated within an area characterised as ‘Rolling Clay Farmland’, which encompasses land to the north, northeast and south of Swaffham. This assessment will inform consideration of baseline landscape character within this LVIA, where relevant, but the landscape character types identified in the more comprehensive District scale landscape character assessments listed below will form the basis of the assessment of effects on landscape character for the PEIR.
- 6.3.29 Due to the scale of the regional character area and the presence of more detailed character areas at a local level, effects on this regional character area are not assessed within this LVIA. This regional character area has been scoped out from a detailed assessment as agreed with the Planning Inspectorate in the EIA Scoping Opinion (**Volume III, Appendix 2.2**).

Local Landscape Character

The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007)

- 6.3.30 The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007) is the primary landscape character assessment used to inform the LVIA. Figure 6.4 illustrates the location of each LCA (and their corresponding and overarching LCTs).
- 6.3.31 This assessment covers the Site and large parts of the 3km Study Area, to the south, east and northeast. The landscape character assessment was published in 2007 and identifies 6 no. Landscape Character Types (LCTs) across the district. Specifically, the Site is situated across two LCTs: (D) The Brecks – Heathland with Plantation and (E) Plateau Farmland.
- 6.3.32 The aforementioned LCTs are divided into more area specific LCAs. Regarding the more specific LCAs, the Site is largely situated within parts of both (D1) Swaffham Heath and (E6) North Pickenham Plateau. A very small part of the north-eastern site area is situated within the (B7) River Nar Tributary Farmland. Extracts relating to LCA D1, E6 and B7 are included in **Volume III, Appendix 6.7**.
- 6.3.33 As agreed with the Planning Inspectorate in the Scoping Opinion (**Volume III, Appendix 2.2**), one LCT and its constituent LCA, within The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007), is scoped out of this LVIA on the basis that there is little to no visibility towards the Site. The LCT and LCA scoped out of this LVIA are as follows:
- (B) Settled Tributary Farmland LCT; (B5) River Wissey Tributary Farmland LCA



6.3.34 The below LCTs and LCAs are scoped into this LVIA and are taken forward for detailed assessment in Section 6.5 of this PEIR.

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

6.3.35 The majority of the Site is located within the D1: Swaffham Heath LCA, which extends across the northern and eastern edge of the Site. This LCA is described as *“a large area of the Breckland Heathland with Plantation landscape type located to the north-west, west and south west of Swaffham, with character defined primarily by the land use of arable farmland, historic parklands and plantation woodland and distinctive Scot’s pine belts. To the north the character area boundary is marked by the adjacent River Nar character area and to the west by the district boundary and a change in character to a more settled area of farmland and plantations. To the south and east the landform falls towards the River Wissey.”*

6.3.36 Relevant extracts from the overall description of D1: Swaffham Heath LCA are as follows, with those most relevant to the Site and study area emboldened:

- *“Drift deposits of sand, clay and gravel create a gently undulating landscape, with topography ranging from 10-70m AOD across the character area*
- *Free draining sandy soils support the functional land cover of arable cultivation, pig farming and plantation woodland*
- *Ancient, contorted scots pine shelterbelts and screening belts of trees provide shelter to the easily eroded brown soils and are a prominent landscape feature*
- *At Cockleycley Heath and Swaffham Heath, the woodland plantation blocks create a visually prominent feature in the landscape*
- *The large scale arable fields are delineated by hedgerows in variable condition from occasional species rich intact hedgerows with hedgerow trees, thorn hedges and pine lines*
- *Breckland Farmland SSSI covers a large part of the character area – the cultivated land proving a habitat for stone curlew. A smaller area of Breckland Forest SSSI also covers part of the area*
- *A large scale landscape, with an open, windswept character, quiet and seemingly remote in places*
- *Historic parklands and parkland features such as lodge houses, rides/long vistas and parkland species are evident in the landscape*
- *Sparsely populated - the settlement pattern is characterised by scattered Halls, farm buildings and a small number of nucleated villages and hamlets. Churches are often isolated*
- *Distinctive building materials of knapped flint, clunch and brick; and*
- *The areas of open access land associated with plantations at Swaffham Heath and Coldharbour Wood provide opportunities for recreation.”*

6.3.37 Regarding its perceptual and visual qualities, the LCA states that *“views both within the character area and to adjacent character areas are variable. In places views are distant, to the wooded skylines, to the elevated North Pickenham Plateau and to the Wissey Valley. However in other locations views are framed or contained by woodland blocks...views to the wind*



turbines north of Swaffham in the North Pickenham Plateau character area add a sense of movement and activity. Some noise disturbance from RAF Marham (within the adjoining Borough of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk) is apparent.”

- 6.3.38 The LCA details a strategy to conserve the remote, open, sparsely settled character of the heathland with plantation landscape. The landscape management guidelines are as follows:
- *“Encourage take up of agri-environment schemes to improve the ecological value of arable farmland and to create habitat connectivity*
 - *Conserve and enhance the historic contorted pine wind break hedgerows through appropriate management*
 - *Consider opportunities for heathland creation on areas where it has been lost, for example areas of plantation woodland*
 - *Ensure that any further recreation provision does not conflict with the sensitive species and habitats within the Breckland Farmland and Breckland Forest SSSI; and*
 - *Conserve the rides within parklands and plantations which provide attractive vistas to historic features, including those designated as Historic Parks and Gardens.”*
- 6.3.39 The Site displays some of the published characteristics of this LCA. Field work has confirmed that the descriptions in this published document are generally representative of the Site. The plantation woodland shelter belts, views towards existing wind turbines proximal to Swaffham and the nearby historic parklands are present within the Study Area.
- 6.3.40 Site observations have also indicated that there are a number of other key characteristics present within the study area such as a number of open access land areas to the north east of the Site and also the presence of nearby residential buildings within close proximity to the Site utilising characteristic building materials such as knapped flint, clunch and brick.
- 6.3.41 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is Reflective of The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007), with existing solar farm and wind turbine renewable energy development present within the LCA. The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium-low sensitivity for the LCA.
- 6.3.42 *E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA (LCT Plateau Farmland)*A large section of the Site is situated in the LCA E6: North Pickenham Plateau, from the south-eastern corner, extending into the centre of the Site. The LCA *“encircles Swaffham from the northwest to the south, creating an elevated, arable plateau backdrop to the settlement. This largely flat, open landscape contrasts with the more undulating Wissey Settled tributary farmland and more wooded Swaffham Heath character areas that bound it.”*
- 6.3.43 Relevant extracts from the overall description of E6: North Pickenham Plateau LCA are as follows, with those most relevant to the Site and Study Area emboldened:
- *“Thick Lowestoft Till glacial deposits underlie the character area creating its elevated position*
 - *A largely flat landscape defined by 70-75m contours*



- *Due to the elevated position affords views across the adjacent Settled tributary farmland and Heathland with Plantation landscape types are possible. Church towers within adjacent character areas are distinctive and prominent in views across the character area*
- *The turbines on the ridge directly north of Swaffham are visually prominent vertical structures*
- *Predominantly arable agricultural land cover, with some areas of mature mixed plantation woodland in the southern part of the character area*
- *Geometric/rectilinear field pattern, of large scale, defined by low, flailed hedges, with more extensively treed hedges to the network of lanes traversing the character area.*
- *Former marl pits are a feature of the plateau.*
- *Occasional osier beds are interspersed with the field network*
- *Remote character with little evidence of settlement, other than isolated farms and network of semi enclosed and enclosed rural roads and lanes*
- *The character area is defined by muted colour and is strongly rural. The landscape of the character area is relatively remote and peaceful, with little movement; and*
- *The historic way marked route of the Peddars Way bisects the character area in the east, together with other waymarked routes such as Procession Lane. There is a network of footpaths and bridleways across the character area.”*

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

- *“Opportunities are created for extensive and panoramic views across the plateau due to the openness of the landscape, and intervisibility with other landscape character areas is high*
- *The character area as a whole is a generally simple landscape with a muted palette of colours, due to the predominantly arable agricultural land use, although with considerable seasonal variation depending on the crops planted. It is an essentially tamed rural landscape and is generally tranquil. It is remote in character due to its isolated settlement pattern*
- *In terms of visual unity and perceptual/visual character, this is interrupted, with overhead power lines and pylons apparent, in addition to road noise and light glare from the A47. The wind turbines adjacent to Swaffham are prominent vertical structures in views across the south of this character area; and*
- *In terms of use, much of the character area is a productive, working agricultural landscape. Opportunities for recreational access are however provided by a network of rights of way.”*

6.3.45 Key landscape sensitivities which are fundamental to its character include:

- *“Dense, well treed hedgerows concentrated on the network of rural roads and lanes, in addition to localised enclosed lanes and hedgebanks with veteran trees, which impart an historic character to these parts of the landscape and provide evidence of the former landcover pattern*



- *Mature trees (predominantly oak/ash) within isolated woodland blocks on the plateau are of significant landscape, biodiversity and amenity value*
- *The gently undulating landform and marl pits/clay ponds which dot the plateau*
- *Presence of occasional osier beds interspersed within the field network providing local variation; and*
- *Pine wind breaks – outgrown former hedgerows composed of Scots Pine are a locally occurring feature across the plateau and impart a sense of place and historic landcover pattern.”*

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

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

- *“Conserve and enhance existing network of hedgerows and mature/over mature hedgerow trees, with appropriate additional and new native planting to ensure continuity of existing tree cover where it exists*
- *Create new areas of set asides to field boundaries, to enhance biodiversity of cereal field margins, subject to the provisions of agri-environment schemes*
- *Consider the creation of new areas of broadleaf woodland to reinforce existing farm woodlands, providing continuity of tree cover and habitat connectivity; and*
- *Where possible, create new areas of heathland to satisfy the requirements of the EcoNet Project, by restoring some areas of farmland or plantation to this landscape type, when plantations have reached the end of their productive life”*

6.3.48 The strategy also Refers to the following relevant development considerations:

- *“Maintain the historically sparse development pattern and unsettled character of the plateau*
- *Avoid the use of bunding and dense woodland screen planting, which would be uncharacteristic elements within this landscape, in proposals for screening development; and*
- *Consider the effects of further tall structures on the remote character and simple uninterrupted views”*

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

6.3.50 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is Reflective of the published assessment within The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007). The LCA is deemed to be of Community



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

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

- 6.3.51 The north-eastern edge of the Site lies adjacent to LCA B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland. It is described as characterised by *“a gently sloping landform, formed by glacial drift deposits of sand, gravel, clay and silt”*. It is described as *“bounded to the north by Whissonsett Plateau and to the south by North Pickenham Plateau, with the landscape type extending into the neighbouring authority of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk to the west and into North Norfolk District to the north”*.
- 6.3.52 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is Reflective of the published assessment within The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007). The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium sensitivity for the LCA.

