



SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

EN010106

Volume 6

Environmental Statement

6.2 Appendix 10G: Landscape Effects

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009



Planning Act 2008

**The Infrastructure Planning
(Applications: Prescribed Forms and
Procedure) Regulations 2009**

Sunnica Energy Farm

**Environmental Statement
Appendix 10G: Landscape Effects**

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Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
Sunnica East Site A (the Order limit parcels E05 and parts of E01 and E03 are located across the south-east edge of the NCA)					
NCA 46: The Fens	High	Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would occur within parcels E01, E03 and E05, resulting in physical changes to the surface landform as a result of the topsoil stripping and installation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels. There would also be the perception of the construction activity in the adjacent parts of the Sunnica East Site A, from the presence of construction equipment, compounds and associated activity. However, due to the very small scale of the construction activity in relation to the wider extent of the NCA, the alteration to key characteristics would be barely noticeable.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use across E01, E03 and E05 via the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, resulting in additional massing and an 'infrastructure' character. With the ground levels reinstated below the panels, along with the topsoil, the pattern of the landform would remain and be perceived as a result of the spacings between the solar panels, such that the key characteristics and stated attributes of 'flat' and 'low lying landform' would remain. Similarly with the solar panels in E01, E03 and E05 being offset from the Lee Brook, this feature would remain. The permissive path adjacent to E05 would provide increased recreational opportunities between the existing PRoW W-257/000/7 (to the south of Beck Road) and Isleham. The Scheme would respond positively to the statements of environmental opportunity in this respect by improving recreational access, conserving the field pattern and existing key landscape features.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels and between E05 and Beck Road would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerows and trees would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this, the vegetation cover across this part of NCA 46 would be improved and reflect the existing patterns of small woodland blocks and roadside vegetation. With reference to Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], the grassland and planting is considered to be beneficial to the biodiversity value and a positive response to the stated environmental opportunities in seeking enhancements to biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered to be too small in relation to the wider extent of the NCA, along with the Scheme being reversible, to alter the key characteristics of the NCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure and vegetation cover would remain beneficial in landscape terms. This is balanced with the temporary presence of machinery and alteration to surface landform to remove the solar panels and associated structures. The decommissioning would be too small in scale to impact the wider extent of the NCA key characteristics.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Sunnica East Site B (all of the Sunnica East Site B is located in NCA 85)					
NCA 85: The Brecks	High	Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would be located across all of Sunnica East Site B, resulting in physical changes to the surface landform as a result of the topsoil stripping and installation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels. There would be temporary compounds and the construction machinery for the duration of the construction phase. Existing and retained vegetation across Sunnica East Site B, including adjacent to U6006 would be retained and protected in accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). However, with the construction activity located to the south of the River Lark, at the south-west part of the NCA, the scale of the construction activity would be very small and localised in relation to the wider extent of the NCA. Therefore, the impact of the construction activity would not change the character across the wider NCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	<p>The Scheme would result in a change in land use across Sunnica East Site B via the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, including the taller massing of the BESS and substations, resulting in additional massing and an 'infrastructure' character, in the south-west part of the NCA, which is already characterised by part of the A11 and residential land uses.</p> <p>The pattern of the gently undulating landform would remain with the ground levels and topsoil reinstated below the panels. With the Scheme offset from the pine lines and sited within the smaller 'geometric' rectangular fields adjacent to Elms Road, Freckenham Road and Golf Links Road, the perception of the field pattern would also remain.</p> <p>The perception of the pine lines on the skyline or woodland across Chalk Hill would remain due to the relative low height of the panels in relation to these features, retaining the stated 'attributes' of the NCA. The additional pine tree planting adjacent to U6006 would also respond positively to stated guidance, although be low in height at year 1.</p> <p>The Scheme would retain the recreational access via U6006, with an additional permissive route at the northern part of U6006. The permissive path adjacent to U6006 is also considered to respond positively to the 'additional opportunities' of improving recreational access.</p> <p>The panels in E12 would be offset from Freckenham Road to reduce their perception when travelling between Freckenham and Worlington. The panels, BESS and substation would be perceived as a change from farming from along Elms Road, on the approach to Worlington, via Golf Links and a greater extent of massing than perceived from the pig pens associated with the farming.