The Sizewell C Project

6.3 Volume 2 Main Development Site

Chapter 13 Landscape and Visual

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13. Landscape and Visual

13.1 Introduction

13.1.1 This chapter of **Volume 2** of the Environmental Statement (**ES**) presents an assessment of the landscape and visual effects arising from the construction and operation of the Sizewell C Project (referred to throughout this volume as 'the proposed development'). This includes an assessment of potential impacts, the significance of effects, the requirements for mitigation and the residual effects.

13.1.2 Detailed descriptions of the site, the proposed development and the different phases of development are provided in **Chapters 1** to **4** of this volume of the **ES**. A description of the anticipated activities for the decommissioning of the Sizewell C power station, including a summary of the types of environmental effects likely to occur is provided in **Chapter 5** of this volume. A glossary of terms and list of abbreviations used in this chapter is provided in **Volume 1, Appendix 1A** of the **ES**.

13.1.3 This assessment has been informed by data from the following assessment chapters within the ES and other reports:

- **Terrestrial ecology and ornithology** of **Volume 2, Chapter 14**.
- **Amenity and recreation** of **Volume 2, Chapter 15**.
- **Terrestrial historic environment** of **Volume 2, Chapter 16**.
- **Marine ecology** of **Volume 2, Chapter 22**.
- **Lighting Management Plan** of **Volume 2, Appendix 2B**.
- **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** contained within **Book 8** (Doc Ref. 8.2).

13.1.4 This assessment makes reference to information presented in the following appendices of this volume:

- **Appendix 13A**: Illustrative viewpoints.
- **Appendix 13B**: Night-time appraisal.

- **Appendix 13C**: Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Natural Beauty and Special Qualities Indicators.
- **Appendix 13D**: Special Landscape Areas Paper.
- **Appendix 13E**: Landscape and Visual Receptors judged to experience negligible effects.
- **Appendix 13F**: Non-significant landscape and visual effects.
- **Appendix 13G**: Off-site developments landscape and visual assessment.
- **Appendix 13H**: Landscape and Visual Assessment Consultation report.
- **Appendix 13I**: Tree Survey and Constraints Plan (Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants).

13.1.5 A standalone ES was prepared for the Sizewell B relocated facilities works for submission with the hybrid planning application under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (East Suffolk Council application ref. DC/19/1637/FUL). Chapter 7 of the Sizewell B relocated facilities ES (refer to **Volume 1, Appendix 2A**) included an assessment of likely significant landscape and visual effects and identified mitigation specific to Sizewell B relocated facilities works. However, as the Sizewell B relocated facilities works form part of the Sizewell C Project and consent is sought for these works through the Development Consent Order (DCO), an updated assessment of the likely significant effects of these works is also set out in this chapter.

13.2 Legislation, policy and guidance

13.2.1 Overarching legislation and policy of relevance for the Sizewell C Project across disciplines is outlined in **Volume 1**, **Chapter 3** of the **ES**.

13.2.2 This section provides an overview of the specific legislation, policy and guidance of relevance to the assessment of the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development. Overarching policy and legislation related to the consideration of landscape and visual impacts is contained in **Volume 1 Appendix 6I** of the **ES**.

13.2.3 Policies of relevance to this chapter include those which relate to the protection of landscape character and views; and those relating to valued landscapes including the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and locally designated Special Landscape Areas.

13.2.4 The response to policy requirements relating to 'good design' is also described in section 13.5 of this chapter.

a) International

13.2.5 No additional international legislation or policy is deemed relevant to the assessment for this site.

b) National

13.2.6 At a national level, the relevant National Policy Statements (NPSs) are considered alongside the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and the Planning Practice Guidance.

13.2.7 The relevant NPSs for the landscape and visual assessment of the proposed development include the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1) (NPS EN-1), National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6) (NPS EN-6) Volumes I and II and National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5) (NPS EN-5).

13.2.8 The NPS EN-1 (Ref. 13.1) sets out national policy for the energy infrastructure. NPS EN1, together with the relevant technology specific NPS, NPS EN-6 (Ref. 13.2 and Ref. 13.3) set the primary policy basis for the Planning Inspectorate (formerly the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC)) to determine applications for energy development that fall within the scope of the NPSs.

13.2.9 Reference is also made to NPS EN-5 (Ref. 13.4) which, taken together with EN-1, provide the primary basis for decisions taken by the Planning Inspectorate on applications it receives for electricity networks infrastructure.

13.2.10 **Table 13.1** presents a summary of the relevant planning policy contained within the NPSs, together with consideration of how the advice has been taken into account in this chapter.

Table 13.1: Requirements of the National Policy Statements.

Ref.	NPS Topic Requirement.	How the Requirement has been Addressed.
Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1).		
5.9.9	*"… AONBs have been confirmed by the Government as having the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. Each of these designated areas has specific statutory purposes which help ensure their continued protection. The conservation of the natural beauty of the landscape and countryside should be given substantial weight by the IPC in deciding on applications for development consent in these areas".*	The Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and the purpose of conserving and enhancing it has been an important consideration throughout the assessment and design process. EDF Energy has liaised with the AONB Partnership to agree the indicators of the AONB's natural beauty and its special qualities, which form the basis of the assessment of effects on the AONB within the landscape and visual assessment chapters.
5.9.10	*"... Nevertheless, the IPC may grant development consent on these areas (AONBs) in exceptional circumstances". The development should be demonstrated to be in the public interest and consideration of such applications should include an assessment of:* • *The need for development, including in terms of national considerations, and the impact of consenting or not consenting it upon the local economy.* • *The cost of, and scope for, developing elsewhere outside the designated area or meeting the need for it in some other way, taking account of the policy on alternatives set out in Section 4.4; and* • *Any detrimental effect on the environment, the landscape and recreational opportunities, and the extent to which that could be moderated".*	
5.9.12	"*The duty to have regard to the purposes of nationally designated areas also applies when considering applications for projects outside the boundaries of these areas which may have impacts within them. The aim should be to avoid compromising the purposes of designation and such projects should be designed sensitively given the various siting, operational, and other relevant constraints*."	
5.9.14	"*Outside nationally designated areas, there are local landscapes that may be highly valued locally and protected by local designation. Where a local development document in England… has policies based on landscape character assessment, these should be paid particular attention. However, local landscape designations should not be used in themselves to refuse consent, as this may unduly restrict acceptable development*".	Effects on locally designated landscapes (Special Landscape Areas), which are indicators of local value, are considered as part of this chapter, as well as effects on landscape character based on consideration of local landscape character assessments.
5.9.17	*"The IPC should consider whether the project has been designed carefully, taking account of environmental effects on the landscape and siting, operational and other relevant constraints, to minimise harm to the landscape, including by reasonable mitigation."*	Effects on landscape character are considered as part of this chapter.

Ref.	NPS Topic Requirement.	How the Requirement has been Addressed.
National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6) Volume I of II.		
3.10.8	*"The IPC should not expect the visual impacts associated with a new nuclear power station to be eliminated with mitigation. Indeed, the scope for visual mitigation will be quite limited. Mitigation should, however, be designed to reduce the visual intrusion of the project as far as reasonably practicable."*	It is acknowledged that landscape and visual impacts cannot be avoided but mitigation measures designed to reduce impacts are outlined in Section 13.5.
National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6) Volume II of II.		
C.8.80	In Annex C (Site Assessments) the document states that: "*In assessing this site the Government has considered the purpose of the AONB, which is of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.* *The Appraisal of Sustainability identified that there is the potential for some long lasting adverse direct and indirect effects on landscape character and visual impacts on the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, with limited potential for mitigation given that the site is wholly within the AONB.* *This could have an effect on the purpose of the designation. To further understand these effects and the effectiveness of the mitigating actions proposed by the nominator of the site, further detailed assessment at project level is required – the Appraisal of Sustainability suggests through the provision an integrated landscape, heritage and architectural plan. The potential for remaining effects can best be fully assessed when detailed plans come forward because they depend on a range of factors including the detailed proposals for minimisation and mitigation, the cooling technology proposed and location of transmission infrastructure. However, given the limited scope for mitigation, a level of impact is likely to remain".*	The residual impacts of the proposed development on the AONB have been acknowledged and are considered in further detail in this assessment.
C.8.86	*"It should also be noted that whilst the Appraisal of Sustainability has noted the potential strategic environmental and sustainability implications of transmission infrastructure, detailed environmental assessment should be made by the applicant at the IPC stage, and this would be considered in conjunction with EN-5 which is the Electricity Networks NPS."*	The landscape and visual impact assessment considers the landscape and visual effects of proposed transmission infrastructure.
National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5).		
2.8.2	*"Government does not believe that development of overhead lines is generally incompatible in principle with developers' statutory duty under section 9 of the Electricity Act to have regard to amenity and to mitigate*	The planning of the proposed overhead power lines and pylons have taken into account potential

Ref.	NPS Topic Requirement.	How the Requirement has been Addressed.
	impacts....In practice new above ground electricity lines, whether supported by lattice steel towers/pylons or wooden poles, can give rise to adverse landscape and visual impacts, dependent upon their scale, siting, degree of screening and the nature of the landscape and local environment through which they are routed. For the most part these impacts can be mitigated, however at particularly sensitive locations the potential adverse landscape and visual impacts of an overhead line proposal may make it unacceptable in planning terms, taking account of the specific local environment and context. New substations, sealing end compounds and other above ground installations that form connection, switching and voltage transformation points on the electricity networks can also give rise to landscape and visual impacts. Cumulative landscape and visual impacts can arise where new overhead lines are required along with other related developments such as substations, wind farms and/or other new sources of power generation".	landscape and visual effects. The landscape and visual impact assessment takes into account the potential for cumulative effects from power lines (where relevant) within section 13.6
2.8.4	*"While proposed underground lines do not require development consent under the Planning Act 2008, wherever the nature or proposed route of an overhead line proposal makes it likely that its visual impact will be particularly significant, the applicant should have given appropriate consideration to the potential costs and benefits of other feasible means of connection or reinforcement, including underground and sub-sea cables where appropriate. The ES should set out details of how consideration has been given to undergrounding or sub-sea cables as a way of mitigating such impacts, including, where these have not been adopted on grounds of additional cost, how the costs of mitigation have been calculated."*	The planning and design of the proposed power lines has been an iterative process which has included the consideration of the option to underground cabling, see **Volume 2, Chapter 6** of the **ES.**

i. National Planning Policy Framework, February 2019

13.2.11 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Ref. 13.5) sets out the Government's planning policies for England.

13.2.12 In particular relation to landscape, paragraph 171 states that:

> *"Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites".*

13.2.13 The hierarchy of landscape designations has informed the criteria for assessing landscape value, a component of landscape sensitivity within the landscape and visual impact assessment, and effects on landscapes of all hierarchies of designation are considered as part of this chapter.

13.2.14 Paragraph 172 also states:

> *"Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues."*

13.2.15 Further national policy documents and guidance considered within this chapter are listed in **Table 13.2** with details provided in **Volume 1, Chapter 3.**

Table 13.2: National legislation, policy and guidance.

Document	Relevance
The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (Ref. 13.6).	The Act confirms that the purpose of designating AONBs is the conservation and enhancement of the natural beauty of the area. Section 85 of the Act states that authorities must have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the AONB when exercising their functions.
Planning Practice Guidance Natural Environment Planning Practice Guidance Design Planning Practice Guidance Light Pollution (Ref. 13.7).	Sets out the Government's planning guidance for England on the topics of Natural Environment, Design and Light Pollution.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (Ref. 13.8).	Sets out the Government's long-term approach to protecting and enhancing the environment.
UK Marine Policy Statement (Ref. 13.9).	Provides the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the marine environment (prepared and adopted for the purposes of section 44 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009).

c) Regional

13.2.16 The East Inshore and East offshore Marine Plans (Ref. 13.10) provide an approach to managing the East Inshore and East Offshore areas, their resources, and the activities and interactions that take place within them. Details are provided in **Volume 1** of the **ES**.

d) Local

13.2.17 Local policies relating to the landscape and visual assessment include:

- Suffolk Coastal District Council Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management Polices 2013 (Ref. 13.11), including Strategic Policy SP1, Strategic Policy SP13, Strategic Policy SP14, Strategic Policy SP15, Development Management Policy DM21, Development Management Policy DM23 and Development Management Policy DM26;

- Suffolk Coastal District Council Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies – Development Plan Document 2017 (Ref. 13.12), including Policy SSP37 and Policy SSP38;

- Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Remaining Saved Policies), 2001 and 2006 (Ref 13.13);

- Suffolk Coastal District Council Final Draft Local Plan 2019 (Ref 13.14), including Draft policy SCLP3.4, Draft policy SCLP10.3, Draft policy SCLP10.4, Draft policy SCLP11.1 and Draft policy SCLP11.2; and

- Leiston Neighbourhood Plan 2015–2029 (Ref 13.15).

13.2.18 The requirements of these, as relevant to the landscape and visual assessment, are set out in **Volume 1, Appendix 6I**. At a local level, polices relating to East Suffolk (formerly Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Districts) are considered.

i. Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (Remaining Saved Policies), 2001 and 2006

13.2.19 A small number of policies from the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (incorporating the First and Second Alterations) remain part of the Development Plan for Suffolk Coastal District. These should be read alongside the other Development Plan documents until replaced by

updated policy. One saved policy is of relevance to the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.

13.2.20 Policy AP122 Sizewell Gap applies to the area illustrated on the Proposals Map (July 2017) that includes Sizewell village, car park, café and beach. It states:

> *"The District Council will seek to improve and enhance the appearance of the Sizewell Gap area, as shown on the Proposals Map, for the benefit of residents and tourists".*

13.2.21 The assessment of landscape and visual effects includes consideration of effects on the Sizewell Gap area.

ii. Suffolk Coastal District Council Final Draft Local Plan, 2019

13.2.22 The Final Draft Local Plan (January 2019) is not currently adopted, but within this the SLAs are no longer maintained and are replaced by a "*landscape character assessment approach … taken to inform policy making and planning decisions*". Draft policy SCLP10.4: Landscape Character will provide the policy basis for this landscape character assessment approach.

13.2.23 Within this assessment, effects on the qualities of the Special Landscape Area are considered, drawing on the Suffolk Coastal Special Landscape Areas Paper (Ref. 13.16) and **Appendix 13D** of this volume, which was developed in consultation with Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council, and subsequently agreed with the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment consultees. Refer to the Consultation Report in **Appendix 13H** for further details. The designation is also taken as an indicator of value (contributing to sensitivity) in considering impacts on landscape character.

e) Local policy documents and guidance relating to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB

13.2.24 Local policy documents and guidance relating to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB considered within this chapter are listed within **Table 13.3**. See **Appendix 6I** of **Volume 1** of the **ES** for further detail.

Table 13.3: Local policy and guidance relating to the AONB.

Document	Relevance
Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Management Plan 2018–2023 (Ref. 13.17).	Highlights that relevant authorities will pay regard to the purposes of the AONB and provides the framework for the coordination of action from partnership organisations and others whose activities impact upon the AONB.

Document	Relevance
Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Natural Beauty and Special Quality Indicators (Ref. 13.18).	Sets out the Natural Beauty and Special Qualities of the AONB. The document (see Appendix 13C of this volume) has been developed by EDF Energy, as part of their preparatory work for the proposed Sizewell C Project in consultation and agreement with the AONB Partnership, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council.
Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Position Statement – Sizewell C Design Principles: The local perspective (Ref. 13.19).	Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council in collaboration and discussion with National Trust, RSPB, Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB have set out a series of design principles specific to the Sizewell C Project. The focus is on design and delivery of the nuclear power station itself within the AONB.
Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Position Statement-Obtrusive Lighting in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (Ref. 13.20).	The position statement, endorsed by the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Partnership, provides guidance to local planning authorities, landowners and other interested parties regarding lighting in the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB.
Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Partnership Position Statement – Development in the Setting of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (Ref. 13.21).	Records that the AONB Partnership considers "…the setting, including the views into and out of the AONB, to be the area within which development and land management proposals, by virtue of their nature; size; scale; siting, materials or design can be considered to have an impact, positive or negative, on the natural beauty and special qualities of the nationally designated landscape."
Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Partnership Position Statement – Landscape and Management of the Coast (Ref. 13.22).	Records that the interface between land and sea contributes to the special character of the area and is a key part of the area's designation as an AONB. It goes on to record the importance of landscape and sets out the AONB Partnership's view on related topics.
Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Guidance on the selection and use of colour in development (Ref. 13.23).	Provides guidance on the selection and use of colour for development within the AONB, which including industrial premises and office buildings, along with infrastructure development including associated with power generation.

f) Local guidance relating to landscape character

13.2.25 In addition to presenting a description of landscape character, the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13.24) includes Guidance Notes which present a description of landscape sensitivity and key forces for change along with guidelines for development management and land. This guidance is considered where relevant within this chapter.

13.2.26 The Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13.25) also describes 'strategy objectives' which are considered where relevant within this chapter.

13.3 Methodology

a) Scope of the assessment

13.3.1 The generic **Environmental Impact Assessment** (EIA) methodology is detailed in **Volume 1**, **Chapter 6** of the **ES**.

13.3.2 The full method of assessment for landscape and visual effects that has been applied for the Sizewell C Project is included in **Appendix 6I** of **Volume 1** of the **ES**.

13.3.3 This section provides specific details of the landscape and visual methodology applied to the assessment of the proposed development and a summary of the general approach to provide appropriate context for the assessment that follows. The scope of assessment considers the impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed development.

13.3.4 The assessment methodology is based primarily upon the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA) (Ref 13.26) which is considered to be best practice guidance for undertaking landscape and visual assessments.

13.3.5 The scope of this assessment has been established through a formal EIA scoping process undertaken with the Planning Inspectorate. A request for an EIA Scoping Opinion was initially issued to the Planning Inspectorate in 2014, with an updated request issued in 2019 (**Appendix 6A** of **Volume 1** of the **ES**. Comments raised in the EIA Scoping Opinion received in 2014 and 2019 have been taken into account in the development of the assessment methodology. These are detailed in **Appendices 6A** to **6C** of **Volume 1** of the **ES**.

b) Consultation

13.3.6 The scope of the assessment has also been informed by ongoing consultation and engagement with statutory consultees throughout the design and assessment process. Full details of the consultation undertaken in relation to landscape and visual matters is provided within **Appendix 13H** of this volume and summarised in **Appendix 6I** of **Volume 1** of the **ES**.

c) Study area

13.3.7 The extent of the study area for this landscape and visual impact assessment includes the proposed development within the red line boundary (on and off shore) and extends to 15km from the boundary of the onshore part of the main development site. This has been defined by the anticipated Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) arising from the operational

development, and specifically the main structures, which includes the reactors, turbine halls and operational service centre as well as the normal and exceptional parameters for the construction phase. The extent of the study area has been kept under review as the Sizewell C Project has progressed, and the ZTV was re-run on several occasions to reflect changes in proposed buildings, vegetation removal and topography.

13.3.8 The extent of the study area has been agreed with landscape and visual impact assessment consultees to be appropriate to cover all potentially material impacts during construction and operation of the proposed development. The study area which includes terrestrial, coastal and offshore areas is illustrated in **Figure 13.1**. The main development site and its surrounding context, extending to approximately 2km from the boundary of the onshore part of the main development site is illustrated in **Figure 13.2**.

d) Assessment scenarios

13.3.9 The landscape and visual assessment comprises the assessment of the entire construction and operation phases of the proposed development, rather than specific assessment years. Further detail on the different considerations of these phases is detailed below.

- Construction – construction is anticipated to take place in accordance with the indicative construction programme and parameters defined in the Description of Construction (**Volume 2, Chapter 3**), **Tables 3.5** to **3.8** and **Figure 3.1**. The assessment has been based on a series of construction parameter drawings for phasing, zoning, heights and lighting. The construction height parameter plan indicates maximum heights for 'normal' activity and 'exceptional' activities, development and works, which comprise the use of very large cranes and similar equipment intermittently during all phases of construction. Where relevant the removal and reinstatement of infrastructure, buildings and other features at the end of the construction phase are considered.

- Operation – operation of the power station following completion of construction, dismantling of temporary features and site restoration and landscape remediation. The assessment of operational effects is based on the Description of Permanent Development (**Volume 2, Chapter 2**) and the operational parameters listed in **Tables 2.1** to **2.3, 2.5** and **2.7** and **Figures 2.3-2.6**. Visual effects taking into account proposed additional planting (where relevant) have been assessed at Year 1 and Year 15 during operation (once landscape plantings have become established).

e) Assessment criteria

13.3.10 As described in **Volume 1**, **Chapter 6**, the EIA methodology considers whether impacts of the proposed development would have an effect on any resources or receptors. Assessments broadly consider the magnitude of impacts and value/sensitivity of resources/receptors that could be affected in order to classify effects.

13.3.11 As set out within **Volume 1, Appendix 6I,** there are some minor differences between the landscape and visual assessment method and the generic method, or additions to it, to ensure that the method is suitable for the assessment of landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development. The assessment criteria include consideration of value and susceptibility in determining receptor sensitivity; and consideration of the scale, extent and duration of the effect in determining magnitude. These criteria are briefly outlined below and further detail on how these criteria are applied and combined to form judgements of sensitivity, magnitude and significance is provided within the **Volume 1, Appendix 6I**.

i. Sensitivity

13.3.12 Sensitivity is assessed by combining the considerations of:

- Susceptibility (**Table 13.4**): the ability of a landscape or visual receptor to accommodate the proposed development "*without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies*." (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para. 5.40).

- Landscape value (**Table 13.5**): "*the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society*" (GLVIA, 3rd edition, page 157).

13.3.13 The criteria used in the landscape and visual assessments for determining the sensitivity of receptors are set out below**.**

13.3.14 Susceptibility indicates the ability of a landscape or visual receptor to accommodate change "*without undue consequences for the maintenance of the baseline situation and/or the achievement of landscape planning policies and strategies*." (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para. 5.40)

Table 13.4: Susceptibility of landscape and visual receptors.

Susceptibility	Description
High	Undue consequences are likely to arise from the proposed development.
Medium	Undue consequences may arise from the proposed development.
Low	Undue consequences are unlikely to arise from the proposed development.

13.3.15 Susceptibility of landscape/ seascape character areas/types is influenced by their characteristics and is frequently considered (though often recorded as 'sensitivity' rather than susceptibility) within documented landscape/ seascape character assessments and capacity studies.

13.3.16 Susceptibility of designated landscapes is influenced by the nature of the special qualities and purposes of designation and/or the valued elements, qualities or characteristics, indicating the degree to which these may be unduly affected by the development proposed.

13.3.17 Susceptibility of accessible or recreational landscapes is influenced by the nature of the landscape involved; the likely activities and expectations of people within that landscape and the degree to which those activities and expectations may be unduly affected by the development proposed.

13.3.18 Susceptibility of visual receptors is primarily a function of the expectations and occupation or activity of the receptors (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para 6.32).

13.3.19 Landscape value is the relative value that is attached to different landscapes by society.

Table 13.5: Landscape value.

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

13.3.20 Areas of landscape of greater than community value may be considered to be 'valued landscapes' in the context of NPPF paragraph 170.

13.3.21 For visual receptors, susceptibility and value are closely linked – the most valued views are also likely to be those where viewer's expectations will be highest. Visual receptor value relates to the value of the view, e.g. a National Trail is nationally valued for access, not necessarily for the available views. It is therefore not possible to separate out visual receptor value from susceptibility.

13.3.22 Sensitivity is assessed by combining the considerations of susceptibility and value described above. The differences in the **Table 13.6** below reflects a slightly greater emphasis on value in considering landscape receptors, and a greater emphasis on susceptibility in considering visual receptors.

Table 13.6: Assessment of sensitivity of receptors for landscape and visual assessments.

Landscape Sensitivity.				
		Susceptibility		
		High	**Medium**	**Low**
Value	**National/international.**	High	High–medium.	Medium
	Local/district.	High–medium.	Medium	Medium–low.
	Community	Medium	Medium–low.	Low
	Limited	Low	Low-negligible.	Negligible
Visual Receptor Sensitivity.				
		Susceptibility		
		High	**Medium**	**Low**
Value	**National/international.**	High	High–medium.	Medium
	Local/district.	High–medium.	High–medium.	Medium
	Community	High–medium.	Medium	Medium–low.
	Limited	Medium	Medium–low.	Low

13.3.23 For visual receptors; susceptibility and value are closely linked - the most valued views are also likely to be those where viewer's expectations will be highest. The value attributed relates to the value of the view, e.g. a national trail is nationally valued for access, not necessarily for the available views. Typical examples of visual receptor sensitivity are plotted in a diagram within the appendix to **Volume 1, Appendix 6I**.

ii. Magnitude

13.3.24 The definition of magnitude for landscape and visual assessment is informed by combining judgements on the scale, extent and duration of effect as set out in the GLVIA (3rd edition, para. 3.26).

13.3.25 The scale of effect is assessed for all landscape and visual receptors and identifies the degree of change which would arise from the development. The criteria for the assessment of scale of effect are set out in **Table 13.7**.

Table 13.7: Scale of effect.

Scale	Description
Large	Total or major alteration to key elements, features, qualities or characteristics, such that post development the baseline will be fundamentally changed.

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

13.3.26 Duration of effect is assessed for all landscape and visual receptors and identifies the time period over which the change to the receptor as a result of the development would arise. The criteria for the assessment of duration of effect, relevant to this assessment, are set out in **Table 13.8**.

Table 13.8: Duration of effect.

Duration	Description
Permanent	The change is expected to be permanent and there is no intention for it to be reversed. Or occurring for a period longer than 25 years.
Long-term	The change is expected to be in place for 10–25 years and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.
Medium-term	The change is expected to be in place for 2–10 years and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.
Short-term	The change is expected to be in place for 0–2 years and will be reversed, fully mitigated or no longer occurring beyond that timeframe.

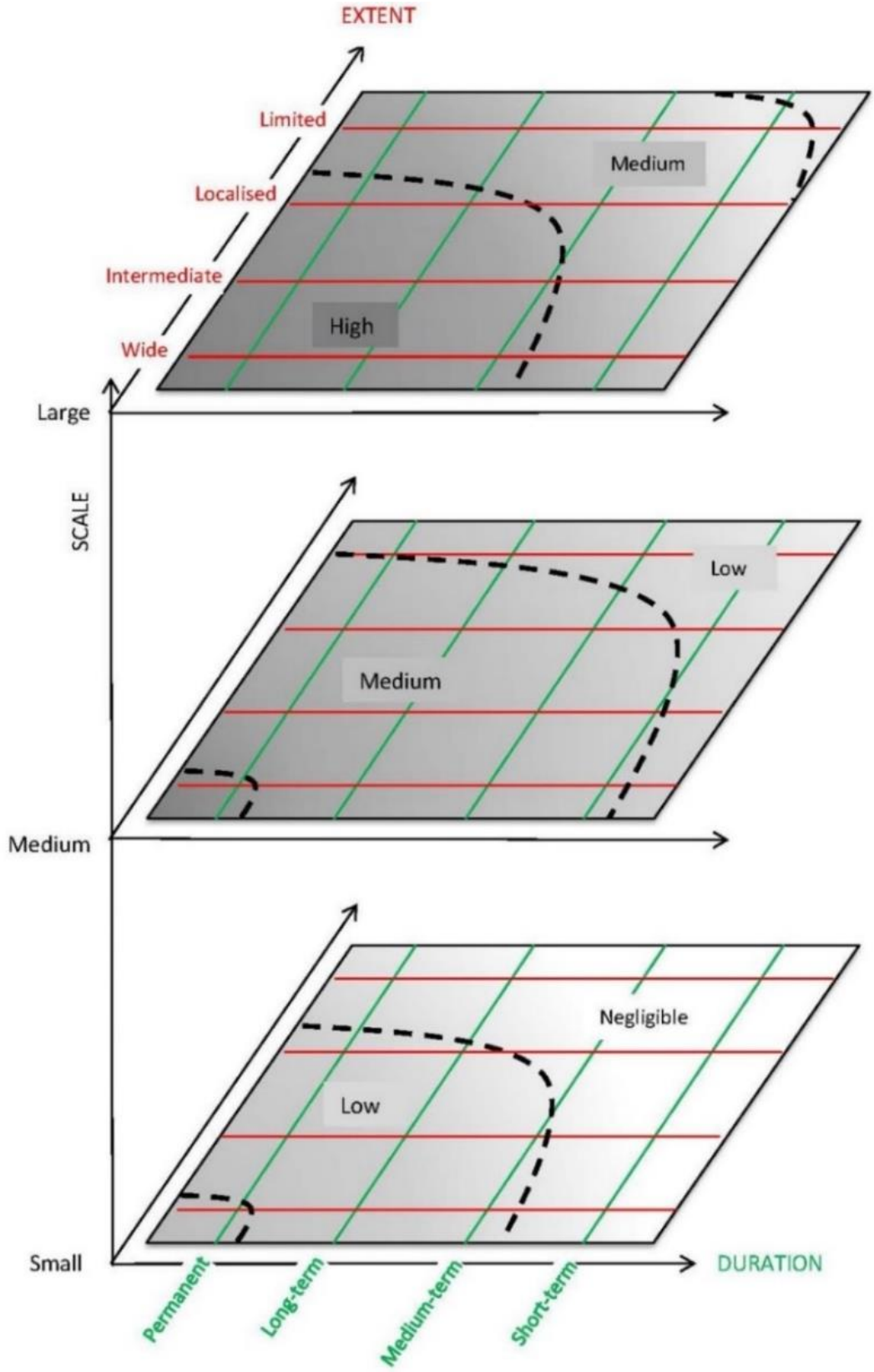
13.3.27 Extent of effects is assessed for all receptors and indicates the geographic area over which the effects will be felt.

Table 13.9: Extent of effect.

Extent	Description
Wide	Beyond 4km, or more than half of receptor area.
Intermediate	Up to approx. 2–4km, or around half of receptor area.
Localised	Site and surroundings up to 2km, or part of receptor area (up to approximately 25%).
Limited	Site, or part of site, or small part of a receptor area (< approximately 10%).

13.3.28 The magnitude of effect is informed by combining the scale, duration and extent of effect. **Plate 13.1** below illustrates the judgement process:

Plate 13.1: Magnitude of effect.



13.3.29 As can be seen from the illustration above, scale (shown as the layers of the diagram) is the primary factor in determining magnitude; most of each layer indicates that magnitude will typically be judged to be the same as scale, but may be higher if the effect is more widespread and longer term, or lower if it is constrained in geographic extent or timescale.

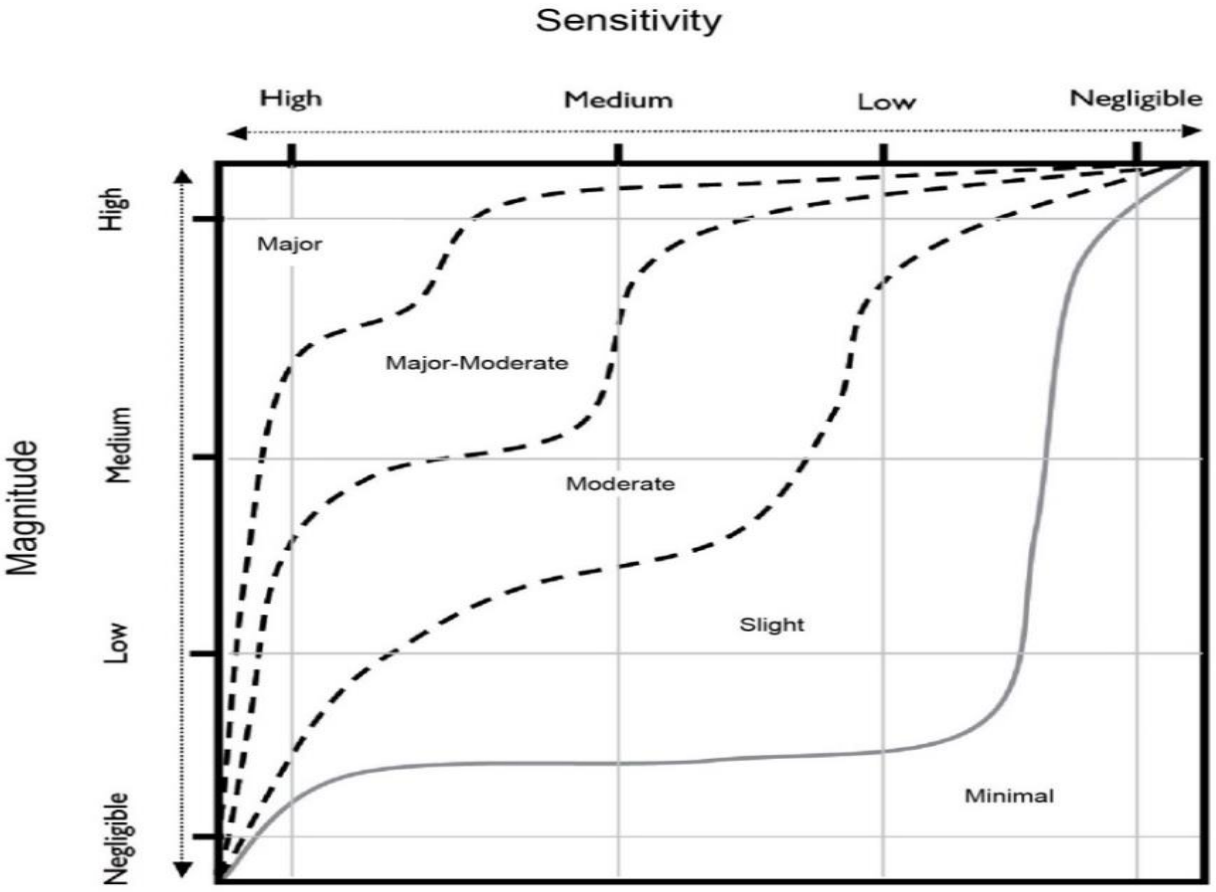
13.3.30 Where the scale of effect is judged to be negligible the magnitude is also assumed to be negligible and no further judgement is required.

iii. Effect definitions

13.3.31 The definitions of the significance of effect for the landscape and visual assessments are shown below**.**

13.3.32 Significance indicates the importance or gravity of the effect. The process of forming a judgement as to the degree of significance of the effect is based upon the assessments of magnitude of effects and sensitivity of the receptor to come to a professional judgement of how important this effect is. This judgement is illustrated by **Plate 13.2**.

Plate 13.2: Significance.



13.3.33 The significance ratings indicate a 'sliding scale' of the relative importance of the effect, with major being the most important and minimal being the least.

13.3.34 Following the classification of an effect as presented above, a clear statement is made as to whether the effect is 'significant' or 'not significant'. Within this assessment, major–moderate or major effects are considered to be significant and effects of moderate significance or less *are "of lesser concern"* (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para 3.35) and not significant. However, professional judgement is also applied where appropriate. It should also be noted that whilst an effect may be significant, that does not necessarily mean that such an impact would be unacceptable or should necessarily be regarded as an *"undue consequence"* (GLVIA, 3rd edition, para 5.40).

13.3.35 Where intermediate ratings are given, e.g. "Moderate-Slight", this indicates an effect that is both less than Moderate and more than Slight, rather than one which varies across the range. In such cases, the higher rating will always be given first. This does not mean that the impact is closer to that higher rating but is done to facilitate the identification of the more significant effects within tables. Intermediate judgements may also be used for judgements of magnitude.