F1 River Nar Valley LCA (LCT Chalk Rivers)

- 6.3.53 Two sections of the F1: River Nar Valley LCA lie adjacent to the northern part of the Site, at South Acre to the north-eastern edge and around Narford Hall to the north-west. The LCA is described as *“located in the western part of Breckland District and is comprised of the floodplain and valley sides of the River Nar. The Nar is fed by springs rising from the chalk rather than the tributaries which feed the other Breckland rivers, and is therefore classified as a separate landscape type. The south westerly draining Nar rises from springs to the south west of Mileham and flows westwards into the Borough of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk”*
- 6.3.54 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is Reflective of the published assessment within The Breckland Landscape Character Assessment (2007). The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium sensitivity for the LCA.

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

- 6.3.55 King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007) includes surrounding landscape areas which have been characterised within the wider 3km study area. A number of LCTs and LCAs detailed within this assessment about the Site, as shown on Figure 6.4.
- 6.3.56 Whilst the LCTs and LCAs within this assessment are not situated within the Site itself, they are situated within the study area. The Refined ZTV, as shown on Figure 6.5a, indicates potential visibility from a number of LCAs outlined within this assessment.
- 6.3.57 As agreed with the Planning Inspectorate, several LCTs and LCAs within the King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007) are scoped out of this LVIA on the basis that there is little to no visibility towards the Site. The LCTs and LCAs scoped out of this LVIA are as follows:
- (E) The Fens LCT; (E2) Saddlebow and Wormegay LCA
 - (H) Settled Farmland with Plantations LCT; (H2) Fincham LCA; and
 - (J) Plateau Farmland LCT; (J3) Great Massingham LCA



- 6.3.58 The below LCTs and LCAs are scoped into this LVIA and are taken forward for detailed assessment in Section 6.5 of this PEIR chapter.

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

- 6.3.59 This LCA lies adjacent to a section of the north of the Site, and contains the village of West Acre. The LCA is described as encompassing “*a fairly inconsistent gently undulating landscape of farmland, (plantation) woodland and wetland*”.
- 6.3.60 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is Reflective of the published assessment within the King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007). The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium sensitivity for the LCA.

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

- 6.3.61 This LCA is located close to the north eastern and northern part of the Site, and comprises elevated land to the north of the Nar Valley.
- 6.3.62 Fieldwork has confirmed that the above is Reflective of the published assessment within the King’s Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment (2007). The LCA is deemed to be of Community value and have a high susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium sensitivity for the LCA.

Visual Receptors

- 6.3.63 Visual receptors are “*the different groups of people who may experience views of the development*” (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para 6.3). A number of different ZTV studies comprising bare earth and obstructed modelling, baseline desk studies and site visits have been used to identify those groups who may be significantly affected.
- 6.3.64 The different types of groups assessed within this chapter encompass local residents; people using key longer distance routes such as roads, cycle ways, recreational routes and navigable waterways; people within accessible or recreational landscapes; people using Public Rights of Way; or people visiting key viewpoints. In assessing areas of settlement, Public Rights of Way and local roads, receptors are grouped into areas where effects might be expected to be broadly similar, or areas which share particular factors in common. Longer distance routes and specific viewpoints are not included within these groupings, to allow the sequential experience of travelling along the routes or the key elements that make up a specific view to be considered in a coherent way.

Visual Environment of the Site

- 6.3.65 As shown on Figure 6.1, the Site is located to the north of the A47 and settlement of Swaffham. A number of smaller villages and hamlets are situated within the wider context of the Site and study area, such as West Acre, South Acre, Castle Acre, Narford and Great Palgrave.
- 6.3.66 The extent of the Site runs along West Acre Road and Narford Lane to the west before tracking eastwards along Three Sisters and Twenty Acre Plantation. These areas of woodland broadly represent the edge of the plateau landscape, to the south of the River Nar. The eastern extent of the Site largely aligns the A1065, with an additional area of agricultural land included within the Site to the east of the junction between the A1065 and South Acre Road. The Site excludes Keepers Cottage, which is accessed off Petticoat Drove, in the northern site area. A separate



RVAA has been undertaken to assess the potential effects of the Scheme on all residential properties within 800m of the Site.

- 6.3.67 The Site comprises several agricultural fields of varying geometries, most of which are delineated by existing mature hedgerows and hedgerow trees. There are larger woodland blocks situated within or close to the Site, which form part of the wider landscape fabric. These are predominantly plantation woodland and are named as follows: Round Covert, Bartholomew's Hills Plantation, Twenty Acre Plantation, Three Sisters, Washpit Plantation, Fingerhill Plantation, Blakeneyhill Plantation, Clayhole Plantation and Eight Acre Plantation.
- 6.3.68 Visibility towards the Site from its local context to the west and south is generally well contained due to a combination of the local plateau and valley topography, the presence of scattered woodland blocks within and close to the Site and the well vegetated nature of local lanes and highways; all of which serve to filter views and restrict direct visibility into the more central site areas. The centre of the Site is Referred to as those field parcels set away from the Site and between Round Covert woodland and Keepers Cottage.
- 6.3.69 Along the periphery of the Site there are direct views towards existing development within the immediate context of the Site such as highway infrastructure and associated passing traffic along the A1065, to the east. There is sporadic isolated development close to the Site elsewhere, such as Keepers Cottage, Fingerhill Cottage, development at Walnut Grove to the west and development within South Acre to the north.
- 6.3.70 Within the centre of the Site, there is a relatively high degree of visual enclosure between the internal field parcels, predominantly due to the presence of existing mature woodland, hedgerow and hedgerow trees within the Site. The existing vegetation serves to screen or restrict visibility towards neighbouring parcels. Droves and footpaths within the centre of the Site, such as PRoW South Acre RB6, exhibit varying degrees of visual containment. The central and eastern lengths of PRoW South Acre RB6 are well enclosed by hedgerow and trees, however along lengths of this PRoW to the west there are more open views north and south close to River Road, predominantly due to the complete loss of some aligning hedgerow.
- 6.3.71 The southern Site area also exhibits some degree of visual enclosure, south of Round Covert. However, where there are gaps in hedgerows and local undulations in landform, such as Site land proximal to the A1065, there are mid to longer distance views out of the Site to the east towards Palgrave.
- 6.3.72 The northern Site area is also generally visually well contained upon the plateau landscape due to the plantation woodland and taller mature hedgerows that align field boundaries, PRoW and various droves within the Site. PRoW South Acre RB7 connects Fincham Drove to South Acre Road, along the Rebellion Way Cycle Route, and is well vegetated along the western extent of the PRoW. The plantation woodland shelter belts situated within the northern Site area form an effective visual screen and restrict intervisibility between the Site and the valley landscape to the north. As such, intervisibility between the plateau landscape within the Site and existing settlements to the north of the Site, within the Nar Valley, such as Castle Acre, West Acre and South Acre is generally limited. From sections of PRoW South Acre RB2, Petticoat Drove and Washpit Drove, all of which fall within the Site, there are views of existing farming infrastructure including housing, barns/sheds, farm vehicles and boundary fencing associated with the farming of poultry and pigs. There are a limited number of glimpse middle distance views towards the Site from rising landform north of the Nar Valley and West Acre. From this location within the study area, the well-wooded plateau edge within the Site is a prominent feature on the skyline. It is noted that there are visual gaps between the woodland blocks from certain viewing angles, however visibility does not extend much further into the



Site due to the levelling of topography and other vegetation associated with field parcels beyond the woodland.

- 6.3.73 From PRow South Acre RB2, views northwards across the valley landscape are in most part restricted due to the aligning hedgerow north of the PRow. The intactness and condition of this hedgerow is generally good and therefore restricts views northwards effectively. Occasional filtered or glimpsed views to the north are available where there are gaps in hedgerow or site access points to connected field parcels. The southern extent of this PRow is less enclosed due to it only being partly vegetated by varying lengths of woodland, hedgerow and hedgerow trees. Relatively long stretches of this PRow have no vegetation directly to the south and therefore views across adjacent field parcels are available and contained by the next vegetated field boundary along.
- 6.3.74 At the time of writing, an additional route within the Site was in the process of being formally assigned as a PRow by Norfolk County Council. This additional route connects to South Acre Road at grid Reference 581178, 313998 and runs south connecting to Fincham Drove, adjacent to Bartholomew's Hill Plantation. Visual effects upon users of this route will be assessed as part of the ES.

Visual Receptor Groups

- 6.3.75 Visual effects, other than those experienced from longer distance routes and specific viewpoints, are assessed for groups of visual receptors within close proximity of each other and that are judged to experience similar visual effects arising from the Scheme. These are Referred to as 'visual Receptor groups' and include motorists on local roads, users of rights of way and local residents or visitors to settlements.
- 6.3.76 Visual Receptor Groups taken forward for assessment in Table 6.10 below describes the visual Receptor groups that are taken forward for detailed assessment in Section 6.5, based on the Refined ZTV and fieldwork which indicates that there is the potential for views of the Scheme from within each of these visual Receptor groups.
- 6.3.77 VRGs include a number of different types of receptors which are likely to experience a similar scale of effect. Similarly, visual receptors within the Site are grouped with those that are likely to experience a similar scale of effect depending on which area of the Site they are located. Where receptors overlap with one or more VRGs, i.e. PRow within the Site that extend across both VRG 1 and VRG 2, they are considered within both VRG's. This approach highlights any variations in effect upon a Receptor across the Site which may occur due to proximity to new development and the type of new development proposed at certain points along a route, for example.
- 6.3.78 This LVIA has been undertaken with cross-Referencing to **Volume I, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**. Chapter 8 outlines that there are designated heritage assets and archaeological monuments of medieval origin focused within and immediately surrounding the settlement of Castle Acre, to the north-east of the Site. This includes the remains of Castle Acre Castle, a Scheduled Monument and Grade I listed building. These publicly accessible heritage assets have been considered within this LVIA as part of VRG 5, as outlined below in Table 6.10.
- 6.3.79 **Volume I, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology** outlines that Castle Acre Castle and Castle Acre Priory are assets of high sensitivity. Both heritage assets are publicly accessible and are therefore assessed within this LVIA as part of VRG5, with regard to potential visual impact from these locations, to the north-east of the Site. The sensitivity of



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

6.3.80 It is judged that for the remaining visual Receptors groups, there would be little to no visibility of the Scheme and that effects would therefore be Negligible at most, which is not significant in EIA terms, and these are not assessed in detail.

