

# Springwell Solar Farm

## Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Volume 1  
Chapter 9: Landscape and Visual

Phase 2 consultation  
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd



# Table of Contents

- 9. Landscape and Visual ..... 2**
  - 9.1. Introduction 2
  - 9.2. Consultation, scope and study area 3
  - 9.3. Legislative framework, planning policy and guidance 16
  - 9.4. Methodology 18
  - 9.5. Summary of baseline conditions 29
  - 9.6. Likely effects, additional mitigation and residual effects 35
  - 9.7. Opportunities for environmental enhancement 59
  - 9.8. Intra-project combined effects 59
  - 9.9. Difficulties and uncertainties 60
  - 9.10. Further work to inform the ES 60

## 9. Landscape and Visual

### 9.1. Introduction

- 9.1.1. This chapter presents the preliminary environmental information relating to the Proposed Development in terms of the landscape resource and visual amenity. It also reports a preliminary assessment of the potential likely significant environmental effects arising from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on landscape and visual receptors.
- 9.1.2. This preliminary assessment considers the baseline and potential effects upon:
- landscape fabric;
  - landscape character;
  - the special qualities of any landscape designations; and
  - visual receptors including residential, transport and recreational receptors.
- 9.1.3. This preliminary assessment has been prepared in accordance with the principles established in published best practice, namely the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment<sup>1</sup> (GLVIA3) and associated technical guidance notes including those published by the Landscape Institute (referenced as appropriate – see **Section 9.3**). This preliminary assessment, however, is not intended to constitute a full Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA), as insufficient detail is currently available to complete such an assessment. This preliminary assessment is based on the parameter plans presented in **Figures 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6** of **Volume 2**; a full LVIA will be presented in the subsequent ES based on the proposals comprising the DCO application.
- 9.1.4. Although linked, landscape and visual effects are considered separately. Landscape effects derive from changes in the landscape fabric, which may result in changes to landscape character, whereas visual effects are the effects of these changes as experienced by people (visual receptors).
- 9.1.5. In considering effects on landscape fabric, this preliminary assessment considers the removal or addition of elements such as vegetation in relation to landscape change, but the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on ecological receptors is considered in **Chapter 6: Biodiversity**.
- 9.1.6. Likewise, this preliminary assessment considers cultural heritage assets in so much as they contribute to landscape character and its

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<sup>1</sup> Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition), 2013, Landscape institute and IEMA

perceived value (for example, Conservation Areas are treated as areas where the character and views are valued). However, the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on cultural heritage receptors is considered in **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage**.

- 9.1.7. The potential effects of glint and glare arising from the Proposed Development are addressed separately in **Chapter 14: Glint and Glare**.
- 9.1.8. This chapter is intended to be read as part of the wider Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) with particular reference to the following appendices in **Volume 3**:
- **Appendix 9.1** - LVIA Methodology and Assessment Criteria
  - **Appendix 9.2** - Extracts from Published Landscape Character Assessments
  - **Appendix 9.3** – Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal
  - **Appendix 9.4** – Preliminary Viewpoint Analysis
  - **Appendix 9.5** - Summary of Residential Amenity Assessment Work Undertaken to Date
- 9.1.9. Figures referred to in this chapter can be found in **Volume 2**, and the visualisations can be found in **Volume 4**.

## 9.2. Consultation, scope and study area

### *Consultation undertaken to date*

- 9.2.1. An EIA Scoping Report, presented in **Appendix 4.1**, setting out the proposed scope and methodology for the proposed LVIA, was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in March 2023. A Scoping Opinion, presented in **Appendix 4.2**, was issued by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State in May 2023. **Appendix 4.3** provides responses to comments relating to landscape and visual matters in the Scoping Opinion and details how these have been addressed in this preliminary assessment.
- 9.2.2. Subsequent consultation has taken place with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. The district and county councils jointly appointed an external landscape consultant (AAH Consultants) to provide landscape and visual advice and act on their behalf in terms of landscape and visual matters. Therefore, consultation with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council has taken place primarily through AAH Consultants.
- 9.2.3. **Table 9.1** provides a summary of the consultation activities undertaken in support of the preparation of this preliminary assessment, in addition to the EIA Scoping process.

**Table 9.1 Summary of consultation undertaken**

Consultee	Key matters raised	Actions in response to consultee comments
<p>North Kesteven District Council/  Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>Following EIA Scoping, an initial meeting was held with North Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and their retained landscape consultant from AAH Consultants on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023.</p> <p>During the meeting introductions were made; an update on the project was provided; project design principles were introduced; an overview was provided of LVIA studies undertaken to date; and certain aspects of the proposed LVIA methodology were discussed.</p>	<p>It was agreed that the study area would be kept under review depending on how the project evolved and the final study area for the LVIA presented in the ES would be reviewed before DCO application submission to confirm it is appropriate and robust. A summary of further discussions with North Kesteven District Council/Lincolnshire County Council on the study area is set out in <b>paragraph 9.2.11</b> below.</p> <p>It was agreed that the operational effects of the Proposed Development would be considered in year 1 post construction and also in year 10 post construction once mitigation has become established.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a small number of locations where the ZTV (Zone of Theoretical Visibility) indicated a very small area of visibility within the Lincoln Cliff Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV). It was agreed that the Applicant would review these locations in the field and provide further justification for scoping out the AGLV as necessary. This has subsequently been completed and a further justification for scoping out the AGLV is provided in <b>Table 9-2</b> below.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Applicant would review in the field the locations where the ZTV indicated a very small area of visibility within the Lincoln Cliff character area and provide</p>

Consultee	Key matters raised	Actions in response to consultee comments
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justification for its exclusion as necessary. This has subsequently been completed and a further justification for scoping out the character area is provided in **Table 9.2** below.

It was confirmed that a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment would be undertaken and presented in the ES. A summary of the residential visual amenity assessment work undertaken to date is presented in **Appendix 9.5** and will be updated in the ES.

It was agreed that the Applicant would issue a shortlist of potential LVIA assessment viewpoints for inclusion in the ES to AAH Consultants and then meet on site to review these together. The shortlist was subsequently sent to North Kesteven District Council /Lincolnshire County Council on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 with a list of 46 potential assessment viewpoints for consideration and comment (see subsequent rows of this table for resolution of viewpoint selection).

North Kesteven District Council/ Lincolnshire County Council	The above meeting and viewpoint shortlist was followed by a joint site visit on 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2023 attended by the Applicant and AAH Consultants.	Various locations were visited and the landscape consultant from AAH Consultants followed up the joint site visit with further field analysis alone.
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North Kesteven District Council/ Lincolnshire County Council	On 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2023, a technical memorandum prepared by AAH Consultants was sent to the Applicant with preliminary comments on the shortlist of assessment viewpoints plus some additional suggested	During the meeting a further update on the project was provided to AAH Consultants. The shortlist of viewpoints was reviewed with reference to baseline photographs where these had already been taken. Potential additional locations
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Consultee	Key matters raised	Actions in response to consultee comments
	<p>viewpoints. A meeting was then held on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 between the Applicant and AAH Consultants to review the proposed viewpoint selection and look at the baseline photography from potential viewpoint locations.</p>	<p>suggested by AAH Consultants in the memorandum issued on 29<sup>th</sup> June were also considered. It was agreed that some of the viewpoints in the shortlist issued by the Applicant to AAH Consultants following the previous meeting could be removed from the list whilst a number of others were identified for inclusion.</p> <p>The Applicant agreed to update the schedule of proposed viewpoints and to reissue it to North Kesteven District Council/Lincolnshire County Council for approval as a final proposed viewpoint selection.</p>
<p>North Kesteven District Council/ Lincolnshire County Council</p>	<p>Following the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023, the Applicant wrote to AAH Consultants and North Kesteven District Council/Lincolnshire County Council on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 with a final proposed list of assessment viewpoints for agreement.</p>	<p>AAH Consultants responded on behalf of North Kesteven District Council /Lincolnshire County Council by means of a technical memo dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 confirming that the viewpoints proposed were considered acceptable and that no additional viewpoints were required (subject to any changes in the parameters on which they had been consulted). Annotated baseline photographs from the agreed viewpoints are presented in <b>Volume 4</b> of this PEIR.</p>

### *Scope of the assessment*

9.2.4. The scope of this preliminary assessment has been established taking account of the Scoping Opinion, presented in **Appendix 4.2**, and has been refined through ongoing consultation with North Kesteven District Council/Lincolnshire County Council as encouraged in the landscape and visual specific comments provided by PINS in Section 3.5 (ID 3.5.8) of the Scoping Opinion. In relation to landscape and visual matters, the EIA Scoping Report, presented in **Appendix 4.1**, proposed certain receptors to be scoped out of the assessment and others to be scoped in. In some cases, PINS agreed with the proposed scope whilst, in other

instances, PINS requested that the scope be reviewed as the project progressed in consultation with relevant stakeholders; primarily North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. A detailed response to the Scoping Opinion is presented in **Appendix 4.3**. PINS ID 3.5.8 and ID 3.5.9 are addressed in **Appendix 4.3** as they do not concern matters that the Applicant sought to either scope in or out of the LVIA but are more generic comments about the study area and mitigation. The study area for the LVIA is addressed more fully at **paragraphs 9.2.8 to 9.2.17** below. Detailed mitigation proposals will be developed as the project progresses towards DCO submission and will be reported fully in the ES, but embedded mitigation measures already established are outlined in **paragraph 9.4.14** below.

- 9.2.5. This section updates the scope of assessment and confirms, and where necessary updates, the evidence base for scoping out receptors/matters following further iterative assessment and consideration of the Scoping Opinion.

**Receptors/matters scoped out of further assessment**

- 9.2.6. **Table 9.2** presents the receptors/matters that are scoped out of further assessment, together with appropriate justification. Where a change has occurred to the approach proposed within the EIA Scoping Report, this is clearly stated and justified.

**Table 9.2 Receptors/matters scoped out of further assessment**

Receptor/ matter	Phase	Justification	Change to the approach proposed in the EIA Scoping Report
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB	Construction, operation and decommissioning	This AONB is situated over 20km from the Site and there would be no intervisibility at this distance.	No change – this receptor was proposed to be scoped out of further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion agreed with this approach. (ID 3.5.1)
Lincoln AGLV	Cliff Construction, operation and decommissioning	The AGLV is a west facing scarp slope, orientated north-south and located over 3km to the west of the Site.	No change – this receptor was proposed to be scoped out of further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion agreed with this approach but requested that it be demonstrated there is ‘no intervisibility with reference to photos from field work or other appropriate evidence’ (ID 3.5.2).