13.3.36 Effects are defined as adverse, neutral or positive. Neutral effects are those which overall are neither adverse nor positive but may incorporate a combination of both.

f) Assessment methodology

13.3.37 The methodology has the following key stages, which are described in more detail in **Volume 1, Appendix 6I**, as follows:

- Baseline – includes the gathering of documented information; development of the scope of the assessment in consultation with the local planning authority and other relevant landscape and visual consultees; site visits and early input into the initial stages of design.

- Design – input into further stages of design, including mitigation options to avoid or minimise landscape and visual impacts where possible.

- Assessment – includes an assessment of the landscape and visual effects of the design of the proposed development, including the proposed construction and operation works, requiring site survey work to assess likely landscape and visual effects.

- Cumulative assessment – assesses the effects of the proposal in combination with other developments, where required (refer to Volume 10 for more detail).

g) Assumptions and limitations

13.3.38 The following assumptions have been made in this assessment:

- It is assumed in the assessment and in the preparation of the visualisations that the majority of planting within the temporary construction area footprint is undertaken at the end of construction. Although there would be some planting undertaken during construction (e.g. around the power station platform and on the northern mound). It is assumed that planting undertaken in advance of the construction phase has established and is retained.

- The assessment of effects arising from parameter zones assumes structures/buildings could occupy the full extent of the outline envelope proposed albeit with a maximum building height and objective of locating taller structures in less visually sensitive locations, for example in views from the coastline.

- The architectural treatment of structures/buildings proposed in outline within the nuclear island is to express the need for large, bold and simple forms. The proposed colour would be a neutral-grey for the reactor and other industrial buildings.

- The assessment of effects arising from construction assumes that typically construction activity occupies the heights of the proposed buildings, stockpiles or similar within that zone, with taller plant such as cranes or piling rigs regularly present and extending up to the 'general' construction height, and exceptionally tall plant intermittently present throughout the construction phase.

- The assessment of effects assumes that no visible plumes would arise from the proposed power station structures during normal operation. Any visible emissions would be intermittent and for a short duration and would diffuse rapidly.

13.3.39 Several of the visualisations illustrate the effect of proposed woodland, woodland edge and hedgerow/tree planting at year 1 and year 15 of the operational phase. The following estimated growth rates have been applied for the visualisations (appropriate for the type of planting proposed, location and suitable management regime, for example the management of hedgerows).

- Proposed woodland planting at year 1 is illustrated at 800mm.
- Proposed woodland planting at year 15 is illustrated at 6m, assuming approximate growth rates of c.350mm per annum.
- Proposed woodland edge/screen planting at year 1 is illustrated at 800mm.
- Proposed woodland edge/screen planting at year 15 is illustrated at 3m, assuming approximate growth rates of c.400mm per annum.
- Proposed hedgerow planting at year 1 is illustrated at 450mm.
- Proposed hedgerow planting at year 15 is illustrated at 3m, assuming approximate growth rates of c.400mm per annum.
- Proposed hedgerow/screen tree planting at year 1 is illustrated at 800mm.
- Proposed hedgerow/screen tree planting at year 15 is illustrated at 6m, assuming approximate growth rates of c.350mm per annum.

13.3.40 Several of the visualisations also illustrate the effect of proposed planting across the reconstructed sea defences at Year 1 and Year 15 of the operational phase. The following estimated growth rates have been applied for the visualisations (appropriate for the type of planting proposed, location and suitable management regime):

- Proposed coastal planting (grasses and herbaceous plants) on the sea defences at year 1 is illustrated at 100mm).
- Proposed coastal planting (grasses and herbaceous plants) on the sea defences at year 15 is illustrated at 350–600mm (noting that grasses would grow and die down annually).
- Proposed scrub/understorey planting on the sea defences at year 1 is illustrated at 450mm.
- Proposed scrub/understorey planting on the sea defences at year 15 is illustrated at 3–3.5m, assuming approximate growth rates of c.200mm per annum.

- Proposed woodland/tree planting on the sea defences at year 1 is illustrated at 600mm.

- Proposed woodland/tree planting on the sea defences at year 15 is illustrated at 6m, assuming approximate growth rates of c.350mm per annum.

13.3.41 The following limitations have been identified:

- The assessment and visualisations are based on the parameters for permanent structures limiting the degree of accuracy and detail.

- The long construction period reduces the certainty of the operational phase assessment given that unforeseen changes to land use and settlement patterns in the study area could arise, which may affect local landscape character and the nature of views towards the proposed development. Such unforeseen changes are not anticipated within the area of the EDF Energy estate, which would be subject to the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan** (**oLEMP**) (Doc Ref. 8.2) , providing a greater certainty to the understanding of the land uses and land cover in close proximity to the proposed development during the operational phase.

- It is highly likely that some decommissioning works of Sizewell A and Sizewell B would occur during the operation of Sizewell C. The phasing and nature of the demolition and remediation works would influence the nature of views to Sizewell C and the character of the local landscape/seascape. However, in the absence of details, the operational phase assessment assumes that the existing power station structures and associated infrastructure (including the Sizewell B intake and outfall structures) remain in place.

- It is likely that by 2046 the maximum crest height of the sea defence would be increased to 14.2mAOD and by 2090 the maximum crest height of the SSSI Crossing would be increased to 10.5mAOD. Works to increase the height of the sea defences and SSSI Crossing would require localised vegetation removal and construction activity. The construction works would result in localised adverse effects to landscape and seascape character, to visual receptors located principally along the coastline and offshore and to the natural beauty and special qualities of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB/Suffolk Heritage Coast. Following construction, it is assumed that the sea defences and SSSI Crossing would be landscaped and planted to integrate with their coastal surroundings. In the absence of details of

the phasing, duration and nature of the works proposed it is not possible to accurately assess and describe these effects. However, it is not anticipated that they would exceed the effects described for the construction phase in this assessment. The operational effects would be relatively localised and diminish over time as new planting becomes established.

13.4 Baseline environment

a) Introduction

13.4.1 This section presents a description of the baseline environmental characteristics of the study area for the landscape and visual impact assessment.

13.4.2 This section also identifies those landscape and visual receptors which merit detailed consideration in the assessment of effects, and those which are not taken forward for further assessment as effects *"have been judged unlikely to occur or so insignificant that it is not essential to consider them further"* (Ref. 13.26, paragraph 3.19).

13.4.3 This chapter describes the baseline for those landscape/seascape and visual receptors that are judged to have potential to experience significant effects.

13.4.4 Landscape/seascape and visual receptors which were assessed but judged to experience effects that fall below the threshold being significant are described in **Appendix 13F**. Those receptors which were assessed but judged to experience no greater than negligible effects are described within **Appendix 13E**.

13.4.5 A description of the landscape and visual baseline relevant to the assessment of the Sizewell B relocated facilities proposals was also provided in Chapter 7 of the Sizewell B relocated facilities ES (refer to **Volume 1, Appendix 2A**). The baseline description presented in this chapter provides an update to the description of baseline conditions presented within the Sizewell B relocated facilities ES.

13.4.6 A summary of the baseline context for the proposed off-site developments including the off-site sports facilities at Leiston, fen meadow compensation sites south of Benhall and east of Halesworth and, if required, the marsh harrier habitat improvement area (Westleton) is provided in **Appendix 13G**.

b) Current baseline

i. The main development site and surrounding context

13.4.7 The location of the main development site and full extent of the study area is shown on **Figure 13.1**. The local context of the site is illustrated on **Figure 13.2**. Its topographical setting is illustrated on **Figure 13.3**.

13.4.8 The site is made up of four main onshore components and a single offshore component which are described briefly below:

Sizewell C main platform

13.4.9 The Sizewell C main platform comprises an area of land that was used during the construction of the existing Sizewell B nuclear power station. This area is characterised by regenerating scrub, grassland and planted tree belts. This lies to the north of an area characterised by structures/buildings and infrastructure associated with the existing Sizewell B nuclear power station, arranged on an axial alignment, elements of which would be relocated as part of the proposed development.

13.4.10 To the west and north are areas characterised by semi-natural woodland, scrub and marsh/marshy grassland and open water forming part of the Sizewell Marshes SSSI. To the east lies the northern mound, a vegetated engineered embankment (known as Bent Hills) and a lower vegetated shingle bund which together form the sea defences to the existing Sizewell power stations.

13.4.11 East of the lower bund is a shingle beach (known as Sizewell Beach) which shelves into the offshore area of the main development site.

Sizewell B relocated facilities and National Grid land

13.4.12 Sizewell B relocated facilities and National Grid land encompasses areas within and adjacent to the existing Sizewell B nuclear power station site perimeter. This is characterised by structures/buildings associated with the existing operational Sizewell B nuclear power station and infrastructure, including access roads, arranged on an axial alignment. Whilst there are some landscaped areas, it displays a strong planned and industrial character.

13.4.13 This area also encompasses Coronation Wood, a woodland compartment with coniferous and broadleaf trees; Pillbox Field which comprises former arable land that has been allowed to revert to grassland; and the access road to the existing Sizewell A and Sizewell B nuclear power stations off the Sizewell Gap.

Temporary construction area

13.4.14 The temporary construction area extends across large geometric arable fields defined by hedgerows and linear tree belts and some areas of predominantly coniferous woodland plantation at Dunwich Forest and Goose Hill. At Black Walks, south of Upper Abbey Farm, is an area of semi-improved acid grassland and neutral grassland with scrub.

13.4.15 Fields of improved pasture are characteristic of land in the vicinity of Upper Abbey Farm (west of bridleway 19) and north of Lover's Lane. Semi-improved grassland and acid grassland are noted at Broom Covert and the land south of Sandy Lane and north of Sizewell Gap.

Land east of Eastlands Industrial Estate

13.4.16 Land east of Eastlands Industrial Estate (LEEIE) comprises arable fields, which lie between Valley Road, Lover's Lane and the railway line, and which are bounded by hedgerows.

Offshore works area

13.4.17 The offshore works area component of the main development site extends from Sizewell Beach and includes the open water environment, in which there are no significant structures or features above sea level.

Local context

13.4.18 Land use within the study area (outside the main development site) is characterised by a diverse range of land cover and land use types. Arable farmland is widespread with localised areas of permanent improved pasture, typically around villages and farms and along river valleys. Areas of heathland/acid grassland are sporadic, with larger and more continuous areas notable inland from the coast on what are known locally as the Sandlings, for example at Dunwich Heath and The Walks. Low lying areas along valleys and former estuaries are characterised by open water, drainage ditches, grazing marsh and reed beds interspersed with wet woodland and pasture. Woodland cover includes relatively large coniferous plantations and more widely distributed deciduous and mixed woodlands and shelterbelts, often closely associated with areas of parkland, farms and settlements. Along the coast, low cliffs, vegetated dunes/dune grassland and sand and shingle beaches mark the boundary between land and sea. Towards the south of the study area is Orfordness, the longest shingle spit in the UK.

13.4.19 Immediately adjacent to the main development site are the existing Sizewell A and B nuclear power stations. The main reactors form relatively prominent features in the local landscape and are surrounded by ancillary

buildings, car parks, hardstanding and access and other forms of infrastructure which are largely screened from locations in the surrounding landscape. South of the site are the Galloper and Greater Gabbard onshore substations and high voltage transmission lines that extend westwards towards (and beyond) Wickham Market, which lies a short distance west of the study area boundary.

13.4.20 Settlements within the study area include the market towns of Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham, Southwold, Reydon, Halesworth and Holton. A number of villages and hamlets and dwellings are distributed across the study area.

13.4.21 Landform within the study area is shown on **Figure 13.3**. This illustrates that land generally slopes eastwards towards the coast from more elevated areas inland. Rivers draining eastwards towards the sea create a fairly regular pattern of higher plateau areas and lower lying valleys that open out to form low lying landscapes along the coast.

13.4.22 The study area also includes offshore areas, seaward of the demarcation line. The Sizewell B intake and outfall structures are fairly prominent features in local views, for example in locations along Sizewell Beach.

ii. Landscape fabric

13.4.23 The main development site is not within a Conservation Area and there are no trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders on the Site (Ref. 13.27). Furthermore, there are no woodlands identified as ancient within the site boundary (Ref. 13.28). The Tree Survey and Constraints Plan (**Appendix 13I**) provides further details of the characteristics and status of the trees within the site.

iii. Landscape/seascape character

13.4.24 Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (paragraphs 5.13–5.15) indicates that character studies at the national or regional level are best used to ‘set the scene’ and understand the context. It also indicates that local authority assessments provide more detail and that these should be used to form the basis of the assessment of effects on landscape and seascape character – with (appropriately justified) adaptation, refinement and interpretation where required.

13.4.25 The documents used as the main basis for assessment are:

- Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13.24); and

- Seascape Character Assessment Suffolk, South Norfolk and North Essex (Ref. 13.29).

13.4.26 Other assessments relevant to this landscape and visual impact assessment are set out in **Table 13.10**.

Table 13.10: Other character assessments.

Document	Relevance
Landscape Character Assessments	
National Character Area Profiles (East of England) (Ref. 13.30 and Ref. 13.31).	Used to 'set the scene' – introducing the landscape character of the study area below.
East of England Regional Landscape Character Typology (Ref. 13.32).	Defines regional landscape character types which broadly correspond with the landscape character types identified in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment.
Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13.25).	Defines and describes each of the individual river valleys and estuaries of the district. The introduction records that the study *"…seeks to find a middle ground between existing coverage which comprises National Character Areas and detailed landscape types which exist for Suffolk County as a whole"*.
Waveney District Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13.33).	Describes landscape types which are subdivided into landscape character areas. The northern portion of the study area lies within Waveney District (approximately between Southwold and Halesworth).
Touching the Tide Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13.34).	Covers an area defined by the Suffolk Heritage Coast and extends inland along the Deben Estuary as far as Melton and south to the Landguard Peninsular at Felixstowe. The assessment subdivides this area into Coastal Character Areas, and describes landscape character types which occur repeatedly throughout the area.
Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation (Ref. 13.35).	Identifies Historic Landscape Types based on current land use and an assessment of its historical origin. The assessment provides both a historical context to descriptions of the Suffolk landscape, and a means to enhance understanding and management of historic landscapes. The results contributed to the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment.
Seascape Character Assessments	
Seascape Characterisation around the English Coast (Marine Plan Areas 3 and 4 and Part of Area 6 Pilot Study) (Ref. 13.36).	Used to 'set the scene' – introducing the seascape character of the study area.
Seascape Character Area Assessment East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan Areas (Ref. 13.37).	Updates the findings of the pilot study (Ref.13.38) with reference to consultation on the key characteristics identified for the SCAs. The revised key characteristics for the Suffolk Coastal Waters SCA largely replicate those in the pilot study, with some corrections and inclusion of additional key characteristics.

Document	Relevance
Historic Seascape Characterisation (HSC) Newport to Clacton (Ref. 13.38).	Characterises the historic seascape off the coast of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. It includes terrestrial regions where these have a clear maritime element and its coverage extends eastwards beyond the study area. The HSC results have contributed to the Seascape Character Assessment of Suffolk, South Norfolk and North Essex (Ref. 13.42).
Sizewell C Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment: Seascape Character Assessment of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Study Area (Ref. 13.39).	In 2014 there was no county or district scale assessment of seascape character. To provide a baseline for preliminary landscape and visual appraisals of the Sizewell C Project, EDF Energy appointed LDA Design to prepare an assessment of seascape character of the study area and agree the outputs with landscape and visual impact assessment consultees. Subsequently, Suffolk County Council commissioned an assessment for Suffolk, south Norfolk and north Essex (Ref 13.42).

National Character Area (NCA) profiles

Suffolk Coast and Heaths NCA

13.4.27 Much of the study area falls within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths NCA (Ref. 13.30), which extends along the coast between Great Yarmouth in the north to Harwich in the south, and some 10–20km inland.

13.4.28 The landscape is described within the NCA profile as low-lying with subtle changes in relief, with a distinctive coastal pattern of gently sloping sandy hills called 'Sandlings' separated by inlets and marshland. In the past, the Sandlings supported extensive heathland; however much of this has been replaced by arable land and commercial forestry with only small areas remaining. The topography and vegetation patterns mean that there are "…*few commanding viewpoints"*.

13.4.29 The NCA includes the distinctive towns of Aldeburgh and Southwold but much of the coastline is undeveloped marshes, shingle beaches and soft crumbling sandy cliffs with a coastal road only between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness. The coastline is indented by five estuaries (Stour, Orwell, Deben, Alde/Ore and Blythe) as well as smaller inlets such as Minsmere.

13.4.30 The NCA profile notes that the undeveloped coastline contributes to its "*sense of tranquillity and wildness*", which has inspired writers, artists and naturalists and the area is a popular recreation and tourist destination.

13.4.31 At certain locations, the mosaic of habitats including shingle, saltmarsh, reedbeds, fens and fragments of heathland support a rich biodiversity, which is recognised by numerous conservation designations.

13.4.32 The coast is dotted with a range of important historic, archaeological and military features including Martello Towers, Orford Castle, pillboxes and the

military research infrastructure at Orford Ness (including the distinctive 'pagodas').

13.4.33 Inland the farmed landscape is mostly regular-shaped arable fields and outdoor pig production. Woodland is generally sparse but there are occasional farmland woodlands and larger commercial forests.

13.4.34 Although the NCA is predominantly rural, it includes the commercial ports of Harwich and Felixstowe; the A14/A12 transport routes and energy infrastructure. Sizewell Nuclear Power Station along with recent offshore wind farms are referenced in the NCA profile as adding to "*local distinctiveness*" and being "*imposing and dominant vertical features*" that "*add contrast to the otherwise level and natural stretch of coastline*", and as having *"the potential to impact on the special qualities of the landscape and seascape*".

South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands NCA

13.4.35 Approximately 1.5km west of the boundary of the main development site, the western portion of the study area lies within the South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands NCA (Ref. 13.31).

13.4.36 The key characteristics of the landscape described within the NCA profile record that it is a large plateau area that is flat or gently undulating, and that the edges of the plateau have been dissected by rivers that form greater slopes, especially along the tributaries of the Waveney. With reference to visual character, the NCA profile records (page 8) that:

> *"Views are frequently open, only sometimes confined by hedges and trees, with some woodland present. The small valleys support quite confined landscapes with intimate views".*

Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment

13.4.37 Published by Suffolk County Council, the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13.24) describes the character and qualities of distinct landscape character types (LCTs) across the county.

13.4.38 As illustrated on **Figure 13.5** the following LCTs occur within 5km of the site, occur within the site boundary and are considered in further detail in section 13.6:

- Estate Sandlands (covers most of main development site).
- Coastal Levels (covers small section of main development site).

- Ancient Estate Claylands.
- Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges.

13.4.39 The following LCTs occur within 5km of the site and are briefly described within **Appendix 13E** but are not considered further due to lack of potential for significant effects:

- Open Coastal Fens.
- Valley Meadows and Fens.
- Valley Meadowlands.
- Rolling Estate Sandlands.

Estate Sandlands LCT

13.4.40 The Estate Sandlands LCT runs in a discontinuous belt along the Suffolk coastline broadly corresponding with the Sandlings, the local name for the area of light sandy soils, stretching from Southwold in the north to Felixstowe in the south. The LCT is interrupted by a series of coastal estuaries and inlets.

13.4.41 Most of the main development site lies within this LCT, the relevant key characteristics of which are described in the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment and, outside the existing Sizewell Power station complex, are summarised as follows:

- *"Flat or very gently rolling plateaux of free-draining sandy soils, overlying drift deposits of either glacial or fluvial origin.*
- *Absence of watercourses.*
- *Extensive areas of heathland or acid grassland.*
- *Strongly geometric structure of fields enclosed in the 18th and 19th century.*
- *Large continuous bocks of commercial forestry.*
- *Widespread planting of tree belts in rectilinear plantations".*

13.4.42 The landform of the Estate Sandlands LCT is described as a "*flat or very gently rolling plateaux of freely-draining sandy soils*". The dry acidic and marginal soils have historically given rise to extensive areas of acid grassland and heathland, which during medieval times were used for sheep grazing and rabbit warrens. However, the creation of large estates, enclosure of formerly open fields, agricultural improvement and forestry plantations have changed the landscape and resulted in the diminishment and fragmentation of heathland.

13.4.43 Fields are generally regularly-shaped and geometric. Woodland and tree cover, outside of large forestry plantation such as Rendlesham and Dunwich, is sparse and confined to rectilinear plantation woods and distinctive pine belts. The settlement pattern is described as sparse due to the traditional lack of water.

13.4.44 In terms of visual experience, the assessment notes that "*Despite the presence of so much forestry, the views in this landscape are often long and there can be a powerful sense of isolation*".

13.4.45 The Guidance Note for the Estate Sandlands LCT highlight the sensitivity of sections of the LCT, and the fact that some areas are designated as or covered by ecological designations. The documents discuss potential forces for change such as settlement expansion, barn conversions, agricultural intensification, leisure expansion and mineral development. Sizewell power station and existing and proposed offshore wind development are not mentioned.

13.4.46 In the description of the Aldringham and Friston Sandlands Landscape Character Area (LCA) (K3) which includes the site, the Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13.25) records that the area is distinguished by its Sandlings character and its relationship to the coast. It also highlights the presence of Sizewell power station as an important influence on the local landscape, recording that:

> *"It is isolated from the landscape to the west, behind a series of marshes (in the Coastal Levels type) whose wooded edges provide a screening from the nearby town of Leiston. The huge white hemisphere of Sizewell B is a recurring landmark in views along the beaches on this part of the coast and very much an accepted part of the landscape and views in the area".*

13.4.47 The double row of pylons extending away from Sizewell are described as having a "*substantial negative impact in the more open areas, and they distort the sense of scale within the landscape*".

13.4.48 The Touching the Tide Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 13.34) also notes these influences within the Dunwich and Sizewell Coast Coastal Character Area which includes the site.

13.4.49 Site observations confirm that the immediate surroundings of the site that lie within the Estate Sandlands LCT are characterised by buildings and infrastructure associated with the existing Sizewell nuclear power stations. Overhead pylons and the Galloper and Greater Gabbard offshore windfarm sub stations also exert an influence on local landscape character, and notably north of Sizewell Gap and east of Halfway Cottages.

13.4.50 Beyond these areas, the influence of these features diminishes, the character of the Estate Sandlands described in the county assessment exerts itself, and "*the more semi-natural areas can feel scenic, rich in naturalness and provide enclosure in the woodland and wooded heaths".*

13.4.51 The Historic Landscape Character Assessment records most of the area within and around the site as a mix of '18th-century and later enclosure' and modern plantation woodland.

13.4.52 Representative viewpoints R4, R5, R7, R9, R11, R12, R17, R18, R19, R24/25, R29 and R30 (see **Figures 13.9.4** – **5**, **13.9.7**, **13.9.8**, **13.9.11** – **12**, **13.9.17** – **19**, **13.9.24** – **25** and **13.9.29** – **30**); and illustrative viewpoints I1, I5, I6, I9, I15, I20, I25, I26, I28, I29 and I32 (see **Appendix 13A**) lie within and/or illustrate the Estate Sandlands LCT.

Coastal Levels LCT

13.4.53 The Coastal Levels LCT is comprised of the flat, low-lying coastal grazing marshes, which have been reclaimed from the sea and protected behind sea and river walls. A small area of the Coastal Levels LCT is covered by the main platform site with larger areas to the north (Minsmere Levels) and west (Sizewell Marshes).

13.4.54 Within the study area, there are areas of this LCT on Orford Ness, between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness, Minsmere and Reydon and Tinker's Marshes flanking the River Blythe west of Southwold. Small areas south of Goose Hill and in the south of Pillbox Field fall within the Coastal Levels LCT.

13.4.55 Within the Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment, the key characteristics of the Coastal Levels LCT are summarised as follows:

- *"Flat marshland adjacent to the coast or estuaries.*
- *Uniform 19th century dyke networks.*

- *Cattle grazed wet grassland.*
- *Small plantations and carr woodlands.*
- *Inland side of rising ground often wooded.*
- *Important wildlife conservation areas.*
- *Unsettled landscape with domestic buildings on the fringes".*

13.4.56 Most of the coastal levels were originally saltmarsh that was gradually reclaimed and converted into grazing marshes starting in the Middle Ages. This process was periodically hampered by serious flooding (for instance leading to the original monastery at Leiston Abbey, between Sizewell and Minsmere, being relocated to its current site further inland).

13.4.57 More recent conversion to arable has taken place. However, at Minsmere former arable land was deliberately re-flooded to deter invasion during WW2 and was subsequently transformed into the RSPB nature reserve.

13.4.58 The absence of settlements and buildings within the LCT and flat open landforms means that "*views are generally open and wide, and there is usually a profound sense of exposure*" that is confined on the inland side by rising ground (of the Estate Sandlands LCT).

13.4.59 The Guidance Note for the Coastal Levels LCT records that the landscape "*contributes to the special character of the AONB*" and is frequently covered by or associated with ecological designations.

13.4.60 In terms of sensitivity to change, the extensive flat and open landscape is assessed as being potentially visually sensitive to new built development, especially on the adjacent slopes where it might appear out of scale.

13.4.61 There is no explicit mention of the power stations at Sizewell, although there is an acknowledgment that large-scale infrastructure may be developed within this landscape, and that due to its open and simple nature it has "*some capacity to accommodate large-scale structures*". In relation to this, the guidelines advise that "*the majority of new building is likely to be visible from the coastal levels. Therefore, construction related to existing clusters and the use of sympathetic and unobtrusive materials is always to be preferred"* and that it will be "*important to minimise the impact of lighting and associated small-scale clutter as this will detract significantly from the visual and experiential qualities of this landscape*".

13.4.62 In relation to the installation of new coastal flood protection structures, the Guidance Note recommends the use of low, unobtrusive structures that reduce landscape and visual impact.

13.4.63 In the description of the Minsmere and Sizewell Coast LCA (D3), the Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment records that the *"Sizewell Belts, a nature reserve adjacent to the power station, is a grazing marsh comprising habitats of marsh, wet woodland and heath which extend to the coastal beach, The area is intersected by dykes and provides a significant contrast in character and scale to the power station site."* It adds that:

> *"..in close proximity to the power station the scale of the buildings and associated power lines dominate the landscape such that other landscape features and activities feel small and insignificant. However, the power station is a by now familiar sight and sits within the coastline as a landmark".*

13.4.64 As noted previously, the Touching the Tide Landscape Character Assessment also refers to the influence of the existing Sizewell power stations and grid infrastructure on the character of the local landscape within the Dunwich and Sizewell Coast CCA.

13.4.65 The Historic Landscape Character Assessment identifies the parts of the site within this character area as being '18th-century and later enclosure' with Minsmere to the north comprising a mix of '18th-century and later enclosure', 'meadow or managed wetland' and unimproved coastal marsh.

13.4.66 Representative viewpoints R2 (**Figure 13.9.02**), R16 (**Figure 13.9.16**), R17 (**Figure 13.9.17**), R20 (**Figure 13.9.20**) and R21 (**Figure 13.9.21**); and illustrative viewpoints I2, I5, I12, I13, I16 and I28 (see **Appendix 13A**) lie within and/or illustrate the Coastal Levels LCT.

Ancient Estate Claylands

13.4.67 A small section of the temporary construction area in the vicinity of Upper Abbey Farm, falls into this LCT. The majority of the Ancient Estate Claylands LCT falls into NCA 83: South Norfolk and Suffolk Claylands.

13.4.68 Within the study area, the LCT comprises a gently undulating plateau, underlain by glacial till and boulder clay and separated by a series of river valleys flowing in a south-easterly direction including the Alde, Minsmere and Blythe. The key characteristics are identified in the county landscape assessment as follows:

- *"Dissected Boulder Clay plateau.*

- *Organic pattern of field enclosures.*
- *Straight boundaries where influence of privately owned estates is strongest.*
- *Enclosed former greens and commons.*
- *Parklands.*
- *WWII airfields.*
- *Villages with dispersed hamlets and farmsteads.*
- *Timber framed buildings.*
- *Distinctive estate cottages.*
- *Ancient semi-natural woodland".*

13.4.69 According to the Historic Landscape Character Assessment, most of this area comprises Pre-18th Century Enclosure fields, which have a more organic pattern compared to more recently enclosed landscapes.

13.4.70 The landscape is more wooded than the coastal landscapes to the east with relatively small woodland parcels (some ancient in origin). Parkland and former World War II airfields are features of the area.

13.4.71 The visual character is variable. The LCA notes that "*despite the reasonably well-wooded landscape the plateau landform means that the views are open and can be long*". However, in other areas the presence of woodland, winding lanes and tall hedgerows provides a more enclosed and intimate visual experience.

13.4.72 The majority of the Ancient Estate Claylands LCT corresponds with LCA L1: Hevingham and Knodishall Estate Claylands within the Suffolk Coastal Landscape Character Assessment. This is described as a "*landscape of quiet farmland with a simple, unified and deeply rural character*" with limited modern development. One of the strategic objectives is stated as the protection of "*the plateau landscape from visual intrusion of development in areas beyond this character area*".

13.4.73 Representative viewpoints R1 (**Figure 13.9.01**), R8 (**Figure 13.9.08**), R13 (**Figure 13.9.13**), R22 (**Figure 13.9.22**) and R24/25 (**Figures 13.9.24** - **25**);

and illustrative viewpoints I11 and I34 (see **Appendix 13A**) lie within and/or illustrate the Ancient Estate Claylands LCT.

Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges

13.4.74 Within the study area, the Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT runs in a narrow discontinuous band along the coast between Southwold and Orford Ness. It includes Sizewell Beach adjacent to the main platform. The LCT is comprised of a series of shingle ridges, formed by longshore drift, and backed by landward transitions to coastal dunes, sandy cliffs or saltmarsh.

13.4.75 The Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment describes the key characteristics of the Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT as:

- *"Flat or gently rolling landform of sand or shingle.*
- *Low fragile vegetation.*
- *Vast open uncluttered landscape.*
- *Historic military structures.*
- *Occasional large buildings in an empty landscape.*
- *Occasional fishing huts and boats on the beach.*
- *Only in short stretches is there the paraphernalia of intensive tourist activity, beach huts and piers*".

13.4.76 The natural landward transition between habitats has been modified along much of the coastline by artificial sea defences such as walls, groins and banks. Orford Ness is a notable exception, forming an 11-mile shingle spit separating areas of saltmarsh and grazing marsh adjacent to the River Alde.

13.4.77 The shingle ridges support a specialised flora including distinctive plants such as yellow-horned poppy and sea kale. The high ecological value of the LCT is reflected in a large number of conservation designations.

13.4.78 Although there are occasional structures such as fishing huts and coastal defence installations, with the exception of the coast adjacent to the existing Sizewell power station complex, the LCT has an open and uncluttered character that "*often feels remote, wild and windswept*" (Touching the Tide Landscape Character Assessment).

13.4.79 Due to the open nature of the coast, Sizewell A and B power stations are a visible feature along the majority of its length forming dominant features in close range views but diminishing with distance due to the long views and wide vistas available. The Waveney District Landscape Character Assessment describes Sizewell as forming a "*prominent element*" of the view from the Southwold Coast LCA.

13.4.80 The influence of military history is strong with a string of Martello Towers and numerous 20th century installations such as anti-tank blocks and pill boxes. Orford Ness was used as a military research site during both World Wars and the Cold War and contains a range of distinctive remnant structures.

13.4.81 The Guidance Note for the Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT states that:

> *"The landscape type is by nature narrow, but it is open to views both in and out. It is therefore profoundly affected by changes in the adjacent landscapes and seascapes. The characteristic qualities of openness, wildness and isolation found in much of this landscape are dependent, to a great extent, on the condition and character of the land that frames it".*

13.4.82 Although the Guidance Note states that large-scale development has the potential to cause significant visual change, it recognises that the LCT along with the Coastal Levels has "*some capacity to accommodate large-scale structures*" due to its open and simple nature. However, these would require careful design to reduce their visual impact including the minimising of lighting and small-scale clutter. The further development of Sizewell power station is identified as one of the key forces for change.

13.4.83 Representative viewpoints R6 (**Figure 13.9.06**), R10 (**Figure 13.9.10**), R14 (**Figure 13.9.14**), R15 (**Figure 13.9.15**), R21 (**Figure 13.9.21**) and R23 (**Figure 13.9.23**); and illustrative viewpoints I3, I7, I8, I14, I16, I18 and I19 (see **Appendix 13A**) lie within and/or illustrate the Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT.

Seascape Characterisation around the English Coast (Ref. 13.36) as updated by the Seascape Character Area Assessment East Inshore and East Offshore Marine Plan Areas (Ref. 13.37)

13.4.84 Much of the marine component of the study area is situated within the Suffolk Coastal Waters Seascape Character Area (SCA). Key characteristics described in the assessment include the dominance of coastal processes; rapidly eroding low cliff lines and shrinking saltmarshes; estuarine influences on the low-lying coastline, and a nationally significant

concentration of vegetated shingle and coastal lagoon habitats. Reference is also made to steeply sloping shelved shingle beaches and brightly painted beach huts along some stretches of this coast, a strong fishing heritage and wildlife value (particularly birds).

13.4.85 The assessment also records that the shoreline of the SCA was historically heavily defended and that it includes dramatic and contrasting developments such as the Sizewell nuclear power station complex, Orford Ness transmitting station and commercial docks at Felixstowe.

13.4.86 With reference to visual character, the assessment describes large scale panoramic views of the seascape being dominated by offshore shipping. The assessment also refers to the AONB and Heritage Coast designations recognising a rich mixture of unique and vulnerable coastal lowland habitats (a mosaic of shingle beaches, mudflats, saltmarsh, grazing marsh, reedbed and heathland) and the perception of seascape often being from the coast.

13.4.87 The assessment states that the "*coastline is also subject to some significant large-scale developments which are at odds with the scale and natural qualities of the landscape*". Sizewell power station is described as a "significant group of structures that are visually imposing from great distances, particularly the white reactor dome of Sizewell B".

13.4.88 Towards the eastern fringes of the study area are the landward limits of the extensive East Anglian Shipping Waters SCA, the key characteristics of which highlight a "*visually unified and open water character*…" as well as the dense concentration of shipping activity, designated shipping routes, offshore commercial activity and windfarm developments and gas fields.

Seascape Character Assessment: Suffolk, South Norfolk and North Essex

13.4.89 The Seascape Character Assessment of Suffolk, South Norfolk and North Essex (Ref. 13.29) maps and describes six Seascape Character Types (SCTs), including several navigable inland rivers.

13.4.90 Just under half of the landscape and visual impact assessment study area is offshore, extending out to an approximate distance of 15km from the shoreline. The following three SCTs are located within the landscape and visual impact assessment study area:

- SCT 01: Inland Navigable Waters;
- SCT 03: Nearshore Waters (covering small section of main development site); and
- SCT 05: Coastal Waters.

13.4.91 Within the study area, the Inland Navigable Waters SCT occurs along the tidal reaches of the River Alde. It lies over 5km from the main development site. Due to its distance from the site and low-lying enclosed nature, the proposed development is not predicted to be readily visible from the River Alde. It is described in further detail in **Appendix 13E**.

13.4.92 The Coastal Waters SCT lies approximately 5km to the east of the main development site and views towards the coast would not be markedly changed in character by the proposed development. This SCT is not considered in detail and is described in **Appendix 13E**.