Table 6.10 Visual Receptor Groups taken forward for assessment

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



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

Roads and Rail

6.3.81 Figure 6.1 shows that there are two A roads situated within the Study Area, which are as follows:

- A47 (0.67km, south); and
- A1065 (0km, east).

6.3.82 Users and motorists using the key routes are assessed to have low sensitivity (low susceptibility and limited value) (see

6.3.83 The ZTV study (Figure 6.5a) indicates that there would be theoretical visibility from parts of all the routes identified above. However, fieldwork has shown that there would be little to no visibility of the Scheme from the A47 due to the combination of intervening vegetation, landform and buildings, which would merge to restrict views towards the Scheme. Should visibility of the Scheme be possible, it is judged that they would be glimpsed at most and seen within the developed context of the surrounding settlements of Swaffham and alongside existing renewable energy infrastructure in the local landscape such as wind turbines north of the A47 at Sporle Road and wind turbines west of North Pickenham. These existing renewable energy developments are visible along stretches of the A47 between Narborough and Swaffham, and Swaffham and Necton. The potential effects on users of the A47 would be



Negligible, and **not significant** in EIA terms, and are not assessed in further detail in this report.

6.3.84 Fieldwork has indicated that visibility of the Scheme would be available from sections of the A1065 as they pass close to the Scheme along the Site's eastern boundary, with a decreasing degree of visibility with distance from the Site. receptors along the A1065 are assessed in further detail in Section 6.5.

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

Long Distance Walking Routes

6.3.86 Figure 6.6 shows that there are a number of national trails and locally promoted walking routes in the study area, which are as follows:

- National Trail - The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path (0km, north-east); and
- Long Distance Trail - The Nar Valley Way (0.93km, north).

6.3.87 Users of National Trails are assessed of be of high sensitivity (high susceptibility and national value) (see



6.3.88 Table 6.6)

6.3.89 The ZTV (Figure 6.5a) and field survey indicates that users of sections of these routes would experience potential views of the Scheme. They are therefore assessed in further detail in Section 6.5.

National, Regional and Local Cycles Routes

6.3.90 Figure 6.6 shows that there is one regional cycle route in the study area, as follows:

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

6.3.91 Users of this cycle route are assessed to be of medium sensitivity (medium susceptibility and community value) (see



6.3.92 Table 6.6)

6.3.93 The ZTV study (Figure 6.5a) and field survey indicates that users of the Rebellion Way Cycle Route would experience views of the Scheme given that the route passes through the centre of the Site. Users of this route are assessed in further detail in Section 6.5.

Accessible and Recreational Landscapes

6.3.94 Figure 6.6 shows areas of registered common land and open access land situated within the study area. Accessible and recreational landscapes scoped into the assessment are as follows:

- Castle Acre Common (1.3km, north)
- Castle Acre Priory (1km, north); and
- Castle Acre Castle (1.5km, north).

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



6.3.96 Table 6.6)

6.3.97 The ZTV (Figure 6.5a) indicates that there would be visibility within from Castle Acre Priory and Castle Acre Castle to the north.

6.3.98 These two areas of accessible landscapes overlap with other visual receptors using publicly accessible routes and areas within this part of the landscape. Consequently, visual receptors within these two accessible landscapes are assessed as part of Visual Receptor Group 5 Castle Acre, in Section 6.5.

6.3.99 The ZTV also indicates that there would be no visibility from Castle Acre Common. Fieldwork observations indicate that actual visibility on the ground, during both the Construction/Decommissioning and Operational Phases, will be minimal. Therefore, effects upon receptors at Castle Acre Common are not assessed further.

Specific Viewpoints

6.3.100 No specific viewpoints were identified within the Site or Study Area.

Landscape Designations and Value

Designated Landscapes

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

Local Landscape Value

6.3.102 Paragraph 5.19 of GLVIA states that “...a review of existing landscape designations is usually the starting point in understanding landscape value, but the value attached to undesignated landscapes also needs to be carefully considered and individual elements of the landscape—such as trees, buildings or hedgerows—may also have value. All need to be considered where relevant.”

6.3.103 An assessment of landscape value is made based on the following factors outlined in Table 1 of the LI’s ‘Technical Guidance Notes 02-21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations’: natural heritage; cultural heritage; landscape condition; associations; distinctiveness; recreational; perceptual (scenic); perceptual (wildness and tranquillity); and functional.

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

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

6.3.105 A full assessment of the landscape value of the Site and its surrounding context in accordance with TGN 02-21 is presented in **Volume III, Appendix 6.5** of this LVIA. On the basis of the evaluation in Appendix 6.5, only two of the factors have been evaluated as being of a ‘Local’



value, with most of the criteria assessed as either of ‘Community’ value or ‘Limited’ value. The landscape value of the Site and its immediate context should be considered of a ‘Community’ value, which is defined as an *“everyday landscape which is appreciated by the local community but has little or no wider recognition of its value”*.

6.4 Embedded Mitigation

Construction and Decommissioning Mitigation

- 6.4.1 Effects during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases are likely to be perceived as temporary and adverse in nature due to the intermittent presence of construction/decommissioning activities including Site clearance, vegetation removal, traffic movements, ground engineering, stockpiling, cranes, lifting equipment and temporary lighting, etc.
- 6.4.2 As set out in **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**, the Construction Phase is anticipated to take place over up to 24 months. The final programme will be dependent on the detailed layout design and potential environmental constraints on the timing of construction activities, details of which will be provided in the ES. However, the Scheme is anticipated to energise in Q4 2033 or as early as National Grid are able to offer. Based on Q3 2033 energisation it is anticipated that the earliest the Construction Phase would commence would be Q3 2031.
- 6.4.3 An outline CEMP (oCEMP) will be submitted as a part of the DCO Application. Construction and demolition works will be undertaken in accordance with a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will be secured as a requirement of the DCO. The CEMP will be agreed prior to construction works commencing on Site. Any alterations to the measures set out in the CEMP will be agreed in advance of constructions works commencing on Site.
- 6.4.4 The CEMP would include the following mitigation measures in relation to landscape and visual effects:
- A pre-construction tree survey will be required prior to starting construction works to re-establish the baseline. This survey will inform the tree protection zones to be applied during construction. Site hoarding and construction exclusion zones will be introduced around retained vegetation in accordance with the requirements of BS 5837:2012 ‘Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction’. An approved Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) will be adopted incorporating best practice guidance set out in British Standard 5837:2012 Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction which will ensure retained trees and other vegetation are not adversely affected during the construction process
 - The use of visual screening, such as hoardings, will be implemented for more sensitive visual receptors in proximity to the Site, including residential and PRow receptors that have the greatest potential to be affected by the Scheme
 - Ensuring a tidy and neat working environment and covering stockpiles in accordance with best practice measures



- Temporary lighting during construction required to enable safe working in the hours of darkness will be designed as far as reasonably practical to avoid light spill onto areas beyond the Site. Construction lighting will include directional fittings and will be restricted to the construction working hours sets out in **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**; and
- Construction works which create dust will be kept to a minimum within proximity to existing pedestrian routes and residential properties, and dust prevention measures, such as damping, will be undertaken to reduce the impact on users of the PRoW network.

6.4.5 Decommissioning is anticipated to take approximately 12 to 24 months. Prior to the commencement of any phase of decommissioning a Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (DEMP) and a Decommissioning Traffic Management Plan (DTMP) will be submitted to and approved by the relevant local planning authority and secured by a requirement in the DCO. The DEMP and DTMP will be in accordance with the oDEMP and oDTMP. This will ensure the potential construction and decommissioning impacts associated with landscape character and visual amenity are minimised.

6.4.6 Following removal of the PV panels, Customer Substation, Conversion Units, 33kV Sub-distribution Switch Substations, fencing, BESS and other Ancillary Infrastructure, the Site would be reinstated to its original use as far as practicable and in accordance with the DEMP. The National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure would not be decommissioned and would remain in situ.

Design

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

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

6.4.9 The hierarchical approach toward mitigation has been:

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

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

- Retention of the existing landscape fabric within and around the boundaries of the Site, namely mature hedgerows and tree cover which contribute to the landscape character of



the local context. These landscape features serve to restrict, filter and enclose visibility within the Site and study area south of Bartholomews Hills Plantation

- Offset and buffering of the Scheme with new hedgerow and tree planting to mitigate potential views from the existing residential dwellings within close proximity to the Site
- In addition to the establishment of new hedgerow and hedgerow trees, the embedded mitigation also includes the retention, gapping up and enhancement of existing hedgerow within the Site. New planting species would be native, locally prevalent and also include a mixture of deciduous and evergreen species to provide year-round screening. Alongside the existing hedgerow and trees within the Site's context, the gapping up of hedgerow with native trees and whips would provide visual screening of the Scheme from visual receptors within the wider study area, and from PRow and droves within the Site itself
- Setting back the Scheme from key landscape features within and adjacent to the Site, such as trees, hedgerow and woodland. The minimum offsets/buffers included within the Concept Masterplan, from existing landscape features are outlined fully in **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**. The Scheme would be offset from existing PRow by a minimum of 15m, to respect the amenity and experience for PRow users along existing routes and allow for the sowing of extensive areas of new grassland along the margins of the Scheme. New grassland/wildflower areas are also proposed to be sown underneath the PV panels which would enhance biodiversity within the Site; and
- Recreational enhancements such as the potential for new publicly accessible amenity space within the north-western site area, that is connected to the existing PRow network. In addition to this, a number of new permissive routes are proposed, of approximately 5km in total, which would link to the existing PRow network within the Study Area to provide recreational benefits. This total number can be broken down to approximately 1.2km new offsite permissive route provision and approximately 3.8km new onsite permissive route provision.