Receptor/ matter	Phase	Justification	Change to the approach proposed in the EIA Scoping Report
Other landscape character areas (LCAs) in the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Despite the fact that the ZTVs indicate some distant visibility from other LCAs, field work has established that there would be no intervisibility between the Site and any other LCAs.	<p>The ZTVs presented in <b>Figures 9.5 to 9.8</b> demonstrate that visibility of the solar module, BESS and Springwell Substation would not extend to the AGLV. Refer to <b>Appendix 4.3</b> for further justification and details of discussions with North Kesteven District Council/Lincolnshire County Council in this regard.</p> <p>No change – these receptors were proposed to be scoped out of further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion agreed with this approach, but requested the ‘ZTV should be reviewed with the final scheme and presented in the ES to demonstrate that there is no intervisibility’ (ID 3.5.3).</p> <p>The ZTVs presented in <b>Figures 9.5 to 9.8</b> demonstrate that there would be negligible visibility of the Proposed Development from any LCAs other than the two host LCAs discussed in this chapter. Refer to <b>Appendix 4.3</b> for further justification and details of discussions with North Kesteven District Council/Lincolnshire County Council in this regard.</p>
View from villages/ hamlets of Metheringham,	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Despite the fact that the ZTVs indicate some distant visibility in	No change – these receptors were proposed to be scoped out of further assessment within the EIA

Receptor/ matter	Phase	Justification	Change to the approach proposed in the EIA Scoping Report
Bloxham, Digby, Dorrington, Ruskington, Leasingham, Cranwell, RAF Cranwell, Wellingore and Navenby and other settlements along the A607		some cases from the edges of these villages, once intervening hedgerows and other vegetation is taken into account, it is highly unlikely there would be any views of the Proposed Development from these settlements. Any glimpses would be distant, filtered and negligible.	Scoping Report and PINS responded that the ' <i>ES should demonstrate there is no intervisibility, otherwise the potential effects on views and visual amenity within the ZTV where significant effects are likely to occur should be assessed.</i> ' (ID 3.5.4)  The ZTVs presented in <b>Figures 9.5 to 9.8</b> demonstrate that there would be negligible visibility of the Proposed Development from any of these villages. Refer to <b>Appendix 4.3</b> for further justification and details of discussions with North Kesteven District Council/Lincolnshire County Council in this regard.
PRoW and local roads beyond 3km from the Site	Construction	It is unlikely that there would be any views of the Proposed Development at this distance, but any glimpses of the Site beyond this distance are not likely to result in effects which would reach the threshold of a significant effect.	No change – these receptors were proposed to be scoped out of further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion agreed with this approach. (ID 3.5.5)
Isolated residential properties over 1km from the Site	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Whilst there may be glimpses from individual properties beyond 1km of the Site, this will be a matter of private visual	No change - these receptors were proposed to be scoped out of further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report, but the Scoping Opinion stated that there was insufficient

Receptor/ matter	Phase	Justification	Change to the approach proposed in the EIA Scoping Report
		<p>amenity and under no circumstances would this give rise to an overbearing effect on residential amenity.</p>	<p>information available and the Inspectorate was <i>'unable to scope out this matter at this stage'</i>. (ID 3.5.6)</p> <p>For clarification, the visual effects on residential receptors across the full extent of the study area (including those beyond 1km) are considered in the assessment of landscape and visual effects presented in this preliminary assessment and will also be assessed in the ES.</p> <p>However, a detailed Residential Visual Amenity Assessment will only be presented in the ES for the properties identified in <b>Appendix 9.5</b>, all of which lie within 1km of any new infrastructure. Further justification for this approach is set out in this appendix.</p>
<p>Users of the rail network, specifically between Metheringham and the level crossing on the B1191</p>	<p>Construction, operation and decommissioning</p>	<p>Medium/Low sensitivity receptor which would have both direct and intermittent views of activity during construction, operation and decommissioning. The potential for significant effects to occur is considered low.</p>	<p>No change – these receptors were proposed to be scoped out of further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report and the Scoping Opinion agreed with this approach. (ID 3.5.7)</p>

**Receptors/matters scoped into further assessment**

9.2.7. **Table 9.3** presents the receptors/matters that are scoped in for further assessment, together with appropriate justification. Where a change has occurred to the approach proposed within the EIA Scoping Report, this is clearly stated and justified.

**Table 9.3 Receptors/matters scoped into further assessment**

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification	Change to the approach proposed in the EIA Scoping Report
Landscape Character Area 7 (LCA 7): Limestone Heath (North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment)	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Springwell West and Springwell Central fall within this LCA and there would be a large scale of change in localised parts of this LCA.	No change – this receptor was proposed to be scoped into further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion did not provide comment on this receptor. As the Site is located partly within this LCA, it remains scoped into further assessment and is addressed further in <b>Section 9.5</b> .
Landscape Character Area 11 (LCA 11): Central Clays and Gravels (North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment)	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Springwell East falls within this LCA and there would be a large scale of change in localised parts of this LCA.	No change – this receptor was proposed to be scoped into further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion did not provide comment on this receptor. As the Site is located partly within this LCA, it remains scoped into further assessment and is addressed further in <b>Section 9.5</b> .
Users of the A15 and B1191	Construction, operation and decommissioning	A large volume of traffic passes along these two roads which have a largely open view across part of the Site. Receptors are generally not of	No change – these receptors were proposed to be scoped into further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion did not provide comment on them. As the Site would be visible from these two routes at close proximity,

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification	Change to the approach proposed in the EIA Scoping Report
		<p>high sensitivity but the views are likely to be experienced by large numbers of people from these two roads.</p>	<p>they remain scoped into further assessment and are addressed further in <b>Section 9.5</b>.</p>
<p>Users of the PRoWs and local road network which passes through and within 3km of the Site (including the Spires and Steeples Trail and the Stepping Out walks)</p>	<p>Construction, operation and decommissioning</p>	<p>Higher sensitivity receptors which may have both direct and indirect views of the Proposed Development</p>	<p>No change – these receptors were proposed to be scoped into further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion did not provide comment on them. As the ZTVs presented in <b>Figures 9.5 to 9.8</b> indicate visibility of the Site from various locations within 3km of the Site, they remain scoped into further assessment and are addressed further in <b>Section 9.5</b>.</p> <p>For clarification, as noted in <b>Section 9.2</b>, the study area extends to 5km from the Springwell Substation and where relevant these receptors will also be considered within this extended study area.</p>
<p>Residents and visitors to the villages of Scopwick, Kirkby Green, Blankney and Ashby De La Launde</p>	<p>Construction, operation and decommissioning</p>	<p>Depending on the final layout and design of the Proposed Development, there may be views of the Proposed Development from these villages, although it is intended to minimise as far</p>	<p>No change – these receptors were proposed to be scoped into further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion did not provide comment on them. The preliminary results of ongoing studies suggest that visual effects from these villages would be minimal. In order to consider all locations within these villages and</p>

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification	Change to the approach proposed in the EIA Scoping Report
		as possible visual intrusion on these receptor groups.	as they are the nearest settlements to the Proposed Development, they remain scoped in and are addressed further in <b>Section 9.5</b> .
Residents of the barracks at RAF Digby	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Depending on the final layout and design of the Proposed Development, there may be views of the Proposed Development from the residential quarters of the barracks, although it is intended to minimise as far as possible visual intrusion on this receptor group.	No change – these receptors were proposed to be scoped into further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion did not provide comment on them. As there remains the possibility of open views from these receptors, they remain scoped in and are addressed further in <b>Section 9.5</b> .
Isolated farmsteads and residential properties within 1km of the Site	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Higher sensitivity receptors – consideration will be required of residential visual amenity	No change – these receptors were proposed to be scoped into further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report. The Scoping Opinion did not provide comment on them.  For clarification, the visual effects on residential receptors across the full extent of the study area (including those beyond 1km) are considered in the assessment of landscape and visual effects presented in this preliminary assessment

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification	Change to the approach proposed in the EIA Scoping Report
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and will also be assessed in the ES.

However, a detailed Residential Visual Amenity Assessment will only be presented in the ES for the properties identified in **Appendix 9.5**, all of which lie within 1km of any new infrastructure. Further justification for this approach is set out in this appendix.

### Extent of the study area

- 9.2.8. GLVIA3 recommends that the study area for consideration of landscape effects should *‘include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner’* (paragraph 5.2). It also recommends that LVIA should consider the area from which the proposed development will potentially be visible but that the emphasis *‘must be on a reasonable approach which is proportional to the scale and nature of the proposed development’* (paragraph 6.2).
- 9.2.9. The EIA Scoping Report proposed that the LVIA study area extend up to 3km from the Site boundary of the Proposed Development and extend up to 5km from the National Grid Navenby Substation (which no longer forms a part of the Proposed Development) and the Springwell Substation.
- 9.2.10. The Scoping Opinion stated: *‘The Scoping Report paragraph 6.5.2 proposes that the LVIA study area will be within 3km of the site boundary of the Proposed Development and extended to 5km for the National Grid and Project Substation and National Grid connecting towers. However, the full extent of potential visibility of the Proposed Development is not yet fully known and the ZTV mapping contained within Appendix F identified potential visibility beyond these extents. The ES should justify the extent of the study area/s with reference to recognised professional guidance and the extent of the likely impacts, informed by fieldwork and relevant models or approaches such as the ZTV. The Applicant should agree the study areas with relevant consultation bodies.’* (ID 3.5.8)
- 9.2.11. Subsequently, North Kesteven District Council/Lincolnshire County Council stated in correspondence dated 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023 that: *‘The*

*proposed 3km study area is appropriate from the solar PV development and 5km from the National Grid and Project Substation and National Grid connecting towers. However, the LVIA should clearly state the justification for these study areas, and thoroughly assess and confirm no significant views are available from beyond the study area. Also, as it is not confirmed as to whether the National Grid Substation and National Grid connecting towers are to be included within the redline [Order limits] boundary, and if so both the final location and design of these elements, and the Project Substation, is yet to be confirmed, therefore while every effort has been made to accommodate this with the viewpoint selection, additional viewpoints and extension of the 5km study area may be required subject to confirmation of these aspects.'*

- 9.2.12. It should be noted that the National Grid Substation and National Grid connecting towers no longer form part of the Proposed Development. Updated ZTVs have been prepared for the remaining elements of the Proposed Development and these are presented in **Figures 9.5 to 9.8**. They are based on an offset radius of 3km from any solar PV development and 5km from any structures up to 12m in height. **Figures 9.6 to 9.8** specifically illustrate the screening effect of vegetation (including hedgerows) with distance from the Site.
- 9.2.13. **Figures 9.6 to 9.8** demonstrate that beyond 3km/5km respectively, there would be barely any 'theoretical' visibility of the structures up to 12m in height including the Springwell Substation. These ZTVs have been extensively tested in the field and 'ground truthed'. This fieldwork has been unable to identify any publicly accessible location where there would be any actual visibility of the structures up to 12m in height beyond these distances.
- 9.2.14. It is therefore considered unnecessary to extend the study area beyond 5km to include any such distant glimpses of the Proposed Development.
- 9.2.15. The study area for the preliminary assessment presented in this chapter has therefore been set at 3km from the Solar PV development extending where necessary to 5km from any structures up to 12m in height. The study area is illustrated on **Figure 9.1**.
- 9.2.16. This study area is considered proportionate and adequate to identify all non-negligible effects on landscape and visual receptors. As requested by North Kesteven District Council/Lincolnshire County Council, it will however be reviewed at ES stage to ensure that it remains appropriate in the context of the final submitted development proposals.