</p> <p>The Scheme would not locate panels above archaeological areas, as secured by the Works Plans and illustrated by Figure 3-1 (the Parameter Plans). These areas would be native grassland, which although not established at year 1, would be a positive response to the statements of environmental opportunity in respect of landscape and historic character in the design and siting of infrastructure.</p> <p>Ultimately, the scale of the above would be too small in relation to the wider extent of the NCA to influence the NCA's key characteristics.</p>	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	<p>Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath all the panels and within the ecological areas adjacent to Freckenham Road, would have fully established. The new tree planting around part of the northern edge of the Order limits and adjacent to U6006 and Golf Links Road would also have established to reduce the perception of the solar panels from the surrounding road networks.</p> <p>These changes are balanced with the retained, although reversible, presence of the solar panels, solar stations and associated structures, including the BESS and substations and that the Scheme would remain a very small part of the wider extent of the NCA.</p>	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	<p>Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition, which is considered to be beneficial. The activity to remove the solar panels would be similar in scale and extent to that of the construction phase, with changes to surface landform and the presence of machinery, although small in scale in relation to the wider extent of the NCA.</p>	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
NCA 85: The Brecks	High	Cable Route A (In relation to NCA 85, Cable Route A would extend between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B and to the south of the Sunnica East Site B, either side of the River Kennett)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	<p>Construction activity would occur to the west of Freckenham Road and to the south of parcel E20, extending beneath the River Kennet and to the north of Heath Plantation. The excavation would result in changes to surface landform and vegetation removal, within a 50 metre wide zone, in addition to the boring equipment, hoardings and associated machinery for boring beneath the River Kennet, retained hedgerows and woodlands.</p> <p>The construction activity for the cable route A would be very localised in relation to the wider extent of the NCA and not result in the loss of any key features due to the boring.</p>	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	<p>Cable Route A would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would be very small and localised. Whilst the new planting at year 1 would be low in height, there would be no overall impact to the character of the NCA.</p>	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	<p>The new planting would have grown to reinstate the vegetation cover and there would be no change to the character of the NCA, due to the cables being below ground.</p>	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	<p>There would be no change to the character of the NCA at decommissioning as the cables would be retained below ground.</p>	None	Neutral (not significant)
NCA 85: The Brecks	High	Intra Project - Sunnica East Site B and Parts of Cable Route A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	<p>The construction activity across Sunnica East Site B and part of Cable Route A would result in excavation across fields, the presence of machinery, removal of vegetation and installation of solar panels and associated equipment, as per the above assessments.</p>	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With Cable Route A below ground, and any loss of vegetation very small in scale, the impacts and effects would relate to those predicted above for Sunnica East Site B.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	As per the year 1 assessment, with Cable Route A below ground, the impacts and effects would reflect those predicted for Sunnica East Site B above, with new planting across the Cable Routes having grown to reflect the existing vegetation cover.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The impacts and effects would reflect those predicted for Sunnica East Site B above as Cable Route A would remain below ground.	Low	Minor adverse (not significant)
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Sunnica East Site A (this part of the Scheme is located across the north-east edge of NCA 87)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	With the exception of parcels E01, E03 and E05 (which are located in NCA 46) there would be construction activity across the Sunnica East Site A and the north-east edge of NCA 87. The construction activity would result in physical changes to the surface landform due to the topsoil stripping and installation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels. There would also be the perception of the construction activity in the adjacent parts of the Sunnica East Site A within NCA 46, from the presence of construction equipment, compounds and associated activity due to the proximity and open character of the landscape. The roadside hedgerows adjacent to Beck Road and Ferry Lane would be protected and retained during the construction phase via the measures in the CEMP. The scale of the construction activity would be very small in relation to the wider extent of the NCA and in combination with the duration there would be no effect to the key landscape characteristics.