6.5 Preliminary Likely Significant Effects

- 6.5.1 This section sets out the effects that the Scheme would have on both landscape and visual receptors. The preliminary assessment of effects within this section considers the potential effects resulting from the reasonable worst-case scenario. Depending on the Receptor, the worst-case scenario may vary with regard to specific placement of the larger elements of the Scheme such as the National Grid Substation, Customer Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure. Where effects can be lessened through specific siting of these elements of the Scheme, this is stated upon **Volume II, Figure 6.8: Representative and Illustrative Viewpoint Photopanel Sheets** and within the assessment text below.
- 6.5.2 The scale of effect outlined upon **Volume II, Figure 6.8: Representative and Illustrative Viewpoint Photopanel Sheets** only considers Operational Phase scale of effects, in the medium and long term.
- 6.5.3 Potential Landscape and Visual effects during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases (duration of 0-5 years), and in the medium term (duration of 5-10 years) and long term (duration of more than 25 years), are summarised in **Table 6.12**. Each landscape and visual



Receptor is listed along with sensitivity, magnitude of effect and significance over the different time frames.

Construction and Decommissioning Phase

- 6.5.4 Potential impacts during the Construction and Decommissioning Phases might include the visual effect of construction/decommissioning vehicles and traffic, moving in the Site and in its surrounding areas; alongside other components typical of construction/decommissioning activities, including the presence of workers' accommodation, stockpiles of materials, lighting of specific areas, such as construction compounds; and the gradual modification of landscape character as part of a phased programme of works.
- 6.5.5 Effects during construction and decommissioning would be temporary and short term and would be of notably lower magnitude than those during the Operation Phase, and so most of the embedded mitigation proposed is focussed on managing operational impacts.
- 6.5.6 There will be a number of temporary construction compounds situated across the Site. Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AIL), Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) and Light Goods Vehicle (LGV) movements associated with deliveries and construction worker arrivals and departures. Typical construction vehicles have been detailed within **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**.
- 6.5.7 The construction/decommissioning activities that can potentially cause landscape and visual impacts include:
- Clearance of vegetation within the construction zone, where necessary
 - Earthworks and temporary storage of topsoil
 - Removal of unwanted waste from the Site
 - Erection of Site hoarding and fencing around vegetation (tree protection scheme)
 - Erection of temporary structures within the main contractor's construction compound, plus materials stockpiling and lay-down areas
 - Potential lighting and noise of the works (during winter)
 - Erection of scaffold structures
 - Movement of construction vehicles
 - Partially completed built form
 - Works associated with the implementation of the landscape scheme; and
 - Removal of temporary construction facilities.
- 6.5.8 This assessment has assumed a scenario based on conventional best practice approaches for LVIA. All landscape mitigation is embedded mitigation and therefore all effects are residual.

Landscape Character

- 6.5.9 The following LCA's, as shown on Figure 6.4, would likely be affected by the Scheme:
- D1: Swaffham Heath LCA (LCT The Brecks – Heathland with Plantation)
 - E6: North Pickenham Plateau LCA (LCT Plateau Farmland)



- B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA (LCT Settled Tributary Farmland)
- F1 River Nar Valley LCA (LCT Chalk Rivers)
- G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA (LCT Farmland with Woodland and Wetland); and
- I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA (LCT Rolling Open Farmland)

6.5.10 Descriptions for the LCAs within the Site have been included within the baseline section, with the other LCAs detail included within **Volume III, Appendix 6.7**.

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

6.5.11 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium – low sensitivity.

6.5.12 It is to be expected that the Scheme will generate large scale effects on the LCA within the Site, given that the character type within the Site would change from undeveloped agricultural land to a construction / decommissioning site comprising site wide activities. How rapidly effects diminish beyond the Site depends on the scale of development and the context and visibility of the Scheme from the wider landscape.

6.5.13 There would be large scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character (total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline will be fundamentally changed). These large-scale construction and decommissioning effects would be limited to the Site itself, where the Site would change from a predominantly undeveloped agricultural landscape to one comprising a construction site within a partly rural setting. Tall and mature field boundary vegetation and woodland blocks within the Site would provide some containment to construction and decommissioning activity, limiting the scale of effect beyond the Site.

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

6.5.15 The worst-case scenario for construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse in nature. Given the extensive area of the LCA compared to area of the Site, effects upon the landscape situated within the wider LCA beyond the Site would be **not significant** and temporary.

6.5.16 Within the extent of the Site the effect upon the LCA would be of medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect would be **significant** and temporary and would be limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself.

E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA (LCT Plateau Farmland)

6.5.17 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium – low sensitivity.

6.5.18 It is to be expected there will be large scale effects on the LCA wherever located within the Site, given that it is changing from agricultural land to activities associated with the construction and decommissioning of built renewable energy development.

6.5.19 There would be large scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character (total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline will be fundamentally changed). These large-scale construction and decommissioning effects would be limited to the Site itself, where the Site would change from



an undeveloped landscape to one comprising a construction site within a partly rural setting north of Swaffham. Field boundary vegetation and woodland blocks within the Site and north and east of Swaffham would provide some containment to construction and decommissioning activity within the south and centre of the Site.

- 6.5.20 The scale of effect on this LCA would be large scale, over a short-term duration during construction/decommissioning and over a limited extent of the wider LCA.
- 6.5.21 The worst-case scenario for construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse in nature. Given the extensive area of the LCA compared to area of the Site, effects upon the landscape situated within the wider LCA and beyond the Site would be **not significant** and temporary.
- 6.5.22 Within the extent of the Site the effect upon the LCA would be of medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect would be **significant** and temporary and would only be limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself.

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

- 6.5.23 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity.
- 6.5.24 It is to be expected there will be medium scale effects on the LCA primary associated with adverse perceptual impacts on the character of the LCA, which is predominantly situated outside of the Scheme's development areas, to the north-east of the Site. A very small part of the LCA is situated within the north-eastern area of the Site.
- 6.5.25 There would be medium scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character limited to the south-western edge of the LCA, where it lies partly within and adjacent to the Site. The LCA area within the Site is only proposed to be for temporary working areas for Grid Connection Infrastructure, as shown on the Concept Masterplan. Undulations in local topography and the existing woodland situated within the north-eastern area of the Site and adjacent to the Site, would partially screen nearby construction and decommissioning activities and reduce the extent of effect upon the wider LCA, to the north-east.
- 6.5.26 The scale of effect on this LCA would be medium scale, over a short-term duration during construction and decommissioning, over a limited extent of the wider LCA.
- 6.5.27 The worst-case scenario for construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of low magnitude, slight significance and adverse in nature. Given the extensive area of the LCA compared to area of the Site, effects upon the landscape situated within the wider LCA and beyond the Site would be **not significant** and temporary.
- 6.5.28 Within the extent of the Site the effect upon the LCA would be of medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect would be **significant** and temporary and would only be limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself.

F1 River Nar Valley LCA (LCT Chalk Rivers)

- 6.5.29 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity.



- 6.5.30 It is to be expected there will be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primarily associated with adverse perceptual impacts on the character of the LCA, which is situated outside of the Site to the north. There is limited predicted visibility within the LCA as shown on the Refined ZTV.
- 6.5.31 There would be medium to small scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character, associated with construction/decommissioning activity north of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation. Activity south of this woodland block would be largely screened by the existing vegetation, reducing perceptual impacts on the LCA.
- 6.5.32 The scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small scale, over a short-term duration during construction and over a localised extent of the wider LCA, predominantly to the south-west of Castle Acre. The worst-case scenario for construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of medium-low magnitude, moderate-slight significance and adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

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

- 6.5.33 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity.
- 6.5.34 It is to be expected there will be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primarily associated with adverse perceptual impacts on the character of the LCA, which is situated outside of the Site to the north. There is limited predicted visibility within the LCA as shown on the Refined ZTV (Figure 6.5a: Zone of Theoretical Visibility Study and Viewpoint Locations (DSM)).
- 6.5.35 There would be medium to small scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character, associated with perceptual impacts due to construction and decommissioning activity in the north of the Site at River Road, where the LCA abuts the Site. Existing tree and hedgerow planting along the northern edge of the Site would screen some of the construction and decommissioning activities.
- 6.5.36 The scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small scale, over a short-term duration during construction and decommissioning, over a limited extent of the wider LCA.
- 6.5.37 The worst-case scenario for construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of low magnitude, slight significance and adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

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

- 6.5.38 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity.
- 6.5.39 It is to be expected there will be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primary associated with adverse perceptual impacts on the character of the LCA, which is situated outside of the Site to the north at Castle Acre.
- 6.5.40 There would be medium to small scale construction and decommissioning effects on landscape character, associated with construction and decommissioning activity north of



Bartholomew's Hills Plantation, visible on local high ground to the south of the River Nar. Activity further south of this woodland block would be largely screened by the vegetation.

- 6.5.41 The scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small scale, over a short-term duration during construction/decommissioning and over a limited extent of the wider LCA.
- 6.5.42 The worst-case scenario for construction and decommissioning effects on this LCA, following the implementation of embedded construction and decommissioning mitigation, would be of low magnitude, slight significance and adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

Visual Amenity

Visual Aids

- 6.5.43 Annotated photographs are shown on figures supporting this LVIA. The method of presentation for each viewpoint has been informed by Landscape Institute Technical Note 06/19 'Visual representation' [Ref 6-6]. The viewpoint description, description of effects and scale of effect for each viewpoint (see Figure 6.5a for locations) is set out on the relevant photograph. The scale of effect at each viewpoint is summarised in Table 6.11 below:
- 6.5.44 Representative Viewpoints 6, 8, 12 and 14 have been visualised as Type 3 parameter based photowires. The photowires demonstrate the scale and siting of the maximum development parameters at PEIR stage, without the screening effects of new mitigation planting.
- 6.5.45 The selection of representative and illustrative viewpoint locations has been undertaken in coordination with the project's heritage consultant, taking into account the assessment undertaken within **Volume I, Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology**.