## 9.3. Legislative framework, planning policy and guidance

### *Relevant legislation*

9.3.1. The following legislation relevant to landscape and visual matters has been reviewed and considered in respect of the Proposed Development:

- European Landscape Convention (ELC) - The ELC is an international treaty dedicated to the protection, management and planning of all landscapes in Europe signed by the UK government in 2006 and introduced in March 2007. The ELC contains 18 articles which, collectively, promote landscape protection, management and planning and organising European cooperation on landscape issues. Article 1 defines the terms used in the ELC and this chapter adopts the terminology used to define 'landscape'. Articles 5 and 6 commit signatory states to a number of actions which are designed to help ensure compliance with the overarching aims of the ELC. These include the need to recognise landscapes in law, to establish policies aimed at landscape planning, protection and management and the integration of landscape into other policy areas. The ELC is a convention of the Council of Europe, not the EU. Therefore, Brexit does not affect the status of this convention, and at the time of writing (September 2023), the UK remains a signatory.
- Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 - provides specific protection for buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest. These features contribute to the heritage of an area and an understanding of historic landscape.
- The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations 2012 provide powers to local planning authorities to make and administer Tree Preservation Orders, the purpose of which is to protect selected trees and woodlands by prohibiting their cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful destruction or wilful damage without prior consent.
- The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 provide protection for Important Hedgerows, these being hedgerows that meet certain criteria in respect of their length, location and importance.

### *Relevant planning policy*

9.3.2. The following planning policies relevant to landscape and visual matters have been reviewed and considered in respect of the Proposed Development:

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1)<sup>2</sup> (2011) which provides the basis for decisions regarding nationally significant energy infrastructure;
- Draft Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1)<sup>3</sup> (2023 Sections 4.6 and 5.10 are of particular note);
- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3)<sup>4</sup> (2011) - Section 5.9 discusses landscape and visual matters;
- Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3)<sup>5</sup> (2023) – Sections 3.5 and 3.10 are of particular note;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)<sup>6</sup> (2011) which provides the primary basis for decisions regarding electricity networks infrastructure;
- Draft National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5)<sup>7</sup> (2023) – Section 2.11 is of particular note;
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (September 2023) – Sections 12 and 15 are of particular note;
- Planning Practice Guidance for Natural Environment (updated July 2019);
- Planning Practice Guidance for Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Energy (updated August 2023);
- Planning Practice Guidance for Design: process and tools (updated October 2019);

9.3.3. Relevant policies of the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2018-2040 (Adopted in April 2023) include the following:

- Policy S5: *Development in the Countryside*, Part E indicates that proposals for non-residential development will be supported provided that the development is in line with the rural character of the location;

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<sup>2</sup> Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2011). Available online: [National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/262222/nps-en-1-2011.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Draft National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (2023). Available online: [Planning for new energy infrastructure: revisions to National Policy Statements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182222/draft-nps-en-1-2023.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (2011). Available online: [National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/262222/nps-en-3-2011.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Draft National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy (EN-3) (2023). Available online: [Planning for new energy infrastructure: revisions to National Policy Statements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182222/draft-nps-en-3-2023.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2011). Available online: [National Policy Statements for energy infrastructure - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/262222/nps-en-5-2011.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Draft National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (2023). Available online: [Planning for new energy infrastructure: revisions to National Policy Statements - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1182222/draft-nps-en-5-2023.pdf)

- Policy S14: *Renewable Energy* which provides that renewable energy schemes will be supported where relevant impacts are, or will be made, acceptable. This includes the scale, siting and design, and the consequent impacts on landscape character and visual amenity (*inter alia*);
- Policy S16: *Wider Energy Infrastructure* refers to supporting proposals in the transition to net zero. Any such proposals should mitigate any harm arising;
- Policy S66: *Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows* which indicates that development proposals should be prepared on the principle that existing trees and woodland should be maintained, improved and expanded. Existing hedgerows are expected to be retained where appropriate.

### **Applicable guidance**

9.3.4. The following relevant industry guidance documents have been used during the preparation of this preliminary assessment:

- *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition)*, Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, 2013;
- *Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals*, published by the Landscape Institute (2019);
- *Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations*, published by the Landscape Institute (2021);
- *Technical Guidance Note 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment*, published by the Landscape Institute (2019);
- *Technical Guidance Note 04/20: Infrastructure*, published by the Landscape Institute (2020);
- *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment*, Natural England, 2014;
- *An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment*, Natural England, 2019; and
- *Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative Effects Assessment (version 2)*, published by PINS (2019).

## **9.4. Methodology**

### **Data sources to inform baseline characterisation**

9.4.1. The following sources of information have been reviewed to inform the baseline assessment presented in **Section 9.5**:

- Ordnance Survey maps at various scales;
- Online Aerial Photography;

- National *Character Area (NCA) Profile 47 - Southern Lincolnshire Edge*, Natural England, 2014;
  - *North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment*, David Tyldesley and Associates, 2007;
  - *Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036* (adopted, 2023);
  - *Scopwick and Kirkby Green Neighbourhood Plan 2021 – 2036* (Made Version, 2023)
  - *Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire*, CBA, 2011; and
  - *Scopwick and Kirkby Green Design Codes*, Final Report, AECOM, 2020
- 9.4.2. The electronic working copy of the Lincolnshire Definitive Rights of Way map was accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 at the following web address: <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/coast-countryside/public-rights-way>.
- 9.4.3. Recreational walks and trails in North Kesteven including the Spires and Steeples Trail, the Ridge and Furrows Trail and a series of circular ‘Stepping Out Walks’ are promoted locally. The published description of these walks can be viewed at the following web address: <https://www.hillholtwood.co.uk/stepping-out-walks>.

### **Surveys to inform baseline characterisation**

- 9.4.4. Extensive field work has been undertaken by the Applicant’s Landscape Architects between July 2022 and September 2023. This has included numerous visits to the Site and surrounding areas in both summer and winter months.
- 9.4.5. Viewpoint photography, presented in **Volume 4**, was captured on multiple dates between February and June 2023.
- 9.4.6. All the public rights of way within the Site and the LVIA study area have been walked by the Applicant’s Landscape Architects on multiple occasions.
- 9.4.7. Visits were also made by the Applicant’s Landscape Architects to 31 individual residential properties over five days in February and March 2023. The purpose of the visits was to fully understand the visual amenity experienced by some of the nearest residents to the Proposed Development. Further information, including whether properties were viewed internally or just observed from outside, is detailed in **Appendix 9.5: Preliminary Residential Visual Amenity Assessment**.

### **Design assumptions**

- 9.4.8. **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development** details the preliminary design principles of the Proposed Development components as they are currently known. Preliminary parameter

plans, which define the broad extents within which development can take place, are presented in the following figures within **Volume 2**:

- **Figure 2.3** – Zonal Masterplan;
- **Figure 2.4** – Indicative Height Parameters Plan;
- **Figure 2.5** – Indicative Green Infrastructure Parameters Plan; and
- **Figure 2.6** – Indicative Operational Access & Movement Parameters Key Plan.

- 9.4.9. The preliminary design principles and preliminary parameter plans set out the reasonable ‘worst case scenario’ that has been assessed within this chapter.
- 9.4.10. This preliminary assessment of the potential likely significant effects has assumed a ‘worst case scenario’, namely that all development will be at the maximum possible height indicated in **Figure 2.4: Indicative Height Parameters Plan**. Therefore, for example, where the aforementioned plan indicates development of ‘solar modules up to 4m in height’, the assessment assumes development at 4m in height and where the plan indicates a siting zone for elements up to 12m in height, the assessment assumes that development could be 12m in height anywhere within this zone.
- 9.4.11. This preliminary assessment also takes account of the various alternative options outlined in **Chapter 3: Reasonable Alternatives Considered**, specifically with reference to potential alternative siting zones for the BESS, Collector Compounds and Springwell Substation, as illustrated in **Figure 2.3: Zonal Masterplan**. When considering receptors that could be affected by development in any of the identified alternative siting zones, a ‘worst case scenario’ has been assumed, namely that there would be development in that particular siting zone. Therefore, whilst it may be the case that not all of the zones identified for collector compounds are ultimately required for such infrastructure, the assessment assumes this is present in each zone.
- 9.4.12. At the current time, detailed mitigation proposals have not been developed but will be incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development for the DCO application prior to completion of the ES. In relation to the mitigation of landscape and visual effects this will include, amongst other things, new planting (for example new hedgerows, woodland and scrub planting). This preliminary assessment assumes that there would be relatively extensive new hedgerow and tree planting in Springwell East and Springwell Central but that new planting in Springwell West may be more targeted reflecting the more open character of the landscape. It is likely that there would be a concentration of new mitigation planting around the BESS and Springwell Substation when their final locations are fixed. In this preliminary assessment, new planting is treated as additional (or secondary) mitigation as it has not yet been embedded into the project design. This approach will be reviewed

in the ES by which time the mitigation planting will have become embedded into the design of the Proposed Development.

9.4.13. For the purposes of this preliminary assessment (and ultimately the ES), the following assumptions have been made about the growth rate of newly planted hedgerows and trees:

- Newly planted hedgerows and woodland/shrub will be planted as young transplants or 'whips'. In Year 1 after construction the planting stock would typically be approximately 0.6m to 0.8m high and contained within tree protected tubes.
- Hedgerows in Year 10 will be 3.5m in height. This makes an assumption that the plants do not put on much growth in the first planting season and then put on an average of 0.4m growth each subsequent year. This means that all new hedgerows are considered to be at full maturity in Year 10 and are maintained at 3.5m by ongoing management.
- New woodland/scrub planting established as transplants will be 4m in height as it is not maintained at a lower height as is the case for hedgerows.
- Where hedgerow trees are planted as taller specimens or where mature stock is planted elsewhere it is assumed that the trees will be planted as extra heavy standards and in Year 1 these will have a height of 3m to 3.5m. By Year 10, it is assumed that these trees will have a height of approximately 6m.
- Except where vegetation is managed at a specific height (e.g. hedgerows) it is assumed that trees and scrub will continue to grow naturally over the remaining period of the Proposed Development.

### ***Embedded mitigation measures***

9.4.14. This preliminary assessment has been based on the principle that certain mitigation measures have been 'embedded' into the design of the Proposed Development to remove or reduce potentially significant effects as far as practicable, for example by the considered placement of infrastructure. Embedded (primary) environmental mitigation measures that are considered to be an inherent part of the Proposed Development are detailed within **Table 4.4 of Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**. Those embedded mitigation measures relevant to this preliminary landscape and visual amenity assessment comprise the following:

- There will be a minimum 15m offset from built development to existing woodland, whilst noting that it is possible that individual trees may need to be removed to facilitate construction.

- There will be a minimum 10m offset from the Proposed Development to all existing hedgerows.
- There will be a minimum 250m offset from ITS, BESS, Project Substation and Collector Compounds to residential properties.
- Boundary fencing will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches.
- All internal access tracks and cable routes will use existing tracks, hedgerow crossings and/or gaps in the hedgerows wherever practical.
- Structural planting is to consist of native and indigenous species and wherever possible from local provenance.
- Grid connection cable route will comprise below ground cables.
- All existing PRow will be retained where practically possible in their existing alignment during the operation of the Proposed Development.
- There will be a minimum 50m offset of ITSs from PRow.
- The Proposed Development (excluding new landscaping where appropriate) will be set back at least 15m either side from existing or proposed PRow, except where crossings are necessary.