Nearshore Waters SCT

13.4.93 The Nearshore Waters SCT extends from the low water mark, out to 5km to 8km from the shore where it grades into the Coastal Waters SCT. The offshore section of the main development site boundary extends into this SCT. It is focused on the Greater Sizewell Bay, which extends between the Coralline Crag outcrop at Thorpeness to the River Blythe near Southwold. The key characteristics of the Nearshore Waters SCT include:

- Sheltered or moderately sheltered coastal waters, adjacent to long curving bays backed by shingle beaches, vegetated dunes, low cliffs and occasional coastal settlements.
- Active length of coast with a fluctuating patchwork of erosion and accretion. Dynamic nature of coastline illustrated by events in history such as the inundation of coastal settlements and the creation of shingle features resulting from the movement of sediment over time.
- Sea floor underlain by superficial sediments largely masking underlying bedrock.
- Relatively shallow waters up to approximately 20 metres deep with sand bank systems parallel to the coastline in places.
- Interaction of terrestrial, coastal and offshore areas important for biodiversity, evidenced by extent of national and international designations.
- Strategically important coastline with numerous historic military sites.
- Commercial fishing activity is relatively intense along the coast. Beached fishing boats are characteristic in some locations.

- Popular tourist area, notably for walking and nature watching with activity focussed on visitor destinations and tourist towns located along the coast.
- Sea fishing, sailing and water-sports activity throughout, albeit centred upon destination towns and approaches to navigable rivers.
- Strong cultural associations, notably in art.
- Strong visual relationship with the predominantly rural coastline. Occasional coastal towns and large-scale developments including energy and military infrastructure evident in some views act as orientation points/navigation aids.
- Expansive views offshore encompass largely undeveloped seascape. Offshore shipping and wind farms visible in adjacent seascape character types, subject to weather conditions.

13.4.94 The Nearshore Waters SCT overlaps with a section of the Suffolk Heritage Coast (which extends approximately 1.5km offshore) and lies adjacent to the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and several biodiversity designations. The coastal towns of Aldeburgh and Southwold are important tourist destinations with a strong connection with the sea. The entire coastline is popular with visitors and there is an extensive rights of way network, including the Suffolk Coast Path, and several nature reserves. The area is also important for both commercial and recreational fishing and boating.

13.4.95 Coastal erosion and deposition have created dynamic coastal features including Orford Ness at the southern edge of the study area. The majority of the coast is formed by shingle beaches often backed by soft crumbling and eroding cliffs.

13.4.96 The SCT has strong historical and cultural associations. It has been strategically important for military history with structures such as Orford Castle, Martello towers and Orford Ness, which played a significant role in 20th Century military research. During the Second World War, many sections of the coastline were defended by installations, such as anti-tank scaffolding, ditches and pillboxes. The land around Minsmere was deliberately flooded in order to deter enemy landings. The fortunes of several coastal settlements have been shaped by the dynamic coastal processes. Aldeburgh was an important medieval port with a thriving shipbuilding industry until it declined due to silting of the river. Orford was similarly affected by the growing spit blocking access to the sea from the harbour. Dunwich was a medieval port until a series of storm surges diverted the course of the Dunwich River to the north. The former port and

settlement now lie submerged due to coastal erosion. Dunwich Bank has an important shipwreck site; protected as a 'designated wreck'.

13.4.97 The Nearshore Waters SCT encompasses large scale panoramic views out to sea and along the coastline. From many locations on and offshore, the morphology of sweeping bays, headlands and shingle structures such as Orford Ness can be appreciated. Several landmarks are evident along this stretch of the coastline including Orford Ness, the towns of Southwold and Aldeburgh and prominent structures such as Sizewell power station. When visibility is good, there are distant seaward views from some locations on the coast and at sea to the south-west towards the Greater Gabbard offshore wind farm. There are also very distant seaward views towards the wind turbines of the London Array and Gunfleet Sands wind farms when seaward visibility is excellent.

13.4.98 The Historic Seascape Characterisation records that Navigation, Recreation and Fishing as being the most widespread broad historic seascape character types. Recreational sailing is important along the landward side of the nearshore waters. Small fishing fleets operate from Sizewell, Thorpeness and Aldeburgh.

iv. Extent of visibility and visual receptors

Current visibility

13.4.99 Clear views of the existing Sizewell A and B power stations occur far less frequently than the area of theoretical visibility for the proposed development modelled by the ZTV. This is due to the fact that the ZTV is based predominantly on topography and does not fully account for the localised influence of vegetation other than primary woodlands, or features such as embankments (or shingle banks) in screening and filtering views. Given the prevalence of tree lines, scrub vegetation and shingle banks in the study area, visibility is notably less than is modelled.

13.4.100 The field survey revealed that the majority of views are confined to within 5km of the site, with the exception of long-range coastal views. Due to the curvature of the coastline, the existing power stations are seen more openly in views from the north (e.g. representative viewpoints R23 (see **Figure 13.9.23**), I3, I5, I18 and I19 (see **Appendix 13A**) from Southwold); compared with views which are often partially screened from the south (e.g. representative viewpoints R20, R21, and illustrative viewpoints I7 and I8 from Aldeburgh and I10 from Orford Ness (see **Figures 13.9.20** – **21** and **Appendix 13A**)).

13.4.101 Inland views beyond 5km only arise from scattered locations, typically from slightly more elevated open ground (e.g. representative viewpoint R22 (see **Figure 13.9.22**) near Saxmundham). From these locations, views tend to

be glimpses of the upper sections of the main reactors at Sizewell A and or Sizewell B through gaps in trees and are far less prominent than from along the coastal zone.

Viewpoint selection

13.4.102 The methodology and approach to the viewpoint selection has involved extensive field survey, consultation and agreement with landscape and visual impact assessment consultees.

13.4.103 The approach to viewpoint selection has been three-tiered:

- Firstly – locations which had predicted theoretical visibility were considered for potential viewpoints;
- Secondly – viewpoints have been selected to represent views of the site from a range of distances, directions and receptor types (e.g. public rights of way, roads, settlement edges etc.). These are not intended to capture all potential views of the site, but act as a representative sample that includes the main views (including those from sensitive locations such as the AONB and Heritage Coast); and
- Thirdly – draft viewpoints were finalised based on consultation and agreement with the landscape and visual impact assessment consultees. The final selection reflects the extensive local knowledge of some of the stakeholders.

13.4.104 The viewpoints have been classified into representative viewpoints and illustrative viewpoints. The representative viewpoints are used as 'samples' upon which to base judgements about the nature, magnitude and significance of effect on visual receptors. Illustrative viewpoints are provided purely for reference to further 'illustrate' observations and judgements made within this landscape and visual impact assessment.

13.4.105 A summary of the representative viewpoints is contained in **Table 13.11** and their locations are shown on **Figures 13.6A** and **Figure 13.6B**. The representative viewpoint photography is contained in **Figures 13.9.01 – 13.9.32.** The photographs are annotated, and include a description of the existing view and the visual effects during construction and operation. Illustrative viewpoints (I1 to I33) – which do not contain a description of visual effects – are included within **Appendix 13A**.

Table 13.11: Representative viewpoints

VP No.	Location	Receptors	Approx. Distance/Direction from Nearest Site Boundary.
R1	Sandlings Walk north of Upper Abbey Farm (Adjacent to boundary of Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and adjacent to Boundary of Special Landscape Area).	Users of Sandlings Walk and bridleway 19 (E-363/019/0 – operational phase only).	Inside site
R2	Permissive path at Kenton Hills (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB).	Users of permissive path.	c. 100m, south
R3	King George's Avenue, Leiston.	Residents on eastern edge of Leiston Motorists on King George's Avenue Workers at Eastlands Industrial Estate.	c. 100m, west
R4	Lover's Lane south of Fiscal Policy (Adjacent to boundary of Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB).	Motorists on Lover's Lane Users of Bridleways (E-363/019/0 E-363/013/0) at entrance of Fiscal Policy.	Adjacent
R5	Footpath south of Leiston Abbey.	Footpath users (E-363/010/0) Cyclists on Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route/Sustrans Route 42.	c. 160m, west
R6	Suffolk Coast Path east of Goose Hill (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Users of Suffolk Coast Path/footpath (E-363/021/0).	c. 80m, north
R7	Sandlings Walk/ Sustrans Route south of Eastbridge (Adjacent to boundary of Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and adjacent to Boundary of Special Landscape Area).	Users of Sandlings Walk Motorists on Eastbridge Road Cyclists on Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route and Regional Cycle Route 42.	c. 170m, north
R8	Footpath north of Leiston Abbey.	Users of footpath (E-515/011/0).	c. 280m, west

VP No.	Location	Receptors	Approx. Distance/Direction from Nearest Site Boundary.
R9	Sizewell Gap south of Greater Gabbard Substation (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB).	Motorists on Sizewell Gap and pedestrians on adjacent footway between Leiston and Sizewell.	c. 200m, south
R10	Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk east of Hill Wood (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Users of Suffolk Coast Path, Sandlings Walk and footpath (E-363/021/0) Visitors to Sizewell Beach.	c. 300m, east
R11	Junction of footpaths south west of Halfway Cottages (Adjacent to boundary of Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB).	Users of public bridleways and public footpaths (E-363/028/0 E-363/027/0 E-363/024/0 E-363/022/0).	Adjacent, south
R12	Bridleway south east of Reckham Lodge (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB).	Users of bridleway (E-363/019/0).	Adjacent, south
R13	Abbey Lane east of Cakes and Ale Caravan Park.	Cyclists on Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route and National Cycle Route 42 Motorists on Abbey Lane	c. 1km, west
R14	Suffolk Coast Path at Minsmere Sluice (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Users of Suffolk Coast Path and footpaths (E-363/0321/0 E-363/020/0).	c. 1.5km, north
R15	Beach at Thorpe Ness (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Users of beach east of footpaths at Ness House.	c. 1.6km, south
R16	RSPB Minsmere (Whin Hill) (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Visitors to RSPB Minsmere Whin Hill Motorists on access road to RSPB visitor centre.	c. 1.6km, north

VP No.	Location	Receptors	Approx. Distance/Direction from Nearest Site Boundary.
R17	National Trust Dunwich Coastguard Cottages car park (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Visitors to National Trust property/Dunwich Heath (Open Access Land). Users of Suffolk Coast Path and bridleway (E-255/014/0).	c. 2.6km, north
R18	B1069 (Bull's Hall entrance).	Motorists on B1069.	c. 3.2km, southwest
R19	Yoxford Road, west of Westleton.	Motorists on Yoxford Road to west of Westleton.	c. 3.8km, northwest
R20	Suffolk Coast Path north of Aldeburgh (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Users of Suffolk Coast Path/footpath (E-103/006/0).	c. 3.8km, south
R21	Aldeburgh beach car park (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Users of beach and motorists on road between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness.	c. 4.5km, south
R22	B1119 east of Saxmundham.	Motorists onB1119 and footpath users (E-460/023/0).	c. 5.3km, west
R23	Promenade, Southwold at junction with East Cliff Road (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Pedestrians along Southwold promenade/ Suffolk Coast Path and cyclists on Sustrans Route 1.	c. 11.5km, north
R24	Leiston Abbey (from top of ruins) looking north.	Visitors to Leiston Abbey.	c. 200m to west
R25	Leiston Abbey (from top of ruins) looking south.	Visitors to Leiston Abbey.	c. 200m to west
R26	1800m directly east of Sizewell power stations (short distance east of Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Offshore – users of recreational sailors and operation commercial boats.	c. 1800m, east
R27	Footpath, Valley Road Allotments, Leiston.	Users of footpath and allotments (footpath illustrated on Ordnance Survey 25k mapping but not identified on Definitive Map).	c. 250m to southwest
R28	Footpath south of Theberton.	Users of public footpath (E-515/007/0).	c. 1.4km, northwest

VP No.	Location	Receptors	Approx. Distance/Direction from Nearest Site Boundary.
R29	Sandlings Walk at Home Farm (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and adjacent to boundary of Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Users of Sandlings Walk. Users of rights of way/ access land at Sizewell Common. Residents of Home Farm/Beach View. Motorists on track to Sizewell Hall/ Ness House/Dower House.	c. 220m, south
R30	Junction of footpaths, The Walks (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB).	Users of public bridleway and footpath (E-363/026/0 E-106/026/0 E-363/024/0 E-363/025/0) and Open Access Land at The Walks.	c. 750m, south
R31	Shingle beach east of secondary sea defence (Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast).	Visitors to Sizewell Beach.	c. 440m, north
R32	Footway adjacent to Valley Road, north of railway overbridge.	Residents and motorists on Valley road north of railway bridge and users of adjacent footway.	Adjacent, north

Visual receptors

13.4.106 Visual receptors within the study area have been grouped into discrete geographic areas based on the settlement hierarchy and broadly similar characteristics (e.g. topography, land cover) and predicted visibility of the proposed development. They are referred to in the assessment as visual receptor groups. Visual receptor groups within the study area are shown on **Figure 13.7**, with more detail shown on **Figure 13.8**.

13.4.107 Based on the results of the ZTV models and refinement by field survey visits, the visual receptors have been separated into the following groups:

- Visual receptor groups with either no visibility or extremely limited visibility and which, due to distance, would not experience effects above negligible. These are classified alphabetically (A–N) and are described within **Appendix 13E**.

- Those visual receptor groups which may have views of the site but, due to a combination of distance and intervening screening, would experience visual effects below the threshold of significant. These are described and assessed within **Appendix 13F**.

- Visual receptor groups that are predicted to experience significant visual effects are summarised within **Table 13.12** and assessed within this chapter.

13.4.108 Key transport and recreational routes are described separately.

Table 13.12: Visual receptor groups with the potential for significant effects

Visual receptor group	Description	VP Ref.
5: Westleton Walks and Dunwich Heath	Within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and southern and eastern portion within Suffolk Heritage Coast. Extends from the southern boundary of Dunwich Forest to the northern edge of RSPB Minsmere and Dunwich Heath in the east. Principal receptors include users of Open Access Land at Westleton Heath, Westleton Walks and Dunwich Heath; visitors to RSPB Minsmere (access road and elevated northern section at The Warren/North Walks); visitors to National Trust Dunwich Heath and Coastguard Cottages, users of the Sandlings Walk and Suffolk Coast Path; National Cycle Route 42/Suffolk Cycle Route and public footpaths/local cycle routes.	R17 I15, I16, I17, I26
7: RSPB Minsmere	Within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast. Extends from entrance road to RSPB Minsmere in north to Minsmere Sluice in south. Includes the majority of the RSPB Minsmere Reserve and network of routes within the Reserve. A section of National Cycle Route 42/Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route runs along the western boundary of the area.	R16 I2
8: Dunwich to Minsmere Coast	Within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast. Coastal strip between Dunwich and Minsmere Sluice in the south. The principal receptors are users of the Suffolk Coast Path and beach.	R14 I17
10: Eastbridge and Leiston Abbey	Partially within Special Landscape Area. Eastbridge lies at the boundary of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast. Extends from the village of Eastbridge in north to Leiston abbey in the south and includes eastern part of Theberton (north of B1112 and east of church), and several properties including Theberton House. The principal receptors are visitors to Leiston Abbey, users of Sandlings Walk, National Cycle Route 42/ Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route and public footpaths east and west of the B1122.	R5, R8, R24, R25 I6, I11

Visual receptor group	Description	VP Ref.
11: Minsmere South	Within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast. Area extends from Minsmere Sluice to the site boundary in the south and includes sparsely populated marshland and arable land. The principal receptors are users of the public footpath from Eastbridge to Minsmere Sluice and the permissive access to the ruins of Leiston Abbey (original site), a section of the Sandlings Walk and Regional Cycle Route 42 and Suffolk Coastal Cycle Route.	R7 I12, 1I3, I27, I28
12: Minsmere to Sizewell Coast	Within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB Suffolk Heritage Coast. Extends along the coastal strip from the Minsmere Sluice in the north to near Beach View Holiday Park (south of Sizewell). The principal receptors are users of the Suffolk Coast Path/Sandlings Walk and footpath/ beach users.	R6, R10, R31 I14
15: Sizewell Belts	Within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. Eastern section within Suffolk Heritage Coast. Area between Kenton Hills and Sizewell Gap in the south and defined by Lover's Lane in the east. Principal receptors include users of bridleway along Sandy Lane, public footpath across Leiston Common/ users of Leiston Common (Open Access Land), permissive paths at Kenton Hills (accessible from car park off Lover's Lane) and visitors to Suffolk Wildlife Trust Sizewell Belts Nature Reserve.	R2, R4, R9, R12 I1
24: Offshore	Nearshore waters within 5km of the site – used by recreational receptors.	R26 I21, I22, I23, I24, I25

Key routes (roads and rail)

13.4.109 The key transport routes within the study area are:

- A12 (Ipswich to Lowestoft);
- A1120 (westwards from A12 at Yoxford);
- A1094 (A12 to Aldeburgh);
- A1095 (A12 to Southwold);
- A145 (north from A12 near Blythburgh);
- A144 (north from A12 towards Halesworth); and
- East Suffolk Railway Line (Ipswich to Lowestoft).

13.4.110 With the exception of a small section of the A1094 (c.4km at its nearest point), the key transport routes lie over 5km from the site. Visual receptors on these routes would either have no visibility or extremely restricted visibility of the proposed development as indicated by the ZTV models.

13.4.111 With the exception of a small section of the A1094 (assessed in **Appendix 13F**) it is considered that there is no potential for significant visual effects from the above key routes.

Key routes (recreational)

13.4.112 Recreational routes include promoted long-distance pedestrian routes and national and regional cycle routes. The principal routes within the study area, and where they are described, are summarised below:

- Suffolk Coast Path (main assessment);
- Sandlings Walk (main assessment);
- National Cycle Route (NCR) 1 (**Appendix 13E**);
- Regional Cycle Route (RCR) 31 (**Appendix 13E**);
- Regional Cycle Route (RCR) 41 (**Appendix 13E**); and

- Regional Cycle Route (RCR) 42 (**Appendix 13F**).

Suffolk Coast Path

13.4.113 The Suffolk Coast Path follows rights of way and permissive paths along the Suffolk Heritage Coast north from Felixstowe to Lowestoft South Pier. Within the study area, the path runs along the coast between north of Southwold to the Butley River west of Orford in the south deviating inland at several locations including around the eastern edge of Dunwich Forest and at Aldeburgh, where it follows the course of the River Alde to Snape Maltings before crossing through Tunstall Forest towards Boyton Marshes.

13.4.114 The route passes through the site boundary adjacent to the existing Sizewell Power stations along Sizewell Beach (a section shared with the Sandlings Walk).

13.4.115 From Sizewell Beach, there are close-range and unfiltered views of Sizewell A and Sizewell B (e.g. representative viewpoints R6 and R10 on **Figure 13.9.06** and **Figure 13.9.10**). Sizewell Power Station is a noticeable component of the view along much the coastal path from Southwold in the north (e.g. representative viewpoint R23 on **Figure 13.9.23**) and from Aldeburgh in the south (e.g. representative viewpoint R20 on **Figure 13.9.20**).

13.4.116 Only short sections around Thorpeness and Dingle Marshes (south of Walberswick) fall outside the ZTV. There are clear views of the power station from the path at RSPB Minsmere (e.g. representative viewpoint R14 on **Figure 13.9.14**) and National Trust Dunwich Heath (e.g. representative viewpoint R17 on **Figure 13.9.17**).

Sandlings Walk

13.4.117 The Sandlings Walk is an approximately 60 mile promoted walk between Southwold and Ipswich. Its route lies generally inland from the Suffolk Coast Path that runs broadly parallel where it traverses the ‘sandlings’ landscape.

13.4.118 Within the study area, the Sandlings Walk follows the same route as the Suffolk Coast Path around Southwold, deviating inland to the north of Walberswick and around the western edge of Dunwich forest, briefly re-joining the coastal path at Dunwich. The route runs inland across Dunwich Heath to the north and west of Minsmere, following local roads between Eastbridge and Leiston Abbey, and through the Kenton Hills and Goose Hill woodlands re-connecting with the Suffolk Coast Path along Sizewell Beach.

13.4.119 This northern section has some long-range views of the existing Sizewell power stations south of Southwold; no views from the majority of the inland path between Walberswick and Dunwich; only a limited view from Dunwich Heath, and no views from the majority of the path between Dunwich Heath and Eastbridge. There are views of the upper sections of Sizewell A and Sizewell B above forestry plantations from just north of Upper Abbey Farm (e.g. representative viewpoint R1 on **Figure 13.9.01**) but views are predominantly screened from the path through the forestry plantations of Kenton Hills and Goose Hill.

13.4.120 Open, close views of the power station arise from where the route joins the Suffolk Coast Path along Sizewell Beach (e.g. representative viewpoints R6 on **Figure 13.9.06** and R10 on **Figure 13.9.10**).

13.4.121 North of Thorpeness (at The Walks), the Sandlings Walk and Suffolk Coast Path diverge, with the Sandlings Walk following a route further inland to Friston, Snape and through Tunstall Forest and Rendlesham Forest.

13.4.122 From the southern section of the route, there are only a limited number of partially filtered views of the power station inland from Sizewell such as around The Walks. Inland (west) of the B1122, most of the path falls outside the ZTV and views are predominantly screened or heavily filtered.

Specific viewpoints

13.4.123 Specific viewpoints refer to those locations where a particular view of the landscape is a prominent and distinctive element. These include 'designed' views, typically within historic landscapes, and highly attractive viewpoints that are locally promoted or draw visitors.

13.4.124 The elevated view from Dunwich Cliffs adjacent to the National Trust Coastguard Cottages (representative viewpoint R17 on **Figure 13.9.17**) looks over Minsmere and along the coastline towards Sizewell is a prominent and valued local viewpoint location and is considered as a specific viewpoint.

v. Designated/defined landscapes and value

Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Suffolk Heritage Coast

13.4.125 The Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB covers approximately 403 square kilometres and extends from Kessingland near Lowestoft in the north to the river Stour in the south. The eastern boundary is formed by the North Sea and the western boundary encompasses several major estuaries and rivers. The AONB was designated in 1970 and included Sizewell A which was already in existence at the time of designation.

13.4.126 As illustrated on **Figure 13.1**, the full extent of the main platform and majority of the temporary construction area are located within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB. The remainder of the temporary construction area and Land east of Eastlands Industrial Estate is located immediately adjacent to the AONB boundary.

13.4.127 Within the study area the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB consists of a mosaic of different habitats and land uses. The extent to which the AONB extends inland within the study area varies from between approximately 11km at Tunstall Forest to approximately 1.5km between Sizewell and Thorpeness.

13.4.128 The AONB within the study area includes a range of landscape character types.

13.4.129 The main development site and its immediate context within the AONB includes the Estate Sandlands LCT (see **Figures 13.4** and **13.5**) which comprises arable farmland, forestry (for example at Goose Hill and Kenton Hills) and pasture (for example at Leiston Common). The existing Sizewell A and Sizewell B power stations are within the AONB along with the associated coastal defences at Sizewell Beach. The Galloper and Greater Gabbard onshore substations north of Sizewell Gap and high voltage transmission lines are also located within the AONB. Immediately west of the main platform is the Coastal Levels LCT (Sizewell Marshes).

13.4.130 To the north of the main development site extend areas of the Coastal Levels LCT (including the low lying Minsmere Level, which lies immediately north of the temporary construction area), and Estate Sandlands including areas of settlement and farmland, heathland (for example at Dunwich Heath) and forestry (for example Dunwich Forest). Further north is the Open Coastal Fens LCT of the Dingle and Westwood Marshes which lies to the south of Walberswick and Southwold. The Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT, comprising shelving beaches, dunes and low cliffs follows the coastline and marks the seaward extent of the AONB.

13.4.131 To the south of the main development site extend the Estate Sandlands LCT which include areas of farmland, forestry (for example Tunstall Forest) and heathland (for example The Walks). North and south of Aldeburgh are areas of the Coastal Levels LCT fringing water courses, including the Sudbourne Marshes along the Alde Ore River (Inland Navigable Waters seascape character type). The upper reaches of the Alde Ore River are fringed by the low lying Saltmarshes and Intertidal Flats LCT. The Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT mark the seaward boundary of the AONB and include the shingle spit of Orford Ness.

13.4.132 The Suffolk Heritage Coast extends along the coastline of Suffolk where it coincides with the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB.

13.4.133 The landward boundary of the area defined as the Suffolk Heritage Coast is contained within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, and extends inland to include the immediate coastal strip, estuaries and lower lying coastal levels. Seaward, the area defined extends approximately 1.5km from the coastline. Offshore, the Heritage Coast is characterised by the Nearshore Waters SCT.

13.4.134 The landscape/seascape within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and the Suffolk Heritage Coast is judged to be of national value.

13.4.135 The natural beauty and special quality indicators of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB have been described by EDF Energy through consultation and drawing on factors used by Natural England when assessing a landscape for designation (Ref. 13.18). Consideration is also given to the contribution of coastal and offshore areas (including areas within the Suffolk Heritage Coast) to the natural beauty and special quality indicators of the AONB. These natural beauty and special qualities indicators are presented in full in **Appendix 13C**.

13.4.136 The natural beauty indicators and special qualities of the AONB are assessed in Section 13.6 and summarised below.

Natural beauty indicators:

- Landscape Quality
- Scenic Quality
- Relative wildness
- Relative tranquillity
- Natural heritage features
- Cultural heritage

Special qualities:

- Health and well-being
- Community

- Economy
- Ecosystem Goods and Services

13.4.137 The susceptibility of the AONB (and Heritage Coast) is influenced by the nature of the special qualities and purposes of the designation and/or the valued elements, qualities or characteristics, indicating the degree to which these may be unduly affected by the proposals. The susceptibility of individual natural beauty and special qualities indicators is described in the assessment of effects followed by a description of the nature and scale and extent of effects arising from the proposed development for both the construction and operation phases. A summary of the relevant findings of the assessment of effects on landscape character and visual receptors is also presented.

Special Landscape Area

13.4.138 As illustrated on **Figure 13.1**, within the study area, there are several areas that lie west of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB that are locally designated as Special Landscape Areas (SLA). The areas typically follow river valleys or occupy areas of historic parks and gardens and areas of farmland that contribute to their setting.

13.4.139 The southernmost extent of an area designated as a SLA falls within the western portion of the temporary construction area, in the vicinity of Upper Abbey Farm. This broadly follows the Minsmere River and several tributaries, including the Yox as far west as Peasenhall.

13.4.140 Within the SLA, landscape is judged to be of local value.

13.4.141 The susceptibility of the SLA is influenced by the nature of the special qualities and purposes of the designation which is to ensure the protection of their special landscape quality. The special landscape qualities indicators of the SLA in Suffolk Coastal District have been defined in agreement with landscape and visual impact assessment consultees (Ref. 13.16). These are presented in full in **Appendix 13D.**

Local landscape value

13.4.142 Beyond the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB, Suffolk Heritage Coast and areas designated as SLA, there are a number of features that contribute to the value of the local landscape as follows:

- Networks of public rights of way and national and local cycle routes;

- Areas for outdoor recreation including registered common land, open access land, Woodland Trust sites, local nature reserves and country parks;

- Field patterns, ancient woodlands, heritage features (including designated assets) and rural settlements with historic cores that contribute to a sense of time depth; and

- Areas of wildlife interest, including designated sites, and recently created habitat at Aldhurst Farm.

13.4.143 Although all of these are valued by the local community, none of these features/ assets are considered to demonstrate that the landscape (outside areas designated as AONB, Heritage Coast or SLA) is sufficiently valued to increase the landscape value above community value.

c) Future baseline

13.4.144 Various factors may result in changing land use patterns within the study area. For example, agricultural practices may change in response to the effects of changing market conditions and opportunities for diversification. The effects of a changing climate, such as increased mean annual air temperatures, hotter summers, altered seasonal rainfall patterns, drier summers, wetter winters and the increased frequency of extreme rainfall events and the intensity of storms may also influence the types of agricultural practices that are viable in this landscape.

13.4.145 There may also be an influence on the types of agricultural infrastructure needed. Larger farm buildings, for example to accommodate over wintering cattle or larger farming equipment may be required. Decreases in summer precipitation may require the construction of farm reservoirs to hold water for various agricultural practices in a part of the country that is already noted as being one of the driest and most water-stressed in the country.

13.4.146 In addition to influencing the type of agriculture undertaken, various climate related factors may also affect the survival and long-term health of trees, perhaps through the introduction of invasive species, pathogens and viruses. The lack of long-term management/stocking of commercial forestry and native woodlands and copses may also influence the survival of these landscape features, including as a result of tree loss to wind throw during storms. Conversely, new areas of commercial forestry or woodland could be planted in areas of former farmland.

13.4.147 Along the coast, change may result from sea level rise and modification through coastal erosion and deposition. Coastal defensive structures may also be modified or installed.

13.4.148 Consented developments form part of the baseline environment. However, the baseline may change in the future as a result of development not currently in planning, for example new residential development on the edges of existing settlements, such as Leiston, and new energy infrastructure on and offshore.

13.4.149 Whilst the potential exists to alter the character of the local landscape, such changes are likely to be localised and therefore would not affect the findings of the assessment of effects on landscape and visual receptors in general but could alter outcomes in some locations.

13.4.150 The England Coast Path is a proposed National Trail around all of England's coast which Natural England is establishing under the provisions of Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Sizewell is located along the 60km stretch of coast which Natural England has identified as 'Aldeburgh to Hopton-on-Sea'. Natural England submitted their proposals for improved access to the coast (including the England Coast Path) between Aldeburgh to Hopton-on-Sea to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs on 29th January 2020 and has asked for all representations and objections to be submitted to Natural England by 25th March 2020. Natural England is proposing that the England Coast Path will follow the route of the Suffolk Coast Path past Sizewell C power station and through the site. Effects on this route would be the same as for the Suffolk Coast Path and are not considered separately. Further detail is provided within the **Amenity and Recreation Assessment** (**Volume 2, Chapter 15**).

13.5 Environmental design and mitigation

13.5.1 As detailed in **Volume 1**, **Chapter 6**, a number of primary and tertiary mitigation measures have been identified through the iterative EIA process and have been incorporated into the design and construction planning of the proposed development. Mitigation measures are identified in **Chapters 2, 3** and **4** of this volume and are summarised in this section as relevant to the landscape and visual impact assessment.

13.5.2 **Appendix 13G** demonstrates that the off-site developments (off-site sports facilities at Leiston, fen meadow compensation sites south of Benhall and east of Halesworth and, if required, the marsh harrier habitat improvement area (Westleton) would not result in landscape and visual effects and therefore would not require site-specific mitigation.

a) Environmental design and mitigation for the Sizewell B relocated facilities works during Phase 0

13.5.3 In line with the Sizewell C Project programme, set out in **Chapter 3** of this volume, it is anticipated that the first phase of the Sizewell B relocated facilities works, which is referred to as 'Phase 0', would be carried out pursuant to the planning permission granted by East Suffolk Council on 13 November 2019 (application ref. DC/19/1637/FUL). The second phase of the Sizewell B relocated facilities works would take place in Phases 1 and 2 in parallel with other DCO works due to take place at this time and would be carried out pursuant to the DCO.

13.5.4 Under the existing planning permission, mitigation measures for landscape and visual effects that occur as a result of Phase 0 of the Sizewell B relocated facilities works include the following:

- Primary mitigation:
  - Measures embedded within the proposals, included the design and specification of new buildings to be in keeping with the existing site context, limiting light spill through the orientation of buildings, keeping areas unlit when not in use, provision of directional lighting and a boundary fence along the western edge of the western access road to screen views to vehicles from locations to the west and south, reprofiling the landform within Pillbox Field to screen views of the proposed outage car park, and the retention of existing vegetation along site perimeter, as far as practicable. The retained perimeter planting would be enhanced with new planting as part of the landscaping proposals.
- Tertiary mitigation:
  - Measures embedded within the Sizewell B relocated facilities Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan to minimise construction disturbance and light spill, for example through the provision of site hoardings.

13.5.5 Details of these measures are provided in Chapter 7 of the Sizewell B relocated facilities ES (provided at **Volume 1, Appendix 2A**).

13.5.6 It is anticipated that the mitigation measures summarised above would largely be in place or under way by the end of Phase 0. However, in order to allow for this mitigation to be implemented in Phases 1 and 2, if required (or if the works are instead carried out entirely under the DCO – see **Volume 2, Appendix 6A** of the ES), these measures have also been incorporated within the DCO.

b) Environmental design and mitigation within the DCO

i. Primary mitigation

13.5.7 This is often referred to as 'embedded mitigation' and includes modifications to the location or design of the development made during the pre-application phase. These are considered an inherent part of the Sizewell C Project and become a fundamental part of the design for which consent is sought. As such, they do not require additional action to be taken (e.g. architectural treatment of proposed facilities to be in keeping with similar adjacent buildings in its external appearance).

13.5.8 The proposed development has been carefully planned as part of an iterative design process securing input from consultation, ongoing assessment, design review and refinement of operational design. The layout of the site, landscape design and the form and design of the proposed structures have been guided by a series of Overarching Design Principles and Detailed Landscape and Built Development Design Principles, which are outlined in the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1). The Design Principles have been applied to the construction and operational phases, and are outlined below with supporting narrative, and described in detail in the subsequent construction and operational mitigation sections:

Overarching Design Principles – Landscape and Visual Amenity

- Plan the construction and operational phases of the development to minimise land take and mitigate landscape and visual effects where practical.

- Retain existing screening landscape features, where reasonably practicable, and promote appropriate new landscape design (planting and landform) to mitigate the landscape and visual effects of the development. Given the constrained access for construction access with the primary focus in the north, it has been critical to control potential tree loss to accommodate construction compound/working areas, through close working with the engineering and enabling teams during the construction phase masterplanning, coordination with the existing and future estate management plan especially in relation to woodland management and to ensure the proposed planting strategy is deliverable and benefits from insight from existing estate managers and ecological advisors

- Establish new planting and landform at the earliest practicable opportunity. Close working with the engineering and enabling teams during the construction phase masterplanning has secured a phased

coastal defence construction approach that also seeks to secure the earliest establishment of permanent sea defences to minimise impacts on the amenity of the coastline. Opportunities for advanced planting have been identified and in cases already undertaken.

- Plan the development and design structures and buildings to respect the rural and, in part, wilderness character of the landscape. The context of the main development site differs from Hinkley Point C and as such issues such as orientation of main structures, the different coastal landscape and broader landscape setting/context have resulted in a different design response to that proposed for Hinkley Point C including sea defence design and building envelope design and finish. The existing Sizewell power station structures form an important context for the proposed Sizewell C power station and their relative simplicity has informed the design strategy for the new structures with a view to mirroring their 'behaviour' in the landscape. This includes control of the alignment of main structures along the coastline, approach to colour and control of secondary elements that could add visual clutter.

- Select finishes (materials, colour and texture) to be sympathetic to local landscape, seascape and built context, where reasonably practicable. The relative simplicity of the existing Sizewell A and B structures and the existing landscape context has informed the strategy for finishes for the proposed main structures and their identification as main structures that will characterise the views along the coast, accepting the limitations imposed by Nuclear island structures. Colour studies have been undertaken and consulted upon to inform the colours proposed for the main structures and the nature and control of the materials and their texture have been given careful consideration in finalising the design.