Table 6.11 Representative Viewpoints

Viewpoint Location	Reference &	Distance, direction	Scale of effect during Operation	
			Beneficial/ Neutral/ Adverse	
			Medium-term	Long-term
Representative Viewpoint 1 - PRow Swaffham RB55 at A1065		4m south east	Medium to Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 2 - Fincham Drive, Swaffham		0m, south west	Large (Adverse)	Medium (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 3 (looking east) - Petticoat Drive and PRow South Acre RB1		0m (within Site)	Medium (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 4 - PRow Swaffham RB2		689m, south west	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 5 - River Road, Narford		0m (within Site)	Large to Medium (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 6 - PRow South Acre RB2, South Acre		0m, north west	Large (Adverse)	Medium (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 7 - South Acre Road and Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path		180m, north east	Medium (Adverse)	Medium (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 8 - South Acre Road and Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path		830m, east	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 9 - River Road, West Acre		1720m, north west	Negligible (Adverse)	Negligible (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 10 - Narford Lane, Narford		1238m, north west	Negligible to None (Adverse)	Negligible to None (Adverse)



Viewpoint Location	Reference &	Distance, direction	Scale of effect during Operation	
			Beneficial/ Neutral/ Adverse	
			Medium-term	Long-term
Representative Viewpoint 11 - PRow Narford RB1, Narford		1205m, west	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 12 - Castle Acre Priory, Castle Acre		1182m, north east	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 13 - Priory Road and Nar Valley Way, Castle Acre		1198m, north east	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 14 - Castle Acre Castle, Cuckstool Lane, Castle Acre		1450m, north east	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 15 - East Green, Castle Acre		1835m, north east	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)
Representative Viewpoint 16 - West Acre Road, Castle Acre		1767m	Small (Adverse)	Small (Adverse)

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

Visual Receptor Groups

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

6.5.48 The assessment of effects on settlements focuses on the visual amenity of public spaces, though views from groups of dwellings will also be noted in the descriptions. Effects on private



residential amenity are a separate matter and considered separately within **Volume III, Appendix 6.8.**

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

- 6.5.49 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.50 Construction and Decommissioning Phases would be directly visible for this Receptor group. receptors within this VRG are detailed within Table 6.10.
- 6.5.51 Short term visual effects on this receptor group would be, in the worst case, large scale over a wide extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be medium magnitude, major-moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant** and temporary.

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

- 6.5.52 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 7 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.53 Construction and Decommissioning Phases would be directly visible from within this Receptor group. receptors within this VRG are detailed within Table 6.10. There would be direct visibility of construction and decommissioning associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS and PV panels.
- 6.5.54 Short term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, large scale over a wide extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be medium magnitude, major-moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant** and temporary.

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

- 6.5.55 Effects on these visual receptors are partially represented by Viewpoint 7 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.56 Construction and Decommissioning Phases would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would mainly be associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS and PV panels, in the northern site area – specifically field parcels 30, 33, 34, 35. The scale of effect would reduce if the larger elements of the Scheme were to be situated to the south of Bartholomew’s Hill Plantation.
- 6.5.57 Short term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, medium scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be medium to low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant** and temporary. Construction and Decommissioning Phases of the Scheme, where visible, would be seen alongside existing pylons during construction and seen alongside existing pylons, Grid Connection Infrastructure and National Grid Substation during decommissioning given that these elements of the Scheme are not being decommissioned. The most prominent areas of the Scheme would be construction/decommissioning of the larger elements of the Scheme situated in the north of the Site, within fields 33 and 35.

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

- 6.5.58 Effects on these visual receptors are partially represented by Viewpoint 8 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.59 Construction and Decommissioning Phases would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would mainly be associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations



and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS and PV panels, in the northern site area – specifically field parcels 24, 26, 27 and 30. PV panel construction/decommissioning would also be visible along the Site’s eastern edge within field parcels 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25.

- 6.5.60 Short term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, medium-small scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

Visual Receptor Group 5: Castle Acre (High sensitivity)

- 6.5.61 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 as well as Illustrative viewpoints a, c, d and e (Figure 6.8).

Construction and Decommissioning Phases would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would mainly be associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS and PV panels, in the northern site area – specifically field parcels 30, 33, 34, 35. The scale of effect would reduce if the larger elements of the Scheme were to be situated to the south of Bartholomew’s Hill Plantation.

- 6.5.62 Short term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, medium-small scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.

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

- 6.5.63 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 9 as well as Illustrative viewpoint G (Figure 6.8).

- 6.5.64 Construction and Decommissioning Phases would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility of these phases would be very limited, and where available would mainly be associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS and PV panels, in the northern site area – specifically field parcels 30,33, 34, 35. The scale of effect would reduce if the larger elements of the Scheme were to be situated to the south of Bartholomew’s Hill Plantation.

- 6.5.65 Short term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, small to negligible scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, slight significance and adverse. This effect is not significant and temporary.

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

- 6.5.66 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 4 and 11 (Figure 6.8).

- 6.5.67 Construction and Decommissioning Phases would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would be associated with the construction and decommissioning of PV panels in the western site area, within field parcels 3, 6, 7 and 8.

- 6.5.68 Short term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, small scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, slight significance and adverse. This effect is not significant and temporary.



Roads and Rail – A1065 (Low sensitivity)

- 6.5.69 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 1 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.70 The construction and decommissioning activities would be visible from this route, as it passes through the eastern edge of the Site. Existing vegetation along the eastern field parcel boundaries serve to screen some oblique views westwards into the Site, however there would be views of the Scheme between gaps in hedgerow and trees. Visibility of the Scheme would be of construction / decommissioning activity within field parcels 20, 21, 25 and 26.
- 6.5.71 Short term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, medium scale over a limited extent of this route, where the route runs through/adjacent to the Site. These effects would be low magnitude, slight significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant** and temporary.
- 6.5.72 As outlined above, no railways have been identified from Ordnance Survey mapping in the Study Area.

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

- 6.5.73 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 7 and 8 (Figure 6.8) and Type 3 Photowire visualisation 008 (Figure 6.9).
- 6.5.74 The construction and decommissioning activities would be partially visible from this route, as receptors pass through and adjacent to the north-eastern edge of the Site. Existing hedgerow, trees and woodland along the northern and eastern field parcel boundaries serve to partially screen oblique short distance views of lower level construction / decommissioning activity from this PRoW, in close proximity or within the Site. Construction / decommissioning activity associated with the taller elements of the Scheme in the north of the Site would be directly visible from this route, presenting a large to medium scale effect.
- 6.5.75 Short term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, large to medium scale over a limited extent of this route, where it runs through/adjacent to the Site. These effects would be medium magnitude, major-moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant** and temporary.

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

- 6.5.76 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 9 and 13 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.77 The construction and decommissioning activities would be partially visible from this route as it passes through Castle Acre. There would be views south of construction/decommissioning activity associated with the taller elements of the Scheme in the north of the Site, presenting a medium to small scale effect.
- 6.5.78 Short term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, medium to small scale over a limited extent of this route, where it runs through Castle Acre. Effects would be medium-low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant** and temporary given that the activities would form part of a much wider view. Construction and decommissioning of the Scheme, where visible, would be seen alongside existing pylons during construction and seen alongside existing pylons, Grid Connection Infrastructure and National Grid Substation during decommissioning given that these elements of the Scheme



are not being decommissioned. The scale of effect would reduce if the larger elements of the Scheme were to be situated to the south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation.

Local Cycle Routes – The Rebellion Way (Medium sensitivity)

- 6.5.79 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 2 and 7 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.80 Construction and Decommissioning Phases would be directly visible from this cycle route given that the cycle route runs through the Scheme. However, the length of the route with visibility towards the Scheme is very limited when compared to the total length of The Rebellion Way. This reduces the extent of the effect.
- 6.5.81 Short term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, large scale over a limited extent of the route as it passes through the Site. These effects would be medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant** and temporary, given that the cycle route passes through the Site and adjacent to construction/decommissioning activities for larger elements within the Scheme – where views of such would lead to major alterations to qualities of the cycle route.

Operational Phase

- 6.5.82 Operational effects are assessed during the period between Construction and Decommissioning Phases. The Operational Phase of the Scheme is proposed to be 60 years. During the Operational Phase of the Scheme, onsite activities would include routine servicing, maintenance activities, and the replacement of equipment such as PV panels and BESS, as and when required, as well as management of vegetation, as outlined within **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**.
- 6.5.83 Medium-term effects are Therefore assessed during the period following completion, when construction is complete but before proposed planting has fully established, when the scale of effects are likely to be at their greatest. Long-term effects are assessed once the vegetation has established.
- 6.5.84 An outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ('oLEMP') will be prepared in support of the ES. The management of the landscape and ecological features will be undertaken in accordance with a detailed Landscape and Ecological Management Plan ('LEMP') that will be submitted as part of the DCO Application. The oLEMP includes commitment to retaining and enhancing planting within the Site. The maturity of the proposed planting would generally be beneficial in the longer-term – helping integrate the Scheme into the landscape and providing additional screening – and all existing and proposed landscape features within the Site will be subject to appropriate management such that the amenity and / or screening benefits of the vegetation is maintained in perpetuity.
- 6.5.85 To aid the assessment of the parameters-based Concept Masterplan, the visualisations represent a simple 3D wireline block model of the maximum areas of elements of the Scheme that could be developed, correctly placed in its photographic context, otherwise Referred to as a 'photowire' Type 3 visualisation. This demonstrates the scale and siting of the maximum development parameters at PEIR stage, without the screening effects of new mitigation planting.
- 6.5.86 Within the Concept Masterplan, the exact siting of the larger infrastructure, such as the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure, are yet to be defined. To fully consider the worst-case scenario, the PEIR photowire visualisations have



been modelled to show the full extent of the indicative siting zones, despite the fact that in reality a much smaller area will only be required to accommodate the Customer Substation, given that the indicative size of the Customer and National Grid Substation compounds are approximately 4ha per substation, as outlined within **Volume I, Chapter 5: Scheme Description**.