### **Assessment methodology**

- 9.4.15. This section provides a summary of the methodology adopted for the preliminary assessment of the potential likely significant landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development. Full details of the assessment methodology, including assessment criteria, are provided in **Appendix 9.1**.
- 9.4.16. In accordance with GLVIA3, the significance of landscape and visual effects is determined by considering in tandem the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors (landscape elements, landscape character areas, landscape designations and groups of people who may be affected by changes in visual amenity) and the magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development.
- 9.4.17. The assessment is informed by initial desk studies and site visits to identify receptors.
- 9.4.18. The desk study included the preparation of several Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) plans (presented in **Figures 9.5 to 9.8**) to identify potential areas of visibility of the Proposed Development. This information has been used to aid the identification of the study area and receptors likely to be affected. Viewpoints have been identified through consultation to represent a range of distances, directions and receptors located in areas of visibility identified using

the ZTV study and site survey. Viewpoints are used as ‘sample’ locations to inform the assessment of effects on receptors.

- 9.4.19. This preliminary assessment provides a full baseline study, including judgements of sensitivity for each receptor, and an initial indication of potential likely significant effects. It should be noted, however, that in the interests of proportionality, a detailed justification for the judgements made regarding magnitude of change and significance of effects is not provided in this preliminary assessment. The LVIA presented in the ES will provide a full justification for all judgements.
- 9.4.20. For this preliminary assessment, the potential likely effects on all identified receptors are reported, together with an initial consideration of whether the effect is significant or not.

**Sensitivity**

- 9.4.21. Sensitivity (described as High, Medium or Low) is judged by combining component judgments about the value and susceptibility of the receptor, as illustrated in **Table 9.4** and **Table 9.5**. An explanation of how susceptibility and value has been determined is provided in **Appendix 9.1**. Detailed susceptibility and value criteria for landscape receptors are established in **Appendix 9.3** whilst detailed visual susceptibility and value criteria are set out in **Appendix 9.1**. It should be noted that intermediate assessments of value or susceptibility may be applied (e.g. High/Medium, Medium/Low or National/Regional, Regional/Community). Likewise, when combining susceptibility and value to determine sensitivity, an intermediate assessment is adopted where overall sensitivity is judged to lie between levels. In all instances, professional judgement is employed and the tables below should not be interpreted rigidly to give a specific answer. A slightly greater weight is given to susceptibility in judging the sensitivity of visual receptors.

**Table 9.4 Landscape sensitivity**

		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National	High	High/medium	Medium
	Regional	High/Medium	Medium	Medium/Low
	Community	Medium	Medium/Low	Low



**Table 9.5 Visual sensitivity**

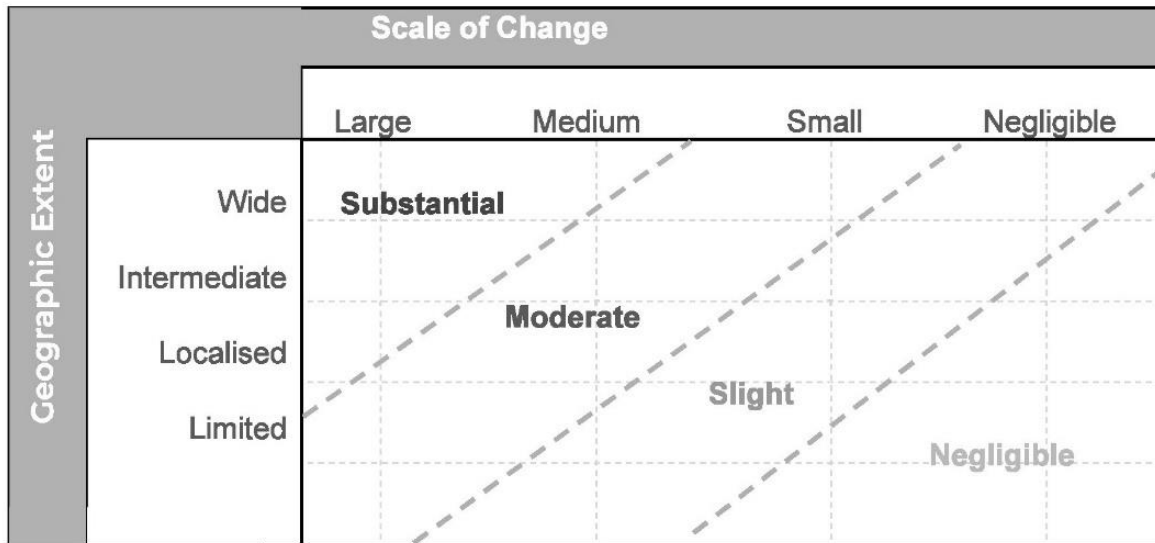
		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
Value	National	High	High/medium	Medium
	Regional	High/Medium	High/Medium	Medium/Low
	Community	High/Medium	Medium	Low

**Magnitude of change**

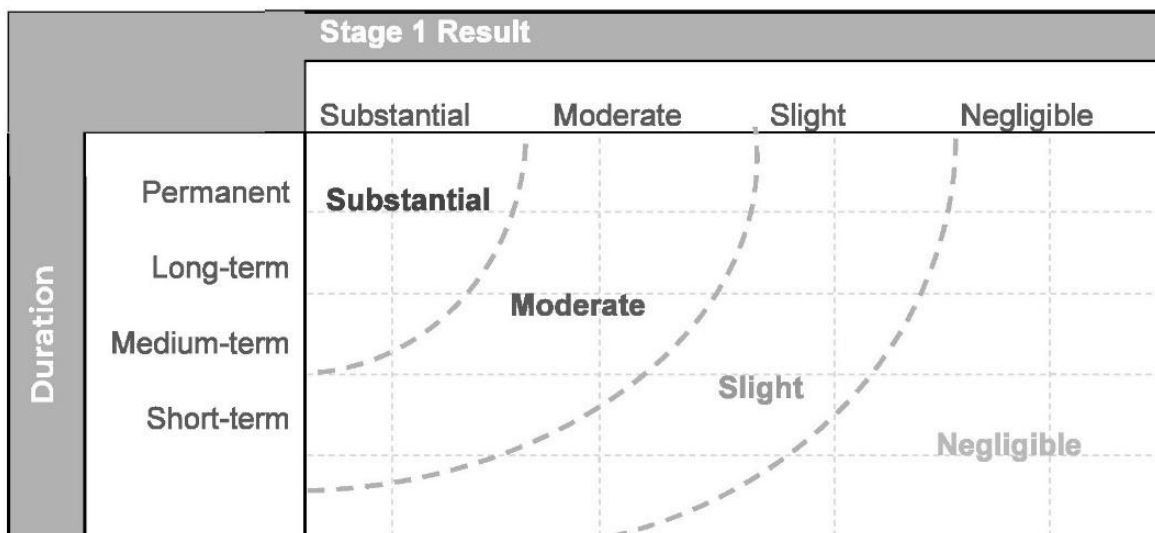
- 9.4.22. The magnitude of change arising from the Proposed Development (described as Substantial, Moderate, Slight or Negligible) is assessed in terms of its scale, geographic extent of the area or receptor that is influenced and its duration.
- 9.4.23. Scale of change (expressed as Large, Medium, Small, Negligible) is the first and primary factor in determining magnitude. Geographical extent and duration of the effect are modifying factors to the overall magnitude judgement which may be higher if the effect is particularly widespread and/or long lasting, or lower if it is constrained in geographic extent and/or timescale.
- 9.4.24. The diagrams presented below in **Plate 9.1** illustrate in outline how these two modifying factors are considered in a two-stage process. A judgement is first formed about the scale of the change to the landscape or visual receptor. The geographic extent of the effect is then considered as a modifying influence in the first part of **Plate 9.1** (Stage 1). The result or outcome of Stage 1 is then considered again in relation to the duration of the effect as illustrated in the second part of **Plate 9.1**. The outcome of Stage 2 is the overall magnitude of effect judgement reported in the assessment. **Plate 9.1** is not intended to be interpreted rigidly as a chart to provide definitive answers; professional judgement is employed as appropriate to arrive at an overall judgement on the magnitude of change. A definition of the terms used in the diagrams in **Plate 9.1** is provided in **Appendix 9.1**.

**Plate 9.1 Illustration of how magnitude of change is established**

**Stage 1 - Modifying Influence of Geographic Extent on Magnitude of Effect**



**Stage 2 - Modifying Influence of Duration on Magnitude of Effect**



9.4.25. Where magnitude of change (or other judgements) is judged to lie between levels, an intermediate assessment is adopted and is expressed as e.g. Moderate/slight.

**Significance of effects**

9.4.26. The significance of a landscape or visual effect is assessed through professional judgement, combining the sensitivity of the receptor with the predicted magnitude of change, as summarised in **Table 9.6**. **Table 9.6** is not used as a prescriptive tool and illustrates the typical outcomes, allowing for the exercise of professional judgement.

**Table 9.6 Significance of landscape and visual effects**

		Magnitude of Change			
		Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
Receptor Sensitivity	High	Major	Major/ Moderate	Moderate	Minor
	Medium	Major/ Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/ Minor	Minor/Negligible
	Low	Moderate	Moderate/ Minor	Minor	Negligible

9.4.27. Where the effect has been classified as Major or Major/Moderate, this is considered to be equivalent to likely significant effects. Where Moderate effects are predicted, professional judgement will be applied to determine whether the effect is significant or not and justification provided for the judgement reached. Effects of Moderate/Minor, Minor, Minor/Negligible or Negligible significance are considered to be not significant.

**Beneficial/adverse effects**

9.4.28. Landscape and visual effects can be beneficial or adverse and, in some instances, may be considered neutral. Neutral effects are those which overall are neither adverse nor positive but may incorporate a combination of both. Whether an effect is beneficial, neutral or adverse is identified based on professional judgement.

9.4.29. Changes to rural landscapes involving construction of man-made objects of a large scale are generally considered to be adverse and in this preliminary assessment, it has been assumed that where new infrastructure is introduced into the landscape or views, this will generally constitute an adverse effect.

**Extent of assessment in this PEIR**

9.4.30. The purpose of a LVIA when produced in the context of an EIA is to identify and report any likely significant landscape and visual effects.

9.4.31. In this preliminary assessment, a professional judgement has been made as to whether effects have the potential to be identified as significant based on the parameters outlined and an initial assessment of sensitivity and magnitude of change. Final statements of significance will be reported in the ES once the design and mitigation has been fixed for the purposes of the DCO application.

**Night-time assessment**

9.4.32. As noted in **Chapter 2: Description of the Proposed Development**, no areas of the Site will be permanently lit. Whilst it

is assumed that the Springwell Substation compound, BESS compounds, and Collector Compounds will include manually operated lighting, in accordance with relevant standards, the lighting design will be directional and only operated in case of emergency or when needed during maintenance works being undertaken during hours of darkness. Due to the infrequent and temporary nature of any night-time lighting, a night-time assessment has not been included in this preliminary assessment. This will be reviewed at ES stage when further details are available and if necessary, a methodology for the night-time assessment will be set out in the ES.