- Design associated infrastructure, including lighting, access and fencing, to minimise, where reasonably practicable, landscape, seascape and visual effects. The design strategy has been to minimise the scale of associated infrastructure and secure a carefully designed response that seeks to integrate these elements into the landscape. Elements include the proposed access road aligning with sensitively restored site levels and proposed and existing tree cover; screened car parking; allowing for a demountable beach landing facility; screening of the main site security fencing by the proposed sea defences; minimising the scale of the main site access including securing planting opportunities to support screening; and development of a lighting strategy to provide control and minimise the visual

presence of lighting structures in the landscape, including no lighting to the access road.

- Minimise, where reasonably practicable, visual effects at night from lighting and light spill without compromising either safety or security. The development of a lighting strategy to provide control and minimise the visual presence of lighting in the landscape during the hours of darkness.

Construction phase

13.5.9 The following measures have been designed to reduce as much as reasonably practicable the extent of physical disturbance to the landscape and the visual prominence of construction works including buildings, structures, compounds, storage areas and stockpiles.

Location and extents

- Optimising the land required for construction to minimise disturbance to as small an area of the landscape as practicable.

- Avoiding construction activity and major works in visually sensitive locations such as Great Mount Walk and land west of Eastbridge Road, to the east of Theberton House/south of Potter's Farm.

- Configuring the physical extents of the main development site boundary to exclude and protect existing woodland and forested areas (e.g. Ash Wood, Great Mount Wood and northern extents of Dunwich Forest and Goose Hill), which would screen lower level views of construction from the north (e.g. from National Trust Dunwich Coastguard Cottages, RSPB Minsmere and beach.

- Configuring the physical extents of the main development site boundary to exclude and protect existing woodland and belts of vegetation (e.g. Kenton Hills and Grimseys, trees along bridleway 19, vicinity of Upper Abbey Farm and Old Abbey Farm) that would screen views of lower level construction from the west and south.

- Align the construction access road vertically and horizontally to permit its retention in the operational phase and in a location that can be properly integrated in the restored landscape, that connects at grade, with the bridleway whilst also connecting to the SSSI crossing and without undue impact on retained tree cover.

Land uses

- Arranging the layout of the temporary construction area at Land east of the Eastlands Industrial Estate (LEEIE) to exclude materials storage areas south of residential properties along Valley Road adjacent to the railway bridge.

- Limiting the maximum height parameters of stockpiles to reduce their visual prominence.

Landscape

- Where possible, retain areas of established vegetation that have an important function in containing views towards the site (e.g. vegetation along bridleway 19, Eastbridge Road, around Upper Abbey Farm and woodland along the northern edge of Goose Hill).

- Undertake advance planting to strengthen screening. This has already been completed around the perimeter of the main development site, including tree/shrub planting at Red Rails and White Gates Fields and along the northern edge of Goose Hill. Planting to reinforce existing hedgerows has been completed south of Lower Abbey Farm and at Black Walks.

- Some additional planting would be established at an early stage within the construction phase to strengthen/enhance existing boundary vegetation and allow areas of new planting associated with the Landscape Masterplan to become established. For example, it is proposed that additional planting would be undertaken around the entrance plaza and along Eastbridge Road and Bridleway 19 and around the perimeter of LEEIE.

- Creating temporary earth bunds and acoustic fencing/construction hoarding to provide visual containment of lower level construction activity and vehicle movements including along the northern haul road along the eastern edge of the sea defences, adjacent to Sizewell Beach and adjacent to Lover's Lane at Land East of Eastlands Industrial Estate.

- Creating a temporary earth bund and vegetated retaining structure at the northern edge of Kenton Hills to contribute to the screening of views of vehicle movements along the proposed access road and construction activity from permissive paths in Kenton Hills, and

contribute to the characteristic wooded backdrop to the lower lying Sizewell Marshes SSSI.

Buildings and infrastructure

- Selecting the causeway option for the SSSI crossing to allow for the establishment of vegetation along its eastern edge that would be retained into the operational phase to contribute to the screening of views of vehicle movements from locations along Sizewell Beach.

- Limiting new structures at the accommodation campus to up to 3 and 4 storeys (excluding roof mounted plant), and orientating accommodation blocks east west to minimise visual effects stepping the buildings back from Eastbridge Lane. Structures that are lower in height than the accommodation blocks are located to the north (car deck) and south (amenity hub and ancillary/servicing buildings) to reduce visual effects from in the vicinity of Leiston Abbey and from elevated locations to the north.

- Undertaking and completing the phased works to the sea defences, northern mound and beach landing facility and access road as early as possible in the programme in part to minimise disruption to users of Sizewell Beach and Suffolk Coast Path/Sandlings Walk.

Lighting

13.5.10 The **Lighting Management Plan** (**Appendix 2B** of this Volume), includes requirements to minimise the visual impact of artificial lighting from the proposed construction including measures to: target lighting where it is required to ensure safe and secure working environment in the absence of natural light; avoid unnecessary illumination (such as illumination of construction company logos) and minimise upward lighting and light spill to neighbouring areas.

13.5.11 The protection of dark zones and corridors (e.g. along retained hedgerows to protect bat flight corridors). Where possible fixed lighting has been minimised within areas of the main development site that are adjacent to sensitive visual receptors including Leiston Old Abbey Nursing Home, residential properties along Lover's Lanes, Sandy Lane and Abbey Road (B1122) and east of Leiston Abbey. Similarly, fixed lighting has been minimised in the area of the sea defences, northern mound and beach.

Operation

13.5.12 The following measures have been taken that aim to integrate the proposals within the existing landscape, minimise the visual prominence of

the permanent elements of the operational power station, including buildings, structures, infrastructure, and vehicles (both moving and parked); repair areas of landscape used during the construction phase in accordance with the Landscape Masterplan and associated **Outline Landscape and Ecological Management Plan** (**oLEMP**) (Doc Ref. 8.2)to enhance landscape character, maintain the long term screening function of structural vegetation, and integrate the area affected during construction into the remainder of the EDF Energy estate and wider landscape.

Landscape

- Removal of temporary construction features across the site including buildings (such as the accommodation campus), contractor compounds, bunds, stockpiles and haul roads etc.

- Reinstatement of the landscape within the temporary construction area using stored soils. Land would be comprehensively restored in general accordance with the Landscape Masterplan and Indicative Landform Strategy, with some land being returned to agriculture and other new areas of grassland and woodland.

- The access road delivered during the construction phase would be reduced in width and set within the restored landscape by the creation of undulating naturalistic landforms to ensure that it is integrated in the landscape and substantially screened in views from the surrounding landscape.

- The establishment and management of the restored landscape areas and new habitats/vegetation, including areas of proposed and existing structural planting that provides screening of the proposed development and existing structures. This would be secured through the implementation of the **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2).

- The new sea defences and the re-instated northern mound would be designed to tie in the existing sea defences at Bent Hills adjacent to Sizewell B to the south and the embankment of the SSSI crossing to the north west. They would be raised to a height that screens views to activity and lower lying buildings and structures adjacent to the main power station structures from nearby locations along Sizewell Beach and offshore. Planting on the sea defences and northern mound would comprise species that are characteristic of the local coastline, including trees that once established would add further screening.

- The coastal landscape will be re-created to provide a naturalistic setting for the sea defences extending the alteration of ground levels to the retained first line of sea defences.

- Trees lost during construction would be mitigated by new native tree planting, predominantly through implementation of a design broadly in line with the operational Landscape Masterplan and in accordance with the **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2).

Wider Estate Management (Woodland)

- The **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2) is supported by an existing Woodland Management Plan, part of the Sizewell Integrated Land Management Plan (ILMP). It has been prepared in accordance with UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) guidelines. The plan states that the long-term aim of the woodlands on the wider EDF Energy estate is "*to maintain the contribution they make to the local landscape character and/or screening, and to improve and enhance their value for biodiversity*". Management measures include selective thinning (but no clear felling) and restocking/replanting to increase species and structural diversity and ensure the long-term resilience of the woodland. These include the retained section of Goose Hill and Kenton Hills and the woodlands to the north of the site (which are important for visual containment) such as Ash Wood, Great Mount Wood and the Grove.

Buildings and structures

- As explained in the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref.8.1), one of the Design Principles has been to ensure the layout of the Conventional Island buildings on the main platform are arranged on an axial alignment with the existing power station structures and parallel to the coastline. The intention is that this supports the concept of replicating the 'behaviour' of the existing power station structures in views along the coastline, at distance, and in close proximity.

- The main structures comprising the Conventional island buildings (the turbine halls) and Operational service centre, have been designed to respond to the landscape and visual context being less constrained by nuclear safety design standards. The design and specification of materials/colours are illustrated in **Section 7** of the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1) and additional design control secured through the Design Principles. These structures are viewed from the coast in the context of the Nuclear island structures which must be retained as concrete

elements. Importantly these structures will sit behind the main structures in views from the coastline forming background elements. Consideration has been given to reducing scalable features and selecting appropriate materials and colour finishes on the main structures to be sensitive to their landscape context, and reflect the behaviour of the main reactor buildings at Sizewell A and Sizewell B, which present generally simple geometric forms in the landscape.

- The proposed colour range has been informed by colour studies that have been consulted upon. The seaward façades of the turbine halls and operational service centre would be windowless to minimise light spill in this direction and avoid scaleable references to support their benign character.

- The design strategy for Ancillary structures on the main platform, is to maintain an upper height limit that permits the main structures to remain dominant and secure an uncluttered setting in views from the coast; whilst retaining flexibility on the location of Ancillary structures within an identified zone. The design and specification of materials/colours are illustrated in **Section 7** of the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1) and additional design control secured through the Design Principles.

- Permanent buildings and structures inland from the coast, such as the emergency equipment store, would be designed to respond to the local landscape and built context where applicable. The design and specification of materials/colours are illustrated in **Section 7** of the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1) and additional design control secured through the Design Principles.

- The design of the proposed training centre, outage store and other buildings and structures associated with Sizewell B relocated facilities would be designed to respond to the context of existing buildings and structures at Sizewell B. The design and specification of materials/colours are illustrated in **Section 7** of the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1) and additional design control secured through the Design Principles. Roof top plant on the training centre would be enclosed to avoid visual clutter and maintain views to simple geometric forms. The outage store and training centre buildings are orientated to present the shortest elevations to the west. This façade of the training centre is windowless to minimise light spill in this direction.

Infrastructure

- The width of both the proposed access road and the SSSI crossing would be reduced during the operational phase from their maximum widths during construction, and the margins planted with native trees and shrubs to further integrate these features into the local landscape and screen/filter views to moving vehicles.

- The outage car park at Pillbox Field has been designed to reduce the visibility of facility and parked vehicles through its location to the north of rising land, the sensitive reprofiling of landform and use of reinforced grass surfacing. A new hedgerow is proposed across the southern portion of Pillbox Field (to replace the existing hedgerow along Sizewell Gap removed to accommodate visibility splay), and woodland and woodland edge planting is proposed along the crest of the rising land on which the Pillbox sits to screen views of the outage car park.

Lighting

- An objective of the design has been to minimise, as far as practicable and with reference to minimum safety requirements, the effects of the development at night. Further details about the design of lighting are presented in the **Lighting Management Plan (Appendix 2B** of this Volume**)** and in **Section 7** of the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1).

- Detailed Built Development Principles outlined in the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** include measures to minimise the spillage of light beyond the perimeter of the power station site (particularly on the eastern side of the platform adjacent to the coast). Away from the main platform (where any permanent ambient or security lighting would be concentrated), the requirement for lighting would be minimal.

- Mitigation to reduce lighting impacts is outlined in the **Lighting Management Plan** (**Appendix 2B** of this Volume). Measures include adopting the lowest safe lighting level possible, limiting the duration of lighting, using luminaires with good optical control, minimising the mounting height of luminaires, installing shields and directing light downwards and away from the site boundaries.

- The landscape and visual effects from proposed lighting are assessed within **Appendix 13B** of this chapter (and summarised within the tables in **Section 13.8**).

ii. Tertiary mitigation

13.5.13 Tertiary mitigation will be required regardless of any EIA assessment, as it is imposed, for example, as a result of legislative requirements and/or standard sectoral best practices. Tertiary mitigation relevant to terrestrial landscape and visual assessment has been detailed in the **Code of Construction Practice** (**CoCP**) (Doc. Ref. 8.11). The **CoCP** has been informed by relevant environmental legislative requirements as well as general requirements and compliance with current standards, construction and operational experience and the EIA process, securing mitigation measures that are not secured by any other means.

13.5.14 Mitigation measures relevant to the landscape and visual assessment that would be included in the **CoCP** would comprise:

- contractors will seek to avoid unnecessary tree and vegetation removal;
- where required, tree felling will be carried out taking appropriate consideration of the UK Forestry Standard Guidelines;
- trees within or adjacent to the site boundary which are to be retained, will be protected in line with the recommendations in BS 5837, and works would be managed through measures such as provision of appropriate fencing around root protection zones, prevent compaction of soils, selective removal of lower branches to reduce risk of damage by construction plant and vehicles. Works relating to the protection of retained trees and trees subject to works will be overseen by a qualified arboricultural consultant;
- the supply, storage, handling, planting and maintenance of new planting will be undertaken in accordance with appropriate British Standards; and
- the design of hoardings around construction activities shall include consideration of the character of the surrounding landscape (e.g. use of open mesh fencing where possible and appropriate in rural areas). Fencing and hoarding shall be kept well maintained throughout construction.

13.6 Assessment

a) Introduction

13.6.1 This section presents the findings of the landscape and visual impact assessment for the construction and operation of the proposed development and identifies any likely significant effects that are predicted to occur.

13.6.2 Construction effects are considered to be 'long-term' in duration due to the anticipated length of the proposed construction phase (c.12 years). After completion of construction, 'permanent' effects are assessed as part of the operational phase.

13.6.3 Where relevant, a distinction is made between the period immediately after proposed planting (Year 1), and following establishment and initial maturation of proposed planting (Year 15) in order to capture the effects on visual screening/filtering.

13.6.4 The chapter text only details effects for those character types and visual receptors that area judged to receive significant effects. Non-significant effects above negligible scale are described in **Appendix 13F**.

13.6.5 Both potential project-wide combined cumulative landscape and visual effects between the main development and associated development (intra-project), and cumulative effects between the proposed development and other developments (inter-project) assessed separately within **Volume 10 Chapters 1–4**.

13.6.6 The off-site developments included within the application (off-site sports facilities at Leiston, fen meadow compensation sites south of Benhall and east of Halesworth and, if required, the marsh harrier habitat improvement area west of Westleton) have all been screened out of the assessment. Further details are contained in **Appendix 13G**.

b) Construction

i. Sizewell B relocated facilities effects in Phase 0

13.6.7 An assessment of landscape and visual effects that would occur due to Sizewell B relocated facilities works prior to the implementation of the DCO (referred to as 'Phase 0') is presented in Chapter 7 of the Sizewell B relocated facilities ES (that ES is provided in full at **Volume 1, Appendix 2A**). The following receptors were scoped into the assessment:

- Estate Sandlands LCT;

- Coastal Levels LCT;
- Visual receptor groups at Sizewell, Sandy Lane, Sizewell Beach between Minsmere Sluice and Thorpe Ness, Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk; and
- Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast.

13.6.8 The assessment considered the potential for significant effects due to the change to the fabric of landscape character types, views of the construction activities and changes to the natural beauty and special quality indicators of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Suffolk Heritage Coast. The assessment concluded that the Sizewell B relocated facilities works on their own would result in **no significant effects** on the assessed receptors (refer to **section 13.8** of this chapter for a summary of effect categories).

13.6.9 An assessment of the likely significant effects of the Sizewell B relocated facilities works that would occur concurrently with Phases 1 and 2 of construction and once the Sizewell C Project is operational is provided in the sections below.

ii. Main development site construction (including the Sizewell B relocated facilities works from Phase 1 onwards)

13.6.10 The assessment of construction effects is based on the Description of Construction' (**Volume 2**, **Chapter 3**). The assessment is based on a parameters based approach as outlined by **Figures 3.1** and **Tables 3.4–3.7** (**Volume 2, Chapter 3**) that identify different zones of construction activity and set out the maximum heights of buildings, structures and plant.

13.6.11 A distinction is made between 'normal' and 'exceptional' heights of construction elements within different zones. Exceptional heights relate to structures such as mobile cranes and tower cranes that would be required for short periods of time during the construction phase.

13.6.12 The construction of the proposed development would take place in the following main areas of the site:

- Main platform ('proposed power station'): the area where the permanent power station would be constructed. This area is bounded by Sizewell B to the south, Sizewell Marshes SSSI to the north and the coastal foreshore to the east. A sub area within the main platform is the works to the foreshore, which is the coastal zone to the east of the power station along Sizewell Beach. The coastal defences and

northern mound would be reconfigured and strengthened and an access road to the beach landing facility constructed.

- Offshore works area: the area where offshore cooling water infrastructure and other marine works would be located.

- Sizewell B relocated facilities and National Grid land: the area that a small number of Sizewell B facilities would be relocated to in order to release other land for the proposed development. This includes the outage store, training centre and associated car parking. An outage car park would be constructed in Pillbox Field north of Sizewell Belts.

- Temporary construction area: the largest area of the construction site occupying land between the proposed SSSI crossing (north of the power station platform) and the B1122. The temporary construction area would contain access and haul roads, storage stockpiles, water management zones, contractor compounds and the worker accommodation ('accommodation campus').

- Land east of Eastlands Industrial Estate (LEEIE): the area between Valley Road, Lover's Lane and the railway line north of Sizewell Halt, which would be used to support construction on the main platform and temporary construction area.

13.6.13 The indicative construction schedule envisages that the construction of the power station would be completed within approximately 12 years. Following construction, the permanent operational elements of the proposed development would remain and the temporary construction areas would be reinstated.

13.6.14 The ZTV study (**Figure 13.6A**) has been modelled based on the location and heights of the normal and exceptional construction heights parameters and illustrates the area from which theoretical views of construction may be available. This figure is referenced in describing effects on all landscape and visual receptors.

13.6.15 The ZTV can be broadly separated into three different zones based on distance from the site. Theoretical visibility is predicted over most of the area within 2km of the site – broadly the area between the site and Thorpeness, Leiston and Minsmere.

Close to mid-range views (to 2km)

13.6.16 To the north of the main platform, with the exception of forestry plantation at Goose Hill, the majority of the land has predicted theoretical visibility including the coastal zone and Minsmere Levels.

13.6.17 To the south, patchy theoretical visibility extends over the majority of open countryside around 'The Walks' to the edge of Thorpeness. The village of Thorpeness itself, and the low-lying corridor extending from The Mere along the Hundred River towards Aldringham largely falls outside of the ZTV though some glimpsed views of taller cranes may be possible.

13.6.18 To the west, the ZTV includes the majority of land between the edge of Leiston and the site, with the exception of some lower-lying land around Sizewell Marshes and Sizewell Belts and forested areas around Kenton Hills. Views from Leiston would be largely confined to its eastern edge and the triangle of land between Station Road, Valley Road and the railway line. Views are also predicted from the area between Leiston and Theberton including the area around Leiston Abbey.

13.6.19 To the east, visibility is predicted across the offshore zone extending to 2km.

Mid-range views (2–5km)

13.6.20 Between 2km and 5km of the site – extending as far as Aldeburgh, Saxmundham and Dunwich – theoretical visibility reduces in extent and reflects the influence of localised topography, buildings and vegetation in screening views.

13.6.21 To the north, views are predicted from Minsmere to Dunwich Heath including the Coastguard Cottages. With the exception of Dunwich beach, no views are predicted from areas south and west of Dunwich and areas within proximity to Scottshall Coverts. The influence of woodland cover at Scottshall Coverts and Dunwich Forest in screening views from the north is highlighted by the ZTV.

13.6.22 To the south, theoretical views are predicted from the coastal levels between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh including North Warren and the higher belt of land to the north of the River Alde. No or limited views are predicted from the core area of Aldeburgh itself. However, theoretical views are indicated for areas along the coastal frontage of the town.

13.6.23 To the west and northwest, theoretical visibility is illustrated in the area between Leiston and Saxmundham, extending northwards towards Darsham.

13.6.24 To the east, visibility is predicted across the offshore zone extending to 5km.

Long-distance views (over 5km)

13.6.25 The ZTV indicates that theoretical visibility beyond 5km from the site reduces in extent and typically arise from areas of higher ground and along the coastal strip. The main areas of theoretical visibility are:

- From the north: theoretical visibility from between Southwold and Wenhaston (north of Blythburgh), west of Walberswick and north of Dunwich Forest.
- From the west, north-west and south-west: visibility becomes more intermittent with no or only limited theoretical visibility illustrated along river valleys. For example, stretches of the River Alde (between Bruisyard and Gromford), River Blythe (south of Halesworth), and where forestry provides screening (e.g. south of Tunstall Forest).
- From the south: theoretical visibility is illustrated from areas along the River Alde south of Aldeburgh extending across the low-lying marshes north of Orford and along Orford Ness.
- To the east (offshore areas), theoretical visibility is illustrated extending to 15km. However, the actual extent of visibility would be strongly influenced by prevailing weather conditions and sea state including visibility and wave height.

Landscape fabric

13.6.26 Whilst efforts have been made to retain existing vegetation where practicable, development proposals of this magnitude would inevitably result in wholesale changes to the existing landscape fabric with large-scale effects during the construction period.

13.6.27 The Site Clearance Plan (**Volume 2, Chapter 3, Figure 3.10**) illustrates the sections of hedgerow and woodland that are proposed to be removed. The Landscape Retention Plan (**Volume 2, Chapter 3, Figure 3.9**) shows the sections of woodland and hedgerow that would be retained. An assessment of the existing habitats scheduled to be affected by the proposed development is contained in the **Terrestrial Ecology and Ornithology** chapter (**Volume 2, Chapter 14**).

13.6.28 There would be a large magnitude of change within the main platform site and temporary construction area through transformation of the site from farmland (and field boundary vegetation) to a major construction site.

13.6.29 The adverse effects on landscape fabric within the main platform, foreshore and temporary construction area would be large-scale, long-term and widespread due to the removal of the existing soils and vegetation and installation of construction elements such as stockpiles, haul roads and compounds.

13.6.30 Within the temporary construction area, the majority of field boundary hedgerows and a large section of plantation woodland at Goose Hill would be removed. Arable farmland comprises the majority of land use within the temporary construction area, and this would be converted into a construction site with stockpiles, haul/access roads, contractor compounds, borrow pits, water management zones and plant.

13.6.31 The construction of the main platform would involve the removal of the existing vegetation. Impacts on the fabric of the coastal strip would arise from the removal and reconfiguration of the northern mound and coastal defences and the installation of the Beach Landing Facility and connecting access track (affecting the beach and shingle). A small area of woodland at Coronation Wood would be felled to facilitate the Sizewell B relocated facilities.

13.6.32 Land to the east of Eastlands Industrial Estate (LEEIE) – would be converted from arable farmland into a temporary construction site including stockpiles, caravan parking, contractor compound and site office. The boundary hedgerows and vegetation would be retained.

13.6.33 There would also be some localised removal of trees and hedgerows associated with the proposed temporary rail infrastructure and realignment of Lover's Lane.

Landscape/seascape character

13.6.34 **Section 13.4** identifies the landscape and seascape character types (see **Figures 13.4** and **13.5** for locations) that would potentially be affected by proposed development. Effects on landscape/seascape character would be substantially more widespread during construction compared with operation due to the larger development footprint, and direct effects on the fabric of the landscape from vegetation removal/soil stripping and visual/audible impacts from construction activity.

13.6.35 Effects on landscape character during construction would involve the transformation of areas of countryside to become construction sites and compounds, entailing both physical change and changes to views and perceptual characteristics.

13.6.36 Large scale effects on character would arise across the site area. In addition, large and medium scale effects would in places extend beyond the

site boundary to encompass those areas directly adjoining the site and/or enclosed by more than one area of the site due to close views of construction activity.

13.6.37 The area of large and medium scale effects would extend from Sizewell Gap to the northeast edge of Leiston; across the temporary construction area towards Abbey Road (B1122) and the tree belts to the north and south of Potters Farm; northwards to the edge of Eastbridge and the edge of the Estate Sandlands character area (marked by a transition to lower lying land and the tree belt along the Grove). To the immediate north of the site, retained woodland at Goose Hill would contain large scale effects close to the site. Along the beach to the north, large scale effects would extend to alongside the northern edge of the woodland at Goose Hill and medium scale effects further north into sections of the Minsmere Levels.

13.6.38 As can be seen from the review of viewpoints (**Table 13.13**), the scale of visual effect declines fairly rapidly with distance due to intervening vegetation, and this factor would also limit the sense of proximity to the construction work and the degree to which it affects character. Beyond those areas discussed above, views of the site from most onshore areas would be of taller plant seen above woodland or buildings. Where views towards the site, or wide panoramic views, are not a key characteristic – as is the case for most of the inland areas - effects would be small scale beyond the areas outlined above, reducing to negligible scale beyond approximately 1km from the site boundary. This arises partly as a result of the taller elements being towards the coast.

13.6.39 Along the beaches to north and south of the site where there are open views along the coast, medium effects would decline more gradually to small scale and then negligible. To the north, medium to small scale effects would extend approximately 3km along open coast adjoining Minsmere to the area of higher ground at Dunwich Coastguard cottages. Medium-small scale effects would also extend approximately 1.5–2km southwards towards Thorpeness but decline more rapidly in this direction as the curve of the coastline reduces views.

13.6.40 Medium–small scale effects would also arise offshore due to open views of the construction work, affecting the area within approximately 5km of the site. Beyond this area a sense of separation from the coastline marks the edge of the seascape character area, and for those closer to shore there would be clearer views of the closer areas of coastline at Dunwich and Aldeburgh to draw the eye.

13.6.41 Effects may be increased due to the proximity of a particular phase of work, or short-term use of taller plant represented by the exceptional height parameters. Specifically, there are likely to be slightly increased effects

near the main entrance plaza and accommodation campus during the early part of the construction period when these areas and the proposed rail infrastructure are constructed.

13.6.42 There would also be slightly increased effects during the early part of the construction period in the areas adjacent to the northern mound and beach landing facility as those are constructed. These increased effects would arise over a short timescale and would result in a localised intensification of effects (increasing effects that would otherwise be medium scale to large scale in areas closest to the relevant part of site).

13.6.43 The effects arising from the exceptional use of taller plant would tend to be short-lived and give rise to a slightly increased area of small scale effects arising from views of cranes – extending up to approximately 2km inland, northwards along the coast to the edge of the higher ground at Dunwich Coastguard Cottages, but also further inland across Minsmere; and southwards along the coast towards, but not as far as, Aldeburgh.

13.6.44 Taking the above description of the scale and extent of effects into account, the following landscape and seascape character types are assessed:

- Estate Sandlands;
- Coastal Levels;
- Ancient Estate Claylands;
- Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges; and
- Nearshore Waters.

13.6.45 Effects on the Rolling Estate Claylands during construction are assessed to be **moderate to slight (not significant)** and adverse. These are described in **Appendix 13F**.

13.6.46 Other landscape/seascape character types are judged to experience negligible effects and are not considered further (refer to **Appendix 13E**).

Estate Sandlands

13.6.47 As shown on **Figure 13.4**, there are two extensive areas of this character type: one comprising the majority of the site and extending southwards towards Snape and Aldeburgh, and the other to the north – separated from the site by the Minsmere Coastal Levels – extending towards Southwold and Wangford.

13.6.48 The existing Sizewell power station structures and pylons and the substations north of Sizewell Gap affect the character in the area to the southwest of the site, reducing susceptibility to character change as a result of the presence of structures such as cranes. Susceptibility to the proposed development in this area is judged to be medium and this area is of high value.

13.6.49 Further from the main development site, susceptibility increases to high–medium, and the area is of community value. Taking these judgements together, the area is judged to be of high–medium sensitivity.

13.6.50 From the description of the scale and extent of effects provided above, and the location and extent of the character type, effects on this character area is summarised as follows:

- Large and medium scale effects within the character type to the east of Abbey Lane, north of Sizewell Gap and south of Eastbridge and The Grove (within or close proximity to the construction zone). These large and medium effects would arise from the physical impacts of construction on the key characteristics of the LCT such as soil stripping and removal of forestry and modification of existing field patterns and presence of construction works and plant. These long-term effects would affect a localised extent of the study area and would be of high–medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

- Medium scale effects would occur to a very limited extent of the Estate Sandlands LCT between Minsmere and Walberswick, with visibility confined to small open areas on the southern edge of Dunwich Heath and Westleton Walks. These long-term effects would be low magnitude, **moderate–slight (not significant)** and adverse.

- The small areas of the character type near Eastbridge and to the west of Abbey Lane north of Leiston would have very limited visibility and effects on character here would be small to negligible. The nearest part of Westleton walks would experience small scale effects across a limited area while exceptionally tall plant is in use, in particular during the construction of the accommodation campus.

- The more open area of The Walks east of Leiston would have intermittently open views of the construction activity (refer to representative viewpoints R9 (see **Figure 13.9.09**), R11 (**Figure 13.9.11**), R29 (**Figure 13.9.29**) and R30 (**Figure 13.9.30**)), though the presence of pylons tends to limit the degree to which the cranes would alter the character here and small scale effects on character would

arise across a localised extent. These long-term effects would be of low-negligible magnitude, **slight (not significant)** and adverse.

*Night-time effects (**Appendix 13B**)*

13.6.51 High magnitude effects are predicted to occur from construction lighting over a localised extent of the Estate Sandlands LCT.

13.6.52 The area of the LCT around the power station platform and Sizewell Gap is already affected by artificial light from the existing power station and has a medium sensitivity. Effects within this area would be **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.53 The area of the LCT between Kenton Hills and south of Eastbridge (occupied by the temporary construction area) is darker and has a high sensitivity to artificial light. Effects from construction lighting within this area would be **major (significant)** and adverse.

Coastal Levels LCT

13.6.54 As shown on **Figure 13.4** this character type arises in four separate areas within 5km of the site: Minsmere to the north of the site; Sizewell Belts which is enclosed by areas of the site; an area between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh; and a small area to the west of Aldeburgh.

13.6.55 Given the characteristic open views; the association of this character type with the AONB designation; and the coastal changes which mean that this character type is vulnerable to physical change, the area is assessed to be of high susceptibility to the construction work. All of the four areas are covered by the AONB designation (and all but Sizewell belts are also within the Suffolk Heritage Coast) and are high value. The character type is judged to be of high sensitivity.

13.6.56 There is a limited area of the Coastal Levels LCT adjacent to Sizewell Belts area lying inside the site boundary. The landscape fabric of a small section of this area would be directly affected through land take by the main platform, with proximity of construction activity and cranes altering the character of the adjacent areas in Sizewell Belts. The long-term effects would be of medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.57 The Minsmere section of the Coastal Levels LCT would have intermediate views of construction. Although retained forestry at Goose Hill would screen lower level views of construction, cranes and taller structures would be visible above trees leading to some reduction in the perception of landscape scale and openness – in what is an expansive landscape (as illustrated by representative viewpoints R6 (see **Figure 13.9.06**) and R14

(see **Figures 13.10.54** and **13.10.58**)). This would lead to long-term effects that are medium-scale, medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.58 Views from the Thorpeness to Aldeburgh section of the Coastal Levels LCT would occur from an intermediate extent and generally be small scale. As illustrated by representative viewpoints R20 (see **Figure 13.9.20**) and R21 (see **Figure 13.9.21**), construction would be seen behind the existing power station and pylons and above tree cover around Thorpeness. This would reduce the magnitude of effect on landscape scale and openness to low. The long-term effects would be **moderate (not significant)** and adverse.

13.6.59 The area to the west of Aldeburgh would have distant occasional views of taller cranes and would receive negligible effects.

*Night-time effects (**Appendix 13B**)*

13.6.60 Medium magnitude effects are predicted to occur within a limited section of the LCT immediately adjacent to the main platform, Goose Hill and northwards into Minsmere Levels. This area is judged to have a high sensitivity to light and overall effects would be **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Ancient Estate Claylands

13.6.61 As noted in **section 13.4**, this landscape character type is noted for its "*deeply rural character*" and occasional long views out from more open areas within a well-wooded plateau. It has a high susceptibility to effects arising from major construction within the character type or lower-lying adjacent areas.

13.6.62 As shown by **Figures 13.1 and 13.4**, the majority of this LCT is not covered by landscape designations. Only a small area to the south of Eastbridge adjacent to bridleway 19 falls into the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Special Landscape Area.

13.6.63 Leiston Abbey and the local footpath network indicate that areas of the LCT not falling with landscape designations are of local value. The main body of the character type is judged to be of community value and medium sensitivity, whilst the area north of Abbey Lane (including Leiston Abbey and the area covered by the AONB/SLA designation) is judged to be of high–medium sensitivity.

13.6.64 From the description of the scale and extent of effects provided above, and the location and extent of the character type as shown on **Figure 13.5**, effects on this character area can be summarised as follows:

- Large and medium scale effects within the character type to the east of Abbey Lane (covered by representative viewpoint R1 (see **Figure 13.9.01**)) where the accommodation campus and entrance plaza would be constructed and located within the character area, extending the tree belts to the north and south of Potters Farm, and west of the B1122 towards Leiston Abbey, due to close proximity to the construction activity.

- Small scale effects on character arising from intermittent views of cranes above vegetation extending typically to the area east of and between Buckle's Wood and Theberton (as illustrated by representative viewpoints R8 (see **Figures 13.10.29** and **13.10.33**), R13 (see **Figure 13.9.13**) and R24 (see **Figure 13.9.24**)) between Theberton Woods, Knodishall Green and Fristonmoor.

- The large and medium scale, long-term effects would arise within a limited extent of this character type, affecting on the eastern tip of one of the larger areas of this character type. These effects are judged to be of medium magnitude and would affect the more valued area identified above, resulting in effects which would be **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

- Small scale, long-term effects would arise across a limited extent for normal construction parameters and a localised extent for exceptionally tall plant. These effects are judged to be of low magnitude (taking into account the identified importance of protecting views) and would be **slight (not significant)** and adverse.

*Night-time effects (**Appendix 13B**)*

13.6.65 A limited extent of the LCT (around the entrance plaza and accommodation campus) would experience medium magnitude effects. Sensitivity to light is judged to be generally high–medium and the overall effects would be of **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT

13.6.66 As noted in section 13.4, views along the coastline are a characteristic feature. The existing power station structures are a feature in views and provide the context in which views to construction activity would be seen.

13.6.67 The character area has a high–medium susceptibility to effects arising from major construction within the character type and adjacent area. As shown by **Figures 13.1 and 13.4**, the nearshore area of this LCT is covered by the

Heritage Coast and AONB designations and is of national value. The character type is judged to be of high sensitivity.

13.6.68 From the description of the scale and extent of effects provided above, and the location and extent of the character type as shown on **Figure 13.5**, effects on this character area are summarised as follows:

- Large and medium scale effects would arise along Sizewell beach between the area adjacent to the northern edge of Goose Hill and Sizewell Gap (illustrated by representative viewpoints R6 (see **Figure 13.9.09**), R10 (see **Figure 13.9.10**) and R31 (see **Figure 13.9.31**)). Exceptionally, when taller cranes are in use, and while the beach landing facility and northern mound are being constructed these effects would intensify to become large-scale across this area. These effects would be long-term and affect a localised extent of the character type. The effects would be of high–medium magnitude, **major (significant)** and adverse.