Landscape Character

- 6.5.87 The baseline section in Section 6.3 sets out the LVIA's initial assessment of all the LCAs identified within the LVIA Study Area; with those identified as meriting further detailed consideration assessed in this section.
- 6.5.88 It must also be recognised that potential large scale adverse effects upon LCA's within the Site would be reversible following decommissioning of elements of the Scheme and the restoration of the Site back to its baseline condition.
- 6.5.89 The principal effects on the landscape character would occur within the Site, while indirect effects would be contained within the extent of the ZVI, as depicted in Figure 6.5a. In general, the scale of effect on landscape character would vary from Large in the Site to Negligible in the outer regions of the ZVI, as outlined below:
- Large-scale effects would occur within the Site. Field parcels proposed to include development would see a major alteration to key elements and characteristics of their baseline. The larger elements of the Scheme located within the north of the Site would be most visually prominent, particularly north of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation woodland, and have the potential to cause adverse perceptual effects on nearby LCA's.
 - Medium-scale effects would occur in the surrounding landscape (beyond the Site and within the ZVI) to the Site's north-east, where there would likely be views towards the Customer and/or National Grid Substation north of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation.
 - Beyond the Site and the land to its immediate north-east (as described above), it has been found that visibility of the Scheme would be at such a distance as to present a medium to small scale of effect. Where intervisibility is possible, it has been assessed that the Scheme would be partly perceptible depending on the approach to Grid Connection Infrastructure and siting of both the Customer and National Grid Substations. Medium to small scale effects would not significantly affect any of the surrounding LCA's key visual characteristics. As such, the intrinsic and prevailing characteristics of the surrounding LCAs would remain intact.
- 6.5.90 For a renewable energy development on a greenfield site, over both medium and long term durations, it is to be expected that there will be large-scale effects on the character of the Site, given that it is changing from predominantly undeveloped landscape to containing built form. How rapidly effects diminish beyond the Site depends on the scale and siting of development, the wooded context and visibility of the Scheme from the wider study area.

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

- 6.5.91 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium – low sensitivity.
- 6.5.92 There would be large scale operational effects on landscape character (total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development



the baseline will be fundamentally changed). Tall and mature field boundary vegetation and woodland blocks within the Site would provide some visual containment to PV panels within the central, southern and western areas of the Site.

- 6.5.93 The larger elements of the Scheme situated in the north-east of the LCA, such as the substations, would have a large scale effect on the LCA, with the potential for wider reaching adverse perceptual effects on adjacent LCA. The scale of effect on this LCA would remain large no matter where the substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure were located within the parameters of the Concept Masterplan.
- 6.5.94 The scale of effect on this LCA would be large scale, over a medium-term duration during the Operational Phase and over a limited extent of the wider LCA. The worst-case scenario for medium term operational effects on this LCA, would be of medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect is not significant for the wider LCA. Within the extent of the Site the effect upon the character of the landscape would be **significant** but only limited to the landscape within the Site itself.
- 6.5.95 Over a long term duration, during the Operational Phase, the scale of effect would remain large over a limited extent of the wider LCA. The worst-case scenario for long term operational effects on this LCA, would be of medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant**. Effects would be permanent but even more limited for the areas of the LCA selected as siting zones for both the National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure, as these elements of the Scheme will not be removed during the Decommissioning Phase.
- 6.5.96 Within the extent of the Site, the effect upon the LCA in both the medium and long terms would be of high magnitude, major-moderate to moderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect would be **significant** and would only be limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself.

E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA (LCT Plateau Farmland)

- 6.5.97 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium – low sensitivity.
- 6.5.98 There would be large scale operational effects on landscape character (total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline will be fundamentally changed). Large-scale effects would be limited to the Site itself, where the Site would change from an undeveloped landscape to comprising a solar farm within a partly rural setting. Tall and mature field boundary vegetation and woodland blocks, such as Round Covert within the Site, would provide some visual containment to PV panels within the southern and western areas of the Site. Woodland Blocks north of Swaffham would also contain perceptual large scale adverse effects to within the Site. Beyond the Site the scale of effect would reduce rapidly with distance.
- 6.5.99 The scale of effect on this LCA would be large scale, over a medium-term duration during the Operational Phase and over a limited extent of the wider LCA. The worst-case scenario for medium term operational effects on this LCA, would be of medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect is not significant. Within the extent of the Site the effect upon the character of the landscape would be **significant** but only limited to the landscape within the Site itself.
- 6.5.100 Over a long term duration, during the Operational Phase, the scale of effect would remain large over a limited extent of the wider LCA. The worst-case scenario for long term operational



effects on this LCA, would be of medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant**. Mitigation measures would not reduce adverse effects on LCA's within the Site. Despite the fact that the LCA still experiences effects over a 60 year operational duration, the only development parameter present within the LCA is the Solar PV Site, which is of a reduced height and comprises a lighter touch construction method on the fabric of the landscape. Effects on this LCA are also tempered by the perceptual sense of enclosure and industrial influence from adjacent LCA's due to intervisibility with energy infrastructure such as pylons and wind turbines.

- 6.5.101 Within the extent of the Site the effect upon the LCA in both the medium and long terms would be of high magnitude, major-moderate to moderate significance and adverse in nature. This effect would be **significant** and would only be limited to the LCA landscape within the Site itself.

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

- 6.5.102 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity.
- 6.5.103 There will be medium scale effects on the LCA, primarily associated with adverse perceptual impacts on the character of the LCA. The fabric of the LCA would experience limited adverse effects where the Concept Masterplan outlines potential temporary working area for Grid Connection Infrastructure.
- 6.5.104 There would be medium scale operational effects on landscape character in both the medium and long term, limited to the south-western edge of the LCA, where it lies within and adjacent to the Site itself. Existing woodland situated within the north-eastern area of the Site and adjacent to the Site would partially screen the Scheme, tempering potential adverse effects upon this LCA during the Operational Phase. Potential adverse effects would be lessened if the Grid Connection Infrastructure and substations were to be located south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation.
- 6.5.105 The worst-case scenario for operational effects in the medium and long term on the wider LCA and within the Site, would be of medium-low magnitude, moderate-slight significance and adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant**.

F1 River Nar Valley LCA (LCT Chalk Rivers)

- 6.5.106 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity.
- 6.5.107 It is to be expected there will be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primary associated with adverse perceptual impacts on the character of the LCA, which is situated outside of the Site to the north. There is limited predicted visibility within the LCA as shown on the Refined ZTV.
- 6.5.108 There would be medium to small scale operational effects in both the medium and long term. This is primarily due to potential adverse effects on the perceptual qualities of the LCA, with regard to views south of the larger substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure elements within the north of the Site. Potential adverse effects would be lessened if the Grid Connection



Infrastructure and substations were to be located south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation, as they would be largely screened by the vegetation in views from the LCA.

- 6.5.109 The scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small scale, over a medium and long term duration during operation, over a localised extent of the wider LCA.
- 6.5.110 The worst-case scenario for operational effects on this LCA would be of medium-low magnitude, moderate-slight significance and adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant**.

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

- 6.5.111 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity.
- 6.5.112 It is to be expected there will be medium to small scale effects on the LCA primarily associated with adverse perceptual impacts on the character of the LCA, which is situated outside of the Site to the north. There is limited predicted visibility within the LCA as shown on the Refined ZTV.
- 6.5.113 There would be medium to small scale operational effects in both the medium and long term duration. These effects would be mainly associated with potential views towards both new solar PV development from the southern edge of the LCA and also potential views towards the larger substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure situated north of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation.
- 6.5.114 The scale of effect on this LCA would be medium to small scale, over a medium and long term duration during operation, over a limited extent of the wider LCA. Potential adverse effects would be lessened if the Grid Connection Infrastructure and substations were to be located south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation, as they would be largely screened by the vegetation in views from the LCA.
- 6.5.115 The worst-case scenario for Operational Phase effects on this LCA would be of low magnitude, slight significance and adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant**.

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

- 6.5.116 This LCA has been assessed as having a medium sensitivity.
- 6.5.117 It is to be expected there will be small scale effects on the LCA primary associated with adverse perceptual impacts on the character of the LCA, which is situated outside of the Site to the north at Castle Acre.
- 6.5.118 There would be small scale operational effects on landscape character in both the medium and long term duration, primarily associated with views of the Scheme and larger infrastructure situated to the north of Bartholomew's Hills Plantation. The substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure would be visible from this LCA, situated on local high ground to the south of the River Nar. Elements of the Scheme within the wider Site area, south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation would be largely screened by the vegetation and therefore potential effects on this LCA would be lesser.
- 6.5.119 The scale of effect on this LCA would be small scale, over a medium and long term duration during operation, over a limited extent of the wider LCA. Potential adverse effects would be lessened if the Grid Connection Infrastructure and substations were to be located south of



Bartholomew's Hill Plantation, as they would be largely screened by the vegetation in views from the LCA.

- 6.5.120 The worst-case scenario for Operational Phase effects on this LCA would be of low-negligible magnitude, slight significance and adverse in nature. This effect is **not significant**.

Visual Amenity

- 6.5.121 Where applicable, representative viewpoints located within the respective visual Receptor groups are outlined below. The scale of effect noted for each representative viewpoint, as outlined above in **Table 6.12**, is only applicable for that specific viewpoint location and therefore may differ from the overall scale of effect noted below for the wider visual Receptor group area.

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

- 6.5.122 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 (Figure 6.8) and Type 3 Photowire visualisation 006 (Figure 6.9).
- 6.5.123 The Operational Phase of the Scheme would be directly visible from within this Receptor group given that the receptors, such as those along PRoW, would be spatially surrounded by the Scheme. Some visual screening of the Scheme is already provided by the existing woodland and hedgerows present within the Site. Adverse effects would be tempered by the development offsets from PRoW. Hedgerow gapping up and reinforcement planting would screen views of the Scheme in the long term.
- 6.5.124 Medium term visual effects on this receptor group would be, in the worst case, large scale over a wide extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be medium magnitude, major-moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant**.
- 6.5.125 In the long term, the scale of effect would lessen as new mitigation planting and landscape management regimes provide enhanced visual screening of the Scheme, for nearby receptors. Long term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, medium -small scale over a wide extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be **medium to low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is not significant.**

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

- 6.5.126 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 7 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.127 The Operational Phase would be directly visible from within this Receptor group. There would be views associated with the new National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS and PV panels. Visibility of the Scheme in the long term would be partially screened by new mitigation planting once established. These mitigation



measures would include the planting of new hedgerows with hedgerow trees and also the strengthening of existing hedgerows and tree belts through gapping up.

- 6.5.128 In both the medium and long term, visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, large scale over a wide extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be high magnitude, major significance and adverse. This effect is **significant**.
- 6.5.129 The magnitude of this visual effect on this VRG could be reduced if the larger elements of the Scheme were to be located adjacent to one another and concentrated either south or north of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation. This would reduce the extent of the visual effect, therefore reduce its overall magnitude in the long term.

