

Hornsea Offshore Wind Farm

Project Two

Environmental Statement
Volume 6 – Onshore

Annex 6.5.2
**Nationally Designated Landscapes and Landscape
Character Areas: Key Characteristics**

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SMart Wind Limited

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Key Characteristics

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1 NATIONALLY DESIGNATED LANDSCAPES AND LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS

Table 1.1 Nationally Designated Landscapes And Landscape Character Areas: Table Of Key Characteristics.

Name	Key Characteristics	Onshore HVDC Converter/HVAC Substation Study Area	Landfall and Cable Route Study Area
Nationally Designated Landscapes The Lincolnshire Wolds AONB			
General Character	<p><i>“The Wolds has a strong unity of visual character, characterised by open plateau hilltops, sweeping views, strong escarpments, wide grass verges and ridge-top routeways, dramatic wooded slopes and valleys, beech clumps, attractive villages often nestled in hill folds and natural and historic features of great interest including visual remnants of ancient tumuli and deserted/shrunken medieval villages.</i></p> <p><i>The Landscape Character Assessment for the Wolds undertaken by the Countryside Commission in 1993 (CCP 414), recognises the landscape as strikingly different from most other chalk and limestone landscapes in the extent of arable cultivation, made possible by the area’s fertile chalk and drift soils. The ‘typical’ chalk downland features of calcareous grassland and sheep walk were probably never widespread in the Wolds due to the thinness of the chalk and the fact that much of the area is covered by glacial till. The area subsequently has a long association with cultivated farming practices. The writings of William Cobbett in his Rural Rides of 1830 and J. A. Clarke in the Journal of the Royal Agriculture Society in 1852 speak of a transformation of the Wolds in the 18th and 19th centuries: previous pasture, and ridge and furrow farmed landscapes were systematically converted to more intensive rotation cropping, originally encouraged through the Enclosures Act. Both arable and livestock production increased with the growing importance of farm mechanisation via the Victorian farmsteads. The surviving areas of semi-natural habitats, including grassland and ancient woodland, are very limited in extent, but are nonetheless of particular importance, and are supported by more recent introductions of hunting plantations and hedgerows indicative of an Enclosure Landscape.</i></p> <p><i>In addition to the distinctive and widely nucleated villages and hamlets within the Wolds, the surrounding market towns of Alford, Caistor, Horncastle, Louth, Market Rasen and Spilsby have long associations with the area. The Wolds remain relatively sparsely populated and the roles of the market towns are very important in providing social and economic services for the wider community. In turn they provide important gateways to the Wolds’ countryside. The area remains a relatively tranquil place for residents and visitors alike, and the aim of the Management Plan is to promote and manage the conservation and enhancement of its special qualities.”</i></p>	No	No
Key Characteristics	<p>The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape Assessment (CCP414, 1993) identified and described the key features that make the area special and contribute to its overall ‘sense of place’. These features are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>“A rolling upland landscape of strongly cohesive identity;</i> ▪ <i>A pronounced scarp edge to the west comprising rough pasture and scrub, affording fine panoramic views to the Central Lincolnshire Vale;</i> ▪ <i>A combination of elevated plateaux and deep-sided valleys;</i> ▪ <i>Large rectilinear fields with wide hedgerows from the late enclosure;</i> ▪ <i>Archaeologically rich, with ancient trackways, deserted villages and burial mounds;</i> ▪ <i>Sparse settlements of small, nucleated villages, often in sheltered valleys and associated with modest country houses and small parklands. The diverse geology gives rise to a variety of building materials;</i> ▪ <i>Broad verges to some roads and tracks providing valuable flower-rich habitats;</i> ▪ <i>Occasional shelterbelts concentrated on steeper-sided valley and scarp slopes emphasising landform; and</i> 		