- To the north, medium to small scale effects would extend approximately 3km along open coast adjoining Minsmere to the edge of the area of higher ground at Dunwich Coastguard cottages (illustrated by representative viewpoints R14 (see **Figures 13.10.54** and **13.10.58**) and R17 (see **Figures 13.10.64** and **13.10.68**)). These long-term effects would affect an intermediate extent of the character type and produce overall effects of medium to low magnitude, **major–moderate to moderate (significant)** and adverse.

- To the south, small scale effects would extend approximately 1.5–2km towards Thorpeness (illustrated by representative viewpoint R15 (see **Figure 13.9.15**)), and exceptionally as far as the area just north of Aldeburgh (illustrated by representative viewpoint R21 (see **Figure 13.9.21**)) for a brief period when the tallest cranes are in use. These effects would be long-term and affect an intermediate extent of the character type. The effects would be of low magnitude, **moderate (not significant)** and adverse.

*Night-time effects (**Appendix 13B**)*

13.6.69 A limited section of the LCT (judged of high sensitivity) adjacent to Sizewell Beach would experience medium magnitude effects from construction lighting leading to overall effects of **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Nearshore Waters SCT

13.6.70 As noted in section 13.4, views towards the coast, out to sea and along the coastline are important to this character type, in particular given the gentle curve of Sizewell Bay. The power station and associated structures are a familiar feature in views and the construction work would not present scale contrasts within the open vistas available, although its nature would be a marked change from views of the existing operational power station.

13.6.71 The character type has a high–medium susceptibility to effects arising from a construction project within the character type and adjacent to the coast. As shown by **Figures 13.1 and 13.4**, the nearshore area of this SCT is covered by the Heritage Coast designation and is of national value. The character type is judged to be of high sensitivity.

13.6.72 From the description of the scale and extent of effects provided above, and the location and extent of the character type as shown on **Figure 13.5**, effects on this character area are summarised as follows:

- Effects on the beach are considered under the Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT above.
- Medium–small scale effects on character arising from views of the construction would arise from offshore areas within 5km of the site as illustrated by representative viewpoint R26 (see **Figure 13.9.26**).
- Medium-small scale, long-term effects would arise within a wide extent of the character type between Dunwich and Aldeburgh and eastwards to the edge of the SCT. These effects are judged to be of medium–low magnitude, resulting in effects which would be **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.
- Small scale, long-term effects would arise across a limited extent for normal construction parameters and a localised extent for exceptionally tall plant. These effects are judged to be of low magnitude (taking into account the identified importance of protecting views) and would be **slight (not significant)** and adverse.

*Night-time effects (**Appendix 13B**)*

13.6.73 A limited extent of the Nearshore Waters LCT (judged of high sensitivity) would experience medium magnitude effects from construction lighting leading to overall effects of **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual receptors

13.6.74 Annotated photographs are shown on **Figures 13.9.01** – **13.9.32** of this landscape and visual assessment. Construction wirelines have been produced for representative viewpoints 8, 14, 16, 17, 28 and 32 (see **Figures 13.10.33**, **13.10.58**, **13.10.63**, **13.10.68**, **13.10.97** and **13.10.107**), in agreement with landscape and visual assessment consultees. Further detail about the visualisation methodology is provided in **Volume 1**, **Appendix 6I** of the **ES.**

13.6.75 The viewpoint description, description of effects and scale of effect for each viewpoint is set out on the relevant photograph, provided in **Figures 13.9.01** – **13.9.32**. **Figures 13.6A** provides the locations of these viewpoints. The scale of effect at each representative viewpoint during construction is summarised in **Table 13.13** below:

Table 13.13: Summary of effects on representative viewpoints during construction.

VP	Location	Approx. Distance/ Direction from Site.	Construction Scale of Effect Positive, Adverse, Neutral.	Exceptional Scale of Effect Positive, Adverse, Neutral.
R1	Sandlings Walk north of Upper Abbey Farm.	Inside site	Not accessible	Not accessible
R2	Permissive Path at Kenton Hills.	100m, south	Large, Adverse	Large, Adverse
R3	King George's Avenue, Leiston.	100m, west	Large–medium, Adverse	Large, Adverse
R4	Lover's Lane south of Fiscal Policy.	Adjacent	Large–medium, Adverse	Large, Adverse
R5	Footpath south of Leiston Abbey.	160m, west	Medium, Adverse	Medium, Adverse
R6	Suffolk Coast Path east of Goose Hill.	80m, north	Large,	Large,

VP	Location	Approx. Distance/ Direction from Site.	Construction Scale of Effect Positive, Adverse, Neutral.	Exceptional Scale of Effect Positive, Adverse, Neutral.
			Adverse	Adverse
R7	Sandlings Walk/ Sustrans Route south of Eastbridge.	170m, north	Large, Adverse	Large, Adverse
R8	Footpath north of Leiston Abbey.	280m, west	Large, Adverse	Large, Adverse
R9	Sizewell Gap south of Greater Gabbard Substation.	200m, south	Medium–small, Adverse	Medium–small, Adverse
R10	Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk east of Hill Wood.	300m, east	Large, Adverse	Large, Adverse
R11	Junction of footpaths south west of Halfway Cottages.	Adjacent, south	Medium, Adverse	Large–medium, Adverse
R12	Bridleway south east of Reckham Lodge.	Adjacent, south	Large–medium, Adverse	Large, Adverse
R13	Abbey Lane east of Cakes and Ale Caravan Park.	1km, west	Small, Adverse	Medium–small, Adverse
R14	Suffolk Coast Path at Minsmere Sluice.	1.5km, north	Large–medium, Adverse	Large, Adverse
R15	Beach at Thorpe Ness.	1.6km, south	Medium–small, Adverse	Medium, Adverse
R16	RSPB Minsmere (Whin Hill).	1.6km, north	Medium, Adverse	Large–medium, Adverse

VP	Location	Approx. Distance/ Direction from Site.	Construction Scale of Effect Positive, Adverse, Neutral.	Exceptional Scale of Effect Positive, Adverse, Neutral.
R17	National Trust Dunwich Coastguard Cottages car park.	2.6km, north	Medium, Adverse	Large–medium, Adverse
R18	B1069 (Bull's Hall entrance).	3.2km, southwest	Small, Adverse	Medium–small, Adverse
R19	Yoxford Road, west of Westleton.	3.8km, northwest	Small–negligible, Adverse	Small, Adverse
R20	Suffolk Coast Path north of Aldeburgh.	3.8km, south	Medium–small, Adverse	Medium, Adverse
R21	Aldeburgh beach car park.	4.5km, south	Medium–small, Adverse	Medium, Adverse
R22	B1119 east of Saxmundham.	5.3km, west	Small–negligible, Adverse	Small, Adverse
R23	Promenade, Southwold at junction with East Cliff Road.	11.5km, north	Small, Adverse	Small, Adverse
R24	Leiston Abbey (from top of ruins).	200m to west	Medium, Adverse	Large–medium, Adverse
R25	Leiston Abbey (from top of ruins).	200m to west	Medium, Adverse	Large–medium, Adverse
R26	1800m directly east of Sizewell power stations.	1800m, east	Large–medium, Adverse	Large–medium, Adverse
R27	Footpath, Valley Road Allotments, Leiston.	250m to southwest	Small,	Medium,

VP	Location	Approx. Distance/ Direction from Site.	Construction Scale of Effect Positive, Adverse, Neutral.	Exceptional Scale of Effect Positive, Adverse, Neutral.
			Adverse	Adverse
R28	Footpath south of Theberton.	1.4km, northwest	Small–negligible, Adverse	Small, Adverse
R29	Sandlings Walk at Home Farm.	220m, south	Large–medium, Adverse	Large–medium, Adverse
R30	Junction of footpaths, The Walks.	750m, south	Medium, Adverse	Medium, Adverse
R31	Shingle beach east of secondary sea defence.	440m, north	Large, Adverse	Large, Adverse
R32	Footway adjacent to Valley Road, north of railway overbridge.	Adjacent, north	Medium–small, Adverse	Medium, Adverse

Elements of construction in views

13.6.76 As shown by the construction wirelines (**Figures 13.10.33**, **13.10.58**, **13.10.63**, **13.10.68**, **13.10.97** and **13.10.107**) and the building heights parameters, the most prominent elements of the construction phase would be the larger cranes around the main platform, the emerging power station (especially the reactor buildings, turbine halls, stacks and dry fuel store), tall plant such as piling rigs and the batching plant. Stockpiles of materials would be amongst the bulkier elements and would have notable localised effects.

13.6.77 Vehicle movement and lighting at night would also be notable elements (see **Appendix 13B**). During construction, a number of measures are included within the design to mitigate landscape and visual effects. These are detailed within the **Code of Construction Practice (CoCP)**. A range of measures including landscape bunds, and close-boarded acoustic fences (where feasible set behind existing, enhanced or proposed hedgerows) would be used to screen open and low-level views into the construction site from adjoining routes and residential areas.

Summary of geographic extent of visual effects (daytime)

13.6.78 The scale of construction phase visual effects can be summarised as:

- Large and large–medium scale effects would arise for more open views close to the site (as illustrated by representative viewpoints R2, R6, R8, R12, R24, R29 and R31). During the brief periods of construction when the tallest construction plant are operational, large-scale effects would extend in views along the coast as far as Minsmere Sluice (representative viewpoint R14) – c.1.5km to the north – and large–medium effects to the National Trust Coastguard Cottages (representative viewpoint R17, c.2.6km to the north) and from elevated sections of RSPB Minsmere such as Whin Hill (representative viewpoint R16, c.1.6km to the north). Large or large–medium scale effects would also occur from more open and/or elevated views from the south and southwest within approximately 2km of the main construction area (representative viewpoints R4, R10, R11 and R29).

- Medium-scale effects would arise with greater distance from the main construction area; where views are partially screened; and/or where views are primarily of smaller elements of the development rather than the main construction area. This includes representative viewpoints R5, R11 and R16 for normal construction conditions, indicating that such effects would extend up to 3km northwards to elevated viewpoints which look out across Minsmere, to locations close to the

campus, spoil heaps and entrance plaza to the west; and to more open views within up to 2km of the main construction area to the south. Exceptionally, such effects would extend up to approximately 5km within relatively open views towards the main construction area from the south (representative viewpoints R15, R20, R21 and R30).

- Medium–small and small-scale effects would arise with greater distance, and in some close views where screening or intervening elements play a role in limiting effects. This includes some close viewpoints such as representative viewpoints R9 (affected by nearby pylons) and R32; but typically more distant views where more open or elevated viewpoints would allow views of cranes and/or the emerging power station building, such as representative viewpoints R15, R18, R19, R20, R21, R29 and R30. This indicates that these effects would arise up to approximately 5km from the site to the north and south, but only up to 1km to the west, where greater distance from the main construction area and screening by vegetation limit the effects. Exceptionally, medium–small and small scale effects would extend up to such effects would extend up to 2km to the west.

- Small–negligible and negligible-scale effects would arise beyond the areas described above.

Summary of geographic extent of visual effects (night-time)

- A detailed assessment of night-time visual effects is contained within **Appendix 13B** and summarised within **Table 13.20** at the end of this chapter.

- During construction, large-scale effects would be experienced within the approximate area extending between the site northwards to Minsmere and Dunwich Heath, eastwards into the immediate offshore zone, south to Sizewell Gap and west to area around Leiston Abbey.

- Medium scale effects would occur southwards from the edge of The Walks and along the coast towards Aldeburgh Beach car park. Medium and medium–small scale effects would also be experienced within and around the eastern fringes of Leiston and rural areas up-to approximately 2.5km from the main development site to the west.

Visual receptor groups (day time)

13.6.79 Residents within settlements and users of local roads and local footpaths are judged to have a high–medium sensitivity to visual effects arising from

the construction work. This increases to high sensitivity within the AONB, where views contribute to the valued landscape.

13.6.80 In order to focus on the significant effects, effects for visual receptors where the assessment indicates effects that are not significant are included in **Appendix 13F**. This includes the following visual receptor groups:

- Visual Receptor Group 1: Southwold Promenade – **moderate–slight (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 2 (Southwold Common/Harbour) – **moderate–slight (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 3 (Walberswick/Dingle Marshes) – **slight-minimal (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 4 (Middleton, Westleton and Darsham) – **slight-minimal (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 6 (South of Westleton) – **minimal (not significant)** and neutral;
- Visual Receptor Group 9 (Theberton and Knodishall Green) – **slight (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 13 (Northeast site) – no effects due to lack of access;
- Visual Receptor Group 16 (North of Leiston) – **moderate (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 17 (Leiston) – **slight (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 18 (Knodishall and Aldringham) – **slight (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 19 (Aldringham Common and The Walks) – **moderate (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 20 (Sizewell to Thorpeness Coast) – **moderate (not significant)** and adverse;

- Visual Receptor Group 21 (North Warren/South Warren) – **moderate (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 22 (Thorpeness to Aldeburgh Coast) – **moderate (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 23 (Aldeburgh) – **minimal (not significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 5: Westleton Walks and Dunwich Heath

13.6.81 Construction views would be intermediate in extent from this visual receptor group. They would range from no visibility within Scottshall Coverts, occasional glimpses from more open ground through trees along the Sandlings Walk and footpaths E-550/020/0 and E-550/017/0 between Scottshall Coverts and Westleton. The scale of visual effect from these locations would be small. Where views are available, these would generally be of tall cranes with woodland screening lower level views of the majority of construction activity.

13.6.82 A limited extent of the receptor area at the southern edge of Dunwich Heath, adjacent to the National Trust Coastguard Cottages, would have the most prominent views of construction work (representative viewpoint R17 (**Figure 13.9.17**) and illustrative viewpoints I14, I15, I16, and I25 (see **Appendix 13A**)). The construction phase photowires for viewpoint R17 are illustrated in **Figure 13.10.68**. Retained woodland at Goose Hill and Kenton Hills would screen lower elements of construction within the main development site and temporary construction area. However, cranes and tall plant (e.g. batching plant and emerging power station structures) would be clearly visible. Visual effects would be medium-scale and exceptionally large–medium scale. Similar but less open views would be available approaching the Coast Guard Cottages across the heath.

13.6.83 Overall, the long-term visual effects are judged to be medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 7: RSPB Minsmere

13.6.84 The ZTV study (**Figure 13.6A**) predicts that visibility of the proposed development from the majority of RSPB Minsmere would be wide in extent. Site appraisal indicates that although the proposed development would be clearly visible to users of the RSPB reserve, views would to some extent be filtered by tall reeds and occasional scrub. The most prominent view would be from the Bittern Hide (viewpoint I2 (see **Appendix 13A**)), an elevated structure with views over the reedbeds towards Sizewell.

13.6.85 Visibility would be more restricted on higher ground in the wooded northern section of the reserve due to screening/filtering by tree cover. An exception would be the open ground on Whin Hill (representative viewpoint R16 (see **Figure 13.9.16**)), from where there is a vantage point looking across the reedbeds towards Sizewell Power Station. The construction photowires for this viewpoint are illustrated in **Figure 13.10.63**.

13.6.86 From Whin Hill, views would consist of taller construction elements – mainly cranes, upper sections of stockpiles and batching plant – seen above woodland at Goose Hill and Kenton Hills that screens lower level views. Views may also be possible of the proposed water resource storage area (northernmost area of site boundary, north of Upper Abbey Farm) especially during its construction. The long-term, localised visual effects would be medium scale and exceptionally large–medium scale.

13.6.87 Overall, users of the RSPB Minsmere reserve would experience visual effects which would be of medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 8: Dunwich to Minsmere Coast

13.6.88 Most of the narrow coastal stretch between Dunwich and Minsmere Sluice, containing the route of the Suffolk Coast Path, would have views of taller elements of the construction work above the retained forestry at Goose Hill as illustrated by representative viewpoint R14 (see **Figure 13.9.14**) from near Minsmere Sluice. The construction photowires for this viewpoint are illustrated by **Figure 13.10.58**.

13.6.89 The majority of lower elements of construction work would be screened by tree cover, excepting for a brief period adjacent to the power station platform before reinstatement of the northern mound. Cranes, the emerging power station structures and tall plants (e.g. batching plant) would be seen above the trees. Views of some lower-level features such as the water management zone and beach landing facility are likely.

13.6.90 A wide extent of the visual receptor group would be affected by long-term visual effects which would be of large–medium reducing to medium scale at greater distance, and, occasionally, large scale when the tallest cranes are in use. These effects would be of high–medium magnitude, **major to major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 10: Eastbridge and Leiston Abbey

13.6.91 This visual receptor group includes Eastbridge, a section of the Sandlings Walk, Leiston Abbey and adjacent public footpaths. As illustrated by representative viewpoints R5, R7, R8 and R24/25 (see **Figures 13.9.05**, **13.9.07** – **08** and **13.9.24** – **25**), and illustrative viewpoint II10 (see

Appendix 13A), effects within this area would primarily result from the proximity of the accommodation campus, main entrance plaza, rail infrastructure and borrow pits. The construction photowires for viewpoint R8 (north of Leiston Abbey) are contained in **Figure 13.10.33**, which illustrate that there would be close-range views across the B1122 into the entrance plaza and accommodation campus, resulting in large-scale long-term effects.

13.6.92 Effects would be at their greatest during the early stages of construction as these elements are built, reducing slightly later as construction activity focusses on the main site, when effects would tend to arise from vehicle movements in and out of the site, glimpsed views of the campus, stock piles or borrow pits at close range and views of cranes at a greater distance and seen beyond intervening trees.

13.6.93 Large to medium scale effects would affect an intermediate extent of the visual receptor group leading to long-term effects of high–medium magnitude, **major to major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 11: Minsmere South

13.6.94 The area between Minsmere Sluice and the main development site is sparsely populated. Key visual receptors are users of the footpath between Eastbridge and Minsmere Sluice (E-363/020/0) – the re-routed section of the Sandlings Walk and Suffolk Coast Path. Illustrative viewpoints I11 and I12 (see **Appendix 13A**) show views from the route and from the Leiston Abbey first site.

13.6.95 Representative viewpoints R7 (**Figure 13.9.07**) and R14 (**Figure 13.9.14**) lie on the edge of the visual receptor group, and indicate that effects are likely to range from medium scale (inland, more screened views) to large scale (more open views closer to the coast).

13.6.96 Different elements of the construction work would be most noticeable from this route at different stages of the work. Construction of the accommodation campus and construction and operation of the borrow pits/water management zones would be more notable from the western section of the route, whilst from the eastern end, cranes seen above trees in use on the main development site would be the most visible element, especially when the tallest cranes are in use.

13.6.97 The footpath between Eastbridge and Minsmere Sluice passes adjacent to the proposed water resource storage area and, although the majority of the views would be filtered by a mature tree belt, there may be some close-range views into the area (particularly during its construction). The long-term visual effects would be intermediate in extent, of high–medium magnitude, **major to major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 12: Minsmere to Sizewell Coast

13.6.98 Users of the beach as it passes the construction site would experience very close views of construction work within the power station platform, demolition and reinstatement of the northern mound and coastal defences and construction of the beach landing facility and access road. Tall cranes would form locally dominant elements within the view around the main construction area.

13.6.99 Access would be controlled at times, and the walking route would move during different stages of construction of the sea-defences, beach landing facility and main construction area as shown.

13.6.100 Sometimes the coastal route would be entirely closed and walkers would be diverted inland.

13.6.101 As indicated by viewpoints R6 (**Figure 13.9.03**) and R10 (**Figure 13.9.10**), effects would be of large scale, reducing slightly further south where the existing power stations would reduce visibility and the construction work would appear in scale with those closer large structures. Effects would be of high magnitude**, major (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 14: Northwest Site

13.6.102 The majority of the visual receptor group (including bridleway 19 through the centre) would be closed and not publicly accessible during the construction phase. However, access would be possible along Eastbridge Road and the proposed off-road route carrying the re-routed bridleway 19 and Suffolk Coast/Sandlings Walk. This would pass directly adjacent to the entrance plaza and by the accommodation campus and materials stockpiles. It is presumed that open views into working areas would be predominantly screened by bunds or construction hoardings. However, cranes, stockpiles and tall plant would be clearly visible above and exert a large–medium scale effect on a localised extent of the visual receptor group (outside of the AONB). The long-term effects would be of high–medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 15: Sizewell Belts

13.6.103 The main access route through this area is the public bridleway (E-363/030/0) along Sandy Lane. The Suffolk Coast Path/Sandlings Walk would be diverted periodically along this alternative (more inland) route when Sizewell Beach is closed during construction operations.

13.6.104 The local roads of along Sizewell Gap (representative viewpoint R9 (**Figure 13.9.09**)) and Lover's Lane (representative viewpoint R4 (**Figure 13.9.04**)) run along the southern and western boundaries of the area respectively.

The area also includes several properties set back behind mature vegetation along Sandy Lane.

13.6.105 The view from Sizewell Gap (representative viewpoint R9 (**Figure 13.9.09**)) is dominated by the existing pylons and power station structures, and views of construction activity would be set back behind these and of medium–small scale.

13.6.106 Users of the public bridleway heading north from Sandy Lane would experience progressively closer views, although these would be intermittent and heavily filtered by mature trees (except for views through gaps in localised places such as representative viewpoint R12 (**Figure 13.9.12**) from where there would be a direct view of the main power station and effects would be large–medium to exceptionally large scale).

13.6.107 In those views where the construction work is visible, effects would tend to be large–medium to medium scale, reducing to small scale or more restricted views, and increasing to large scale during periods when exceptionally large plant is in use. The long-term visual effects would affect an intermediate extent and effects would be of high–medium magnitude, **major to major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 24: Offshore

13.6.108 Effects arising from views to construction activity along the beach (during the demolition and reconstruction of the sea defences) and views to tall plant and emerging buildings and boats using the beach landing facility would range from large scale adjacent to the site, to Large–medium scale at approximately 2km offshore (representative viewpoint R26 at **Figure 13.9.26**) and reduce to small scale and then negligible at approximately 5km. Within 2km of the site (a localised extent), effects on recreational users (high–medium sensitivity) would be high–medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.109 Between 2–5km from the site (an intermediate extent), effects on recreational water users would be low magnitude, **moderate–slight (not significant)** and adverse.

Visual receptor groups (night-time)

13.6.110 A detailed assessment of night-time effects on specific visual receptor groups is contained within **Appendix 13B** and summarised within **Table 13.20** at the end of this chapter.

13.6.111 During construction, night-time **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse visual effects would occur within the following visual receptor groups:

- Visual Receptor Group 5 (Westleton Walks and Dunwich Heath);
- Visual Receptor Group 7 (RSPB Minsmere);
- Visual Receptor Group 8 (Dunwich Heath to Minsmere Coast);
- Visual Receptor Group 11 (Minsmere South);
- Visual Receptor Group 12 (Minsmere to Sizewell Coast);
- Visual Receptor Group 15 (Sizewell Belts); and
- Visual Receptor Group 24 (Offshore).

Key routes (road and rail)

13.6.112 Effects on the A1094 and Regional Cycle Route 42 have been assessed as not being significant and are described in **Appendix 13F**.

Key routes (recreational)

Suffolk Coast Path

13.6.113 Effects on high sensitivity receptors using this route are described within the assessments for visual receptor groups 1, 2, 3, 8, 12, 21 and 23. These range from small to negligible (north of Walberswick and South of Aldeburgh) to large scale as the route passes the site, with the section where views would be medium scale or greater extending between the beacon viewpoint at Dunwich Coastguard Cottages (representative viewpoint R17 at **Figure 13.9.17**, with construction photowires for this viewpoint illustrated by **Figure 13.10.68**) and Sizewell Gap.

13.6.114 When the tallest cranes are in use within around the power station platform, medium scale effects would extend further southwards, although not as far as representative viewpoint R15, as the Coastal Path runs closer to the dunes and has more restricted views than area available from the shingle beach. There are some short sections of the route between Southwold and Aldeburgh which would not have visibility of the construction works, but generally the site would be visible in forward views for half of the walking route in each direction.

13.6.115 For some periods of the works, the route would be diverted inland along Sandy Lane (bridleway 19) via Sizewell Belts, and then along a new off-road route adjacent to Lover's Lane, Abbey Road (B1122) and Eastbridge Road, and then eastwards back towards the coast at Minsmere Sluice

along footpath (E-363/020/0). During sections, the re-routed path would run adjacent to the entrance plaza, accommodation campus, borrow pits and water resource storage area (north of Upper Abbey Farm). These. These effects are described for visual receptor groups 11, 14 and 15.

13.6.116 Effects would be large and medium scale for an intermediate extent of the route and would be small scale for an intermediate extent. Taken together, these would give rise to effects which would be high–medium magnitude, **major to major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Sandlings Walk

13.6.117 The section of the Sandlings Walks between Goose Hill and Eastbridge via Kenton Hills and bridleway 19 would be closed during construction. A re-routed section would be diverted via Sandy Lane, Lover's Lane, Abbey Lane (B1122) and Eastbridge Road.

13.6.118 Effects on high sensitivity users of this route are described within the assessments for visual receptor groups 5, 6, 10, 17, 20, 22 and 19 above. These range from small to negligible (north of Dunwich and south of Friston) to large scale adjacent to the main power station platform, entrance plaza and accommodation campus.

13.6.119 The majority of views of the construction work from the route would tend to consist of glimpses through vegetation with some more open views such as from viewpoints R4 (**Figure 13.9.04**), R29 (**Figure 13.9.29**) and R18 (**Figure 13.9.18**).

13.6.120 Effects would be large and medium scale as the route passes the site between Eastbridge and Sizewell Gap – an intermediate extent; and medium–small to small scale within occasional glimpsed views within up to 5km from the site (a limited extent given the infrequent views). Taken together, these would give rise to effects which would be medium magnitude**, major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Specific viewpoints

Viewpoint at Dunwich Heath Coastguard Cottages

13.6.121 This viewpoint (refer to representative viewpoint R17 at **Figure 13.9.17**) is located on an area of higher ground at the southern edge of Dunwich Heath adjacent to the National Trust Coastguard Cottages. It is an elevated and expansive view that looks south over Minsmere and towards Sizewell and along the curving Sizewell bay. Seating is placed and oriented to focus views southwards across the reedbeds and the existing power station forms relatively prominent feature in the existing view.

13.6.122 As a valued view within the AONB, and adjacent to a visitor destination, visual receptors would be of high sensitivity. Construction photowires for this viewpoint are illustrated by **Figure 13.10.68**. During construction, tall cranes around the main power station platform would be the most noticeable elements, extending across a wide extent of the view behind woodland cover at Kenton Hills within the temporary construction area. The woodland would largely screen lower level views into the construction sites but tall cranes and plant (e.g. batching plant) would be visible above, along with potential glimpses of the water management zone north of Goose Hill.

13.6.123 The scale of effects at this viewpoint would be medium during construction, increasing to Large–medium scale when the tallest cranes are in use (exceptional periods). Given that elements of the Sizewell C Project construction would punctuate the skyline across much of the focal area of the view, the long-term effects would be wide in extent. The magnitude of effect would be high–medium leading to overall effects of **major to major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Designated/defined landscapes and value

Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Suffolk Heritage Coast

Landscape/Seascape character effects

13.6.124 Construction activity would result in significant adverse effects on landscape character within a localised section of the AONB, inside and immediately adjacent to the main development site. This would arise due to direct impacts on landscape fabric, views of construction, noise and artificial light. Effects on the wider surrounding AONB landscape would be limited to some extent through containment provided by woodland and topography to the north and west, and the existing power stations to the south.

13.6.125 Based on the findings of the assessment, **significant** adverse effects on landscape and seascape character during the construction phase would occur within the AONB as follows:

- Estate Sandlands LCT – large-scale effects would occur inside the main development site due to effects on landscape fabric associated the removal of the characteristic free-draining soils and forestry cover, modification of landscape pattern and conversion of the landscape inside the main platform and temporary construction area to an active construction site. Outside of the site boundaries, medium-scale effects would arise due to views of construction, light, noise and a reduction in openness, across the area north of Sizewell Gap and south of Eastbridge and the Grove.

- Coastal Levels LCT – large-scale effects would occur within the small area of the LCT under the footprint of the main platform and SSSI crossing due to direct loss of landscape fabric, including a small area of wet grassland and wet woodland (characteristic features) associated with the Sizewell Belts SSSI. Outside of the site boundary, medium-scale effects would occur within the Sizewell Belts and Minsmere Level sections of the LCT due to views of construction, light, noise and some reduction in the perception of visual openness etc.

- Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT – large-scale effects would occur within the site boundaries along a small section of Sizewell Beach from construction of the beach landing facility and access road directly impacting the characteristic sand and shingle habitats. Outside of the site boundaries, there would be medium to small-scale effects from reductions in the 'vast open uncluttered landscape' due to the presence of the main platform and tall cranes (albeit seen against the existing power station). These effects would extend along Sizewell Beach from just south of the site boundary to between Minsmere Sluice and Dunwich Heath in the north.

- Ancient Estate Claylands LCT – large-scale effects within small section of LCT inside the AONB east of Bridleway 19 arising from direct loss of landscape fabric (including sections of rectilinear arable fields) inside the temporary construction area.

- Nearshore Waters SCT – the SCT lies outside but adjacent to the AONB (and within the Suffolk Heritage Coast). Medium-small scale effects would arise over a wide extent of the seascape character type between approximately Dunwich (north) and Aldeburgh (south) from views of construction.

13.6.126 Based on the findings of the assessment, **not significant** adverse effects on landscape and seascape character during the construction phase would occur within the AONB as follows:

- **Moderate (not significant)** adverse effects would occur within the Estate Sandlands LCT, to the south between the Walks and Sizewell Gap, and to the north, within a limited extent of land on Dunwich Heath and the higher ground of RSPB Minsmere. There would be no direct loss/modification of landscape fabric but the proximity of construction activity would affect some long views and the sense of isolation in the landscape.

- **Moderate (not significant)** adverse effects would also occur over an intermediate extent of the Coastal Levels LCT between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh, and an intermediate extent of the Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT until between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh. There would be no direct impact on landscape fabric, but tall built features on the horizon (especially cranes) would interrupt long views, introduce 'clutter' and diminish the visual and perceptual qualities of a simple, large-scale and open landscape. Construction would also introduce artificial light.

- **Moderate-slight (not significant)** adverse effects would occur to a very limited extent of the Estate Sandlands LCT between Minsmere and Walberswick due to views of construction.

- **Slight (not significant)** adverse effects would occur from limited areas of the Estate Sandlands LCT around the Walks, and a limited extent of the Ancient Estate Claylands (beyond Theberton to Buckle's Wood). Slight (not significant) adverse effects would also affect a localised extent of the Nearshore Waters SCT.

13.6.127 Beyond the areas identified above, effects would generally be negligible (**not significant**) and neutral. Whilst there may be views of construction activity, they would be distant and seen within the context of the existing power stations.

Night-time effects

13.6.128 Night-time effects on the AONB are assessed within **Appendix 13B**. Where relevant, the effect of artificial light on the special qualities or natural beauty indicators is summarised in **Table 13.14**.

Visual effects

13.6.129 There is some interrelationship and alignment between the scale of effect and geographic extent of the visual to the landscape character effects. The assessment records that **significant** adverse visual effects would occur within the AONB during construction as follows:

- **Major (significant)** effects – these would occur due to close-range views of construction paraphernalia (e.g. main platform, cranes, stockpiles, accommodation campus etc.), which would result in a fundamental change to the character of the existing view. Major effects would occur within the site boundaries, and extend from the main platform north towards Minsmere Sluice, across the temporary construction area, and into small sections of Sizewell Belts that would

have clear views of construction (e.g. representative viewpoint R12 at **Figure 13.9.12**).

- **Major-moderate (significant)** effects – would occur due to clear views of construction and taller built features (e.g. tall cranes, buildings and upper stockpiles), which would result in a partial alteration and noticeable change to the existing view. Major-moderate effects would occur across the majority of the Minsmere Levels (including sections of the RSPB reserve – such as Whin Hill (representative viewpoint R16 at **Figure 13.9.16** and construction wirelines at **Figure 13.10.63**)), the southern edge of Dunwich Heath adjacent to the Coastguard Cottages (representative viewpoint R17 at **Figure 13.9.17** and construction wirelines at **Figure 13.10.68**) and along the coast between Minsmere Sluice and Dunwich Heath. From these locations, taller built features within the main platform and temporary construction area (e.g. cranes, tall stockpiles) would be clearly noticeable, but forestry at Goose Hill/Kenton Hills would contain open views of lower level structures.

- **Major-moderate (significant)** effects would occur over a more limited area to the south, due to the views of the existing power station and pylons located in front of - and therefore partially interrupting views of - the main platform and temporary construction area. Major-moderate effects would extend into sections of Sizewell Belts, Sizewell Gap and the northern edge of the Walks (representative viewpoint R30 at **Figure 13.9.30**). They would also occur over a larger area of the nearshore zone to approximately 2km (representative viewpoint R26 at **Figure 13.9.26**), from where there would be clearer (but more distant) views of the main platform as a separate visual feature to the existing power stations.

13.6.130 Based on the findings of the assessment, **not significant** adverse visual effects would occur within the AONB as follows:

- **Moderate (not significant)** adverse effects would occur inside the AONB over very limited areas of Dunwich Heath (north of the Coastguard Cottages) and RSPB Minsmere north of approximately Sheepwash Lane. From these locations, partial and filtered views of the tallest construction elements would be seen above retained forestry at Goose Hill/Kenton Hills.

- **Moderate (not significant)** effects would extend southwards along the coast until Aldeburgh Beach Car Park, limited areas of The Walks and the coastal fringe adjacent to Thorpe Road between Thorpness and Aldeburgh (e.g. viewpoint R20 at **Figure 13.9.20**). From these

locations, the main platform would appear behind the existing power stations, of broadly similar scale/massing except for the tall cranes rising above.

- **Moderate to slight (not significant)** effects would also extend into the offshore zone approximately 2-5km from the site. More of the main platform would be visible due to the open nature of the sea, but views would be distant and influenced by prevailing weather conditions (with sea mist and haze more likely than on land).

Effects on AONB natural beauty and special quality indicators

13.6.131 **Table 13.14** presents an assessment of the susceptibility and construction effects on each of the natural beauty indicators and special qualities of the AONB as set out within **Appendix 13C**.

Table 13.14: Effects on AONB natural beauty indicators and special qualities during construction.