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use in the north-east part of the NCA, via the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, including the BESS (and firewater tanks) and substations, resulting in additional massing and an 'infrastructure' character in comparison to the rural landscape and open character of the fields. With the ground levels reinstated below the panels, along with the topsoil, the pattern of the landform and the vegetation cover of roadside hedgerows would remain. With no solar panels to the west of Beck Road and the solar panels in E05 (NCA 48) set back from Beck Road, the Scheme would respond positively to the published landscape actions for NCA 87 of conserving views to and from church landmarks in Isleham, when travelling along Beck Road and containing the extent of development at Beck Road. The Scheme would also respond positively to the statements of environmental opportunity through new chalk grassland beneath all of the panels and to the west of Beck Road, as well as reinforcing the existing roadside hedgerows adjacent to Ferry Lane and Beck Road and to the south-west of Lee Farm via new tree planting. Whilst not fully established at year 1, this planting would form the basis of new Green Infrastructure within the north-east part of the NCA. On balance, the additional infrastructure within the NCA would be reversible, localised and small in scale in relation to the overall extent of NCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath all of the panels and to the west of Beck Road would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees to the south-east of Lee Farm would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover across this part of NCA 47 would be improved and respond positively to the statements of environmental opportunity and landscape opportunities in terms of new Green Infrastructure and increasing biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, the BESS and substation, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to this part of the NCA. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered on balance to be very small in relation to the wider extent of the NCA and reversible.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of naïve grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial. The activity to remove the panels and associated structures would reflect that at the construction phase, although too smaller scale in relation to the wider extent of the NCA to alter the key characteristics.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Cable Route A (within the north-east part of the NCA)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would be located to the south of Sounds Plantation and the northern edge of Sunnica West Site A. The construction activity would be very localised in relation to the wider extent of the NCA and not result in the loss of any key features as a result of its scale, the protection of key vegetation and implementation of the CEMP. There would be very localised removal of vegetation.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Cable Route A would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would be very localised and small in extent, such that the existing character of fields in winter would remain and there would be no overall change to the character of the NCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the NCA, due to the cables being below ground and that the new planting would have grown to reflect the vegetation cover.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the NCA at decommissioning, as the cables would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Sunnica West Site A (this part of the Scheme is located in the north-east part of the NCA)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	There would be construction activity across all of the Sunnica West Site A, which is within NCA 87. The construction activity would result in physical changes to the surface landform due to the topsoil stripping and installation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels, as well as the BESS and substation. There would also be the presence of construction equipment, compounds and associated activity. The roadside hedgerows adjacent to La Hogue Road and the vegetation structure of Sounds Plantation and across Sunnica West Site A would be protected and retained during the construction phase via the CEMP. The scale of the construction activity would be very small in relation to the wider extent of the NCA and in combination with the duration any alteration to the NCA would be barely noticeable given its proximity to the A11/A14 and railway corridor.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use the north-east part of NCA 46, via the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, including the BESS (and firewater tanks) and substations, resulting in additional massing and an 'infrastructure' character adjacent to the A11/A14 in comparison to the rural landscape and open character of the fields across Sunnica West Site A. The Scheme would respond positively to the statements of environmental opportunity through new chalk grassland beneath the panels and to the west of Beck Road, as well as reinforcing the existing roadside hedgerows. There would also be new tree belts across Sunnica West Site A and between existing woodlands. This would reinforce existing tree lines, including The Avenue. Whilst not fully established at year 1, this planting would form the basis of new Green Infrastructure within the north-east part of the NCA. On balance, the additional infrastructure within the NCA would be very localised, reversible and small in scale in relation to the overall extent of NCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and tree planting around the perimeter of W15, W16 and across the Sunnica West Site A (to the north of A11) would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this, the vegetation cover across this part of NCA 87 would be improved and respond positively to the statements of environmental opportunity and landscape opportunities in terms of new Green Infrastructure and increasing biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, the BESS (and firewater tanks) and substation, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to this part of the NCA. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered on balance to be very small and reversible impact in relation to the wider extent of the NCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition, which is considered to be beneficial. The removal of the panels and structures would reflect the activity and presence of machinery in the construction assessment; although too smaller scale in relation to the wider extent of the NCA to alter the key characteristics.