### **Residential visual amenity assessment**

- 9.4.33. With respect to visual impact, the focus of LVIA is on public views and public visual amenity. Residential Visual Amenity Assessment is a stage beyond LVIA and focuses exclusively on private views and private visual amenity and may be used by the decision maker when weighing potential effects on Residential Amenity in the planning balance.
- 9.4.34. Technical Guidance Note 2/19 (TGN 2/19) notes that:
- “Changes in views and visual amenity are considered in the planning process. In respect of private views and visual amenity, it is widely known that, no one has ‘a right to a view’ and*
- “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.”*
- 9.4.35. A detailed Residential Visual Amenity Assessment presented in the ES will identify where the visual effects on residential visual amenity are of such a nature or magnitude that they may need to be considered in the overall balance of ‘Residential Amenity’ or ‘Living Conditions’. The point at which this happens is referred to as the ‘Residential Visual Amenity Threshold’.
- 9.4.36. A summary of the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment work undertaken to date, including a methodology for the full assessment to be included in the ES, is presented in **Appendix 9.5**. However, the full assessment of effects on residential visual amenity cannot be undertaken until the design for the Proposed Development for DCO application is fixed and mitigation measures developed as necessary.
- 9.4.37. Views or ‘visual amenity’ are just one component of the wider consideration of residential amenity and the two should not be confused. The latter is a planning matter and may include aspects such as noise, air quality, traffic, etc., and visual amenity.

Residential Visual Amenity Assessment considers the visual amenity aspects of residential amenity only. Where necessary, other aspects of residential amenity will be considered elsewhere in the ES, and it will be for decision makers to weigh all these aspects, and documents/assessments relating to them, in determining the acceptability of the Proposed Development.

- 9.4.38. Overall residential amenity will be discussed within the Planning Statement accompanying the DCO application for the Proposed Development.

#### **Distances**

- 9.4.39. Where distances are given in this chapter, these are approximate distances between the nearest above ground feature of the Proposed Development based on the parameter plans (not the Site boundary) and the nearest part of the receptor in question unless explicitly stated otherwise.

#### **Visual aids**

- 9.4.40. Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps have been generated using GIS to assist in identifying areas where visibility of the Proposed Development would not occur as well as in viewpoint selection, to illustrate areas from where part or all of the Proposed Development may be visible and to indicate its potential influence in the wider landscape.

- 9.4.41. Two types of ZTV have been presented in the LVIA:

- Standard Screening ZTVs – which take account of buildings and significant blocks of woodland in the landscape; and
- Detailed Screening ZTVs which also take account of hedgerows and other vegetation over 2.5m in height.

- 9.4.42. The following ZTVs have been prepared to help illustrate the potential visibility of the Proposed Development:

- **Figures 9.5a-d** – Standard Screening ZTVs for the Solar PV modules;
- **Figures 9.6a-d** – Detailed Screening ZTVs for the Solar PV modules;
- **Figures 9.7a-d** – Detailed Screening ZTVs for the Potential Siting Zones for Structures up to 6m; and
- **Figure 9.8** - Detailed Screening ZTV for the Potential Siting Zones for Structures up to 12m.

- 9.4.43. Annotated photographs of the existing views at all viewpoints are provided in **Volume 4** of this PEIR. The method of visualisation selected has been informed by Landscape Institute Technical Note

06/19<sup>8</sup>, with annotated photographs being the most appropriate approach at this PEIR stage before the design is finalised.

- 9.4.44. The methodology for production of the ZTVs and the visualisations is described in **Appendix 9.1**. Photowires and/or photomontage visualisations will be provided in the ES for key viewpoint locations yet to be agreed with consultees.

## 9.5. Summary of baseline conditions

- 9.5.1. **Figure 9.1** illustrates the landscape context for the Proposed Development, including the location of local landscape designations. The three land parcels (Springwell East, Central and West) fall across a broad and undulating plateau and dip slope which falls gradually eastwards from the A607 between Grantham and Lincoln towards the Lincolnshire Fens. Landform across the plateau is relatively gentle. Part of the plateau has a history of use for airfields and RAF airbases (notably RAF Digby). Modern large scale arable farming now sits alongside an older, sparse settlement pattern of small scale hamlets and isolated farmsteads.
- 9.5.2. Vegetation structure and the degree of enclosure created by hedgerows, woodland blocks and tree groups across the Site is variable. The landscape is notably more open in the west near the A15 and more enclosed in the east around Scopwick, Blankney and Kirkby Green.

### Landscape designations

- 9.5.3. No part of the Site or its immediately surrounding context falls within a statutorily designated landscape. The nearest AONB or National Park to the Site is the Lincolnshire Wolds AONB, located more than 20km to the northeast and would not be affected by any development within the Site. As noted in **Table 9.2** above, the AONB has been scoped out of further assessment.
- 9.5.4. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within 5km of any part of the Site; the nearest is located just over 6.5km to the northwest. Again, there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development at this distance.
- 9.5.5. There are also no local landscape designations covering any part of the Site. The nearest local designation is the Lincoln Cliff AGLV; an escarpment west of and parallel to the A607 between Grantham and Lincoln. This AGLV is illustrated on **Figure 9.1** and is located approximately 3km to the west of Springwell West. There would be no view of the Proposed Development from the Lincoln Cliff AGLV and as noted in **Table 9.2** above, the Lincoln Cliff AGLV has been scoped out of further assessment.

### Landscape character

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<sup>8</sup> Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, published by the Landscape Institute (2019);

- 9.5.6. Several published studies have informed this preliminary assessment. The primary descriptions of baseline landscape character are contained within:
- *National Character Area Profile<sup>9</sup> 47 (NCA 47) – Southern Lincolnshire Edge; and*
  - *North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment (NKLCA).*
- 9.5.7. At a national level, the Site falls within NCA 47 – Southern Lincolnshire Edge and the majority of the study area also falls within this NCA.
- 9.5.8. At a district level, the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment identifies four regional Landscape Character Types (LCTs)<sup>10</sup>. The Site and the entire study area falls within the Central Plateau LCT.
- 9.5.9. The LCTs are further subdivided into Landscape Character Sub-Areas (LCAs)<sup>11</sup>. Springwell West and Springwell Central fall within LCA 7 - The Limestone Heath LCA whilst Springwell East falls within LCA 11 - The Central Clays and Gravels LCA.
- 9.5.10. LCA 6 – Lincoln Cliff and LCA 13 – Fens lie approximately 3km to the west and 3km to the east respectively of the Site. The ZTVs presented in **Figures 9.5 to 9.8** demonstrate that there would be negligible visibility of the Site from either of these two adjoining LCAs.
- 9.5.11. Site survey work has concluded that there would be no view of the Proposed Development beyond the two host LCAs and as noted in **Table 9.2** above, LCA 6 and LCA 13 have been scoped out of further assessment.
- 9.5.12. Relevant extracts from the above two documents and an analysis of relevant LCAs is provided in **Appendix 9.2**.
- 9.5.13. The boundaries of the North Kesteven LCAs are illustrated on **Figure 9.2**.
- 9.5.14. Site survey work has identified that there are notable differences in the landscape character across the three identified parcels of land and these reflect the boundaries of the LCAs relatively accurately. Notably, the landscape within Springwell West and Springwell Central is more open with limited mature vegetation structure whereas the landscape within Springwell East is more enclosed with more dense and established vegetation.

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<sup>9</sup> A National Character Area (NCA) is a natural subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries.

<sup>10</sup> Landscape Character Types are defined as distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character (An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, 2014).

<sup>11</sup> Landscape Character Areas are the unique individual geographical areas in which landscape types occur (An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment, Natural England, 2014).

## Visual receptors

- 9.5.15. The primary visual receptors identified within the study area and likely to be affected by the Proposed Development include:
- Residents (within settlements and at isolated farmsteads/dwellings);
  - Users of public rights of way (PRoW); and
  - Users of the local and trunk road network.
- 9.5.16. Potential visual receptors of the Proposed Development are identified on **Figures 9.3a-d**.
- 9.5.17. The villages/hamlets of Scopwick, Kirkby Green and Blankney lie just beyond the boundaries of Springwell East. Scopwick Cemetery and the play area in Scopwick are noted as sensitive recreational receptor locations. Likewise, the Blankney Walks car park and picnic area and the Kirkby Green Stepping Out car park are identified as sensitive recreational receptor locations.
- 9.5.18. Likewise, the village of Ashby de la Launde lies south of Springwell Central and east of Springwell West.
- 9.5.19. The residential quarters within the barracks at RAF Digby lie just beyond the boundaries of Springwell Central and Springwell West and the sports fields and play area are identified as sensitive recreational receptor locations.
- 9.5.20. Elsewhere, there are isolated residential properties and farmsteads, which are discussed in **Appendix 9.5: Preliminary Residential Visual Amenity Assessment** and illustrated on **Figure 9.9**.
- 9.5.21. The ZTVs demonstrate that there would be no view from the settlements of Dunston, Metherringham, Martin, Timberland, Rowston, Digby, Bloxholm, Cranwell, Wellingore and Navenby; all of which lie within the LVIA study area. These settlements have been scoped out of further assessment and are not discussed further – see **Table 9.2**. Metherringham Airfield Visitor Centre is also noted as a local tourism and recreational receptor.
- 9.5.22. A review of the Lincolnshire County Council Definitive PRoW Map has shown several PRoWS in the surrounding area and across the parcels, including locally promoted routes. These are identified in **Figures 9.3a-d**.
- 9.5.23. The Spires and Steeples Trail (a regionally promoted recreational walk) runs north to south through Springwell East connecting Blankney and Scopwick.
- 9.5.24. The Ridge and Furrow Trail (another regionally promoted recreational walk) passes approximately 1km to the west of the Site.
- 9.5.25. The Viking Way (another regionally promoted recreational walk) passes approximately 2km to the west of the Site.



- 9.5.26. A series of locally promoted ‘Stepping Out’ walks pass through Springwell East and pass close to the boundaries of the Site within Springwell Central and Springwell West.
- 9.5.27. Bloxholm Woods car park and nature reserve walks are identified as a sensitive recreational receptor location.
- 9.5.28. Whilst there is a relatively high concentration of PRowS in Springwell East, there is a relative sparsity within Springwell West and Springwell Central.
- 9.5.29. The only recreational land use focussed on the landscape within the study area, other than the PRowS noted above, is Blankney Golf Course.
- 9.5.30. Springwell West and Springwell Central are also openly visible from the A15 trunk road and the B1191 (Heath Road) which runs between the A15 and Scopwick. Other minor roads and country lanes pass through Springwell West but again these are sparse.
- 9.5.31. There are no tourist attractions or recognised viewpoints within the study area from which the Proposed Development may be visible.

### Sensitivity of receptors

#### Landscape sensitivity appraisal

- 9.5.32. In order to inform the preliminary assessment of potentially significant effects on landscape character, a landscape sensitivity appraisal has been undertaken considering the various landscape susceptibility and value criteria, which combine to determine landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The appraisal draws upon observations contained within National Character Area Profile 47 and the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment (as summarised in **Appendix 9.2**); as well as observations made in the field during the baseline assessment of landscape character. It should be noted that both LCAs extend considerably beyond the study area. The conclusions regarding landscape sensitivity, therefore, relate specifically to the tract of the LCAs within the study area.
- 9.5.33. The landscape sensitivity appraisal is presented in **Appendix 9.3**. The principal findings of the appraisal are summarised below in **Table 9.7**.