Indicator/Quality.	Susceptibility	Nature of Effect.	Scale and Extent of Effect.
Natural beauty indicators.			
Landscape quality.	High – construction work is likely to affect the intactness and condition of the landscape, introduce incongruous visually intrusive elements, harm the physical integrity of characteristic elements and detrimentally affect the uncluttered and simple appearance of the existing power station/s - but physical condition of remaining wider landscape context remains intact.	Where feasible the construction site has been planned to retain woodlands (which provide important screening to the construction and compound area), dunes, hedgerows and trees. There would be effects on the physical integrity of the site associated with the removal and alteration of the existing landscape fabric, and introduction of incongruous visual elements associated with construction activity. The defined construction compound and site area provides a controlled environment.	Large and medium effects up to 3km northwards, 2km southwards and 1km westwards. Generally decreasing to negligible beyond these areas.
Scenic quality.	High – construction work is likely to impact on sense of place (character); striking landform (including views along and towards the coast); visual interest (by altering the pattern and composition of the landscape) and appeal to the senses (by bringing views of construction, artificial light and noise).	Construction would introduce visual clutter and 'alien' activity into a relatively simple, consistently undeveloped and intact countryside landscape and impact a series of uncluttered panoramas. Effect limited to controlled area defined/ enclosed by woodland/undulating topography; limited elevated vantage points at close range and movement corridors/ access limit effect. Elevated more distant vantage points experience reduced effect due to distance. Artificial light would affect the appeal to the senses of the big dark skies (particularly in the temporary construction area). Existing landscape assets including woodland blocks, wetland areas and undulating landform, which define the scenic qualities of the area, would however remain in place.	Large and medium scale effects within and immediately adjoining site and up to 3km northwards, 2km southwards and 1km westwards. Generally decreasing to negligible beyond these areas. (Night-time). Large to medium-scale effects from artificial light would occur within the site extending northwards along Sizewell Beach and towards Minsmere and Dunwich Heath. Medium-scale effects would extend southwards to the northern edge of the Walks and along sections of coast towards Aldeburgh Car Park. Effects beyond these areas would generally be negligible.

Indicator/Quality.	Susceptibility	Nature of Effect.	Scale and Extent of Effect.
Relative wildness.	High – construction activity likely to increase artificial visual clutter, noise, lighting and traffic/movement into areas with a relatively undeveloped character and sense of remoteness characterised by a relative lack of human influence (e.g. within Goose Hill and temporary construction area).	Construction activity/ plant and road infrastructure and increased numbers of people/traffic would be particularly noticeable in the vicinity of the main entrance plaza and accommodation campus in views from Abbey Road and local rights of way to the east. Views of cranes and construction activity above woodland would introduce evident human influences to areas where relative wildness is characteristic, such as along the coast to Dunwich Heath, the southern edge of Dunwich Heath and low lying Minsmere levels. However, the existing power station already affects the perception of wildness where it is visible. Retained existing woodland belts would provide containment to some active areas. Stock piles and borrow pits would lead to disturbance to relatively isolated landscapes.	Large scale adverse effect within and immediately adjoining the site (limited section of AONB). Small scale outside but in proximity to site. Negligible in wider AONB (where majority of views already affected by human influences).
Relative tranquillity.	High – construction work would affect areas where there is a general absence of development and human activity, and introduce detractors to tranquillity including widely visible and audible construction and human activity, noise, traffic and artificial light.	Effects on amenity and recreation is set out within **Volume 2 Chapter 15**. This includes consideration of the effects on tranquillity. Relative tranquillity affected by visible and audible sources of construction activity/machinery and infrastructure and increased numbers of people/traffic including traffic and cranes. Particular detractors noticeable around entrance plaza and main platform. Diverted rights of way and long-distance walking routes place users closer to roads and movement/noise reducing sense of tranquillity. Scale and quality of natural environment in surrounding area remains intact controlling extent of effect.	As reported by **Volume 2, Chapter 15**, existing tranquillity currently experienced by recreational receptors in areas away from existing roads and close to parts of the main development site would be lost during the construction phase, largely due to changes to noise with construction sound dominating over natural sound, and also due to views of construction. These large scale effects would occur to areas within and adjacent to the main development site stretching into adjacent sections of Sizewell Belts and along the beach. Medium-scale effects would occur across the

Indicator/Quality.	Susceptibility	Nature of Effect.	Scale and Extent of Effect.
			southern area of Minsmere Levels and west of the main development site in the area between Leiston and Eastbridge. Small-scale effects would occur to the majority of Minsmere Levels (including the RSPB reserve), the southern part of Dunwich Heath and the northern part of Aldringham Walks.
Natural heritage features.	Medium – construction work may have some impacts on wildlife habitats and species, including some that make a contribution to the distinctive sense of place.	Effects on terrestrial ecology and ornithology are set out within **Volume 2 Chapter 14**. Majority of impacts arising from direct land-take during construction resulting in habitat loss and fragmentation and effects on some protected species within the site area. This would reduce slightly the contribution they make to the sense of place and value of the landscape. However, the wider area including land and habitats in the EDF Energy estate, comprised of woodland, grassland and wetland habitats would remain intact and no protected species would be lost. Undulating topography of construction area reengineered but not visible to public. Local stock piles and borrow pits would lead to disturbance of local undulating farmed landscape but wider naturally undulating topography remains intact. The characteristic land management of the SSSI west of the main platform and the wooded areas across the EDF Energy estate, outside the application boundary, would remain in place.	Removal of soils and vegetation would result in generally large-scale effects within the main development site (including loss of small area of wetland SSSI, woodland at Goose Hill, hedgerows, arable and coastal foreshore habitats. Large-scale effects would occur within limited extent of AONB inside site boundary. Outside of the site, the higher value habitats that make a distinctive contribution to the natural heritage of the AONB (e.g. coastal shingle, wetland at Minsmere and heathland at Dunwich) would be unaffected.
Cultural heritage.	Medium – construction work would affect heritage assets that make a contribution to the distinctive sense of place such as the	Effects on the terrestrial historic environment are set out within **Volume 2, Chapter 16**. This reports that there would be an impact on historic landscape	**Volume 2 Chapter 16** reports that following mitigation, there would be a moderate adverse significant effect to historic

Indicator/Quality.	Susceptibility	Nature of Effect.	Scale and Extent of Effect.
	historic landscape with a consequential impact on the ability to perceive and interpret historic features.	character at a site-scale through removal of existing landscape fabric (such as hedgerows). There would be some effects on the setting of some designated heritage assets including the adjacent Scheduled Monuments at Leiston Abbey (second site) and Leiston Abbey (first site) from construction, associated with views and noise. The historic landscape character and historic environment of the wider AONB would be largely unaffected.	landscape character within the site, a minor adverse (not significant) effect to Leiston Abbey (second site) (outside but adjacent to AONB) and a moderate adverse (significant) effect to Leiston Abbey (first site), inside the AONB.
Special qualities.			
Health and wellbeing.	Medium – some access routes or areas would be restricted or users disturbed by construction work including the Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk (and future England Coast Path) long-distance routes, cycle routes, local public rights of way and the beach.	Effects on amenity and recreation is set out within **Volume 2 Chapter 15**. The experience of users of recreational resources including public rights of way, open access land, long distance walking routes, cycle routes and the beach would be adversely affected by changes to factors including noise, views and traffic, as well as physical diversions and closures. Sections of Sandlings Walk and Suffolk Coast Path (and future England Coast Path) would be diverted inland within the AONB (along Sandy Lane, Lover's Lane and Eastbridge Road) for temporary periods during construction. Bridleway 19 (Sandlings Walk and boundary of AONB) would be closed during construction and diverted onto a new off-road bridleway. A new off-road bridleway and other recreational access improvements would provide opportunities for benefits to health and wellbeing. Opportunities for recreation along the beach would be restricted during periods of construction.	Large-scale adverse effect on users of the Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk (and future England Coast Path) within limited section of AONB affected by construction. Large-scale adverse effect on users of recreational resources within and adjacent to the main development site stretching into adjacent sections of Sizewell Belts and along the beach.

Indicator/Quality.	Susceptibility	Nature of Effect.	Scale and Extent of Effect.
		Access for visitors to enjoy the wider surrounding area of the AONB (particularly Minsmere and Dunwich Heath) would be unaffected.	
Community	Medium – potential for some effects on relationship and connection between place and people during construction.	Where construction activity is close to the settlement of Eastbridge it would occupy currently agricultural land on the south east of the village, which forms its rural setting. Construction has the potential to affect the rural character of the setting of the village and sense of place. Leiston lies outside but close to the eastern edge of the AONB would be separated from the main construction site (east of Lover's Lane) by buffer of open space around Aldhurst Farm, undisturbed land north of Sizewell Gap and woodland at Kenton Hills. Access into the areas of the AONB landscape such as Kenton Hills would remain in place but along the Sandlings Walk to the coast would be affected by temporary diversions. The presence of the temporary construction activity at LEEIE on the eastern edge of Leiston is acknowledged.	Limited extent medium-scale adverse effects on the rural context of Eastbridge. Leiston (outside the AONB) would be separated from the majority of the construction area by retained open space. Construction at LEEIE would not affect access to the AONB but would bring some adverse effects on its setting.
Economy	Low to Medium – tourism contributes to the regional economy and at a local scale may be sensitive to changes in transport and perception of the environment that could alter the visiting patterns of some tourists at a very local scale. Agriculture is also a	Loss of some agricultural land (but small proportion classified as 'Best and Most Versatile) as outlined in **Volume 2, Chapter 17** (Soils and Agriculture). Some permanent loss of commercial forestry at Goose Hill. As outlined in **Volume 2, Chapter 15**, users of local rights of way affected during construction from	Small-scale adverse effects to users of affected public rights of way, long distance walking routes, open access land, cycle routes and the beach, and visitors to RSPB Minsmere and National Trust Dunwich Heath. Risk of adverse effect on tourism within a

Indicator/Quality.	Susceptibility	Nature of Effect.	Scale and Extent of Effect.
	contributor to the economy and susceptible to changes in land use.	temporary diversions and access restrictions. Views of construction – including from locally important tourist locations to the north such as RSPB Minsmere and Dunwich Heath, may detract from people's enjoyment of the landscape and cause some displacements of visitors (e.g. walkers) into adjacent areas (including other locations within AONB). **Volume 2, Chapter 9** (Socio-Economics) reports that changes to transport and perceptions of the environment could result in changes to visitor patterns without mitigation, at a very local scale based on feedback received from previous and future (potential) visitors – however this is subjective and depends greatly on demographic and knowledge factors.	limited section of the AONB affected by construction. A Sizewell C visitor survey (see **Volume 2, Chapter 15**) reveals potential for displacement of visitors as a result of construction works (approximately 30% of people surveyed said that they would be displaced elsewhere to avoid disturbance during construction). Mitigation measures such as the Tourism Fund would reduce the risk.
Ecosystem goods and services.	High – physical effects on the landscape during construction could impact habitats, carbon stores and flood management.	The site's functionality in delivering a range of ecosystem services would be affected during construction as a result of the removal of vegetation and use as a construction site (e.g. removal of stored carbon from woodland and soil loss) and limited effects on biodiversity. Ecosystem goods and services of surrounding AONB unaffected – including that of the wider EDF Energy estate, where ongoing management will continue.	Large scale adverse effect within the site, negligible beyond.

Summary of effects to Natural Beauty and Special Quality Indicators

13.6.132 The main development site is located inside a designated AONB landscape (as are the existing power stations). Due to the scale, nature and duration of the proposed development, it is inevitable that construction would result in significant long-term effects (as defined by the landscape and visual impact assessment methodology) on a number of the natural beauty and special quality indicators.

13.6.133 Construction would result in the alteration of an area of landscape around the main platform, extending across the temporary construction area further inland into the AONB, over a duration of approximately 9-12 years.

13.6.134 Construction would directly impact the existing landscape through the removal and modification of its fabric and the installation of temporary features such as tall cranes, stockpiles, borrow pits, roads and contractor compounds. This would result in large-scale adverse effects on landscape quality by diminishing the intactness and condition of the landscape and introducing incongruous built features. Tall built features, visual clutter and artificial light would adversely affect aspects of scenic quality associated with the relatively simple and open landscape, to the expansive panoramas from the north, at closer proximity on coast to the east, and in the countryside to the west and south.

13.6.135 Large-scale effects on landscape and scenic quality would occur over a limited area of the AONB, beyond which the existing countryside and landscape framework of extensive woodland belts and topography would serve to contain and buffer the extent of adverse effects.

13.6.136 The removal of the existing landscape fabric would have adverse effects on natural heritage features due to habitat loss and fragmentation, reducing their contribution to the distinctive sense of place. However, this would be confined to the scale of the site, with the wider surrounding habitats of woodland, wetland and heathland (including those within the EDF Energy estate) left unaffected and intact.

13.6.137 Views of construction infrastructure and activity, and resulting noise, movement and artificial light would diminish the perceptual qualities of relative wildness and relative tranquillity. This would affect the more remote undeveloped areas of the site, such the area between Goose Hill and Eastbridge Road (the temporary construction area), where there are currently fewer detractors and the influence of the existing power stations are limited, however this area is inaccessible during construction with rights of way diverted to the east. Large-scale effects on relative tranquillity and wildness would be concentrated within the site and immediate adjacent area. Beyond this area, the visual and audible impact of construction would

diminish and the retained landscape framework (especially woodland belts) would provide containment to active areas.

13.6.138 There would also be large-scale effects for users of a localised section of the Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk from periodic closures routing users along a new network of routes and in cases alongside roads. To a lesser extent, adverse effects would occur to the special quality indicators of community (to the rural setting of Eastbridge) and ecosystem goods and services (loss of ecosystem services such as biodiversity and carbon storage). Economic effects are not the subject of this assessment, but there is potential for small-scale adverse effects on landscape-based tourism to users of local rights of way and visitors to RSPB Minsmere and the National Trust's Dunwich Heath.

Summary of effects to AONB

13.6.139 Based on the judgements set out within the table above, the overall long-term effects on the AONB are as follows:

13.6.140 Large-scale effects would occur inside the main development site and the approximate area between Eastbridge and Minsmere Sluice and the immediate offshore area. Beyond this area, the retained woodland at Kenton Hills/Goose Hill would help to contain and screen low level construction activity with the extent of impact resulting from the main platform and construction area, north of Sizewell Gap limited by intervening undisturbed areas, however recognising the limited effects of the SZB relocated facilities and LEEIE. The key natural beauty indicators affected would be landscape quality, scenic quality, relative wildness, relative tranquillity and natural heritage features. The effects would generally be of high-medium magnitude, **major** (**significant**) and adverse.

13.6.141 Medium-scale effects would arise across the majority of the Minsmere Coastal Levels to the southern edge of Dunwich Heath. From these locations, taller construction activity (especially cranes) would be visible in front of the existing power stations; however retained woodland would screen the majority of low level views of construction. Effects would occur over an intermediate extent of this area, be predominantly medium magnitude, **major-moderate** (**significant**) and adverse.

13.6.142 Medium-scale effects would also occur to the south of the main development site extending south of Kenton Hills up to the northern edge of the Walks and small sections of the coastline to a maximum distance of c.1.5 – 2km. From the south, the main development site would appear behind the existing power stations and pylons, and woodland at Kenton Hills would screen the majority of the temporary construction area and the SSSI and associated undisturbed landscape distance views towards the

main development site. This would affect an intermediate extent of the area, and generally be medium magnitude, **major-moderate** (**significant**) and adverse.

13.6.143 Medium-small scale effects would occur along sections of the coastline and adjacent coastal grazing marshes between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh Car Park. These effects would affect a localised extent of the area and generally be medium-low magnitude, **moderate-slight (not significant)** and adverse.

13.6.144 Beyond these areas, effects would diminish and generally be negligible. Distant views of cranes and tall structures would arise but would not affect the natural beauty/special qualities or purposes of designation.

Judgement of overall effects on AONB during construction

13.6.145 Drawing on consideration of landscape character and visual effects and effects on the natural beauty and special qualities indicators outlined above, significant effects on the AONB would occur within the approximate area between the southern edge of Dunwich Heath (adjacent to the Coastguard Cottages) to just south of Eastbridge, and along the western boundary of the AONB until the northern edge of the Walks during the construction phase.

13.6.146 Significant effects would extend further to the north during construction than south – extending across the majority of Minsmere Coastal Levels and coastline to Dunwich Heath. This is due to the more open, expansive and undeveloped nature of the landscape; and the fact that construction would be seen in front of (as opposed to behind) the existing power stations in views from the north.

13.6.147 There would also be significant effects on the setting of a limited section of the AONB, as a consequence of construction activity outside but immediately adjacent to the designated area. This would mainly arise from construction activity around the accommodation campus and entrance plaza between Bridleway 19 and Abbey Road (B1122), and construction activity on LEEIE adjacent to the AONB boundary along Lover's Lane.

13.6.148 The physical configuration of the landscape around the main development site would serve to reduce the geographic extent of significant effects to a relatively limited section of the AONB. The area of construction activity to the north would be substantially screened from wider views to the west by existing vegetation with views from Abbey Road and the existing and proposed local rights of way network, recognising the limited effect of the SZB relocated facilities and LEEIE to the south/south west. The presence of the existing power station would limit impacts on natural beauty indicators and special qualities to the south, and robust woodland belts and

topography to the north, south and west would serve to contain construction activity.

13.6.149 In conclusion, there would be significant effects from construction on the natural beauty indicators and special qualities of the AONB over a limited extent of the designation. However, the overall integrity and resilience of the wider designated landscape would not be compromised and the wider countryside especially west of the construction area, would continue to support the AONB's general countryside characteristics.

13.6.150 Taking the above into consideration, the overall effect on the wider AONB would be medium-scale across a limited extent of the designation, leading to effects that are low magnitude, **slight (not significant)** and adverse.

Suffolk Heritage Coast

13.6.151 The purposes of designation for the Heritage Coast are slightly different to the AONB and are summarised by the 'Heritage Coasts: Definition, Purpose and Natural England's role' (Ref. 13.40), as being to "*conserve, protect and enhance*" the following elements and take account of:

- *"natural beauty of the coastline;*
- *terrestrial, coastal and marine flora and fauna;*
- *heritage features;*
- *encourage and help the public to enjoy, understand and appreciate these areas;*
- *maintain and improve the health of inshore waters affecting heritage coasts and their beaches through appropriate environmental management measures; and*
- *take account of the needs of agriculture, forestry and fishing and the economic and social needs of the small communities on these coasts."*

13.6.152 Effects on the onshore elements of the Heritage Coast would be the same as for the AONB – though it should be noted that much of the western part of the site is within the AONB but not within the Heritage Coast.

13.6.153 Effects on the offshore elements would include some limited restriction on fishing and water-based recreational activities during construction, as well as significant effects on the seascape character between Aldeburgh and

Dunwich and some significant effects on views as set out for Visual Receptor Group 24 above.

13.6.154 Based on the considerations set out above, long-term effects on the purposes of designation of the Heritage Coast would be large scale in the localised area north and south of the main development site area extending along the coast including offshore areas up to 2km from the site. These effects would be of high–medium magnitude, **major (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.155 Medium scale effects would arise across Minsmere to Dunwich Heath Coastguard cottages to the north onshore, and as far as Dunwich offshore. These effects would be of medium magnitude, **major-moderate (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.156 To the south, small scale effects would extend along the beach up to 1.5–2km southwards towards Thorpeness, and offshore as far as Aldeburgh. These effects would be long-term, affect an intermediate extent of the area and would low magnitude, **moderate (not significant)** and adverse.

13.6.157 Effects beyond these areas would be generally negligible. Distant views of cranes would arise but would not affect the purposes of designation.

13.6.158 When considered overall, the long-term effects of construction on the purposes of the Heritage Coast designation would be medium-scale over a limited extent of the designation, low magnitude and **slight (not significant)** adverse.

13.6.159 Night-time effects on the Suffolk Heritage Coast would be broadly similar as described for the coastal sections of the AONB.

Special Landscape Areas

13.6.160 There are two Special Landscape Areas (SLA) within 5km of the site. These are described in **Appendix 13F** (day time) and **Appendix 13B** (night-time) as they would experience effects below the threshold of being significant.

Inter-relationship effects

13.6.161 This section provides a description of the identified inter-relationship effects that are anticipated to occur on landscape and visual receptors between the individual environmental effects arising from construction of the proposed development.

13.6.162 Inter-relationships would arise from the proposed development on landscape features – which also represent habitats that are evaluated by

the Ecological Assessment (**Volume 2**, **Chapter 14**). This evaluates habitat loss and has been referenced in order to inform some judgements concerning the impact to landscape fabric and features.

13.6.163 Some of the visual receptors are located at or adjacent to cultural heritage assets. For example, the Scheduled Monuments at Leiston Abbey and Leiston Abbey (First Site) and Grade II listed buildings at Upper Abbey Farm. Cultural and historic designations/attributes have been considered as one of the contributory factors towards overall landscape value and susceptibility. The effects of the development on the historic/cultural receptors themselves are covered within **Chapter 16** of this **Volume**).

13.6.164 Visual receptors are also recreational receptors assessed as part of the **Amenity and Recreation Assessment** within **Chapter 15** of this **Volume.**

c) Operation

13.6.165 After completion of construction, the temporary construction working areas including accommodation campus, contractor compounds, stockpiles, borrow pits and water storage areas would be removed and the soils landscape reinstated and restored in accordance with the landscape strategy.

13.6.166 In comparison with the construction stage, the operational footprint of the proposed development would be substantially reduced with a relatively small number of permanently retained components including:

- The main platform – with the two reactors, turbine halls and operational service centre being the most prominent components, and a cluster of smaller associated structures including fuel and waste storage buildings, workshops, offices, electrical and ancillary buildings.
- High voltage power export connection within the main platform, with four pylons and six monopoles connecting the turbine halls to the National Grid substation.
- Relocated Sizewell B Facilities and National Grid land including the outage store, visitor centre, training centre and outage car park in Pillbox Field and the National Grid infrastructure comprising the National Grid substation and overhead lines.
- The retained access road linking the junction with Abbey Road (B1122) to the main power station via the SSSI crossing. The access road from the B1122 would be two lanes with a segregated route for

pedestrians and cyclists. It would be predominantly unlit and connect to a new car park within Goose Hill at its eastern end.

- Reinstated Northern Mound and sea defences.
- Beach Landing Facility (BLF) – connected to the power station via an access road across the beach and over the Northern Mound.
- Electricity substation south of Upper Abbey Farm.
- Emergency Equipment Store at Upper Abbey Farm and back-up generator.
- Access improvements retained during operation including the roundabout and junction with the B1122 (Abbey Road) and permanently realigned Lover's Lane.

13.6.167 A summary of the main landscape proposals following construction is detailed under landscape fabric.

13.6.168 The proposed public rights and way and access strategy is outlined in the **Amenity and Recreation Assessment** (**Chapter 15** of this **Volume**). The Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk would be reinstated along a slightly realigned route to the east of the reconfigured sea defences. There would be a permanently retained off-road shared cycleway and footpath stretching from Sizewell Gap along Lover's Lane to the former accommodation campus off the B1122 (Abbey Road). Bridleway 19 would be re-opened, the car park at Kenton Hills enlarged and several additional permissive paths created.

i. Description of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV)

13.6.169 The operational ZTV (**Figure 13.6B**) has been modelled based on the location and heights of the proposed operational parameters.

13.6.170 In comparison with the construction ZTV (**Figure 13.6A**), the ZTV for the operational phase illustrates a substantially reduced area of theoretical visibility. This reflects the much smaller footprint of the operational development and the lower heights of the buildings (in comparison with tall construction cranes).

13.6.171 The ZTV can be broadly separated into three different zones based on distance from the site.

Close to mid-range views (up to 2km)

13.6.172 Theoretical visibility is predicted over the majority of land within 2km of the site, which broadly corresponds with the area between the site and Thorpeness (south), Leiston (west) and Minsmere (north). Areas where no or more limited views are predicted mainly correspond to where wooded areas and settlements provide visual screening.

13.6.173 For example, to the south, the area of theoretical visibility extends over open countryside around 'The Walks' to the edge of Thorpeness. The village of Thorpeness itself, and the low-lying corridor extending from The Mere along the Hundred River valley towards Aldringham falls outside of the ZTV.

13.6.174 To the west, views are predicted from the majority of land between the edge of Leiston and the site. Views from Leiston would be largely confined to the eastern edge of town, and the area between Station Road, Valley Road and the railway line (former LEEIE). However, theoretical views are more limited to the west of the town due to the screening effects of built development.

13.6.175 Views are also predicted from the countryside between Leiston and Theberton (including the area around Leiston Abbey). Some areas show no or limited theoretical visibility due to landform and the screening effects of vegetation and built development.

13.6.176 The ZTV illustrates the coastal and offshore zone within 2km of the site has predicted visibility.

Mid-range views (between 2–5km)

13.6.177 Between 2km and 5km of the site (corresponding to the area between the site and Aldeburgh, Saxmundham and Dunwich), theoretical visibility reduces in extent reflecting the stronger influence of topography, built form and vegetation in screening views.

13.6.178 To the north, theoretical views are predicted between Minsmere and areas of Dunwich Heath and Westleton Walks (south east of Westleton). Forestry at Scottshall Coverts and Dunwich Forest provide visual screening.

13.6.179 To the south, theoretical views are predicted from the coastal area between Thorpeness and Aldeburgh, stretching westwards towards Knodishall Common (including North Warren).

13.6.180 To the west, there is an area of predicted theoretical visibility extending towards Saxmundham that is relatively extensive. Where woodland and

settlements provide screening, limited or no theoretical visibility is indicated. For example, west of Theberton Wood and near Friston.

13.6.181 The majority of the offshore and coastal zone within 5km of the site has predicted theoretical visibility (with the exception of a small section adjacent to Thorpeness).

Long-distance views (over 5km)

13.6.182 Due to the position of the main platform directly adjacent to the coast, the flat open topography and curved shape of the Greater Sizewell Bay, theoretical visibility is predicted from the majority of the coastline between Orford Ness and Southwold.

13.6.183 The ZTV illustrates that theoretical views beyond the area between Aldeburgh, Saxmundham and Dunwich (over 5km) becomes limited to localised areas associated with slightly higher or more open land where there is reduced screening cover from woodlands or buildings. For example, the area west of Saxmundham between Dodd's Wood and Yoxford and east of Iken, south of the River Alde;

13.6.184 The ZTV predicts theoretical visibility over the entire offshore area within the study area. However, as with views of the existing power stations from the coast, actual visibility would be strongly influenced by prevailing weather and sea state conditions.

ii. Landscape fabric

13.6.185 During the final phase of construction, temporary features such as stockpiles, accommodation facilities, haul roads and the proposed rail infrastructure would be decommissioned and removed.

13.6.186 The site would be extensively restored and landform re-established to create a naturalistic appearance appropriate to the Sandlings landscape character using the stored excavated materials and soils, in accordance with the overall design vision and landscape strategy described in the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1) and illustrated in the Indicative Landform Strategy in **Section 8** of the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement**.

13.6.187 Due to the removal of temporary construction features there would be a substantially reduced footprint, with a small number of permanent built features centred around the proposed power station. This would leave a large periphery area to be restored back to its original agricultural function or used to create new areas of 'Sandlings' grassland landscape. Approximately 121ha of new Dry Sandlings Grassland would be created along with 48ha of Mixed Woodland.

13.6.188 Along the coast, the sea defences and northern mound would be reformed as a slightly modified structure with integrated sea defences at its base. It is intended that this would appear as a naturalistic coastal landform with appropriate planting (to replace the vegetation removed during the construction phase). The beach landing facility and associated access road to the power station would remain (but only be used occasionally).

13.6.189 Proposals to plant additional boundary vegetation in certain areas of the site, include along the B1122 and bridleway 19 and around the outage car park in Pillbox Field in order to enhance levels of visual screening.

13.6.190 The Landscape Masterplan provides an illustration of the landscape within the EDF Energy Estate following restoration. The **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2) provides an outline strategy for the management of the newly created habitats. It aims to complement and tie in with the existing management of the wider EDF Energy estate, which has seen the creation of dry acid grassland areas elsewhere on the estate.

13.6.191 A summary of the main changes to the site landscape fabric between construction and operation is contained in **Table 13.15**.

Table 13.15: Summary of changes to landscape fabric change by area.

Site Area.	Construction	Operation
Main platform.	Extensive clearance of existing site and construction of power station within cut-off walls.	No change – power station would remain as permanent feature.
Sizewell B relocated facilities and National Grid land.	Relocation of Sizewell B facilities to prepare for construction of Sizewell C.	No change – relocated facilities would remain as permanent features along with additional pylons, power transmission lines and sub-station.
Temporary Construction Area.	Wholesale change from arable farmland and forestry to a temporary construction area with entrance plaza and access road.	Majority of area restored to heath/acid grassland with replanting of some of removed field boundaries and scattered smaller-scale woodland. Landscape would be more open and biodiverse than previous intensive arable use.
Accommodation Campus.	Arable field used as accommodation campus with localised hedgerow loss.	Converted back to agricultural land (improved pasture) and hedgerows replanted.
Land to the east of Eastlands Industrial Estate.	Three arable fields used for soil storage and caravan parking.	Land restored back to agriculture.
SSSI Crossing.	constructed over SSSI resulting in some habitat loss.	Reduced width road over retained culverted embankment.
Coastal Foreshore.	Existing sea defences along eastern edge of main site removed and	New coastal defence integrated with existing sea defences to the south and

Site Area.	Construction	Operation
	enhanced.	replanted with vegetation suitable for coastal conditions, using sand surface substrates removed during early stage of construction
Northern Mound.	Soils and trees/vegetation removed and new structure created.	New structure integrated with sea defences and access road. Re-developed mound partially replanted with vegetation suitable for coastal conditions.

iii. Landscape character

13.6.192 In comparison with the construction phase, the geographic extent and scale of effect on landscape character during the operational phase would be substantially reduced.

13.6.193 After completion of construction, elements within the temporary construction areas such as stockpiles, bunds, compounds, borrow pits, water management zones and worker accommodation would be removed, and the soils and landform reinstated.

13.6.194 In the case of the LEEIE and the former accommodation campus the land would be restored to its original agricultural function. The majority of the temporary construction land, between the B1122 and power station platform, would become a new area of dry 'Sandlings' grassland with areas of woodland, scrub and tree planting.

13.6.195 The removal and reinstatement of temporary construction features would mean a consequent reduction in clutter, noise, lighting during operation. A smaller number of permanent features would be retained – principally the power station structures, pylons, SSSI crossing, Sizewell B relocated facilities, National Grid infrastructure, reinstated foreshore defences and northern mound and B1122 access junction. There would also be small buildings of relatively modest height associated with the emergency equipment store at Upper Abbey Farm and the electricity sub-station.

13.6.196 The **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1) describes the proposals in detail and illustrates the extensive design process that underpins the final proposals. Design principles are proposed as the main governing and control tool to ensure the project design is integrated and responds appropriately to context and the landscape character of the area and reflects the 'behaviour' of the existing power stations in the landscape.

13.6.197 The Design Council review (November 2019) has commended the design approach, noting "*the extensive steps are being taken by the project team to carefully integrate the Sizewell C site into its historic, coastal setting….the proposed height, massing, layout and form of buildings on the power plant site and landscape approach are broadly successful, as a result of a robust design process*". The Design Council have also endorsed the approach of the Landscape Masterplan by commenting that "*the design ambition for the landscape and its ecological stewardship is exemplary*".

Extent of landscape/seascape character effects

13.6.198 LCTs are shown on **Figure 13.4**. Operational landscape effects would occur over a substantially smaller area than during the construction phase.

13.6.199 Large-scale adverse effects on landscape and seascape character would be confined to the proposed power station site, and small areas of retained development, and be associated with direct land take and permanent changes to landscape character. This would affect limited areas of the Estate Sandlands and Coastal Levels LCT.

13.6.200 Indirect effects on landscape character would reduce to medium-scale adverse for adjacent areas in close proximity to the site with views of the power station and pylons. This would largely be restricted to small areas of Sizewell Belts to the west, and the coastline around Goose Hill to the north of the main power station. These effects would result from the visual prominence of the structures.

13.6.201 Outside of the small areas in close proximity to the built development, effects on landscape character would generally reduce to small or negligible scale, depending on the extent of visibility. Small-scale effects would extend into coastal levels around Minsmere, and along the coastline towards the southern edge of Dunwich Heath around the Coastguard Cottages. This would affect localised sections of the Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT and Coastal Levels LCT.

13.6.202 Small-scale effects on seascape character would extend offshore into the Nearshore Waters SCT.

13.6.203 Further inland to the west of the site (between Leiston and Abbey Road) views of the operational power station would be limited (being mainly screened or heavily filtered), and effects on landscape character would be negligible. Similarly, effects would generally be negligible to the south (towards Thorpeness and The Walks) where views of Sizewell C would be restricted and set behind a foreground of the existing power station and pylons.

13.6.204 Taking the above description of the scale and extent of effects into account, the following landscape and seascape character areas require detailed assessment:

- Estate Sandlands LCT;
- Coastal Levels LCT; and
- Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT.

13.6.205 Effects on the Ancient Estate Claylands would be **moderate (not significant)** and adverse, and for Rolling Estate Claylands would be slight-**minimal (not significant)** and adverse. Effects on the Nearshore Waters SCT would be **moderate (not significant)** and adverse. The effects on these character areas are described in **Appendix 13F**.

13.6.206 Other character areas within the study area would receive negligible effects during operation and are not considered further.

13.6.207 The night-time appraisal (**Appendix 13B**) concluded that there would be a major-moderate to moderate (significant) effect from operational lighting on a very limited extent of the Estate Sandlands LCT around Goose Hill. This would be the only significant effect on landscape character from operational lighting, due to the relatively small amount of light compared with the construction phase.

Estate Sandlands

13.6.208 The majority of the site lies within the Estate Sandlands LCT as shown on **Figure 13.4**. As outlined in the assessment of construction stage effects, the sensitivity of the LCT is considered to be high–medium.

13.6.209 Large-scale, long-term and permanent changes to the LCT would be restricted to the built footprint of the operational development including the proposed power station, Sizewell B relocated facilities and National Grid infrastructure. These effects would be confined to a limited extent of the LCT leading to medium magnitude effects (long-term and permanent), **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.210 The majority of the temporary construction area lies within the Estate Sandlands LCT. Following completion of construction, any temporary construction features would be removed and dismantled and the land reinstated.

13.6.211 The LEEIE would be restored to its previous function as agricultural land. The small-scale change would occur over a limited extent of the LCT

resulting in long-term and permanent effects of negligible magnitude, **minimal (not significant)** and neutral.

13.6.212 The majority of the temporary construction area between bridleway 19 and Goose Hill would be restored to a diverse mosaic of 'Sandlings' grassland, native woodland and scattered trees/scrub. This would result in the creation of a more open landscape of dry grassland typical of one of the key characteristics of the Estate Sandlands. The long-term management objectives for this area are outlined in the **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2), which are to create a transition from a managed farmed landscape to a more open and biodiverse habitat of acid grassland (Sandlings grassland), woodlands and scattered scrub. It is judged that the proposed restoration would result in a permanent medium-scale change over a localised area of the LCT. The overall effects would be of medium magnitude, **moderate (not significant)** and positive.

Coastal Levels LCT

13.6.213 A small section of the Coastal Levels LCT occurs inside the site boundaries between Sizewell Belts and Goose Hill as shown on **Figure 13.4**. The LCT is considered to have a high sensitivity as set out within the assessment of construction stage effects.

13.6.214 There would be a small amount of direct land take arising from the proposed power station, National Grid infrastructure and SSSI crossing on the Coastal Levels LCT and indirect effects from close-range views of the new power station. The large-scale and permanent effects would occur over a limited extent of the LCT, extending from the site boundary into small adjacent sections of Sizewell Belts and the southernmost section of the Minsmere Levels Coastal Levels (but not as far as Minsmere Sluice). This would result in overall effects that are medium magnitude, **major–moderate** (**significant**) and adverse.

13.6.215 The majority of the proposed power station and pylons would be clearly visible above the retained woodland from the wider Minsmere section of the LCT (see viewpoint R14 photomontages in **Figure 13.10.56 and 13.10.57**), although retained forestry cover at Goose Hill would help to screen and contain some of the lower elements.