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Sunnica West Site B (located across the north-east part of the NCA)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would be located to the north-east of the River Snail, across W01 and W02. The construction activity would result in physical changes to the surface landform due to the topsoil stripping and installation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels. There would also be the presence of construction equipment, compounds and associated activity. The woodland adjacent to the River Snail would be protected and retained during the construction phase via the CEMP. The scale of the construction activity would be very small in relation to the wider extent of the NCA and in combination with the duration the alteration to key features of the NCA would be barely noticeable.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The proposed solar panels and solar stations would be located centrally within W01 and W02, due to the proposed native grassland, which would offset the infrastructure in relation to the River Snail, Snailwell Road and Chippenham Fen. There would also be chalk grassland beneath the panels and the below ground archaeological areas. The proposed planting would not have established at year 1 and the solar panels and solar stations would introduce additional massing and an infrastructure character within part of the NCA, although very small in scale and extent in relation to the NCA. The Scheme would also be reversible.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Due to this, the vegetation cover across this part of NCA 87 would be improved and respond positively to the statements of environmental opportunity and landscape opportunities in terms of new Green Infrastructure and increasing biodiversity. The physical structures of the Scheme would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to this part of the NCA. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered on balance to be very small and reversible impact in relation to the wider extent of the NCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting and grassland would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The removal of the panels and structures would reflect the construction phase assessment; although too smaller scale in relation to the wider extent of the NCA to result in an effect.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Cable Route B (all of the Cable Route B alignment is located across part of NCA 87)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would extend across fields to the east of Snailwell, including below Chippenham Park Road. This would include excavation and localised changes to surface landform via the presence of construction machinery. There would also be localised vegetation removal. The excavation would continue to the west of Sunnica West Site, beneath the A142 and railway line, extending across to the west of Burwell. The construction activity for Cable Route B would be localised in relation to the wider extent of the NCA and not result in the loss of any key features.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Cable Route B would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would be very small in scale, such that the overall character of fields and vegetation patterns would be retained.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the NCA, due to the cables being below ground and that the new planting would have established to reflect the pattern of vegetation cover.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the NCA at decommissioning as the cables would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Burwell National Grid Substation Extension (located adjacent to the existing substation in the NCA)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension would be located adjacent to the existing Burwell substation for either option, either to the north or east. The construction activity for either option would result in localised alteration to landform and vegetation cover, as well as the presence of construction equipment and machinery at an isolated point in relation to the wider scale of the NCA. As the construction activity would be located adjacent to the existing substation and perceived in this context for either option, it would not impact the overall character of the NCA.	Very Low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Either option of the Scheme would result in a change in land use and additional infrastructure within the NCA, via the substation extension. However, either option would be located adjacent to an existing, larger scale substation, such that there would be no overall change to the character of the NCA, as the Scheme would reflect the existing land use of the site context in either option.	Very Low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Due to the continued presence of the substation (at either option) and its character, the assessment would reflect that at year 1.	Very Low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity associated with decommissioning would reflect that during the construction phase.	Very Low	Negligible adverse (not significant)
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Intra Project Effects (most of Sunnica East Site A, all of Sunnica West Sites A and B, part of Cable Route A, all of Cable Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension (either option))			
		Construction Phase (winter)	With construction activity across parts of Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica West Sites A and B, part of Cable Route A and Cable Route B, the extent of excavation, alteration to vegetation patterns and surface landform and the presence of construction machinery and equipment would cover more of the NCA, than the above assessments for the individual aspects of the Scheme. The construction activity would extend from the north of Freckenham, between Chippenham Park and Kennet and across	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
			to the north of Snailwell and west of Burwell. The key features of pine lines, roadside hedgerows, woodland blocks, the River Snail and the Lodes to the west of Burwell would be retained and protected during the construction phase via measures set out in the CEMP, but there would still be changes to the character of the NCA given the extent of the activity.		