**Table 9.7 Summary of landscape sensitivity**

Character Area		Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
LCA 7	- The Limestone Heath	Medium	Community	Medium/Low
LCA 11	- The Central Clays and Gravels	Medium/Low	Regional/Community	Medium/Low

### Sensitivity of visual receptors

9.5.34. Based on analysis to date, the visual receptors groups identified in **Table 9.8** are taken forward and will form the focus of further assessment in the LVIA. The sensitivity of these receptors groups varies and is also indicated in **Table 9.8**.

9.5.35. PRowS are grouped together based on the likely nature of the effects. Isolated residential properties and farmsteads are addressed as part of the receptor group in which they are most closely located. Further information on the closest residential properties can be found in **Appendix 9.5**.

9.5.36. All key visual receptor locations are shown on **Figures 9.3a-d**.

**Table 9.8 Summary of visual receptor sensitivity**

Visual Receptors	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Scopwick (settlement)	High	Community	High/Medium
Kirby (settlement) Green	High	Community	High/Medium
Blankney (settlement)	High	Community	High/Medium
Barracks at RAF Digby (settlement)	High	Community	High/Medium
Ashby de la Launde (settlement)	High	Community	High/Medium
PRowS between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green extending up to Blankney Walks Lane and the railway on the eastern site boundary (including several 'Stepping Out' walks)	High	Community/Regional	High/Medium
PRowS between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189	High	Community	High/Medium
PRow between RAF Digby and B1188 (Footpath R5/1)	High	Community	High/Medium
PRowS and lanes between Heath	High	Community	High/Medium

Visual Receptors	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Road, Bloxholm Lane and Green Man Lane extending up to the A15 north of RAF Digby			
Navenby Lane	Medium	Community	Medium
PRoWs between Bloxholm, Ashby de la Launde and Heath Road	High	Community	High/Medium
Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve Footpath	High	Regional	High/Medium
Church Lane, church and properties at Brauncewell	High	Community	High/Medium
PRoWs and lanes south west between A15 and Brauncewell	High	Community	High/Medium
Minor Roads to Temple Bruer and Thompsons Bottom Farm	Medium	Community	Medium
PRoWs and lanes north west between A15 and Wellingore Heath including New England Lane and Gorse Hill Lane	High	Community	High/Medium
Spires and Steeples Trail (linear route)	High	Regional	High/Medium
Ridge and Furrow Trail (linear route)	High	Regional	High/Medium
Viking Way and High Dike (linear route)	High	Regional	High/Medium
A15 trunk road (linear route)	Low	Community	Low

Visual Receptors	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
B1191 (Heath Road) (linear route)	Medium	Community	Medium
B1188 (linear route)	Medium	Community	Medium
B1189 (linear route)	Medium	Community	Medium

### Future baseline

9.5.37. For the purposes of this preliminary assessment, the future baseline has been taken to be the same as the current baseline. Over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, agricultural practices and crops may change resulting in alterations to the baseline arable landscape. Climate change may expediate this change in the landscape; however, such change is difficult to predict with any certainty and it is therefore assumed that the baseline will remain unaltered.

## 9.6. Likely effects, additional mitigation and residual effects

### General approach to existing landscape fabric

9.6.1. The project principles (outlined in **Chapter 4: Approach to EIA**) underlying the evolution of the Proposed Development include the commitment to retain existing vegetation wherever reasonably possible to retain the fabric of the Site and aid assimilation of development into its context. All internal access tracks and cable routes will use existing tracks, hedgerow crossings and/or gaps in the hedgerows wherever practicable.

9.6.2. Whilst some minor vegetation removal may be unavoidable, it is anticipated that this would be minimal and that there would be an overall net gain in quantity and quality of landscape fabric once mitigation planting becomes established.

### Preliminary viewpoint analysis

9.6.3. Thirty eight (38) viewpoints have been agreed, in consultation with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council, to represent the main landscape and visual receptors found in the study area.

9.6.4. The final LVIA presented in the ES will include a detailed viewpoint assessment carried out from the agreed viewpoints. In order to inform the assessment of potentially significant landscape and visual effects arising as a result of the Proposed Development in this PEIR, a preliminary viewpoint analysis is presented in **Appendix 9.4**.

9.6.5. The location of the viewpoints is shown on **Figure 9.4** (Viewpoint Location Plan) and also on the ZTVs presented in **Figures 9.5 to 9.8**.

- 9.6.6. Annotated panoramic photographs are provided to illustrate the potential extent of development visible at each viewpoint location in **Volume 4** (Viewpoints 1-38).
- 9.6.7. The preliminary viewpoint analysis presented in **Appendix 9.4** identifies which part or parts of the Proposed Development are likely to be visible from each viewpoint, based on interpretation of the parameters plans in this PEIR. Commentary is also provided where appropriate to indicate what measures may be proposed to mitigate the scale of the change in the view.

#### **Approach to mitigation and residual effects in the LVIA**

- 9.6.8. At the current time, detailed mitigation proposals are in the process of being developed. However, for the purposes of this PEIR, it is assumed that mitigation will be incorporated into the design of the Proposed Development before completion of the ES and, in relation to landscape and visual effects, this is most likely to include new planting (including new hedgerows, woodland and scrub planting). In this preliminary assessment, new planting is treated as additional (or secondary) mitigation. This approach will be reviewed in the ES by which time the mitigation planting will have become embedded in the design.
- 9.6.9. High quality design will be secured, in part, through the ongoing and careful site selection for the various components of the Proposed Development taking account of the potential landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development. Removal or disruption to any existing landscape fabric (i.e trees, hedgerows) will be minimised to that which is absolutely necessary for the construction of the Proposed Development.
- 9.6.10. A comprehensive landscape scheme will be developed in accordance with the principles of good design to integrate the Proposed Development into the landscape and to mitigate visual effects as far as practicable. The landscape strategy will be complementary to any biodiversity and other environmental objectives. The landscape design will seek to deliver landscape enhancements over and above the requirement to simply mitigate adverse effects.
- 9.6.11. The landscape mitigation proposals will be developed as part of the Proposed Development and be embedded into the DCO application. These can be secured through DCO Requirements.
- 9.6.12. In the LVIA presented in the ES, there will not be a separate assessment of effects before and after mitigation as this will be embedded into the design. Within this PEIR and in the ES, an assessment will be made, firstly, at a period in time when the new planting is implemented (Year 1 following construction) and, secondly, at a period in time when it is assumed that any new planting has become established (Year 10 following construction).

## **Construction and Decommissioning phases**

- 9.6.13. In terms of landscape and visual effects, it has been assumed that construction and decommissioning effects would be broadly similar and therefore the assessment below covers both phases.
- 9.6.14. The most significant effects on landscape character and visual amenity as a whole are likely to arise from the incremental increase in the in-situ infrastructure comprising the Proposed Development as reported in the subsequent section of the chapter and the presence of this infrastructure is likely to be more significant than the activities associated with the act of construction itself.
- 9.6.15. Likewise, during decommissioning, there would be an incremental decrease in the in-situ infrastructure comprising the Proposed Development, and this is likely to be more significant than the activities associated with the act of decommissioning itself.
- 9.6.16. In this preliminary assessment, once construction activity in the vicinity of a receptor has been completed and activity has moved on to somewhere else in the Site, the effects are treated as operational effects (i.e. the infrastructure in-situ in that particular location of the Site). Construction/decommissioning effects are treated as the additional effects associated with the act of constructing/decommissioning the Proposed Development and do not include the effects of the Proposed Development itself as it is incrementally built out/removed.
- 9.6.17. For the avoidance of doubt, with reference to the LVIA methodology, the construction and decommissioning phases are considered likely to give rise to medium term effects although it should be noted that in many locations construction/decommissioning activity would be completed much quicker than the overall construction/decommissioning period and here effects would be short term.
- 9.6.18. Effects during construction/decommissioning on landscape character would typically arise from:
- short-term change of farmland to a construction/decommissioning site including the formation of temporary works compounds;
  - increased vehicular movement and personnel in the landscape erecting/removing the component parts of the Proposed Development; and
  - changes to landscape fabric resulting from any vegetation removal or new planting (during construction only).
- 9.6.19. Effects during construction/decommissioning on visual receptors would typically arise from:
- short-term movement of vehicles and plant within and travelling to and from the Proposed Development to deliver

and install or remove the solar farm components, and other site infrastructure; and

- increasing/decreasing coverage of the panel areas with Solar PV modules and other components of the Proposed Development, with similar effects to the operational stage.

9.6.20. **Table 9.9** summarises the likely landscape and visual effects during construction/decommissioning on the receptors previously identified in **Table 9.8**.

9.6.21. For the purposes of this preliminary assessment, it has been assumed that where construction/decommissioning activity is introduced into the landscape or views, this will constitute an adverse effect.

9.6.22. It is unlikely that any additional (secondary) mitigation would be effective during the construction/decommissioning phases and therefore none have been identified in **Table 9.9**. However, once more detail is available about the likely construction/decommissioning activities, this will be reviewed to identify if any additional mitigation is appropriate.

**Table 9.9 Assessment of likely effects, additional mitigation and residual effects during construction and decommissioning**

Receptor/Matter	Likely effects/additional (secondary) mitigation/residual effects
LCA 7 Limestone Heath	<p>Likely effects</p> <p>It is likely that during construction/decommissioning there would be a large or medium scale of change to landscape character up to 1km from the Proposed Development in this LCA (potentially extending up to 2km from the Springwell Substation in the north). Beyond these distances however, there is unlikely to be any greater than a small or negligible scale of change in character.</p>
	<p>Additional (secondary) mitigation</p> <p>None identified</p>
	<p>Likely residual effects</p> <p>The sensitivity of this LCA is considered to be <b>medium/low</b>.  The likely scale of change would vary across the LCA from high to negligible with distance from the Site; high to medium scale of change occurring in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• from Green Man Lane in the north to just south of Dunston Pit Plantation and extending west of the A15 as far as Wellingore Heath, Temple Bruer and Brauncewell;</li> </ul>

**Receptor/Matter Likely effects/additional (secondary) mitigation/residual effects**

- to the east of the A15, potentially extending up to Heath Road as far as RAF Digby;
- on the eastern side of Heath Road extending up to a series of plantations to the east (Bloxham Woods, Ashby Thorns, Rowston Covert); and
- across the tract of land between RAF Digby, Scopwick, the B1188 and Rowston Covert.

Across this area as a whole there would be a **substantial or moderate** magnitude of change and an effect of **major or major/moderate** significance. Collectively this would constitute a **significant** effect on the LCA.