13.6.216 There would be a small reduction in the scale and openness of the landscape within the Minsmere Coastal Levels arising from the proposed power station. However, due to its position immediately adjacent to the existing power stations and behind retained woodland, the effects on the qualities of openness and the undeveloped character of the LCT would be minimised.

13.6.217 There would be small-scale and permanent effects on a localised section of the Coastal Levels LCT north of the site around Minsmere. This would lead to overall effects of low magnitude, **moderate** (**not significant**) and adverse.

13.6.218 From the Thorpeness to Aldeburgh section of the Coastal Levels LCT, only the upper sections of the proposed power station and pylons would be visible behind tree cover and adjacent to the existing power station structures. The small–negligible effects would occur over a localised extent of the LCT, resulting in permanent effects that are low magnitude, **moderate–slight (not significant)** and adverse.

Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges landscape character type

13.6.219 The Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT occupies the narrow coastal strip stretching along the majority of the coastline within the study area. The LCT is judged to be of high sensitivity (national value, high susceptibility due to the presence of the AONB).

13.6.220 Permanent features of the proposed development within the LCT during operation would include the beach landing facility and access road and the reconfigured northern mound and coastal defences (rebuilt early during the construction phase). The sea defences and northern mound would be planted with trees and shrubs in order to be integrated with the existing sea defences and wider coastal landscape. The lower sections of structures inside the power station platform would be screened by the sea defences in views from the beach (as illustrated by photomontages of representative viewpoints R6 and R30 **see Figures 13.10.23** – **24** and **13.10.100** - **101**).

13.6.221 After reinstatement of the northern mound and sea defences, the permanent operational footprint of the development within the LCT would be confined to the access road and beach landing facility. The latter would be used very infrequently with the concrete platform being dismantled when not in use. As a consequence, there would be limited impact to complex of shingle/sand dune habitat. The presence of the adjacent main platform would result in a slight reduction in openness but this would be perceived alongside the existing power stations and contained behind sea defences, thereby preserving the openness of the beach itself.

13.6.222 It is judged that the proposed development would result in long-term and permanent, medium scale effects within a localised section of the LCT (extending along Sizewell Beach only slightly further north than the site boundary). The overall effects would be medium magnitude, **major-moderate (significant)** and adverse (long-term and permanent).

13.6.223 Further to the north towards Dunwich Heath and south towards Thorpeness (a localised extent of the LCT), any effects on the landscape character of

the Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT would generally be small to medium scale, medium to low magnitude, **moderate to slight (not significant)** and adverse.

iv. Visual receptors

13.6.224 Annotated photographs are shown on **Figures 13.9.01** – **13.9.32** of this landscape and visual assessment. The following operational phase parameters wirelines have been produced in agreement with landscape and visual assessment consultees:

- **Figure 13.10.02**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 1.
- **Figure 13.10.06**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 2.
- **Figure 13.10.10**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 3.
- **Figure 13.10.14**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 4.
- **Figure 13.10.18**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 5.
- **Figure 13.10.22**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 6.
- **Figure 13.10.26**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 7.
- **Figure 13.10.30**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 8.
- **Figure 13.10.35**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 9.
- **Figure 13.10.39**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 10.
- **Figure 13.10.43**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 11.

- **Figure 13.10.47**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 12.
- **Figure 13.10.51**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 13.
- **Figure 13.10.55**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 14.
- **Figure 13.10.60**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 16.
- **Figure 13.10.65**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 17.
- **Figure 13.10.70**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 21.
- **Figure 13.10.74**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 22.
- **Figure 13.10.78**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 23.
- **Figure 13.10.82**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 24.
- **Figure 13.10.86**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 25.
- **Figure 13.10.90**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 26.
- **Figure 13.10.94**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 28.
- **Figure 13.10.99**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 30.
- **Figure 13.10.103**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Parameters Based Photowire. Viewpoint 31.

13.6.225 Operational phase photowires at year 1 and year 15 have been produced for the following representative viewpoints:

- **Figures 13.10.03** and **13.10.04**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1 and Viewpoint 1 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 1.
- **Figures 13.10.07** and **13.10.08**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 2 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 2.
- **Figure 13.10.11** and **13.10.12**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 3 and Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 3.
- **Figure 13.10.27** and **13.10.28**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 7 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 7.
- **Figure 13.10.36** and **13.10.37**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 9 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 9.
- **Figure 13.10.40** and **13.10.41**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 10 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 10.
- **Figure 13.10.44** and **13.10.45**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 11 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 11.
- **Figure 13.10.52** and **13.10.53**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 13 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 13.
- **Figure 13.10.71** and **13.10.72**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 21 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 21.
- **Figure 13.10.75** and **13.10.76**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 22 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 22.

- **Figure 13.10.79** and **13.10.80**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 23 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 23.

- **Figure 13.10.83** and **13.10.84**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 24 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 24.

- **Figure 13.10.87** and **13.10.88**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 25 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 25.

- **Figure 13.10.91** and **13.10.92**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 26 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 26.

- **Figure 13.10.95** and **13.10.96**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photowire - Year 1. Viewpoint 28 and Operational Phase Photowire - Year 15. Viewpoint 28.

13.6.226 In addition, operational phase photomontages at year 1 and year 15 have been produced for the following representative viewpoints:

- **Figure 13.10.15** and **13.10.16**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 4 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 4.

- **Figure 13.10.19** and **13.10.20**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 5 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 5.

- **Figure 13.10.23** and **13.10.24**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 6 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 6.

- **Figure 13.10.31** and **13.10.32**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 8 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 8.

- **Figure 13.10.48** and **13.10.49**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 12 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 12.

- **Figure 13.10.56** and **13.10.57**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 14 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 14.

- **Figure 13.10.61** and **13.10.62**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 16 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 16.

- **Figure 13.10.66** and **13.10.67**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 17 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 17.

- **Figure 13.10.100** and **13.10.101**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 30 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 30.

- **Figure 13.10.104** and **13.10.105**: Representative Viewpoints: Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 1. Viewpoint 31 and Operational Phase Photomontage - Year 15. Viewpoint 31.

13.6.227 Further detail about the visualisation methodology is provided in **Volume 1**, **Appendix 6I** of the **ES.** The viewpoint description, description of effects and scale of effect for each viewpoint is set out on the relevant photograph, provided in **Figures 13.9.01** – **13.9.32**. **Figure 13.6B** provides the locations of these viewpoints. The scale of effect at each representative viewpoint during operation is summarised in **Table 13.16** below:

Table 13.16: Summary of effects on representative viewpoints during operation.

VP	Location	Approx. Distance/ Direction from Site.	Scale of Effect (Year 1).	Scale of Effect (Year 15).
R1	Sandlings Walk north of Upper Abbey Farm.	Inside site.	Small, Adverse.	Negligible Neutral.
R2	Permissive Path at Kenton Hills.	100m, south.	Large–medium, Adverse.	Large–medium, Adverse.
R3	King George's Avenue, Leiston.	100m, west.	Small, Adverse.	Small, Adverse.
R4	Lover's Lane south of Fiscal Policy.	Adjacent	Medium, Adverse.	Medium, Adverse.
R5	Footpath south of Leiston Abbey.	160m, west.	Small–negligible, Adverse.	Small–negligible, Adverse.
R6	Suffolk Coast Path east of Goose Hill.	80m, north.	Large, Adverse.	Large, Adverse.
R7	Sandlings Walk/ Sustrans Route south of Eastbridge.	170m, north.	Small to negligible Adverse.	Small to negligible Adverse.
R8	Footpath north of Leiston Abbey.	280m, west.	Medium, Adverse.	Medium-small, Adverse.
R9	Sizewell Gap south of Greater Gabbard Substation.	200m, south.	Medium-small Adverse.	Small to negligible Adverse.
R10	Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk east of Hill Wood.	300m, east.	Small, Adverse.	Small, Adverse.
R11	Junction of footpaths south west of Halfway Cottages.	Adjacent, south.	Medium-small, Adverse.	Medium-small, Adverse.
R12	Bridleway south east of Reckham Lodge.	Adjacent, south.	Medium, Adverse.	Medium, Adverse.
R13	Abbey Lane east of Cakes and Ale Caravan Park.	1km, west.	Small, Adverse.	Small, Adverse.
R14	Suffolk Coast Path at Minsmere Sluice.	1.5km, north.	Medium, Adverse.	Medium, Adverse.
R15	Beach at Thorpe Ness.	1.6km, south.	Small, Adverse.	Small, Adverse.
R16	RSPB Minsmere (Whin Hill).	1.6km, north.	Medium–small, Adverse.	Medium–small, Adverse.
R17	National Trust Dunwich Coastguard Cottages car park.	2.6km, north.	Medium–small, Adverse.	Medium–small, Adverse.

VP	Location	Approx. Distance/ Direction from Site.	Scale of Effect (Year 1).	Scale of Effect (Year 15).
R18	B1069 (Bull's Hall entrance).	3.2km, southwest.	Small, Adverse.	Small, Adverse.
R19	Yoxford Road, west of Westleton.	3.8km, northwest.	Small–negligible, Adverse.	Small–negligible, Adverse.
R20	Suffolk Coast Path north of Aldeburgh.	3.8km, south.	Small–negligible, Adverse.	Small–negligible, Adverse.
R21	Aldeburgh beach car park.	4.5km, south.	Small–negligible, Adverse.	Small–negligible, Adverse.
R22	B1119 east of Saxmundham.	5.3km, west.	Negligible, Neutral.	Negligible, Neutral.
R23	Promenade, Southwold at junction with East Cliff Road.	11.5km, north.	Small–negligible, Adverse.	Small–negligible, Adverse.
R24	Leiston Abbey (from top of ruins) looking north.	200m to west.	Small–negligible, Neutral.	Small–negligible, Adverse.
R25	Leiston Abbey (from top of ruins) looking south.	200m to west.	Negligible, Neutral.	Negligible, Neutral.
R26	1800m directly east of Sizewell power stations.	1800m, east.	Medium, Adverse.	Medium, Adverse.
R27	Footpath, Valley Road Allotments, Leiston.	250m to southwest.	Negligible, Neutral.	Negligible, Neutral.
R28	Footpath south of Theberton.	1.4km, northwest.	Negligible, Neutral.	Negligible, Neutral.
R29	Sandlings Walk at Home Farm.	220m, south.	Medium, Adverse.	Medium–small, Adverse.
R30	Junction of footpaths, The Walks.	750m, south.	Medium–small, Adverse.	Medium–small, Adverse.
R31	Shingle beach east of secondary sea defence.	440m, north.	Large, Adverse.	Large, Adverse.
R32	Footway adjacent to Valley Road, north of railway overbridge.	Adjacent, north.	Negligible, Neutral.	Negligible, Neutral.

Elements of operational scheme

13.6.228 In visual terms, the most prominent elements of the proposed development during the operational phase would be the new power station, particularly the two reactor buildings, turbine halls and pylons. Along the coastal frontage adjoining the eastern boundary of the power station compound

would be the reconfigured sea defences and northern mound. The access road across the northern mound and beach landing facility would also be retained. The beach landing facility would be very occasionally used during operation, and comprise posts with the platform being dismantled when not in use.

13.6.229 Due to their comparatively small size and lower heights, the other built elements of the scheme would have more limited visibility:

- The Emergency Equipment Store at Upper Abbey Farm and Electricity Substation south of Abbey Farm. Views from Abbey Road, Eastbridge Road and Bridleway 19 would be predominantly heavily filtered by existing and proposed planting.

- The Sizewell B relocated facilities and National Grid infrastructure (substation and realigned overhead lines) and the outage car park in Pillbox Field.

- The roundabout with the B1122 and retained access connecting Abbey Road (B1122) with the new power station. The access road would be a ground-level feature passing through a sparsely populated rural area (with few visual receptors). The proposed car park (to the north of the SSSI crossing) would be surrounded by woodland and have limited visibility.

Summary of geographic extent of visual effects (day time)

13.6.230 With reference to **Table 13.16**, the scale of operational visual effects can be summarised as:

- Large and large–medium scale effects would be confined to the narrow coastal stretch along the Suffolk Coast Path and Sizewell Beach immediately to the east of the main platform and extending to around 500m north of the site boundary (including representative viewpoints R6 (**Figure 13.9.06**), R31 (**Figure 13.9.31**) and illustrative viewpoint I13 (see **Appendix 13A**)).

- Medium and medium–small scale effects – further north along the coastal strip, the scale of effect of the proposed development would diminish to between medium and small adjacent to RSPB Minsmere (representative viewpoints R14 (**Figure 13.9.15**) and R16 (**Figure 13.9.16**)) and from the small area around the National Trust Coastguard Cottages at Dunwich Heath (representative viewpoint R17 (**Figure 13.9.17**)) from where there are elevated views looking south. Medium-scale effects would arise up to approximately 2km offshore.

Such effects would also arise from some locations within the EDF Energy estate on public rights of way through gaps in the vegetation (such as from representative viewpoint R4 (Lover's Lane - **Figure 13.9.04**) and R12 (Sizewell Belts - **Figure 13.9.12**) and a small area adjacent to the retained entrance access from the B1122 (e.g. representative viewpoint R8 at **Figure 13.9.08**). Medium to small effects would occur from the northern edge of the Walks (such as from representative viewpoints R11 (**Figure 13.9.11**) and R30 (**Figure 13.9.30**)).

- Small-scale effects – would occur to the south of the site southern section of Sizewell Beach (representative viewpoint R10 at **Figure 13.9.10**) and Thorpeness Beach (representative viewpoint R15 at **Figure 13.9.15**). From these locations, the immediate foreground is dominated by pylons and Sizewell C would be seen behind the existing structures of Sizewell A/B. small-scale effects would also be experienced from along the Sandlings Walk between Upper Abbey Farm and Eastbridge (representative viewpoint R1 at **Figure 13.9.01**) through occasional tree gaps, and near the roundabout on the B1122.

- Negligible or small–negligible scale effects would be experienced from the majority of the study area beyond c.2–3km from the site. This corresponds approximately to the area beyond Thorpeness (south), Leiston (west) and RSPB Minsmere and Dunwich Heath (north). Due to intervening distance, there would be small–negligible or negligible effects from Southwold representative viewpoint R23 (**Figure 13.9.23**) and illustrative viewpoints I3, I5, I17 and I18 at **Appendix 13A**), Aldeburgh (representative viewpoints R21 (**Figure 13.9.21**) and illustrative viewpoint I6 at **Appendix 13A**) and the small number of locations within Leiston from where the development would be visible (e.g. representative viewpoints R27 (**Figure 13.9.27**) and R32 (**Figure 13.9.32**) and illustrative viewpoint I4 at **Appendix 13A**).

Summary of geographic extent of visual effects (night-time)

- During operation, large–medium scale effects would be experienced from immediately adjacent to the main platform including along Sizewell Beach. The scale of effects would reduce to medium and medium -small along the coast to the north and offshore to approximately 2.5km from the main development site, along Sizewell Gap to the south and in the vicinity of Leiston Common and Leiston Abbey to the west. Beyond these areas the scale of effects would diminish to medium–small to small.

Visual receptor groups (day time)

13.6.231 Based on the above assessment of effects on views, it is judged that the following visual receptor groups would experience predominantly negligible (**not significant**) effects during operation and are not considered further in the assessment:

- Visual Receptor Group 1: Southwold Promenade;
- Visual Receptor Group 2: Southwold Common and Harbour;
- Visual Receptor Group 3: Walberswick and Dingle Marshes;
- Visual Receptor Group 6: South of Westleton;
- Visual Receptor Group 9: Theberton and Knodishall Green;
- Visual Receptor Group 16: North of Leiston;
- Visual Receptor Group 18: Knodishall and Aldringham;
- Visual Receptor Group 21: North Warren/South Warren;
- Visual Receptor Group 22: Thorpeness to Aldeburgh Coast; and
- Visual Receptor Group 23: Aldeburgh.

13.6.232 Effects on the following visual receptor groups are assessed to have effects above negligible but below significant and are described in **Appendix 13F**:

- Visual Receptor Group 4 (Middleton, Westleton and Darsham) – **slight (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 13 (Northeast site) – **moderate (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 14 (Northwest site) – **moderate (not significant)** and adverse;
- Visual Receptor Group 17 (Leiston) – **slight (not significant)** and adverse;

- Visual Receptor Group 19 (Aldringham Common and The Walks) – **moderate to moderate–slight (not significant)** and adverse; and
- Visual Receptor Group 20 (Sizewell to Thorpeness Coast) – **slight (not significant)** and adverse.

Visual receptor groups (day time)

13.6.233 Effects on the following visual receptor groups are judged to have potential for likely significant effects and are considered below.

Visual Receptor Group 5: Westleton Walks and Dunwich Heath

13.6.234 The majority of the visual receptor group would not experience views of the proposed operational development (**Figure 13.6B**). There would be intermittent but mostly filtered views from Scottshall Coverts and occasional direct views of the taller structures from more open ground such as along the Sandlings Walk and footpaths E-550/020/0 and E-550/017/0 between Scottshall Coverts and Westleton. The scale of visual effect from these locations would be small.

13.6.235 The most prominent location from where views of the operational development would be from the southern edge of Dunwich Heath around the National Trust's Coastguard Cottages. Views of the existing power stations become available along the approach road immediately to the north of the Coastguard Cottages (illustrative viewpoint I15 (see **Appendix 13A**)) and the Suffolk Coast Path/Sandlings Walk at the southern edge of Dunwich Heath (illustrative viewpoint I26 (see **Appendix 13A**)). Clearer and more prominent views of the existing power stations are experienced from around the Coastguard Cottages, and especially from the 'Cliff' (representative viewpoint R17 at **Figure 13.9.17**).

13.6.236 As illustrated by the photomontages for representative viewpoint R17 (**Figures 13.10.66** and **13.10.67**), the proposed power station would appear in front of the existing power stations but along the same axial alignment parallel to the coastline. Due to the elevation, it would be possible to see the majority of the turbine halls, reactor domes and pylon towers. However, retained woodland and the reconfigured northern mound and coastal defences would contain views of lower level structures.

13.6.237 The scale of visual effect would be medium-small from the southern edge of Dunwich Heath adjacent to the Coastguard Cottages (a limited extent of the visual receptor group area), medium to low magnitude, **major-moderate to moderate (significant)** and adverse (long-term and permanent).

13.6.238 Further north on Dunwich Heath (a localised extent of the visual receptor group area) the scale of change would reduce to small-scale where intervening landform and vegetation limits direct views. The magnitude of change would be low and the overall effect **moderate-slight (not significant)** and adverse (long-term and permanent).

Visual Receptor Group 7: RSPB Minsmere

13.6.239 Due to its low-lying nature and the lack of intervening higher ground between the reserve and the main development site, the operational phase ZTV (**Figure 13.6B**) indicates that visibility of the proposed development from the majority of RSPB Minsmere would be wide in extent.

13.6.240 Site analysis indicates that visibility would be more restricted on higher ground in the more wooded northern section of the reserve due to screening/filtering effects of tree cover. An exception would be the open ground on Whin Hill (representative viewpoint R16 at **Figure 13.9.16**), from where there is a vantage point looking across the reedbeds towards the existing Sizewell Power Stations and the proposed development. Visualisations of the proposed development from this viewpoint at year 1 and year 15 post completion of the construction phase are contained in **Figures 13.10.61** and **13.10.62**.

13.6.241 In views south from within this visual receptor group area, the proposed power station would be visible in front of (and partially screening) the existing structures at Sizewell A and Sizewell B – but along a similar axial alignment parallel to the coastline. Retained forestry at Goose Hill and Kenton Hills would confine views to the upper sections of the buildings and pylon towers. The scale of visual effect from this more open and elevated location would be medium-small.

13.6.242 The proposed development would be clearly visible to users of the RSPB reserve, for example from within the Bittern Hide (illustrative viewpoint I2), elsewhere some views would be screened or filtered by vegetation including reeds, trees and scrub. Where views of the proposed development are possible, the lower sections of the proposed development would be screened by forestry with the upper sections of the reactor buildings and turbine halls visible above.

13.6.243 The scale of visual effect would be medium-small in more open elevated views, and more typically small from amongst the reed beds. The users of the RSPB Minsmere reserve would experience visual effects which would be medium-low magnitude, **major-moderate to moderate (significant)** and adverse (long-term and permanent).

Visual Receptor Group 8: Dunwich to Minsmere Coast

13.6.244 The majority of the narrow coastal stretch between Dunwich and Minsmere Sluice, containing the route of the Suffolk Coast Path, would have views of the proposed development. As illustrated by representative viewpoint R14 (**Figure 13.9.14**) from near Minsmere Sluice, there is an extensive, relatively simple and uncluttered panorama with the existing power stations as vertical features between the sea and forestry along the northern boundary of Goose Hill.

13.6.245 The operational photomontages from representative viewpoint R14 (**Figures 13.10.56** and **13.10.57**) illustrate that retained woodland cover at Goose Hill and the reinstated northern mound would screen views of some of the lower structures inside the power station compound. The majority of the turbine halls, reactor buildings and new pylons would be visible above tree cover, along with the beach landing facility adjacent to the shoreline. However, the main platform would be viewed alongside the existing power stations, and as a sequence of buildings along a similar axial alignment parallel to the coastline. The reinstated northern mound and sea defences would screen the majority of low-level structures inside the main platform in views from along the beach. The scale of visual effect would be medium for a wide extent of the visual receptor group area, leading to long-term and permanent effects of medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 10: Eastbridge and Leiston Abbey

13.6.246 This visual receptor group area includes Eastbridge, a section of the Sandlings Walk, Leiston Abbey and adjacent public rights of way.

13.6.247 No views are anticipated from the majority of Eastbridge, which occupies a low-lying position with rising ground and woodland cover (around Black Walks and Ash Wood) screening or heavily filtering views south-east towards Sizewell power station.

13.6.248 As illustrated by the photowires prepared for representative viewpoints R24 (**Figures 13.10.83** and **13.10.84**) and R25 (**Figures 13.10.87** and **13.10.88**), the proposed main power station structures would typically not be visible from within the core of the Leiston Abbey site due to screening provided by the abbey building and tree cover adjacent to the B1122 and Leiston Old Abbey Residential Home. Views to the upper sections of the proposed power station structures would be possible from local footpaths including a short section of the footpath south of the Abbey (E-363-010/0) - immediately north of Abbey Lane. This view is illustrated by the photomontages for representative viewpoint R5 (**Figures 13.10.19** and

13.10.20) and the effect would be small-negligible scale and adverse (long-term and permanent).

13.6.249 Users of the footpath to the north of Leiston Abbey would experience a glimpsed and partially filtered view of the upper section of the reactor domes and turbine halls through tree cover along the B1122 (Abbey Road), as illustrated by photomontages prepared for representative viewpoint R8 in **Figures 13.10.31** and **13.10.32**. The emergency equipment store at Upper Abbey Farm would also be visible, in addition to the access junction roundabout onto the B1122. The scale of effect would be medium adverse (long-term) reducing to medium-small adverse (permanent) after maturation of proposed planting adjacent to Abbey Road.

13.6.250 Within this localised area, the overall visual effects would be medium (long-term) to medium-low (permanent) magnitude, **major-moderate to moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 11: Minsmere South

13.6.251 The area between Minsmere Sluice and the main development site is sparsely populated. The principal visual receptors would be users of the footpath between Eastbridge and Minsmere Sluice (E-363/020/0) and visitors to the Leiston Abbey first site. The extent of visibility would be intermediate.

13.6.252 Views of the operational power station would become available in the more open grassland around the Scheduled Monument at Leiston Abbey first site (refer to illustrative viewpoints I12 and I13 in **Appendix 13A**). From this location, the upper sections of the proposed power station structures (principally the reactors and turbine halls) and pylons would be visible in front of the existing power station structures, but following a similar parallel alignment to the coastline and with the reconfigured northern mound/sea defences and retained forestry screening the car park, SSSI crossing and majority of lower level structures inside the main platform.

13.6.253 The scale of change would be medium-small resulting in effects that would be medium-low magnitude, **major-moderate to moderate (not significant)** and adverse (long-term and permanent).

Visual Receptor Group 12: Minsmere to Sizewell Coast

13.6.254 This visual receptor group extends from the Minsmere Sluice to near the Beach View Holiday Park, north of Thorpeness. It incorporates the Suffolk Coast Path, which passes directly adjacent to both the existing and proposed power stations.

13.6.255 Users of this section of coast would experience the greatest effect from the proposed development due to its proximity and scale. The operational power station structures would be clearly visible from the entire coastal strip along this section of the coast; but the level of effect would vary according to location. The proposed power station buildings would result in a northerly extension to the line of existing power station structures, but seen in the same axial alignment as the other buildings and running parallel to the coast. The beach landing facility would remain in place along with its associated paved access road and form a feature in views in close proximity.

13.6.256 Walking south from Minsmere Sluice, effects would increase from medium to large scale as the proposed buildings would increasingly form a dominant component of the view (including from representative viewpoint R6 (**Figure 13.9.06**) and illustrative viewpoint I13 at **Appendix 13A**). The operational photomontages from representative viewpoint R6 is contained in **Figures 13.10.23** and **13.10.24,** which illustrates close-range views of the upper sections of the turbine halls, reactor buildings and pylons above the reconfigured northern mound that would lead to large-scale effects. The reconfigured and planted northern mound and sea defences would screen views of the majority of the lower-level structures within the main platform.

13.6.257 These medium and large scale effects would arise across an intermediate extent of the coastal strip and would be high–medium magnitude, **major** (**significant**) and adverse.

13.6.258 For pedestrians walking northwards from the south (such as from representative viewpoint R10 (**Figure 13.9.10** and photowires at **Figures 13.10.40** and **13.10.41**)) the operational structures would appear as a less prominent extension of the existing power station. From areas to the south of the site, the proposed development would create at most small-scale visual effects across an intermediate extent resulting in long-term and permanent effects which would be low magnitude, **moderate (not significant**) and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 15: Sizewell Belts

13.6.259 Visual receptors in this group include users of Leiston Common, permissive routes within Kenton Hills, visitors to Sizewell Belts Nature Reserve, the public bridleway along Sandy Lane (E-363/030/0) and Sizewell Gap.

13.6.260 For users of Sizewell Gap on the approach to the power station (illustrated by representative viewpoint R9 at **Figure 13.9.09),** the proposed development would be seen behind and at greater distance than the existing pylons and power station structures that dominate the foreground.

The operational photowires from Sizewell Gap are shown in **Figures 13.10.36** and **13.10.37**.

13.6.261 Views of the proposed power station from the remaining areas would consist of occasional views through gaps in vegetation as represented by representative viewpoints R2 (**Figure 13.9.02** and photowires at **Figures 13.10.07** and **13.10.08**), R4 (**Figure 13.9.04** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.15** and **13.10.16**) and R12 (**Figure 13.9.12** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.48** and **13.10.49**) and illustrative viewpoint I1 (**Appendix 13A**). These localised long-term and permanent effects would generally be medium magnitude (occasional large-medium), **major–moderate** (**significant**) and adverse.

Visual Receptor Group 24: Offshore

13.6.262 Effects would range from large scale adjacent to the site (representative viewpoint R6 at **Figure 13.9.06** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.23** and **13.10.24**) to medium scale at approximately 2km offshore (representative viewpoint R26 at Figure 13.9.26) to the east and northeast. The operational photowires for representative viewpoint R26 are contained in **Figure 13.10.91** and **13.10.92**, which shows that the majority of structures within the power station compound would be visible but with the reconfigured sea defences providing some visual containment of smaller structures inside the main platform. From the coast, the main platform would be seen in sequence alongside the existing power stations and parallel to the coastline.

13.6.263 Within approximately 2km offshore, the effects on recreational users (high–medium sensitivity) would be medium scale leading to long-term and permanent effects of medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

Visual receptor groups (night-time)

13.6.264 A detailed assessment of night-time effects on specific visual receptor groups is contained within **Appendix 13B** and summarised within **Section 13.8.**

13.6.265 During the operational phase of the development, night-time visual effects would not exceed **moderate (not significant)** and adverse for any of the visual receptor groups.

Key routes (road and rail)

13.6.266 Visual effects on motorists on the A1094 during operation would not exceed negligible**.**

Key routes (recreational)

13.6.267 Visual effects on cyclists on Regional Cycle Route 42 are assessed within **Appendix 13.F.**

Proposed diversion during operation:

13.6.268 During the operational phase, there would be very infrequent diversions of the Suffolk Coast Path / Sandlings Walk required for the Beach Landing Facility – with an alternative route following Sandy Lane and bridleway 19. Further details are contained in the **Amenity and Recreation Assessment** (**Chapter 15** of this **Volume**).

Suffolk Coast Path

13.6.269 The majority of the route within the study area lies within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Heritage Coast designation and is considered to be of high sensitivity.

13.6.270 Effects on the different sections of this route are described within the relevant visual receptor groups above and can be summarised as follows:

13.6.271 For northbound route users between Snape and Aldeburgh, the coastal path passes through rural countryside to the north of the River Alde and lies predominantly outside the ZTV (**Figure 13.6B**). Between Aldeburgh and Thorpeness (visual receptor group 22) there would be distant views of the upper sections of the proposed structures above the trees from small open areas (such as the coastal marshes north of Aldeburgh as illustrated by representative viewpoint R20 (**Figure 13.9.20**) and suggested by the photowires for R21 in **Figure 13.10.71** and **13.10.72**) resulting in small–negligible scale effects.

13.6.272 The section of the coastal path between Thorpeness and Sizewell deviates inland, away from the coast and through The Walks/Aldringham Common (visual receptor group 19), where the more vegetated and enclosed nature of the landscape would mean that any views of the proposed development would be intermittent and filtered and at most small scale.

13.6.273 The Suffolk Coast Path approaches the site near Sizewell Gap (representative viewpoint R29 at **Figure 13.9.29**) before running adjacent to its eastern boundary along Sizewell Beach (representative viewpoints R10 (**Figure 13.9.10** and photowires at **Figures 13.10.40** and **13.10.41**) and R6 (**Figure 13.9.06** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.23** and **13.10.24**)), from where effects would be large scale at their greatest directly adjacent to the operational power station.

13.6.274 Taking the above effects together, for northbound walkers, the long-term and permanent effects would be large scale for a limited extent of the route as it passes the site, resulting in effects that would be medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.275 Between Sizewell Beach and Aldeburgh there would be localised, small scale effects which would be low magnitude, **moderate (not significant)** and adverse. Effects on more distant sections of the route further south would be negligible.

13.6.276 For southbound route users between Southwold and Dunwich, the coastal path mostly lies outside the ZTV and views of the proposed development are anticipated only from more distant sections of coastline between Southwold and Walberswick Marshes (visual receptor groups 1–3) where effects would be small–negligible.

13.6.277 Between Dunwich and the Coastguard Cottages (visual receptor group 5), there would be increasingly frequent and more open views of the proposed development, the scale of effect would increase from small scale to medium–small scale approaching the 'cliff' viewpoint at Coastguard cottages (representative viewpoint R17 at **Figure 13.9.17** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.66** and **13.10.67**).

13.6.278 For coastal path users heading south from the southern tip of Dunwich Heath, through RSPB Minsmere until Goose Hill (visual receptor groups 8 and 12), the proposed development would be clearly visible as a northerly extension to the existing power station. Effects would be medium scale (representative viewpoint R14 at **Figure 13.9.14** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.56** and **13.10.57**) increasing to large scale adjacent to the site (representative viewpoint R6 at **Figure 13.9.06** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.23** and **13.10.24**).

13.6.279 Taking the above effects together, for southbound walkers, long-term and permanent effects would be large to medium scale for a localised extent of the route between the site and Minsmere, resulting in effects that would be high–medium magnitude, **major (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.280 Between Dunwich and Minsmere (a localised extent), the effects would be medium–small scale and Medium–low magnitude, **major–moderate to moderate (significant)** and adverse. Effects on more distant sections of the route further north would be predominantly negligible.

Sandlings Walk

13.6.281 Within the study area, most of this route lies within the AONB (and is considered to be of high sensitivity.

13.6.282 Between Snape and Thorpeness, the Sandlings Walk follows a more inland route than the Suffolk Coast Path passing adjacent to Friston, Knodishall Common and North Warren (visual receptor group 21). The ZTV (**Figure 13.6B**) predicts an intermediate extent of visibility, but the proposed development is anticipated to be either screened or heavily filtered. From the localised sections where the proposed development may be visible (e.g. south of Knodishall Common – illustrated by representative viewpoint R18 at **Figure 13.9.18**), effects would be small to negligible scale.

13.6.283 Between Thorpeness and the site, the Sandlings Walk shares some of the same route as the Suffolk Coast Path and effects would be broadly similar: mostly small to medium–small scale where there are views (e.g. representative viewpoint R29 at **Figure 13.9.29**) except for large-scale effects from a limited extent directly adjacent to the site (e.g. representative viewpoint R6 at **Figure 13.9.06** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.23** and **13.10.24**).

13.6.284 Taking the above effects together, for northbound walkers, long-term and permanent effects would be large scale for a limited extent of the route as it passes the site, resulting in effects that would be medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse. Effects on more distant sections of the route further south would be negligible.

13.6.285 For southbound walkers there would be only infrequent distant glimpses of the proposed development seen above and through vegetation from the route north of Eastbridge. Effects through this section of the route would be negligible.

13.6.286 To the south of Eastbridge (visual receptor group 14) there is potential for glimpsed and filtered views of the operational power station structures (and possibly the emergency equipment store at Upper Abbey Farm) through hedgerows gaps along bridleway 19 resulting in small-scale effects.

13.6.287 At Goose Hill (visual receptor group 13), the Sandlings Walk would follow a realigned route, through retained forestry and newly created Sandlings grassland north of the proposed SSSI crossing to the beach, from where there would be small scale effects. As noted above, effects on the route along the beach past the site (visual receptor groups 12 and 8) would be large to medium scale.

13.6.288 Taking the above effects together, for southbound walkers, the long-term and permanent effects would be large scale for a limited extent of the route as it passes the site, resulting in effects that would be high–medium magnitude, **major (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.289 Localised, small scale effects on the route between Eastbridge and Goose Hill would result in effects that would be low magnitude, **moderate–slight**

(not significant) and adverse. Effects on more distant sections of the route further north would be negligible.

Specific Viewpoints

Viewpoint R17 at Dunwich Heath Coastguard Cottages

13.6.290 The existing Sizewell Power Stations and associated pylons stand out in the elevated view looking southwards along the coast because they are vertical artificial features in an otherwise open panorama of coast, marshes and woodland. The smaller buildings around the main power stations are contained behind the curtain of woodland at Goose Hill, and therefore the upper sections of the turbine hall and reactor dome create a relatively simple and uncluttered profile.

13.6.291 As illustrated by the operational photomontages for representative viewpoint R17 (**Figures 13.10.66** and **13.10.67**), the proposed power station buildings would be seen slightly closer to the viewpoint but alongside, and partially obscuring, the existing Sizewell A/B structures. The lower buildings within the main platform would be partially screened by the retained woodland at Goose Hill and the reinstated northern mound – leaving views of the upper sections of the turbine hall, reactor buildings and pylons. It is judged that effects would be medium-small scale, medium-low magnitude, **major-moderate to moderate (significant)** and adverse.

v. Designated/defined landscapes and value

Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and Suffolk Heritage Coast

Landscape character/seascape effects

13.6.292 Significant adverse effects on landscape character within the AONB during the operational phase would occur due to land take generated by the main platform, permanent structures and parking areas resulting in a direct loss of landscape fabric. Compared with the construction phase, this would occur to a very limited extent of the AONB around the main platform, SSSI crossing, car park, access road and beach landing facility.