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable routes below ground, the main changes to the landscape character would be due to the presence of the solar panels and substations, resulting in a change in land use and an 'infrastructure' character across part of the north-east of the NCA. There would be localised reductions in vegetation cover above the Cable Routes. The substation extension at Burwell would be perceived in context of the existing larger scale substation, along with similar localised reduction in vegetation. The distances between the substation extension, Sunnica West Site A and B and Sunnica East Site A and B would negate any continued perception of the new land uses. Therefore the physical change to the landscape character in relation to the extent of the NCA would be localised to between Snailwell, south of Chippenham Park, east of the A11 and between Freckenham and Isleham and to parts of the landscape already crossed by roads. The key characteristics of flat to gently undulating landform would remain, via the reinstated ground levels and that the solar panels would align to the undulating or flat landform pattern. The Scheme would respond positively to the statements of environmental opportunity through new chalk grassland beneath the panels, as well as reinforcing the existing roadside hedgerows, planting new tree belts between existing woodlands and reinforcing existing tree lines, including The Avenue, although this new planting would not have established at year 1. On balance, the additional infrastructure within the NCA would result in a change in character but at a localised scale, such that the overall physical and perceived change would be small in relation to the extent of the NCA.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward and the planting above the Cable Routes would have grown to reinstate the vegetation cover. The proposed planting around the perimeter of the solar panels would also have grown in height and be in leaf. Due to this, the vegetation cover across a small part of NCA 87 would be improved in relation to the arable field patterns and the Scheme would respond positively to the statements of environmental opportunity and landscape opportunities in terms of new Green Infrastructure and increasing biodiversity. The physical structures of the Scheme and their change from the open character of the fields would remain as per the year 1 assessment, but the overall perception of the infrastructure would be reduced by the establishment of the proposed planting. In addition, the improvements to the vegetation cover, via the new planting are also balanced with the continued presence of the solar panels and associated equipment, such that the impact is predicted to reduce in comparison to the year 1 assessment.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the construction assessment, the proposed planting and grassland would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The activity to remove the panels and structures would therefore not be perceived to the same extent as per the construction phase.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Regional East of England Landscape Framework Landscape Character Types (LCT)					
LCT: Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would result in changes to surface landform with the presence of machinery representing a greater degree of change than compared to general farming activity. The scale of the construction activity would be localised in relation to the extent of the LCT, with much of the activity located within the grounds of Lee Farm, which already contains structures and modified landform.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use, introducing additional massing via structures in contrast to the open character of the fields or the scale of the existing pig pens associated with farming activities which characterise the existing land use across the Order limits; resulting in additional infrastructure within the LCT and a reduction in tranquillity, open character to the fields, aesthetic and scenic value. There would be no loss of key features, as the roadside hedgerows would be retained and much of the Scheme would be located in the grounds of Lee Farm, where there are existing buildings and structures. The Scheme would retain the key characteristics of low lying and gently undulating landform, as ground levels would be reinstated beneath the panels. The Scheme would also retain the Lee Brook and the character of small streams across the landscape. With the structures set back from Beck Road, the key characteristics of nucleated villages would remain and similarly, the relative low height of the panels would retain the long views between settlements. The perception of the Freckenham and Isleham as separate settlements would remain due to the Scheme being sited within the boundaries of road networks.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The massing and change in land use as per the year 1 assessment would remain, along with the establishment of the native grassland across the Sunnica East Site A. There would be additional vegetation cover via the hedgerows and new	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)		

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
			tree planting. These changes would be localised and very small in scale in relation to the extent of the LCT, such that the impacts would relate to those at year 1.		
		Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the structures would reflect the construction phase assessment. There would be a beneficial change in land cover across Sunnica East Site A; however the scale and extent of the grassland and vegetation would not change the key characteristics.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Sunnica East Site B (parcels E24 to 31 are within the LCT)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would result in changes to surface landform with the presence of machinery representing a greater degree of change than compared to general farming activity and localised vegetation removal for access. The scale of the construction activity would be localised in relation to the extent of the LCT which reduces the predicted effect from minor adverse to negligible adverse.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use, introducing additional massing via structures in contrast to the open character of the fields and a reduction in tranquillity, aesthetic and scenic value. There would be a localised loss of vegetation for the access points, although overall the roadside hedgerows would be retained, as well as the perception of the underlying pattern of rising landform across Chalk Hill. These changes would be very small in scale in relation to the wider extent of the published character area, which reduces the predicted effect from minor adverse to negligible adverse.