Name	Key Characteristics	Onshore HVDC Converter/HVAC Substation Study Area	Landfall and Cable Route Study Area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Broader south-west valleys of the Rivers Lymn and Bain, with associated alder carr woodland and tree-lined watercourses.</i> 		
Landscape Character Areas	<p>There are clear variations in scenic character across the Wolds with topography and geology appearing to be the most dominant factors. The Lincolnshire Wolds Landscape Assessment (CCP414, 1993) recognised four Landscape Character Areas within the AONB, identified by their distinct group of special features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The north-west scarp; ▪ The chalk wolds; ▪ The ridges and valleys of the south-west; and ▪ The south-eastern claylands. <p>The Management Plan uses the local landscape classification as the most practical tool within the AONB, with the other district and national classifications providing useful information at the relevant mapping layer.</p>		
Landscape Conservation and Enhancement	<p><i>“As detailed previously, the Wolds Landscape Assessment identified four landscape character areas within the AONB and highlighted the important landscape qualities of the Lincolnshire Wolds. Table 1 and Appendix 3 have been collated for this plan, and together outline the special qualities of the AONB, where possible listing their current extent and condition. These are the principal elements of the natural beauty and landscape character of the Wolds.</i></p> <p><i>The Wolds scenery is subtle and complex, but has a clear identity resulting from physical and human influences over many generations. It has a very open character with extensive outward views both eastwards to the coast and westwards across the Lincolnshire Clay Vale. The views within the AONB are equally dramatic and are shaped by the open rolling hills, hidden valleys and continually changing patterns of farming. The ridge-top locations provided by the Bluestone Heath Road, the Caistor High Street and the west-east drovers’ roads provide some of the area’s best known and most frequented viewing points.”</i></p>		
Chalk Wolds	<p><i>“The Chalk Wolds is a large open plateau of rolling hills and secluded valleys. The topography of this part of the Wolds is striking and is testimony to the last glaciation, when ice sheets and meltwater dramatically altered the landscape. Large arable fields and characteristic changing crop patterns dominate the plateau top, and contrasts markedly with the numerous valleys with their lush pastures and wooded slopes. The area has the highest concentration of deserted and shrunken medieval villages within the AONB.</i></p> <p><i>Key local AONB features identified:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Open rolling arable farmland on gently dipping plateaux;</i> ▪ <i>Wooded and lush inward-facing valleys and dry valleys;</i> ▪ <i>Attractive nucleated villages, often of Saxon or medieval origin (e.g., Rothwell, Hatcliffe, Thoresway);</i> ▪ <i>Enclosure roads (drovers’ roads) with wide verges and characteristic hedgerows;</i> ▪ <i>Small plantation woodlands and beech clumps of the 18th and 19th centuries;</i> ▪ <i>Isolated chalk grassland;</i> ▪ <i>Deserted medieval villages (e.g., Beesby, East Wykeham);</i> ▪ <i>Archaeological sites on the plateau (e.g., tumuli, barrows);</i> ▪ <i>Manors and parkland (e.g., East Ravendale);</i> ▪ <i>Geomorphological and geological sites (e.g., Hubbard’s Hills, Welton le Wold); and</i> 		

Name	Key Characteristics	Onshore HVDC Converter/HVAC Substation Study Area	Landfall and Cable Route Study Area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Localised old enclosed landscape (e.g., north-eastern corner of the AONB)</i> <p>Key local issues identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>“Impact of disused wartime airfields, transmission lines, radio masts and huge straw stacks;</i> ▪ <i>Loss and decline of chalk grassland;</i> ▪ <i>Loss and decline in quality of hedgerows;</i> ▪ <i>Decline in quality of beech clumps and other woodland;</i> ▪ <i>Impact of arable practices on archaeological features;</i> ▪ <i>Abandonment of some of the more remote farms and cottages;</i> ▪ <i>Lack of awareness of the unique geomorphology; and</i> ▪ <i>Threats to views out to the coastal marshes (e.g. wind farms, tourism developments)”.</i> 		
Historic Landscapes	<p><i>“The Lincolnshire Wolds has a rich cultural heritage. Some of the oldest human remains in Britain have been found here and every period of subsequent human habitation has left its mark on the landscape. A great variety of cultural features can be traced throughout the area, from the burial mounds to the distinctive stone churches, and from the enclosure hedgerows to the wartime airfields. There are no extensive parklands but a number of smaller estates, which often include gracious but modest Tudor or Georgian country houses, with both Georgian and Victorian farmsteads, and farm workers cottages, a particular feature of the area.</i></p> <p><i>The landscape has inspired many artists and writers, the most famous being Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809 -1892). Born in Somersby and educated in Louth, he left the Wolds in 1837, but its landscape provided a source for many of his poems including 'In Memorium AHH', 'Maud' and 'The Brook'. At the time of the enclosures, the well-known painter Peter de Wint (1784 -1849) produced a number of highly regarded canvases of the Wolds. In the late 20th century, the area again provided a setting for literature in A.S. Byatt's Booker Prize-winning novel 'Possession' and continues to provide inspiration for local artists, craftsmen and writers.”</i></p>		
National Landscape Character Area			
27 'Yorkshire Wolds'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>“Prominent escarpment and foothills rising from the Vales of York and Pickering and falling to the plain of Holderness;</i> ▪ <i>Defined by the presence of the chalk but with small areas of Jurassic rocks along the western fringe;</i> ▪ <i>Remnants of unimproved or semi-improved chalk grassland in steep-sided dry valleys, often defined by a hedge at the break of the slope and sometimes showing signs of scrub encroachment;</i> ▪ <i>Important archaeological remains with a particular concentration of prehistoric earthworks including burial mounds;</i> ▪ <i>A large-scale landscape of rounded, rolling hills, with big skies and long views from the escarpment and plateaux, contrasting with the more enclosed, sheltered valleys;</i> ▪ <i>Fertile, chalky soils supporting mainly arable farming;</i> ▪ <i>Pattern of large, regular fields crossed by drove ways and enclosure roads with wide verges, resulting mainly from late Parliamentary enclosure;</i> ▪ <i>A generally lightly settled landscape with predominantly brick – but sometimes chalk and pantile – buildings, large scattered farmsteads on high ground, small villages in valleys, and small market towns at the fringes;</i> 	Yes	No