13.6.293 The soils, vegetation and landscape fabric of the temporary construction area would be reinstated, leaving a reduced operational footprint comprised of a small number of permanent built structures concentrated around the main platform.

13.6.294 Outside of the site, effects on landscape character would diminish and arise largely due to views of the main platform buildings. The presence of mature woodland to the north and west of the main platform – and the existing

power station to the south – would contain its visual influence and limit the operational effects on landscape character within the wider AONB.

13.6.295 Based on the findings of the assessment, **significant** adverse effects on landscape and seascape character during the operational phase would occur within the AONB as follows:

- Estate Sandlands LCT – large-scale adverse effects due to direct land take by permanent structures (main platform, car park, access road, electricity sub-station and emergency equipment store) affecting a very limited extent of the LCT extending no further than Goose Hill.

- Coastal Levels LCT – large-scale adverse effects due to direct land take by permanent structures of main platform and SSSI crossing affecting a very limited extent of the LCT extending slightly into Sizewell Belts and southern section of Minsmere Coastal Levels; and

- Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT - medium-scale adverse effects due to small amount of direct land take from the access road across the northern mound and beach landing facility, affecting a limited extent of the LCT. Effects would extend slightly further north along Sizewell Beach than the site boundary.

13.6.296 Based on the findings of the assessment, **not significant** adverse effects on landscape and seascape character during the operational phase would occur within the AONB as follows:

- **Moderate** (**not significant**) positive effects would occur within the Estate Sandlands LCT within the former temporary construction area between Goose Hill and Bridleway 19. The majority of this area would be restored to create new areas of dry grassland with a mosaic of woodland. The management outlined in the **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2) would contribute to the AONB Management Plan by increasing the area of 'Sandlings' grassland and native woodland. It would be maintained as a more open landscape by proposed grazing.

- **Moderate** (**not significant**) adverse effects would extend into a small area of the Ancient Estate Claylands – including immediately outside the AONB boundary – due to the views of the Abbey Road access junction and emergency equipment store at Upper Abbey Farm.

- **Moderate** (**not significant**) adverse effects would affect the Coastal Levels LCT across sections of the Minsmere Levels and Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT towards Dunwich Heath. Due to views of the proposed operational power station, there would be a slight

reduction in the openness and simple uncluttered character of the landscape. Moderate adverse effects would also occur on the Nearshore Waters SCT to approximately 2km offshore due to views of the main platform.

13.6.297 Beyond the areas identified above, effects would generally be **negligible** (**not significant**) and neutral. There may be views of the main platform but these would be more distant and seen alongside the existing power stations, which would be of broadly similar scale and proportions, and therefore not affect key landscape characteristics.

Visual effects

13.6.298 Significant adverse visual effects during the operational phase would arise due to the introduction of an expanded area of built form into the landscape. Clear views of the proposed development would be confined to the taller buildings of the main platform – with smaller built structures such as the SSSI crossing, car park and access road being predominantly screened by retained mature woodland.

13.6.299 The **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1) describes the proposals in detail and illustrates the extensive design process that underpins the final proposals which have sought to secure through Design Principles and other means, project design that is integrated and responds appropriately to context. The Design Council review has confirmed and commended the work undertaken in this regard.

13.6.300 The geographic extent of significant visual adverse effects would be confined to a limited area adjacent to the main platform, extending slightly to the north due to new built form in the foreground (and partially screening) the existing power stations.

13.6.301 From other locations, the main platform would either be seen behind or alongside the existing power station. It would be perceived as an expansion of built form – but of broadly similar scale, proportions and axial alignment to the existing power stations. The main platform would occupy a similar position within the landscape as Sizewell A/B, contained by the reinstated sea defences along the coast to the east, retained woodland to the north (views from Minsmere and Dunwich Heath) and the existing power stations to the south.

13.6.302 The assessment has found that **significant** adverse visual effects would occur within the AONB during the operational phase as follows:

- **Major (significant)** adverse effects - would be confined to a small section of the coastal strip immediately adjacent to the main platform –

extending northwards slightly beyond Goose Hill (representative viewpoint R6 at **Figure 13.9.06** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.23** and **13.10.24**). From these locations close to the main platform, the proposed turbine halls and reactor domes would form dominant visual features.

- **Major-moderate (significant)** adverse effects – along the coastal stretch between Goose Hill to approximately Minsmere Sluice (representative viewpoint R14 at **Figure 13.9.14** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.56** and **13.10.57**) where the main platform buildings (especially the turbine hall and reactor dome) would occupy the foreground and partially screen views of the existing power station; although they would occupy a broadly similar axial alignment. These effects would extend into small areas of Sizewell Belts (e.g. from representative viewpoint R12 at **Figure 13.9.12** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.48** and **13.10.49**) which have open views towards the main platform, and also offshore to approximately 2km (representative viewpoint R26 at **Figure 13.9.26** and photowires at **Figures 13.10.91** and **13.10.92**), from where there would be clear separation between each of the power stations, and the proposed development would be perceived as a northerly extension of the existing structures.

- **Major-moderate to moderate (significant)** adverse effects – across Minsmere Coastal Levels and the southern edge of Dunwich Heath (representative viewpoint R17 at **Figure 13.9.17** and photomontages at **Figures 13.10.66** and **13.10.67**). As described earlier, the main platform would occupy the foreground in views from the north and partially obscure existing views of Sizewell A/B. There would be a slight extension of built form further west in views from these locations.

13.6.303 Based on the findings of the assessment, **not significant** adverse visual effects would occur within the AONB as follows:

- **Moderate (not significant) adverse effects would occur inside the AONB** during the operational phase from Goose Hill west to Bridleway 19 (the former temporary construction area), from where there would be localised views of the Abbey Road junction, access road, emergency equipment store and electricity sub-station. Taller built structures inside the main platform would be visible above woodland from some areas. Effects would extend slightly beyond Bridleway 19 (outside the AONB) onto small sections of Eastbridge Road and Abbey Road.

- **Moderate (not significant)** adverse effects would also occur between the main development site and the northern edge of the Walks (slightly south of Sizewell Gap), from where the main platform would be seen behind or alongside the existing power stations and pylons.

- **Moderate-slight (not significant)** adverse effects would be experienced from the south within sections of the Walks and along the coastline between Sizewell and Thorpeness. From these locations, the existing power stations and pylons would occupy the foreground limiting the visual impact of the new structures.

Effects on AONB natural beauty and special quality indicators

13.6.304 **Table 13.17** presents an assessment of the susceptibility and operational effects on each of the natural beauty and special quality indicators of the AONB as set out within **Appendix 13C**.

Table 13.17: Effects on AONB natural beauty indicators and special qualities during operation.

Indicator/Quality.	Susceptibility	Nature of Effect.	Scale and Extent of Effect.
Natural beauty indicators.			
Landscape quality.	Low – permanent built features have some potential to harm physical integrity of characteristic elements and introduce incongruous features - but less than construction phase and with broadly similar effects to the existing power station.	The majority of the site with the exception of the permanent built footprint would be restored, and the close relationship between the coast and interior landscape enhanced through the creation of a more characteristic open Sandlings landscape. Condition of landscape enhanced through the oLEMP (Doc Ref.8.2) and wider EDF Energy estate management. There would be a small amount of additional clutter associated with the main platform and adjacent power stations, but effects on landscape quality would be limited. The physical containment of the main platform by woodland, coastal defences and the existing power stations would serve to limit wider effects on the landscape quality of the AONB.	Large-scale adverse effects confined to very limited extent immediately adjacent to the main platform and other built footprint. Medium and medium-small-scale adverse effects extending adjacent to coast towards Dunwich Heath. Small-scale positive effect from Sandlings grassland restoration and long-term management across former temporary construction area. Landscape quality of wider surrounding AONB would remain intact, with broadly similar effects during operation to those arising from the existing power station.
Scenic quality.	Low – limited potential for operational effects on sense of place (character), visual quality, landcover pattern and distinctive features. Permanent built features would behave in similar way to existing power station.	With the exception of the main platform and pylons, the operational development would lack visibility from the wider area. Minor reduction in scenic quality of openness around main platform and immediate adjacent area to north and west. Temporary construction area would be reinstated, the mosaic of habitats restored and a more open simple landform created with larger expanses of characteristic 'Sandlings' grassland. Some additional increases in artificial light from the baseline associated with the main platform affecting the appeal to the senses - but limited in extent.	Large-scale adverse effects confined to immediate periphery of main platform. Medium to medium–small scale adverse effects along coast north to Dunwich Heath where the proposed development would be seen alongside the existing power station. Scenic quality of wider surrounding AONB would be largely unaffected with distinctive sense of place, striking landform (close visual relationship between coast and inland countryside), the pattern of land cover and appeal to the senses remaining intact. (Night-time) – large-medium-scale adverse effects restricted to main platform and immediate adjacent area extending into Sizewell Beach and Sizewell Belts. Medium to medium-small scale effects along coast and across areas of Minsmere and to southern edge of Dunwich Heath (north) and to northern edge of the Walks (south).
Relative wildness.	Low – limited potential to impact wildness from built development and traffic movement, with a similar effect to the pre-existing one from Sizewell A/B.	Widespread effects from construction activity would cease, leaving low level of residual noise/movement occurring over limited extent around main platform and access road/entrance plaza from traffic movements. The majority of the temporary construction area would retain its sense of remoteness, and the creation of a large expanse of Sandlings grassland with fringing native woodland would give the landscape a wilder, more open character.	Small or medium-scale adverse effects limited to main platform, access road and small extent of Sizewell beach where traffic and operational activity apparent. Negligible in wider AONB (where majority of views already affected by existing power stations).
Relative tranquillity.	Low – there would be a low-level of residual activity associated with operational development.	Effects on tranquillity would be significantly reduced in both scale and geographic extent compared with construction. Effects would be broadly similar as those associated with the existing power stations.	As reported by **Volume 2, Chapter 15**, there would be little change in tranquillity experienced by recreational receptors during the operational phase. Tranquillity would reduce slightly on the beach adjacent to the new power station, and within Goose Hill to the north, but outside of this limited area effects would generally be negligible with no discernible changes from existing levels of tranquillity experienced by recreational receptors.
Natural heritage features.	Low – operational work likely to have limited permanent effect on characteristic habitats and species.	Effects on habitats have been minimised as set out within **Volume 2, Chapter 14**. Aside from the small permanent footprint of operational development, the wider temporary construction area would be reinstated and a large area of more biodiverse Sandlings grassland created (replacing the former coniferous plantation and intensive arable land). New areas of native woodland and hedgerows would be	Major positive effect from creation of new area of dry Sandlings grassland and other habitats (such as native woodland) which are more characteristic of AONB.

Indicator/Quality.	Susceptibility	Nature of Effect.	Scale and Extent of Effect.
		planted. Newly created habitats would be managed as set out within the **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2), and combined with wider management of the existing EDF Energy estate for the conservation and enhancement of natural features and biodiversity.	
Cultural heritage.	Low – operational site could alter historic landscape patterns and reduce ability to perceive historic features.	Landscape fabric and pattern of majority of original site would be restored. No effect on wider historic character or cultural heritage of AONB. (e.g. hedgerows and field patterns). Slight reduction in historic interest to the adjacent Scheduled Moments at Leiston Abbey (first site) due to views of operational development.	As reported by **Volume 2 Chapter 16**, there would be a moderate adverse effect on Leiston Abbey (first site) from proximity of main platform in views. Minor adverse effect on Leiston Abbey (outside the AONB) from loss of historic interest due to views of permanent road realignment and Abbey Road junction. Minor adverse effect on historic landscape character (with some historic hedgerows being reinstated but more open landscape created). There would be some beneficial effects from the reinstatement of more traditional extensive grazing management on newly created areas of dry Sandlings grassland. The cultural heritage of the wider surrounding AONB would be unaffected.
Special qualities.			
Health and wellbeing.	Low – operational scheme may periodically affect pedestrian access along the coast. Potential disturbance to users of public rights of way, open access land, long distance walking routes, cycle routes, the beach and other recreational resources by the operational power station.	Effects on amenity and recreation have been minimised. Re-opening of access diversions for Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk (and future England Coast Path) during construction and proposed additional access routes and improvements created (e.g. off-road bridleway parallel to Lover's Lane, Abbey Road and Eastbridge Road). Very infrequent diversions of the Suffolk Coast Path, Sandlings Walk and future England Coast Path when beach landing facility in operation.	Small-scale positive effect within the site (limited section of AONB). The very infrequent closures of Suffolk Coast Path (due to operation of beach landing facility) would be mitigated by enhanced and new access routes (e.g. shared pedestrian/cycleway along Lover's Lane and Eastbridge Road). Visitors would continue to be able to access and enjoy the landscape of the wider AONB.
Community	Low – relationship between place and people unlikely to be affected by operational development.	Proposed operational development would not negatively affect the link between people, place and landscape. It would add to an already established feature in the landscape. The main access routes (Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk) would be re-opened and new links created (benefitting residents of Leiston and Eastbridge). Agricultural land would be restored within the temporary construction area. The rural setting of Eastbridge would be reinstated by the restoration of agricultural land and natural habitat across the former temporary construction area. The temporary construction area at LEEIE adjacent to Leiston would be removed	Small-scale positive effect within the site (limited area of AONB). The strong link between people and place, and the connection of local communities (including at Eastbridge and Leiston) with the AONB landscape would remain intact.
Economy	Low – tourism very unlikely to be affected by operational development.	Soils reinstated during operation and returned to previous agricultural use. Suffolk Coast Path and Sandlings Walk reinstated and new access routes created. Views of main platform but alongside existing power station. No permanent operational adverse economic effects on the wider tourist economy or specific tourist locations where appreciation of landscape may be considered important to tourist draw (e.g. from RSPB Minsmere and Dunwich Heath) or displacement of visitors anticipated. Proposals would add to an already established feature. Mitigation via the construction phase Tourism Fund would have tackled long-term perceptions. Feedback from Focus Groups undertaken with repeat visitors identifies a low sensitivity to operational development (and there is already an operational station there).	Negligible
Ecosystem goods and services.	Low – operational scheme highly unlikely to affect wider	Adverse effects from construction capable of being reversed over time	Small-scale positive effect within site and wider EDF Energy estate

Indicator/Quality.	Susceptibility	Nature of Effect.	Scale and Extent of Effect.
	ecosystem services.	through the restoration of soils and creation of new vegetation – with additional areas of permanent grassland (replacing former arable land) under long-term management. Long-term management (outlined within **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2) and wider EDF Energy estate management plan) would have positive effects on some ecosystem services such as biodiversity.	(limited section of AONB). Ecosystem services of wider surrounding AONB unaffected.

Summary of effects to Natural Beauty and Special Quality Indicators

13.6.305 During the operational phase of the proposed development, both the scale and geographic extent of effects on the AONB natural beauty and special quality indicators would be greatly reduced compared with the construction phase.

13.6.306 Views of the operational development would be largely confined to the main platform and pylons (and beach landing facility along small sections of coastline). There would be adverse effects on landscape quality - from the introduction of additional built mass such as main platform buildings and pylons - and scenic quality, as a result of small reductions in the openness and the impact of artificial light on dark skies. The project design has however been a key consideration to ensure good design is delivered, responding to the scenic quality natural beauty indicator.

13.6.307 Whilst the main platform would introduce a large new built element into the view, it would be seen alongside the existing power station and be broadly of similar scale, proportions and function. The design reinstates the sea defences and northern mound to create strong boundaries containing the main platform adjacent to the coastline and along broadly the same axial alignment as Sizewell A/B.

13.6.308 There would be a small-scale adverse effect on relative tranquillity and relative wildness arising from views of the main platform structures and pylons and additional movement/activity. However, these effects would be limited in extent and are considered to be broadly similar to those associated with the existing power stations having the same 'behaviour' as described in the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1). There would also be a positive effect on relative wildness due to the creation of a large expanse of Sandlings grassland within the former temporary construction area (managed by traditional extensive grazing) and fringing areas of native woodland. This would create a more open landscape with a wilder character than the present intensive agricultural and conifer plantations.

13.6.309 The restoration of the temporary construction area, and the creation of new areas of Sandlings grassland and native woodland (replacing intensive arable land and conifer plantations) – with their management secured by the **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2) and inclusion into wider EDF Energy estate management – would also have positive effects on several natural heritage/special quality indicators of the AONB: including landscape quality, natural heritage and ecosystem services.

13.6.310 The potential adverse effects during construction on access and recreation and the special quality of community would not persist into the operational

phase. The access diversions during construction would be reinstated and there would be some betterment in terms of new provision (such as the shared off-road pedestrian and cycleway adjacent to Lover's Lane, Abbey Road and Eastbridge Road). The rural setting of Eastbridge would be reinstated, and any economic effects on landscape-based tourism are anticipated to be negligible and similar to those associated with the existing power station.

Summary of effects to AONB

13.6.311 Based on the detailed considerations set out above, permanent effects on the purposes of designation of the AONB would be as follows:

13.6.312 Large scale effects within the limited area around the immediate vicinity of the main platform would occur, extending north along the coast towards Minsmere Sluice and into the southern section of Minsmere Levels, and a small section of Sizewell Belts. This would affect a limited extent of the Estate Sandlands, Coastal Levels and Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT. Adverse effects would arise mainly due to views of the main platform, pylons and beach landing facility - affecting aspects of landscape and scenic quality. The effects would be medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.313 Medium–small and small scale adverse effects would arise across Minsmere to Dunwich Heath Coastguard Cottages to the north. These effects would occur across sections of the Coastal Levels and Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT (and into the Nearshore Waters SCT), resulting from views of the main platform, pylons and beach landing facility and affecting aspects of landscape and scenic quality. The main platform would be contained behind the reinstated coastal defences and existing woodland, and visible in front of - but in close alignment with - the existing power station. These effects would be permanent, intermediate in extent and low magnitude, **moderate (not significant)** and adverse.

13.6.314 Small-scale effects would arise in the localised area of restored Sandlings grassland (Estate Sandlands LCT) within the former temporary construction area. Although the access route would be retained, it would represent a relatively low key feature contained within a restored undulating landform. The reinstatement of the temporary construction area, and its long-term management, would make a positive contribution to several natural beauty/special quality indicators of the AONB such as landscape quality, natural heritage and relative wildness. These effects would be of low magnitude, **moderate (not significant)** and both adverse and positive.

13.6.315 Beyond these areas, effects would diminish and generally be negligible on the purposes and natural beauty/special quality indicators of the AONB.

Whilst there may be views of the main platform, these would be more distant and seen in close proximity to the existing power stations and pylons.

Judgement of overall effect on AONB during operation

13.6.316 Drawing on consideration of landscape visual effects and effects on the natural beauty and special qualities indicators outlined above; significant operational effects would occur to a very limited extent of the AONB when compared with the construction phase.

13.6.317 Significant effects would be largely confined to the immediate vicinity of the main platform extending north along the coast towards Minsmere Sluice and the southern section of the Minsmere Levels, and west into the adjacent section of Sizewell Belts. These effects would arise from a small amount of land take by the permanent built footprint, and views of taller operational components such as the main platform structures and pylons.

13.6.318 The effects arising from the views of the operational site would be broadly similar to those created by the existing Sizewell B power station displaying the same behaviour in the landscape. The new station would be seen alongside and appear of broadly similar scale, alignment and position within the landscape. The coastal defences, woodland and topography would serve to create a strong landscape framework around the main platform, thereby reducing the extent of impacts to the wider AONB.

13.6.319 In conclusion, the significant adverse effects during operation on the natural beauty indicators and special qualities of the AONB would occur over a limited extent of the designation. There would be some positive effects on the AONB from the proposed restoration and long-term management of the landscape.

13.6.320 Taking the above into consideration, the overall effect on the wider AONB would be small-scale across a limited extent of the designation, negligible magnitude, **minimal (not significant)** and adverse.

13.6.321 The **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1) describes the proposals in detail and illustrates the extensive design process that underpins the final proposals which have sought to secure through Design Principles and other means, a project design that is integrated and responds appropriately to AONB context and the landscape character of the area. The landscape strategy seeks to reinstate natural landscapes more typical of the AONB through the **oLEMP** (Doc Ref.8.2), and ongoing work of the Integrated Landscape Management Plan of the EDF Energy estate. The design of the main platform buildings has been given extensive attention and the design proposal seek to reflect the 'behaviour' of the existing power stations in the landscape which is

supported by the proposed Design Principles. The design of the structures is illustrated and described in **Section 7 of the DAS**. Whilst it is acknowledged that the landscape and visual impacts arising from the proposal are by their nature, significant and adverse, the Design Council review has confirmed and commended the work undertaken by the design team, referring in particular to the landscape strategy as 'exemplary'.

Suffolk Heritage Coast

13.6.322 Effects on the onshore elements of the Heritage Coast would be similar as for the AONB – though it should be noted that much of the western part of the site is within the AONB but not within the Heritage Coast.

13.6.323 Effects on the offshore elements would include effects on views as set out for visual receptor group 24 above.

13.6.324 Based on the considerations set out above, permanent effects on the purposes of designation of the Heritage Coast would be large scale within the localised area of the immediate vicinity of the power station, extending northwards along the beach slightly beyond Goose Hill, and up to 1km from the site offshore. These effects would be of high–medium magnitude, **major–moderate (significant)** and adverse.

13.6.325 Medium–small and small scale effects would arise across Minsmere up to the Dunwich Heath Coastguard Cottages to the north onshore. To the south, small-scale effects would extend along the beach up towards Thorpeness, and offshore as far as Aldeburgh. These effects would be permanent, affect an intermediate extent of the area, be of low magnitude, **moderate (not significant)** and adverse.

13.6.326 Effects beyond these areas, and on the Suffolk Heritage Coast as a whole would be small-scale across a limited extent of the designation, negligible magnitude, **minimal (not significant)** and adverse.

vi. Inter-relationship effects

13.6.327 Inter-relationship effects are the same as for the construction phase described earlier.

13.7 Mitigation and monitoring

a) Introduction

13.7.1 All of the mitigation designed to minimise the landscape and visual effects of the proposed development (including as design, layout, planting, lighting and landscape management) is embedded into the scheme as 'primary mitigation', which has been outlined within **Section 13.5.**

13.7.2 All reasonably practical measures to mitigate landscape and visual impacts have been incorporated into the scheme. The scope for secondary mitigation was explored but considered to be limited and, given the nature and scale of the proposed development, not capable of avoiding/minimising significant residual effects. The approach to mitigation is considered to be robust and in accordance with paragraph 3.10.8 of the Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), which states that "*the IPC should not expect the visual impacts associated with a new nuclear power station to be eliminated with mitigation. Indeed, the scope for visual mitigation will be quite limited. Mitigation should, however, be designed to reduce the visual intrusion of the project as far as reasonably practicable*".

13.7.3 The proposed development would be undertaken in accordance with the designs presented in **Section 7** of the **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1) and supported by the Design Principles.

b) Monitoring

13.7.4 There is no requirement for topic specific monitoring in relation to effects identified within this chapter.

13.8 Residual effects

13.8.1 Given that no specific secondary mitigation measures have been identified in relation to landscape and visual effects, the residual effects are the same as those identified within **Section 13.6**.

13.8.2 The residual effects associated with the proposed development are summarised within **Table 13.18** (construction) and **Table 13.19** (operation). It should be noted that the table summarises the worst-case effects arising from the proposed development, and not the range of effects, which are described in greater detail within **Section 13.6**.

13.8.3 Residual effects summarised in **Table 13.18** and **Table 13.19** also account for the effects of the Sizewell B relocated facilities proposals and therefore supersede the assessment presented in the Sizewell B relocated facilities ES (refer to **Volume 1, Appendix 2A**).

13.8.4 A summary of the night-time visual effects for the construction and operational phases are contained in **Table 13.20**. Further details are contained in the Night-time Landscape and Visual Appraisal (**Appendix 13B**).

13.8.5 The potential for significant effects from the off-site developments included within the application (off-site sports facilities at Leiston, fen meadow compensation sites south of Benhall and east of Halesworth and, if

required, the marsh harrier habitat improvement area (Westleton) have been screened out of the assessment (refer to **Appendix 13G**).

Table 13.18: Summary of effects for the construction phase.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
Sizewell B relocated facilities works during Phase 0					
Estate Sandlands LCT	Effects arising from removal of landscape features and effects of views of construction activity.	Measures set out within Sizewell B relocated facilities planning application, as summarised in **section 13.5**, including high quality design, retention of existing planting and the provision of additional planting. Construction environmental management measures set out within the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan.	Negligible neutral to moderate adverse (**not significant**)	All reasonably practicable mitigation is embedded within the scheme.	Negligible neutral to moderate adverse (**not significant**)
Coastal Levels LCT	Effects arising from removal of landscape features and effects of views of construction activity.		Negligible neutral to minimal adverse (**not significant**)		Negligible neutral to minimal adverse (**not significant**)
Visual receptor groups (Sizewell, Sandy Lane, and Sizewell Beach)	Views of construction		Negligible neutral to moderate adverse (**not significant**)		Negligible neutral to moderate adverse (**not significant**)
Suffolk Coast Path	Views of construction		Slight adverse (**not significant**)		Slight adverse (**not significant**)
Sandlings Walk	Views of construction		Slight to moderate adverse (**not significant**)		Slight to moderate adverse (**not significant**)
Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and Heritage Coast	Effects on landscape character and views of construction.		Minimal adverse (**not significant**)		Minimal adverse (**not significant**)
Main development site construction (including the Sizewell B relocated facilities works from Phase 1 onwards)					
Landscape/Seascape Character Types:					
Valley Meadows and Fens LCT.	Effects on landscape character arising from views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Valley Meadowlands LCT.	Effects on landscape character from views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Open Coastal Fens LCT.	Effects on landscape character from views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Rolling Estate Claylands LCT.	Effects on landscape character from views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Moderate–slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is	Moderate–slight (**not significant)** and adverse.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.		limited.	
Estate Sandlands LCT.	Effects arising from removal of landscape features and effects of views of construction activity.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction and to minimise construction disturbance.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Coastal Levels LCT.	Effects from removal of landscape features and effects from construction activity.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction and to minimise construction disturbance.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Ancient Estate Claylands LCT.	Effects from removal of landscape features and effects from construction activity.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction and to minimise construction disturbance.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT.	Effects from removal of landscape features and effects from construction activity.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction and to minimise construction disturbance.	Major (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major (**significant**) and adverse.
Nearshore Waters SCT.	Effects on landscape character from views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Inland Naviagable Waters SCT.	Effects on landscape character from views of construction activity.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction and to minimise construction disturbance.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Coastal Waters SCT.	Effects on landscape character from views of	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been	Negligible (**not significant**).

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
	construction.	described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.		embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	
Visual receptor areas:					
Visual receptor group A: Reydon and Wangford.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group B: Dunwich Forest.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group C: Wenhaston.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group D: Dunwich Forest to A12.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group E: Halesworth.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group F: Walpole.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**)

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
Visual receptor group G: Saxmundham to Framlingham.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group H: Campsea Ashe.	Views of construction.	**Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group I: Tunstall Forest.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group J: Alde Estuary to Tunstall Forest.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group K: Orford Ness.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group L: Sternfield.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**)
Visual receptor group M: Periphery of Saxmundham.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group N: Saxmundham.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
Visual receptor group 1: Southwold Promenade and Pier.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Moderate–slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate–slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 2: Southwold Common and Harbour.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Moderate–slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate–slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 3: Walberswick and Dingle Marshes.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Slight-minimal **(not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight-minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 4: Middleton, Westleton and Darsham.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Slight-minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight-minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 5: Westleton Walks and Dunwich Heath.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 6: South of Westleton.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Minimal (**not significant**) and neutral.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Minimal (**not significant**) and neutral.
Visual receptor group 7: RSPB Minsmere.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.			
Visual receptor group 8: Dunwich to Minsmere Coast.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 9: Theberton and Knodishall Green.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 10: Eastbridge and Leiston Abbey.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 11: Minsmere South.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 12: Minsmere to Sizewell Coast.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major (**significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 13: Northeast Site.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to	No effects.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	No effects.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.			
Visual receptor group 14: Northwest Site.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 15: Sizewell Belts.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement (Doc Ref. 8.1)**); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 16: North of Leiston.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 17: Leiston.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 18: Knodishall and Aldringham.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 19: Aldringham Common and The Walks.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.			
Visual receptor group 20: Sizewell to Thorpeness Coast.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 21: North Warren/South Warren.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 22: Thorpeness to Aldeburgh Coast.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 23: Aldeburgh.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Minimal (**not significant**) and neutral.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Minimal (**not significant**) and neutral.
Visual receptor group 24: Offshore.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Specific viewpoint R17.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.			
Key routes:					
A1094	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.
Other A Roads.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
East Suffolk Line.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
National Cycle Route 1.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Regional Cycle Route 31.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Regional Cycle Route 41.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Regional Cycle Route 42.	Views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		construction.			
Suffolk Coast Path.	Views of construction.	Periodic closure and diversion along alternative route for section between Sizewell Beach and Minsmere Sluice. Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major to major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Sandlings Walk.	Views of construction.	Provision of alternative diverted route for closed section between Sizewell Gap and Eastbridge. Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Designated landscapes:					
Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB (as a whole).	Effects on landscape character and views of construction.	Containment of landscape and visual effects into localised section of AONB through configuration of site to retain key established landscape retention features; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction and minimise construction disturbance.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Suffolk Heritage Coast (as a whole).	Effects on landscape character and views of construction.	Containment of landscape and visual effects into localised section of AONB through configuration of site to retain key established landscape retention features; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views. Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction and minimise construction disturbance.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Minsmere River Valley SLA.	Effects on landscape character and views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and bunding; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of construction.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Hundred River Valley SLA.	Effects on landscape character and views of construction.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)). Measures included within **CoCP** (Doc. Ref. 8.11) to screen views of	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		construction.			

Table 13.19: Summary of effects for the operational phase.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
Main development site operation (including the Sizewell B relocated facilities works)					
Landscape/Seascape Character Types:					
Valley Meadows and Fens LCT.	Effects from views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Valley Meadowlands LCT.	Effects from views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Open Coastal Fens LCT.	Effects from views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Rolling Estate Claylands LCT.	Effects from views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.
Estate Sandlands LCT.	Permanent built footprint and post-construction site restoration.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and creation of Sandlings grassland, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Coastal Levels LCT.	Permanent built footprint and post-construction site restoration.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Ancient Estate Claylands LCT.	Permanent built footprint and post-construction site restoration.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.
Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT.	Permanent built footprint and post-construction site	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
	restoration.	quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.		embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	
Nearshore Waters SCT.	Effects from views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Inland Naviagable Waters SCT.	Effects from views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Coastal Waters SCT.	Effects from views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor areas:					
Visual receptor group A: Reydon and Wangford.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group B: Dunwich Forest.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group C: Wenhaston.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group D: Dunwich Forest to A12.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group E: Halesworth.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been	Negligible (**not significant**).

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.		embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	
Visual receptor group F: Walpole.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**)	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group G: Saxmundham to Framlingham.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group H: Campsea Ashe.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group I: Tunstall Forest.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group J: Alde Estuary to Tunstall Forest.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group K: Orford Ness.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group L: Sternfield.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group M: Periphery of Saxmundham.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group N: Saxmundham.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is	Negligible (**not significant**).

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
				limited.	
Visual receptor group 1: Southwold Promenade and Pier.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group 2: Southwold Common and Harbour.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group 3: Walberswick and Dingle Marshes.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group 4: Middleton, Westleton and Darsham.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 5: Westleton Walks and Dunwich Heath.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse
Visual receptor group 6: South of Westleton.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group 7: RSPB Minsmere.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse
Visual receptor group 8: Dunwich to Minsmere Coast.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		level views.			
Visual receptor group 9: Theberton and Knodishall Green.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group 10: Eastbridge and Leiston Abbey.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse
Visual receptor group 11: Minsmere South.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse
Visual receptor group 12: Minsmere to Sizewell Coast.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major (**significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 13: Northeast Site.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 14: Northwest Site.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 15: Sizewell Belts.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 16: North of Leiston.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		level views.			
Visual receptor group 17: Leiston.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 18: Knodishall and Aldringham.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group 19: Aldringham Common and The Walks.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Moderate–slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Moderate to Moderate–slight (**not significant**) and adverse
Visual receptor group 20: Sizewell to Thorpeness Coast.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 21: North Warren/South Warren.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group 22: Thorpeness to Aldeburgh Coast.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group 23: Aldeburgh.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Visual receptor group 24: Offshore.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
		level views.			
Specific viewpoint R17.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse
Key routes:					
A1094	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Other A Roads.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
East Suffolk Line.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
National Cycle Route 1.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Regional Cycle Route 31.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Regional Cycle Route 41.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Regional Cycle Route 42.	Views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Suffolk Coast Path.	Views of operation.	Reinstatement of Coast Path along similar route, reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level; retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.

Receptor	Potential Impact.	Primary or Tertiary Mitigation.	Assessment of Effects.	Additional Mitigation.	Residual Effects.
				limited.	
Sandlings Walk.	Views of operation.	Reinstatement of Sandlings Walk; reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level; retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.
Designated landscapes:					
Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB (as a whole).	Effects on landscape character and views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting and creation of Sandlings grassland, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.
Suffolk Heritage Coast (as a whole).	Effects on landscape character and views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)); reconfiguration and planting of northern mound and sea defences to screen low-level views.	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Minimal (**not significant**) and adverse.
Minsmere River Valley SLA.	Effects from views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).
Hundred River Valley SLA.	Effects from views of operation.	Retention of established woodland and landscape features to provide visual containment; additional landscape planting, high quality building design (as described in **Main Development Site Design and Access Statement** (Doc Ref. 8.1)).	Negligible (**not significant**).	All reasonably practicable mitigation measures have been embedded into the scheme. The scope for additional mitigation is limited.	Negligible (**not significant**).

Table 13.20: Summary of night-time effects (Appendix 13B).

Receptor	Construction Effect.	Operation Effect.
Landscape and Seascape Character Types:		
Estate Sandlands LCT.	Major (**significant**) and adverse.	Major-moderate to moderate (**significant**) and adverse
Ancient Estate Claylands LCT.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate–slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Coastal Levels LCT.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Coastal Dunes and Shingle Ridges LCT.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Nearshore Waters SCT.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor areas:		
Visual receptor group 5: Westleton Walks and Dunwich Heath.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 7: RSPB Minsmere.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 8: Dunwich to Minsmere Coast.	Major to Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse	Major-Moderate to Moderate (**significant**) and adverse

Receptor	Construction Effect.	Operation Effect.
Visual receptor group 10: Eastbridge and Leiston Abbey.	Major-moderate to Moderate (**significant**) and adverse	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse
Visual receptor group 11: Minsmere South.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 12: Minsmere to Sizewell Coast.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 15: Sizewell Belts.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate–slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 19: Aldringham Common and The Walks.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.	Slight (**not significant**) and adverse.
Visual receptor group 24: Offshore.	Major–moderate (**significant**) and adverse.	Moderate (**not significant**) and adverse.

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