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The massing and change in land use as per the year 1 assessment would remain, along with the establishment of the native grassland. There would be additional vegetation cover via the hedgerows and new tree planting adjacent to Golf Links Road. These changes would be localised and very small in scale in relation to the extent of the LCT, such that the impacts would relate to those at year 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the structures would reflect the construction phase assessment. There would be a beneficial change in land cover across Sunnica East Site A; however the scale and extent of the grassland and vegetation would not change the key characteristics and reduces the predicted effect from minor adverse to negligible adverse.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Sunnica West Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would result in changes to surface landform and the presence of machinery to a greater degree than general farming activity. The scale of the construction activity would be localised in relation to the extent of the LCT, being adjacent to existing transport corridors of the A11, A14 and railway lines, which reduces the predicted effect from moderate adverse to minor adverse.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use, introducing additional massing via structures in contrast to the open character of the fields; resulting in an additional infrastructure character within the LCT. There would be no loss of key vegetation features, as the roadside hedgerows would be retained along, overall with the vegetation structure of plantations and vegetation removal for the access points which would be very localised. The Scheme would retain the key characteristics of an underlying pattern of gently undulating landform, as ground levels would be reinstated beneath the panels. Reductions in tranquillity would be limited by the presence of the Scheme adjacent to the road and rail corridors which reduces the predicted effect from moderate adverse to minor adverse.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The massing of the structures and change in land use would remain, along with the establishment of the native grassland across the Sunnica West Site A. There would be additional vegetation cover via the hedgerows and new tree planting. These changes would be localised and very small in scale in relation to the extent of the NCA, such that the impacts would relate to those at year 1.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the structures would reflect the construction assessment. There would be a beneficial change in land cover across Sunnica West Site A; however the scale and extent of the grassland and vegetation would not change the key characteristics, which reduces the predicted effect from moderate adverse to minor adverse.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Sunnica West Site B			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would result in localised changes to surface landform and landcover as a result of the excavation. The key features of the River Snail and associated woodland would be retained due to the offsets of the construction activity as set out in the CEMP. The extent of the construction activity would be very localised in relation to that of the LCT which reduces the predicted effect from minor adverse to negligible adverse.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use and the introduction of massing and structures, resulting in an infrastructure character. The extent and scale of the solar panels and substations would be very localised, and the key features of the LCT would remain, along with the Scheme being reversible, which reduces the predicted effect from minor adverse to negligible adverse.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1, as whilst the proposed grassland and hedgerows would have established, the presence of the structures would retain the perception of the infrastructure land use.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	High				
LCT: Lowland Village Chalklands	High				
LCT: Lowland Village Chalklands	High				

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be additional native grassland within the LCT, adjacent to Chippenham Fen and therefore an improved landcover. The scale of this, would not alter the key characteristics of the LCT and the removal of the panels and structures would reflect the construction phase assessment.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
LCT: Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Cable Route B			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The excavation for the cable route would result in localised excavation and the presence of construction machinery across part of the LCT, resulting in localised changes to landform and landcover, via localised vegetation removal. The key features of watercourse (Lodes) and key vegetation would be retained by the boring techniques and implementation of the tree protection fencing as set out in the CEMP. The overall extent of the Cable Route B would be localised and the construction activity would be temporary, which reduces the predicted effect from moderate adverse to minor adverse.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With Cable Route B below ground, there would be no change to the overall character of the LCT. Any alterations to vegetation cover would be very small in scale and localised.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the establishment of the proposed planting above the cable routes would reinstate the vegetation cover and therefore with the cables below ground, there would be no overall change to the character.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character area at decommissioning as the cable route would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
LCT: Lowland Village Chalklands	High	Intra Project Effects (Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and B and Cable Route B)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	With the construction activity occurring between the Sunnica East Site A through part of Cable Route B, the scale of the activity would be greater than for the individual assessments above, with increased changes to surface landform and vegetation cover, perception of the construction activity and alterations to tranquillity. The construction activity would retain key features of vegetation patterns, the River Snail and River Kennett and the watercourses (Lodes) due to the implementation of the CEMP and siting of the proposed Scheme.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use, introducing additional massing via structures in contrast to the open character of the fields; resulting in additional infrastructure within the LCT. There would be no overall loss of key vegetation features, as the roadside hedgerows, woodlands would be retained overall, via the implementation of the CEMP along with the underlying perception of the flat to gently underlying landform. The Scheme would result in an additional infrastructure character, with the panels and associated structures resulting in localised changes to aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the LCT, the introduction of structures and the reduction in the perception of the open character of the fields. The reductions to tranquillity would be also be localised, with the Sunnica West Site A situated in a part of the LCT which is already crossed by the A11 and A14, so that the infrastructure is consolidated to a part of the LCT. These impacts are balanced with the Scheme being reversible which reduces the predicted effect from moderate adverse to minor adverse.