Name	Key Characteristics	Onshore HVDC Converter/HVAC Substation Study Area	Landfall and Cable Route Study Area
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>High chalk cliffs where the outcrop reaches the coast at Flamborough Head;</i> ▪ <i>Limited extent of woodland, mainly confined to steep slopes, escarpments and the hills formed from Jurassic rocks; and</i> ▪ <i>Parkland and estate landscapes with large country houses, estate villages and estate woodlands.”</i> 		
40 'Holderness'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>“Low-lying, predominantly flat or gently undulating plateau jutting into the North Sea and dividing it from the Humber Estuary;</i> ▪ <i>Glacial landscape of till deposits, gravels and alluvium over chalk, with many glacial features such as drumlin mounds, hummocky terrain, moraine-like ridges and kettle holes;</i> ▪ <i>Rapidly eroding, soft clay, cliff coast;</i> ▪ <i>High-quality agricultural land used predominantly for large-scale arable cultivation and intensive livestock farming;</i> ▪ <i>Fields bounded by ditches in some areas, especially the floodplain of the river Hull, but by hedges on higher ground;</i> ▪ <i>Sparse tree and woodland cover leading to a generally open landscape with long views – enclosed by the wolds to the north and west;</i> ▪ <i>Highly fragmented, though locally prominent, remnants of semi-natural vegetation including Hornsea Mere and various carr, swamp and damp grassland habitats;</i> ▪ <i>Winding roads linking dispersed villages and hamlets, with village churches providing important landmarks in the generally flat landscape; and</i> ▪ <i>Vernacular buildings of red brick and red pantile with some older buildings, especially churches, built in limestone. Use of cobbles near the coast.”</i> 	Yes	No
41 'Humber Estuary'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>“Expansive, flat, low-lying, sometimes remote estuarine landscape dominated by the Humber and with an ever-changing character due to tidal influences;</i> ▪ <i>Dominance of sky and open views over the estuary, mudflats and salt marshes, where flood embankments allow;</i> ▪ <i>A predominantly reclaimed, formerly intertidal landscape of rectilinear fields with boundaries formed by dykes, drains and embankments;</i> ▪ <i>A landscape of mainly arable farming with some conspicuous areas of market gardening, particularly around Hull;</i> ▪ <i>Internationally important coastal habitats, including the Spurn peninsula; and,</i> ▪ <i>Urban and industrial influences especially around Hull and on the south bank.”</i> 	Yes	Yes

Name	Key Characteristics	Onshore HVDC Converter/HVAC Substation Study Area	Landfall and Cable Route Study Area
42 'Lincolnshire Coast and Marshes'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>“Flat coastal plan to east, rising gradually in west to more undulating land at foot of the Lincolnshire Wolds;</i> ▪ <i>Predominantly open, medium-scale agricultural landscape. Tendency to small farm units with pasture in east. Some remnant areas of ridge and furrow, and mixed arable to west;</i> ▪ <i>Woodland and hedge cover sparse yet increasing to west at foot of the Wolds;</i> ▪ <i>Dispersed settlement pattern throughout most of area. Concentration of larger settlements towards the coast;</i> ▪ <i>Land drained to east by combination of irregular ditches, stream and dykes. Louth Canal is major man-made watercourse;</i> ▪ <i>Coastline experiencing both erosion and accretion. Major coastal dune systems and saltmarshes and artificial sea defences along the coastline. Extensive shallow beach; and,</i> ▪ <i>Brick and pantile vernacular architecture to the west. Coastal strip significantly altered by discordant 20th century development including seaside resorts, theme parks, bungalows, caravan parks and industry”.</i> 	Yes	Yes
43 'Lincolnshire Wolds'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>“Rolling upland arable landscape of strongly cohesive identity;</i> ▪ <i>Pronounced scarp edge to north and west, comprising rough pasture and scrub, affording fine panoramic views to Central Lincolnshire Vale;</i> ▪ <i>Combination of elevated plateaux and deep steep-sided dales to chalk areas;</i> ▪ <i>Large rectilinear fields with clipped and degraded hedgerows from late enclosure. Occasional shelter belts, concentrated on steeper-sided valley and scarp slopes, emphasising landform;</i> ▪ <i>Sparse settlement pattern of small nucleated villages, often in sheltered valleys and associated with modest country houses and small parklands. Diverse geology gives rise to variety of building materials;</i> ▪ <i>Broad verges to some roads and tracks provide valuable herb-rich habitats;</i> ▪ <i>Archaeologically rich with ancient trackways, deserted villages and burial mounds; and,</i> ▪ <i>Broader south-west valleys of river Lymn and Bain. Associated alder carr woodland, and tree-lined watercourses.”</i> 	Yes	No