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

- 6.5.130 Effects on these visual receptors are partially represented by Viewpoint 7 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.131 The Operational Phase would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would mainly be associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS and PV panels, in the northern site area – specifically field parcels 30, 33, 34, 35.
- 6.5.132 In the medium term, visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, medium scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be medium to low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant**. The Scheme, where visible, would be seen alongside existing pylons within and adjacent to the Site. The most prominent areas of the Scheme would be the larger elements situated in the north of the Site, within fields 33 and 35. The remaining areas of the Scheme would be mostly screened by existing woodland and hedgerow along the northern Site. The effect would be reduced and deemed not significant if the larger elements of the Scheme were to be situated to the south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation and therefore largely screened in views from this visual Receptor group.
- 6.5.133 In the long term, visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, medium to small scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group as mitigation planting matures and further filters views of the Scheme from this Receptor group. These effects would be **medium to low** magnitude, **moderate** significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**, primarily due to the maturation of new planting within and along the Site Boundaries which would screen views of PV panels and BESS.

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

- 6.5.134 Effects on these visual receptors are partially represented by Viewpoint 8 (Figure 6.8) and Type 3 Photowire visualisation 008 (Figure 6.9).
- 6.5.135 The Operational Phase would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would mainly be associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, in the northern site area – specifically field parcels 24, 26, 27 and



30. PV panels would also be visible along the Site's eastern edge within field parcels 19, 20, 21, 24 and 25.

6.5.136 Medium term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, medium-small scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

6.5.137 Once mitigation planting has matured and landscape management regimes have allowed vegetation to grow taller, effects would lessen. Long term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, small scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low-negligible magnitude, slight significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

Visual Receptor Group 5: Castle Acre (High sensitivity)

6.5.138 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 as well as Illustrative viewpoints a, c, d and e (Figure 6.8). Type 3 Photowire visualisation 012 and 014 also demonstrate the parameters from a number of locations within this VRG (Figure 6.9).

6.5.139 The Operational Phase would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would mainly be associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, BESS and PV panels, in the northern site area – specifically field parcels 30, 33, 34, 35. The scale of effect would reduce if the larger elements of the Scheme were to be situated to the south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation.

6.5.140 PV panels and BESS would be less prominent within views from this Receptor group, and would mostly be screened by hedgerow and trees in the local landscape. Taller elements of the Scheme would be visible against a backdrop of woodland and as part of wider views south and south-west from Castle Acre.

6.5.141 Medium and long term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, small scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

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

6.5.142 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 9 as well as Illustrative viewpoint g (Figure 6.8).

6.5.143 The Operational Phase would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility of these phases would be very limited, and where available would mainly be associated with the National Grid and Customer Substations and Grid Connection Infrastructure, in the northern site area – specifically field parcels 30, 33, 34, 35. The scale of effect would reduce if the larger elements of the Scheme were to be situated to the south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation.

6.5.144 Medium and long visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, small to negligible scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, slight significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**.



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

- 6.5.145 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 4 and 11 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.146 The Operational Phase would be partially visible from within this Receptor group. Visibility would be associated with PV panels in the western site area, within field parcels 3, 6, 7 and 8.
- 6.5.147 Medium term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, small scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low magnitude, slight significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**.
- 6.5.148 Once mitigation planting has matured and landscape management regimes have allowed vegetation to grow taller, effects would lessen. Long term visual effects on this Receptor group would be, in the worst case, small-negligible scale over a localised extent of the Receptor group. These effects would be low-negligible magnitude, slight-minimal significance and, adverse. This effect is **not significant**.

Roads and Rail – A1065 (Low sensitivity)

- 6.5.149 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 1 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.150 The Operational Phase would be partially visible from this route, as it passes through the eastern edge of the Site. Existing vegetation along the eastern field parcel boundaries serve to screen some oblique views westwards into the Site, however there would be views of the Scheme between gaps in hedgerow and trees in the medium term. Visibility of the Scheme would be for activity within field parcels 20, 21, 25 and 26. Once mitigation planting has matured and landscape management regimes have allowed vegetation to grow taller, effects would lessen.
- 6.5.151 Medium term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, medium scale over a limited extent where the A1065 passes through/adjacent to the Site. These effects would be low magnitude, slight significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**.
- 6.5.152 New mitigation planting along the eastern edge of the Site would further screen views of lower level development, from this route. Long term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, medium-small scale over a limited extent. These effects would be low-negligible magnitude, slight-minimal significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**.
- 6.5.153 As outlined above, no railways have been identified from Ordnance Survey mapping in the Study Area.

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

- 6.5.154 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 7 and 8 (Figure 6.8) and Type 3 Photowire visualisation 008 (Figure 6.9).
- 6.5.155 The Operational Phase would be most visible from this route as it passes through and adjacent to the north-eastern edge of the Site. Existing hedgerow, trees and woodland along the northern and eastern field parcel boundaries would serve to partially screen oblique short distance views of lower level PV panels and BESS from this PRoW, in close proximity or within the Site. Views of the taller elements of the Scheme would be visible from this route, presenting



a medium scale effect in the medium term. The scale of effect would diminish rapidly with distance, such that views of the Scheme beyond 1.5km would be negligible.

- 6.5.156 Medium term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, medium scale over a limited extent of this route, where it runs through/adjacent to the Site. These effects would be low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant**, predominantly for sections where there is visibility of PV panels and BESS adjacent to the route, where mitigation planting has not yet matured. Larger elements of the Scheme such as the Customer and National Grid Substations, as well as Grid Connection Infrastructure would also be visible from this route. The visual effect on this route would be significant, in the medium term, where it runs through the Site and up to approximately 300m beyond the Site.
- 6.5.157 New mitigation planting and new landscape management regimes for existing vegetation along the north-eastern edge of the Site would further filter short distance views of lower level development, from this route. Long term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, medium to small scale over a limited extent. These effects would be low magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**. The long term visual effects along this route are deemed to be not significant when taking into account the mitigation for nearby views from this PRoW, however in mid to longer distance views, the taller elements of the Scheme would be remain partially visible with some screening provided by existing woodland and undulating landform.

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

- 6.5.158 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoint 9 and 13 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.159 The Operational Phase would be partially visible from this route as it passes through Castle Acre. There would be views southwards, of the taller elements of the Scheme in the north of the Site, presenting a small scale effect.
- 6.5.160 In both the medium and long term, the visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, small scale over a limited extent of this route, where it runs through Castle Acre. These effects would be low-negligible magnitude, moderate-slight significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant** given that the Scheme would form part of a much wider view and be seen alongside existing pylons. The scale of effect would reduce if the larger elements of the Scheme were to be situated to the south of Bartholomew's Hill Plantation.

Local Cycle Routes – The Rebellion Way (Medium sensitivity)

- 6.5.161 Effects on these visual receptors are represented by Viewpoints 2 and 7 (Figure 6.8).
- 6.5.162 The Operational Phase of the Scheme would be directly visible from along this route given that the receptors would be surrounded by the Scheme as they pass through the Site. Some visual screening of the Scheme is already provided by the existing woodland and hedgerows present within the Site. Adverse effects would be tempered by the development offsets from Fincham Drove. Hedgerow gapping up and reinforcement planting would predominantly screen lower level elements of the Scheme within the Scheme, in the long term. The taller Principal Components would remain prominent in the immediate context of the route.
- 6.5.163 Medium term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, large scale over a limited extent of the route as it passes through the Site. These effects would be medium magnitude, moderate significance and adverse. This effect is **significant**, given that the cycle route



passes through the Site and adjacent to larger elements within the Scheme – where views of such would lead to major alterations to qualities of the cycle route.

6.5.164 In the long term, the scale of effect would lessen as new mitigation planting and landscape management regimes provide enhanced visual screening of the lower level elements within the Scheme. Long term visual effects on this route would be, in the worst case, medium scale over a limited extent of the route. These effects would be medium-low magnitude, moderate-slight significance and adverse. This effect is **not significant**, primarily due to the establishment of mitigation planting within the central and western areas of the Site which would predominantly screen the PV panels from view along this section of the route.

6.6 Additional Mitigation

6.6.1 No additional mitigation beyond the embedded mitigation set out in Section 6.4 has been identified at this stage.

6.6.2 There is opportunity for the inclusion of further design measures to be included within the Refined Scheme that will be assessed within the ES. These further design and mitigation measures would serve to reduce potentially adverse effects. These design measures could include:

- The consolidation of new development associated with larger elements of the Scheme such as the Customer Substation, National Grid Substation and Grid Connection Infrastructure
- The inclusion of additional areas of native tree and shrub planting as the green infrastructure strategy progresses, alongside the existing landscape features within the Site; and
- Small scale land reprofiling to increase the higher level screening effect of new tree and hedgerow planting in proximity to larger elements of the Scheme, responding to nearby visual receptors with the objective being to reduce potentially adverse effects over the medium and long term.

6.7 Residual Effects

6.7.1 In the absence of any additional mitigation, the residual effects are the same as the potential effects set out in Section 6.5.

6.8 Cumulative Effects

Introduction

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



application. Only receptors that could experience potentially significant effects are detailed below.

6.8.2 As indicated in the 'Methodology' (Section 6.2), the scope for potential cumulative effects of the Scheme includes:

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

6.8.3 The above cumulative scheme has received a Scoping Opinion and is moving to statutory consultation stage. This cumulative assessment considers likely effects should the cumulative proposals and the Scheme proceed. The High Grove Solar Farm cumulative scheme comprises the installation of solar PV generating panels, on-site energy storage facilities, grid connection infrastructure and ancillary works. The Scheme would have a generating capacity of approximately 720MW.

Cumulative effects on landscape character

E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA

6.8.4 As outlined above in the main body of the LVIA, the E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA is judged to be of Community value and have a medium susceptibility to the type of development proposed. This gives an overall medium-low sensitivity for the LCA.

Construction/Decommissioning

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

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

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

Operation

6.8.8 In the medium and long term during the Operational Phase, if both developments were to come forward at the same time, i.e. with overlapping construction and decommissioning phases, the overall cumulative scale of change for the LCA would be high over an intermediate extent. The area of new development associated with renewable energy would increase and



would change the characteristics of the LCA for the lifetime of the cumulative schemes, in the long term.