<p>LCA 11 Central Clays and Gravels</p>	<p>Likely effects</p>	<p>It is likely that during construction/decommissioning there would be a large or medium scale of change to landscape character within a tightly defined tract of this LCA contained by the B1188 to the west, Blankney Walks Lane to the north, Trundle Lane to the south and the railway embankment along the eastern boundary of the Site. Beyond these boundaries, there is unlikely to be any greater than a small or negligible scale of change in character.</p>
	<p>Additional (secondary) mitigation</p>	<p>None identified</p>
	<p>Likely residual effects</p>	<p>The sensitivity of this LCA is considered to be <b>medium/low</b>.  The likely scale of change would vary across the LCA from high to negligible with distance from the Site; high to medium scale of change occurring in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a tract of the LCA contained by the B1188 to the west, Blankney Walks Lane to the north, Trundle Lane to the south and the railway embankment along the eastern boundary of the Site.</li> </ul> <p>Across this area there would be a <b>substantial or moderate</b> magnitude of change and an effect of <b>major/moderate</b> significance. Collectively this would constitute a <b>significant</b> effect on part of the LCA as defined above.</p>
<p>Scopwick, Kirkby Green and</p>	<p>Likely effects</p>	<p>It is unlikely that there would be any view of the proposed construction/decommissioning activities</p>



Receptor/Matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
Blankney (including recreational receptor locations therein)		from within the villages of Scopwick, Blankney or Kirkby Green due to intervening vegetation.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>negligible</b> (tending towards no effect at all) and the likely significance of effect is <b>negligible</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .
RAF Digby (including recreational receptor locations therein)	Likely effects	It is likely that there would be views of construction/decommissioning at relatively close proximity from some properties.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>moderate</b> and the likely significance of effect is <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
Ashby de la Launde	Likely effects	It is likely that there would be distant glimpses only of construction/decommissioning from the edge of Ashby de la Launde.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>negligible</b> (tending towards no effect at all) and the likely significance of effect is <b>negligible</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .
Individual/ Isolated Residential Properties	Likely effects	It is likely that there would be views of construction/decommissioning at relatively close proximity from a small number of individual isolated properties. However, at this time insufficient detail is available about the construction/decommissioning activities to comment on individual cases.

Receptor/Matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>substantial</b> magnitude of change at a small number of individual isolated properties and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>major</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green extending up to Blankney Walks Lane and the railway on the eastern site boundary	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction/decommissioning there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from many of the PRoWs in this group although activity is only likely to be experienced along any individual footpath for a short term period.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction/decommissioning there would be no greater than a small scale of change in views from this network of footpaths.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>slight/negligible</b> and the likely significance of effect is <b>minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .

Receptor/Matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
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PRoW between RAF Digby and B1188 (Footpath R5/1)	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction/decommissioning there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of this footpath, although activity is only likely to be experienced along for a short term period.
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Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
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Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
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PRoWs and lanes between Heath Road, Bloxholm Lane and Green Man Lane extending up to the A15 north of RAF Digby	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view on these PRoWs.
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Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
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Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>slight</b> and the likely significance of effect is <b>moderate/minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .
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Navenby Lane	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of this road
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Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
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Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
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Receptor/Matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
PRoWs between Bloxholm, Ashby de la Launde and Heath Road	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view from these PRoWs.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>slight</b> and the likely significance of effect is <b>moderate/minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .
Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve Footpath	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of this footpath.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
Church Lane, church and properties at Brauncewell	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view on this group of receptors.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>slight</b> and the likely significance of effect is <b>moderate/minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .
ProWs and lanes south west between A15 and Brauncewell	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of these footpaths.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified

Receptor/Matter	Likely effects	effects/additional (secondary) mitigation/residual effects
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
Minor Roads to Temple Bruer and Thompsons Bottom Farm	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of these roads.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
PRoWs and lanes north west between A15 and Wellingore Heath including New England Lane and Gorse Hill Lane	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of these footpaths.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>major/moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
Spires and Steeples Trail (linear route)	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from the section of this trail between Blankney and Scopwick only.

Receptor/Matter	Likely effects/additional (secondary) effects	mitigation/residual effects
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.
Ridge and Furrow Trail (linear route)	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view from this trail.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>slight</b> and the likely significance of effect is <b>moderate/minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .
Viking Way and High Dike (linear route)	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view from this trail.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>slight</b> and the likely significance of effect is <b>moderate/minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .
A15 trunk road (linear route)	Likely effects	It is likely that during construction there would be a large scale of change to views from the A15 between approximately Green Man Lane in the north and Dunston House in the south.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>low</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage

Receptor/Matter		Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
			it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate/minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .
B1191 Road)	(Heath (linear route)	Likely effects	It is possible that during construction there would be a large or medium scale of change to views in places from the Heath Road between the A15 and RAF Digby.
		Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
		Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . Noting that moderate effects may or may not be significant, it is the professional opinion of the assessors that in this instance, the effect would be <b>not significant</b> .
B1188 route)	(linear	Likely effects	It is possible that during construction there would be a large or medium scale of change to views in places between Scopwick and Blankney.
		Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
		Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>medium</b> . Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of construction/decommissioning detail, at this stage it is assumed that there may be up to a <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and in this worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . Noting that moderate effects may or may not be significant, it is the professional opinion of the assessors that in this instance, the effect would be <b>not significant</b> .
B1189 route)	(linear	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a negligible scale of change in view from this road.

Receptor/Matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None identified
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>medium</b> . There would be a <b>negligible</b> magnitude of change (tending towards no effect at all) and the significance of effect would be <b>negligible</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .

### Operational phase

- 9.6.23. Operational effects are assessed at two distinct periods in time; at the completion of construction (year 1) and also at a point in time when it is assumed that most of the new mitigation planting including hedgerows will have become established (year 10). For the avoidance of doubt, with reference to the LVIA methodology, the year 1 effects are considered to be medium term effects whilst the year 10 effects are considered to be long term.
- 9.6.24. Effects during operation on landscape character would typically arise from:
- the long-term change of farmland to a solar farm with associated BESS and grid infrastructure; and
  - changes to vegetation cover and accessibility.
- 9.6.25. Effects during operation on visual receptors would arise from changes to views towards the panel areas to include the fencing, tracks, solar modules and other infrastructure elements within fenced areas, both from static locations and when moving along routes (both existing and proposed) through the landscape.
- 9.6.26. Changes to rural landscapes involving construction of man-made objects of a large scale are generally considered to be adverse and in this preliminary assessment, it has been assumed that where new infrastructure is introduced into the landscape or views, this will generally constitute an adverse effect.

**Table 9.10 Assessment of likely effects, additional mitigation and residual effects during operation**

Receptor/matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
LCA 7 Limestone Heath	Likely effects	It is likely that during operation there would be a large or medium scale of change to landscape character up 1km from the Proposed Development in this LCA (potentially extending up to 2km from the Springwell Substation in the north). Beyond these distances however, there



**Receptor/matter    Likely effects/additional (secondary) mitigation/residual effects**

is unlikely to be any greater than a small or negligible scale of change in character.

Additional (secondary) mitigation

A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.

Likely residual effects

The sensitivity of this LCA is considered to be **medium/low**.

Year 1 – The likely scale of change would vary across the LCA from high to negligible with distance from the Site; high to medium scale of change occurring in the following locations:

- from Green Man Lane in the north to just south of Dunston Pit Plantation and extending west of the A15 as far as Wellingore Heath, Temple Bruer and Brauncewell;
- to the east of the A15, potentially extending up to Heath Road as far as RAF Digby;
- on the eastern side of Heath Road extending up to a series of plantations to the east (Bloxham Woods, Ashby Thorns, Rowston Covert); and
- across the tract of land between RAF Digby, Scopwick, the B1188 and Rowston Covert.

Across this area as a whole there would be a **substantial or moderate** magnitude of change and an effect of **major/moderate** significance. Collectively this would constitute a **significant** effect on part of the LCA as defined above.

Year 10 - Although the scale of change and overall significance of effect is likely to be reduced by mitigation, it is likely that effects on landscape character will remain in the long term across much of the same tract of the LCA identified above. Across this area as a whole, there would remain a **substantial or moderate** magnitude of change and an effect of **major/moderate** significance. Collectively this would constitute a **significant** effect on part of the LCA as defined above.

LCA 11

Likely effects

It is likely that during operation there would be a large or medium scale of change to landscape character within a tightly defined tract of this

Receptor/matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
Central Clays and Gravels		LCA contained by the B1188 to the west, Blankney Walks Lane to the north, Trundle Lane to the south and the railway embankment along the eastern boundary of the Site. Beyond these boundaries, there is unlikely to be any greater than a small or negligible scale of change in character.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.
	Likely residual effects	<p>The sensitivity of this LCA is considered to be <b>medium/low</b>.</p> <p>Year 1 – The likely scale of change would vary across the LCA from high to negligible with distance from the Site; high to medium scale of change occurring in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a tract of the LCA contained by the B1188 to the west, Blankney Walks Lane to the north, Trundle Lane to the south and the railway embankment along the eastern boundary of the Site.</li> </ul> <p>Across this area there would be a <b>substantial or moderate</b> magnitude of change and an effect of <b>major/moderate</b> significance. Collectively this would constitute a significant effect on part of the LCA as defined above.</p> <p>Year 10 - The magnitude of change, and therefore the significance of effect, is likely to be reduced by mitigation. Across this area there would remain <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change and an effect of <b>moderate</b> significance. Noting that moderate effects may or may not be significant, it is the professional opinion of the assessors that in this instance, the effect would be <b>not significant</b>.</p>
Scopwick, Kirkby Green and Blankney (including recreational receptor locations therein)	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any view of the Proposed Development from within the villages of Scopwick, Blankney or Kirkby Green due to intervening vegetation.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None required

Receptor/matter		Likely effects/additional (secondary) effects	mitigation/residual effects
		Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . The magnitude of change would be <b>negligible</b> (tending towards no effect at all), and the significance of effect would also be <b>negligible</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .
RAF (including recreational receptor locations therein)	Digby	Likely effects	It is likely that there would be views of the Proposed Development at relatively close proximity to some properties.
		Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.
		Likely residual effects	<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b>.</p> <p>Year 1 - The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>moderate</b> and the likely significance is <b>major/moderate</b>. This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.</p> <p>Year 10 - The magnitude of change in view in view is likely to be <b>slight</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate/minor</b>. This would be <b>not significant</b>.</p>
Ashby de la Launde		Likely effects	It is likely that there would be distant glimpses of the Proposed Development from the edge of Ashby de la Launde.
		Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.
		Likely residual effects	<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b>.</p> <p>Year 1 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>slight/negligible</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate/minor</b>. This would be <b>not significant</b>.</p> <p>Year 10 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>negligible</b> (tending towards no effect at all) and the significance of effect would be <b>negligible</b>. This would be <b>not significant</b>.</p>
Individual/ Isolated		Likely effects	It is likely that there would be a large or medium scale of change in the views experienced by a

Receptor/matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
Residential Properties		relatively small number of isolated residential properties identified in <b>Appendix 9.5</b> .
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	The Applicant will seek to develop bespoke landscape mitigation measures where necessary.
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . It is possible that there would be a <b>substantial</b> or <b>moderate</b> magnitude of change at some properties depending on the final design for the ES and the mitigation measures adopted and in the worst case scenario the likely significance of effect would be <b>major</b> . This may give rise to <b>significant</b> visual effects at some individual or clusters of isolated properties throughout the study area. These are addressed in the preliminary Residential Visual Amenity Assessment presented in <b>Appendix 9.5</b> .
PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green extending up to Blankney Walks Lane and the railway on the eastern site boundary	Likely effects	It is likely that during operation there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from many of the PRoWs in this group.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Year 1 – The likely magnitude of change in the views from these PRoWs when considered together would be <b>substantial/moderate</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>major/moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect. Year 10 - The likely magnitude of change in the views from these PRoWs when considered together would be <b>moderate</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially remain a <b>significant</b> effect.
PRoWs between the railway on the eastern	Likely effects	It is likely that during operation there would be no greater than a small scale of change in views from this network of footpaths.