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The change to the LCT would be from the establishment of the proposed native grassland beneath the panels and the proposed hedgerows and trees, such that across the Scheme, including the Cable Routes, there would be improvements to landcover, vegetation and biodiversity. The massing of the structures and infrastructure land use would remain as a change to the open character of the fields, but the perception of the infrastructure character would reduce to the establishment of the proposed planting.	Very Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be further establishment of the proposed planting, including the diversity of the native grassland and the height of the proposed trees, which is considered to be beneficial. The proposed planting would reinforce the existing vegetation structures but remain a very small part of the wider LCT. The activity to remove the panels and structures would reflect that at construction but the perception would be lessened by the increased extent of planting.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
LCT: Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B (covering all of Sunnica East Site B)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would be located across all the parcels in Sunnica East Site B and would include for the topsoil stripping and localised excavation to install the solar panels, structures and perimeter fencing. The construction of the BESS (firewater tanks) and substation in E18 would require tall lifting equipment and associated machinery. The duration of the construction activity would be short and very localised to the southern edge of the LCT which reduces the predicted effect from minor adverse to negligible adverse.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be a change in land use across a small part of the southern edge of the LCT as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. These structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS (and firewater tanks) and substation would result in infrastructure character to a part of the LCT which is already crossed by the A11 and contains solar farms. The key landscape features across this part of the LCT would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from the pine lines adjacent to U6006 and the pine lines across the fields to the north and south of Elms Road and from the mature woodland at the base of Chalk Hill. The Scheme would introduce additional recreational access via a permissive path from U6006. The Scheme would be of a static character, with horizontal massing and arrays resulting in tonal colour changes to the landscape. These would result in localised adverse impacts to the aesthetic and perceptual qualities of the LCT, balanced with the Scheme being reversible.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees across Sunnica East Site B, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], opportunities for improved biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, but due to the change in land use, the effect is considered to remain as per year 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial; although very small in relation to the LCT. The removal of the panels and structures would reflect the scale, extent and duration of the construction phase assessment.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Cable Route A				
		Construction Phase (winter)	The excavation for the cable route would result localised excavation and the presence of construction machinery across part of the LCT, resulting in localised changes to landform and landcover, including localised removal of vegetation. The key features of the River Kennett and associated vegetation would be retained by the boring construction method. The overall extent of the Cable Route A would be localised, with the perception in the context of road or rail infrastructure.	Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With Cable Route A below ground, there would be no overall change to the character of the LCT. Any reduction in vegetation would be very localised and would not alter the overall character of the LCT.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the LCT as the proposed planting would have established to reflect the existing vegetation patterns.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character area at decommissioning as the cable would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	High	Intra Project (covering Sunnica East Site B and Cable Route A)				
		Construction Phase (winter)	As the construction activity and associated changes to landform and vegetation patterns would be across more of the LCT than compared to the above individual assessments, there would be an increase in the predicted impacts due to the excavation, vegetation removal and presence of construction machinery.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	As cable route A would remain below ground, the impacts would relate to the changes in land use, reduction in vegetation and 'infrastructure' character from Sunnica East Site B.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	As per the above assessments, by year 15 the proposed planting across Sunnica East Site B, above the Cable Route and W13 would have established to a greater height and density than compared to the year 1 assessment. As the change in land use would remain across Sunnica East Site B and W13, the infrastructure would remain in contrast to the open character of the landscape, but its perception would reduce and the Scheme would be reversible.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	The cable route would remain below ground, so that the impacts would relate to the removal of panels and structures from Sunnica East Site B and W03. This activity would reflect the construction phase, although its perception would be reduced to the greater height and density of the proposed planting.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Sunnica East Site A (covering E01 and E02)				
		Construction Phase (winter)	The scale of the construction phase would be very small in relation to the overall extent of the LCT, such that the impacts would be localised. There would be changes to surface landform and the presence of machinery, but the key characteristics of the LCT would remain.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use and introduction of massing, via the panels. The pattern of the landform would remain and the change in land use would be to a common feature (i.e. fields) and localised in relation to the wider scale of the LCT.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1, as whilst the grassland beneath the panels would have established, the change in land use would remain.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the panels would reflect the construction activity and remain localised in relation to the wider extent of the LCT.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Cable Route B (part of the route to the north of Landwade and west of Burwell)			