- 6.8.9 This gives rise to a potential cumulative effect of high magnitude, of moderate significance and Adverse. This demonstrates an increase in magnitude of effect as a result of the cumulative schemes coming forward. The significance would be Moderate given the increase in renewable energy development schemes present within the context of the existing area of the LCA. This effect would be **significant** over the lifetime of the two developments.

Cumulative effects on visual amenity

- 6.8.10 High Grove Solar Farm is proposed to be situated in several different locations throughout the wider landscape within the Study Area and beyond. Existing woodland blocks, vegetated field boundaries and local undulations within the landscape to the north and north-east of Swaffham would largely mitigate potentially significant in combination cumulative visual effects as a result of the Scheme and High Grove Solar Farm.
- 6.8.11 The only location where potentially significant in combination cumulative visual effects may occur is adjacent to the east of the Scheme within VRG 4, specifically north of Swaffham and west of Sporle. Within this area, High Grove Solar Farm is located partially within VRG 4. Further detail on potential significant cumulative visual effects is provided below.

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

- 6.8.12 As outlined above in the main body of the LVIA, within Section 6.5, VRG 4 is judged to be of high sensitivity to the Scheme. This remains the case when also considering High Grove Solar Farm given their similarities in development type.
- 6.8.13 The only visual Receptor within the Study Area which could experience potentially significant adverse effects would be VRG4, to the east of the Site. As outlined within this chapter, the Scheme would be visible during construction, decommissioning and operation from PRoW and roads within this VRG. Existing woodland blocks, vegetated field boundaries and local undulations within the landscape to the north and north-east of Swaffham, would break up views towards both the Scheme and High Grove Solar Farm for many of the receptors within VRG 4. The only Receptor within this VRG that could experience potentially significant visual effects are PRoW users of PRoW Sporle with Palgrave BR5. This route is shown on Figure 6.6. Potential significant cumulative visual effects on this VRG would Therefore be over a limited extent.

Construction/Decommissioning

- 6.8.14 During Construction and Decommissioning Phases, activities within the Site would be visible alongside new solar PV development within High Grove Solar Farm, to the east of the A1065. Potential significant cumulative effects would likely be present along this route if the construction and decommissioning of the Scheme were to be undertaken during the same period as for High Grove Solar Farm.
- 6.8.15 There would be potentially greater visibility of general activities, movement of construction vehicles and tall construction machinery etc. for users at the western end of this PRoW.
- 6.8.16 During construction and decommissioning, the short term temporary in combination effect upon this VRG would be of medium-low magnitude. The overall effect would be of moderate



significance. This effect would be adverse and **significant** for users of PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR5.

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

Operation

- 6.8.18 During operation, the magnitude of in combination effects would lessen, when taking into account the mitigation planting within both the Scheme and High Grove Solar Farm. Proposed tree belt mitigation planting south of Great Palgrave, proposed as part of High Grove Solar Farm, would filter views southwards from VRG 4 and reduce in combination effects.
- 6.8.19 In the long term during the Operational Phase, if both developments were to come forward at the same time, i.e. with overlapping Construction and Decommissioning Phases, the overall cumulative scale of change for this VRG and specifically PRow users of PRow Sporle with Palgrave BR5 would reduce to low magnitude. The overall effect would be of moderate significance. This effect would be adverse and **not significant**.
- 6.8.20 It is judged that there would be no other significant cumulative in combination or sequential visual effects on the remaining visual receptors within the study area, as a result of both the Scheme and High Grove Solar Farm.



Table 6.12 Landscape and Visual Significance of Effects

Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
Construction and Decommissioning Phases								
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA <u>Within the Site</u>	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate (Significant)	None	Moderate (Significant)
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA <u>Within the Site</u>	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate (Significant)	None	Moderate (Significant)
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
	ning Activity on Site							
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA <u>Within the Site</u>	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	Medium	Medium	Moderate (Significant)	None	Moderate (Significant)
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
F1 River Nar Valley LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)
G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
	ning Activity on Site							
I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
VRG1: Central Site Area	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Short-Term	High-Medium	Medium	Major-Moderate (Significant)	None	Major-Moderate (Significant)
VRG2: North-Eastern Site Area	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Short-Term	High	Medium	Major-Moderate (Significant)	None	Major-Moderate (Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
VRG3: Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Short-Term	High-Medium	Medium - Low	Moderate (Significant)	None	Moderate (Significant)
VRG4: Great and Little Palgrave	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Short-Term	High	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)
VRG5: Castle Acre	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	High	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)
VRG6: West Acre and Nar Valley Northern Slope	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	High-Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
VRG7: Agricultural land immediately south and west of the Site	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Short-Term	High-Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
A1065	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Short-Term	Low	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Short-Term	High	Medium	Major-Moderate (Significant)	None	Major-Moderate (Significant)
The Nar Valley Way	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP	Adverse Short-Term	High	Medium-Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
	ning Activity on Site							
Rebellion Way Cycle Route	Construction and Decommissioning Activity on Site	CEMP, DEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Short-Term	Medium	Medium	Moderate (Significant)	None	Moderate (Significant)
Operational Phase – Medium Term								
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA <u>Within the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium-Low	High	Major-Moderate to Moderate (Significant)	None	Major-Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA <u>Within the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium-Low	High	Major-Moderate to Moderate (Significant)	None	Major-Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
E6 North Pickenham Plateau LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA <u>Within the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)
F1 River Valley LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
		Design, LEMP						
G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium	Low-Negligible	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
VRG1: Central Site Area	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Medium-Term	High-Medium	Medium	Major-Moderate (Significant)	None	Major-Moderate (Significant)
VRG2: North-Eastern Site Area	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP,	Adverse Medium-Term	High	High	Major (Significant)	None	Major (Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
		development offsets from visual receptors						
VRG3: Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Medium-Term	High-Medium	Medium – Low	Moderate (Significant)	None	Moderate (Significant)
VRG4: Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Medium-Term	High	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
VRG5: Castle Acre	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	High	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)
VRG6: West Acre and Nar Valley Northern Slope	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	High-Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
VRG7: Agricultural land immediately south and west of the Site	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Medium-Term	High-Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
A1065	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from	Adverse Medium-Term	Low	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
		visual receptors						
The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path <u>Over a limited extent only. Within and up to 300m from the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse Medium-Term	High	Low	Moderate (significant)	None	Moderate (significant)
The Nar Valley Way	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse Medium-Term	High	Low-Negligible	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)
Rebellion Way Cycle Route <u>Over a limited extent only. Within the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from	Adverse Medium-Term	Medium	Medium	Moderate (Significant)	None	Moderate (Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
		visual receptors						
Operational Phase – Long Term								
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA <u>Within the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	Medium-Low	High	Major-Moderate to Moderate (Significant)	None	Major-Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
D1: Swaffham Heath LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)
E6: North Pickenham Plateau LCA <u>Within the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	Medium-Low	High	Major-Moderate to Moderate (Significant)	None	Major-Moderate to Moderate (Significant)
E6: North Pickenham Plateau LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	Medium-Low	Medium	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA <u>Within the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)
B7: River Nar Tributary Farmland LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)
F1 River Nar Valley LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)
G3 Gayton and East Winch LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
I9 Little Massingham and Castle Acre LCA	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	Medium	Low-Negligible	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
VRG1: Central Site Area	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse, Long term	High-Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)
VRG2: North-Eastern Site Area	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse, Long term	High	High	Major (Significant)	None	Major (Significant)
VRG3: Nar Valley Southern Slope and Settlement Edge of South Acre	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from	Adverse, Long term	High-Medium	Medium to Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
		visual receptors						
VRG4: Great Palgrave and Little Palgrave	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual Receptors	Adverse, Long term	High	Low-Negligible	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
VRG5: Castle Acre	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	High	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)
VRG6: West Acre and Nar Valley Northern Slope	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	High-Medium	Low	Slight (Not Significant)	None	Slight (Not Significant)
VRG7: Agricultural land immediately	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP,	Adverse, Long term	High-Medium	Low-Negligible	Slight-Minimal (Not Significant)	None	Slight-Minimal (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
south and west of the Site		development offsets from visual receptors						
A1065	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse, Long term	Low	Low-Negligible	Slight-Minimal (Not Significant)	None	Slight-Minimal (Not Significant)
The Peddars Way and Norfolk Coastal Path <u>Over a limited extent only. Within and up to 300m from the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse, Long term	High	Low	Moderate (Not Significant)	None	Moderate (Not Significant)



Receptor/Feature	Activity	Embedded Mitigation Measures	Nature and Duration of Effect	Sensitivity of Receptor	Magnitude of Impact	Preliminary Likely Significant Effects	Additional Mitigation Measures	Residual Effect Significance
The Nar Valley Way	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP	Adverse, Long term	High	Low-Negligible	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)
Rebellion Way Cycle Route <u>Over a limited extent only.</u> <u>Within the Site</u>	Presence of Scheme	Green Infrastructure Design, LEMP, development offsets from visual receptors	Adverse, Long term	Medium	Medium-Low	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)	None	Moderate-Slight (Not Significant)



References

- Ref 6-1 The Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Edition, Landscape Institute with the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013.
- Ref 6-2 An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, 2014.
- Ref 6-3 Technical Information Note 05/2017: Townscape Character Assessment Landscape Institute, 2017, revised April 2018
- Ref 6-4 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/2019 Residential Visual amenity assessment.
- Ref 6-5 Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations Landscape Institute, 2021
- Ref 6-6 Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 06/19 Visual Representation of development proposals.
- Ref 6-7 Brecks Partnership. 2013. Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment
- Ref 6-8 Breckland Landscape and Settlement Character Assessment, LUC, (2022)
- Ref 6-9 Breckland Landscape Character Assessment, LUC, (2007)
- Ref 6-10 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Landscape Character Assessment, CBA, (2007)
- Ref 6-11 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)(2024)
- Ref 6-12 Overarching National Policy Statement (NPS) EN-1, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, (2023)
- Ref 6-13 National Policy Statement (NPS) for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3), Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, (2023)
- Ref 6-14 National Policy Statement (NPS) for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-3), Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, (2024)
- Ref 6-15 Breckland Local Plan, Breckland Council, (2023)
- Ref 6-16 Swaffham Neighbourhood Plan, Swaffham Town Council, (2019)



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