Receptor/matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
boundary and the B1189	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None required
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Year 1 - The magnitude of change would be <b>slight/negligible</b> , and the significance of effect would be <b>minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> . Year 10 – There would be no change to magnitude or significance in Year 10.
PRoW between RAF Digby and B1188 (Footpath R5/1)	Likely effects	It is likely that during operation there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from part of this footpath.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Year 1 – The likely magnitude of change in the views from this PRoW would be <b>substantial/moderate</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>major/moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect. Year 10 - The likely magnitude of change in the views from this PRoW would be <b>slight</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . Noting that moderate effects may or may not be significant, it is the professional opinion of the assessors that in this instance, the effect would be <b>not significant</b> .
PRoWs and lanes between Heath Road, Bloxholm Lane and Green Man Lane extending up to the A15 north of RAF Digby	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small or medium scale of change in view on these PRoWs.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Year 1 – The likely magnitude of change in the views from these PRoWs would be

**Receptor/matter    Likely effects/additional (secondary) mitigation/residual effects**

**moderate/slight** and the significance of effect would be **moderate**. Noting that moderate effects may or may not be significant, it is the professional opinion of the assessors that in this instance, the effect would be **not significant**.  
Year 10 - The likely magnitude of change in the views from these PRowS would remain **moderate/slight** and the significance of effect would be **moderate**. This would be **not significant**.

Navenby Lane    Likely effects    It is likely that during operation there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of this road.

Additional (secondary) mitigation    A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.

Likely residual effects    The sensitivity of these receptors is **medium**.  
Year 1 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be **moderate** and the significance of effect would be **moderate**. This would potentially give rise to a **significant** effect.  
Year 10 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be **moderate/slight** and the significance of effect would be **moderate/minor**. This would be **not significant**.

PRowS between Bloxholm, Ashby de la Launde and Heath Road    Likely effects    It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view overall from these PRowS.

Additional (secondary) mitigation    A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.

Likely residual effects    The sensitivity of these receptors is **high/medium**.  
Year 1 - The likely magnitude of change would be **slight/negligible**, and the significance of effect would be **minor**. This would be **not significant**.  
Year 10 – There would be no change to magnitude or significance in Year 10.

Receptor/matter	Likely effects/additional effects	(secondary) mitigation/residual effects
<p>Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve Footpath</p>	Likely effects	<p>It is likely that during operation there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of this footpath (mostly in winter).</p>
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	<p>A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.</p>
	Likely residual effects	<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b>.</p> <p>Year 1 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>substantial/moderate</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>major/moderate</b>. This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.</p> <p>Year 10 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>slight</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate/minor</b>. This would be <b>not significant</b>.</p>
<p>Church Lane, church and properties at Brauncewell</p>	Likely effects	<p>It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view on this group of receptors.</p>
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	<p>A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.</p>
	Likely residual effects	<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b>.</p> <p>Year 1 - The magnitude of change would be <b>slight</b>, and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate/minor</b>. This would be <b>not significant</b>.</p> <p>Year 10 – There would be no change to magnitude or significance in Year 10.</p>
<p>PRoWs and lanes south west between A15 and Brauncewell</p>	Likely effects	<p>It is likely that during operation there would be a medium scale of change to views from various lengths of these footpaths.</p>
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	<p>A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.</p>
	Likely residual effects	<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b>.</p>

**Receptor/matter    Likely effects/additional (secondary) mitigation/residual effects**

		<p>Year 1 – The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>moderate</b> and the likely significance is <b>major/moderate</b>. This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.</p> <p>Year 10 - The magnitude of change in view is likely to be <b>moderate</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>major/moderate</b>. This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.</p>
Minor Roads to Temple Bruer and Thompsons Bottom Farm	Likely effects	It is likely that during operation there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of these roads.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.
	Likely residual effects	<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>medium</b>.</p> <p>Year 1 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>substantial/moderate</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b>. This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.</p> <p>Year 10 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>moderate</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b>. This would potentially remain a <b>significant</b> effect.</p>
PRoWs and lanes north west between A15 and Wellingore Heath including New England Lane and Gorse Hill Lane	Likely effects	It is likely that during operation there would be a large or medium scale of change to views from various lengths of these footpaths.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape. Particular attention will be given to mitigating the effects of the Springwell Substation and BESS on these routes and this may involve more structural planting and potentially landform alteration.
	Likely residual effects	<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b>.</p> <p>Year 1 - Adopting a worst case scenario and in the absence of detail regarding Springwell Substation and BESS, the likely magnitude of change in view would potentially be <b>substantial</b> and the significance of effect would</p>



**Receptor/matter    Likely effects/additional (secondary) mitigation/residual effects**

be **major**. This would potentially give rise to a **significant** effect.

Year 10 - Although the magnitude of change and significance of effect is likely to be reduced by mitigation in places, it is likely that **significant** effects on views will remain in the long term.

Spires and Steeples Trail (linear route)	Likely effects	It is likely that during operation there would be a medium scale of change to views along a short section of this trail between Blankney and Scopwick.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Year 1 – The magnitude of change is likely to be <b>moderate/slight</b> and the likely significance is <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect. Year 10 - The magnitude of change in view is likely to be <b>slight</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate/minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> .

Ridge and Furrow Trail (linear route)	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view from this trail.
	Additional (secondary) mitigation	None required
	Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Year 1 - The magnitude of change would be <b>slight/negligible</b> , and the significance of effect would be <b>minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> . Year 10 – There would be no change to magnitude or significance in Year 10.

Viking Way and High Dike (linear route)	Likely effects	It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view from this trail.
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Receptor/matter		Likely effects/additional (secondary) effects	mitigation/residual effects
		Additional (secondary) mitigation	None required
		Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>high/medium</b> . Year 1 - The magnitude of change would be <b>slight/negligible</b> , and the significance of effect would be <b>minor</b> . This would be <b>not significant</b> . Year 10 – There would be no change to magnitude or significance in Year 10.
A15 trunk road (linear route)	Likely effects		It is likely that during operation there would be a large scale of change to views from the A15 between approximately Green Man Lane in the north and Dunston House in the south.
		Additional (secondary) mitigation	A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape. It is assumed that there will be considerable new planting around the new BESS and Springwell Substation.
		Likely residual effects	The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>low</b> . Year 1 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>substantial</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b> . This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect on from the A15 between approximately Green Man Lane in the north and Dunston House in the south. Year 10 - Although the magnitude of change and significance of effect is likely to be reduced by mitigation in places, it is likely that <b>significant</b> effects on views will remain in the long term along much of the same section of the road as highlighted above.
B1191 (Heath Road) (linear route)	Likely effects		It is likely that during operation there would be a large scale of change to views from Heath Road close to the junction with the A15 but that beyond Bloxholm Woods there would be no greater than a small or negligible change in the view.

Receptor/matter				Likely effects/additional (secondary) mitigation/residual effects	
		Additional (secondary) mitigation		A landscape scheme will be developed to integrate the Proposed Development into the receiving landscape.	
		Likely residual effects		<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>medium</b>.  Year 1 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>moderate</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate</b>. This would potentially give rise to a <b>significant</b> effect.</p> <p>Year 10 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>moderate/slight</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate/minor</b>. This would be <b>not significant</b>.</p>	
B1188	(linear route)	Likely effects		It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a small scale of change in view from this road.	
		Additional (secondary) mitigation		None required	
		Likely residual effects		<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>medium</b>.  Year 1 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>slight</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>moderate/minor</b>. This would be <b>not significant</b>.</p> <p>Year 10 - The likely magnitude of change in view would be <b>negligible</b> and the significance of effect would be <b>negligible</b>. This would be <b>not significant</b>.</p>	
B1189	(linear route)	Likely effects		It is unlikely that there would be any greater than a negligible scale of change in view from this road.	
		Additional (secondary) mitigation		None required	
		Likely residual effects		<p>The sensitivity of these receptors is <b>medium</b>.  The magnitude of change would be <b>negligible</b> (tending towards no effect at all), and the significance of effect would also be <b>negligible</b>.  This would be <b>not significant</b>.</p>	

## 9.7. Opportunities for environmental enhancement

- 9.7.1. As the design of the Proposed Development evolves, localised opportunities for landscape enhancement will be identified and embedded into the final design. The types of opportunities for environmental enhancement which may be brought forward for the DCO application are considered below.
- 9.7.2. As well as providing visual mitigation, proposed tree and hedgerow planting may enhance the existing landscape fabric and character and contribute to the 'landscape condition/quality' aspect of landscape value.
- 9.7.3. It is anticipated that new permissive footpaths may be proposed where they would provide improved access by way of connecting disjointed areas of the network of PRoW; reduce the need to walk along roads without pavements or through areas where there may be difficulties in managing the different requirements of recreation and livestock; or provide improved options for circular walks. These access improvements may contribute to the 'amenity and recreation' aspect of landscape value.
- 9.7.4. Interpretation may be provided at points of interest along the PRoW network and permissive routes within the Site boundary. These may identify information of local landscape, biodiversity and heritage interest. In addition, some interpretation may describe aspects of the Proposed Development itself – primarily in areas where the Proposed Development would be more openly visible. This interpretation may contribute to the 'Cultural heritage' and/or 'Cultural associations' aspects of landscape value.
- 9.7.5. Measures may be taken to improve access and wayfinding within the Site – which would include mapped and waymarked routes and improvements to stiles, gates and bridges as required, and parking areas. These access improvements may contribute to the 'amenity and recreation' aspect of landscape value.
- 9.7.6. Biodiversity enhancements may contribute to the 'Natural Heritage' aspect of landscape value.

## 9.8. Intra-project combined effects

- 9.8.1. Some of the individual landscape features identified within this preliminary assessment (e.g. existing trees and hedgerows) also have biodiversity value and, in some cases, cultural or heritage value. When considering the significance of landscape effects on any such features, the biodiversity, cultural and heritage values associated with them have been taken into account.
- 9.8.2. Furthermore, the landscape provides ecosystem services beyond purely the aesthetic and when considering the significance of effects on landscape character any biodiversity, recreational, cultural or heritage values associated with the landscape have been taken into account.

- 9.8.3. It is recognised that there is the potential for the interaction and combination of residual effects identified in other environmental assessments presented in this PEIR to affect certain visual receptors discussed in this chapter. This could include, for example, effects on residential receptors and/or users of PRoW arising from visual, noise and air quality (dust) impacts. The intra-project combined effects will be considered within the ES once relevant assessments are further progressed.
- 9.8.4. Inter-project effects are assessed and presented in **Chapter 15: Cumulative Effects**.

## 9.9. Difficulties and uncertainties

- 9.9.1. The information provided in this PEIR is preliminary and is based on the information available at the time of writing. The final assessment of likely significant effects will be reported in the ES.
- 9.9.2. There have not been any difficulties or uncertainties in relation to the information presented in this preliminary assessment.

## 9.10. Further work to inform the ES

- 9.10.1. This chapter provides preliminary landscape and visual information based on design development of the Proposed Development to date and the data gathered at this point in time. Some of the information gathered will be supplemented and provided in full and final form within the ES.
- 9.10.2. This PEIR is intended to inform consultation and a more detailed assessment of the effects on identified sensitive receptors will be presented in the ES.



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