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The scale of the excavation for the Cable Route would be very small in relation to the overall extent of the LCT, such that the impacts would be localised. There would be changes to surface landform, vegetation and the presence of machinery, but the key characteristics of the LCT would remain.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Cable Route would be below ground, such that any impacts to vegetation cover would be localised and too small in scale to impact the wider character of the LCT.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The proposed planting would have established to reflect the vegetation patterns and there would be no change to the LCT.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The cable route would remain below ground, so there would be no impact during the decommissioning phase.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Burwell National Grid Substation Extension			
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase for either option would be located adjacent to an existing substation, such that the scale and extent of the activity would be very localised in relation to the wider geographic extent of the LCT. There would be the presence of construction activity and the localised removal of vegetation for either option.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The additional massing and infrastructure character of the substation (for either option) would be located adjacent to the existing Burwell substation extension, reflecting this existing land use in the immediate site context. Either option of the substation extension would therefore not alter the character of the LCT due to the dominance of the existing infrastructure land use.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1. This is considered to be the same for the either location of the substation extension.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The scale and extent of the activity associated with decommissioning would retain the infrastructure character of the character area. This is considered to be the same for either location.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Intra Project Effect (part of Sunnica East Site A, part of Cable Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension (both options))			
LCT Planned Peat Fen	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The excavation for the Cable Route to the west of Burwell and north of Landwade, along with the northern part of Sunnica East Site A would be small in relation to the overall extent of the LCT. There would be changes to surface landform, vegetation and the presence of machinery, but the key characteristics of the LCT would remain. This is considered to be the same for the alternative substation extension location.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Cable Route would be below ground, such that the impacts would relate to the additional massing of the substation and solar panels in the northern part of Sunnica East Site A and reduction in vegetation along the Cable Route. As the substation extension would be adjacent to a similar land use, the impact would relate to the change in land use at Sunnica East Site A and the massing from the panels in contrast to the open character of the field. This is considered to be the same for the alternative substation extension location. The change in land use would be very small in relation to the extent of the wider LCT and perceived locally.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The impacts would reflect those at year 1, as whilst the grassland would have established beneath the panels in the northern part of Sunnica East Site A, the change in land use would remain. This is considered to be the same for the alternative substation extension location.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The cable route would remain below ground, so there would be no impact during the decommissioning phase from this aspect of the Scheme. The activity to remove the panels and substation would be localised. This is considered to be the same for the alternative substation extension location.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment – Landscape Typologies (LT)					
Sunnica East Site B (Part of the Order Limits is located across the west part of the LT)					

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
LT: Estate Sandlands	High	Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would be located across most of Sunnica East Site B, with the exception of parts of E19 and E20 and E24 to E33. The construction activity would result in physical changes to the surface landform as a result of the topsoil stripping and installation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels. There would be temporary compounds, hoardings and the construction machinery for the duration of the construction phase. Existing and retained vegetation across this part of Sunnica East Site B, including adjacent to U6006, the pine lines to the south of Elms Road and the mature woodland at the base of Chalk Hill would be retained and protected in accordance with the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP). There would also be the perception of the construction activity across the remaining parts of Sunnica East Site A, due to the proximity of parcels E24 to E33 and that there are E19 and E20. The scale of the construction activity would be localised in relation to the wider extent of the LT, which extends across to the north side of the River Lark, towards Thetford.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use via the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, including the taller massing of the BESS (firewater tanks) and substations, resulting in additional massing and an 'infrastructure' character in the LT. The physical presence of the Scheme, whilst static, would locally reduce tranquillity due to its massing and colour tones of the solar arrays in contrast to the open character and colour tones of the fields. With the ground levels reinstated below the panels, along with the topsoil and the panels and associated infrastructure offset from the pine lines and within the smaller 'geometric' rectangular field patterns adjacent to Elms Road or bordered by Freckenham Road, the perception of the pattern of the gently undulating landform and the field patterns would remain. The perception of the pine lines on the skyline or woodland across Chalk Hill would also remain due to the relative low height of the panels in relation to these features. The Scheme would therefore retain the key characteristics of a geometric field structure, blocks of woodland and characteristic 'pine lines', as well as long views. The Scheme is assessed as responding positively to the stated guidelines for the LT, by reinforcing the existing hedgerow boundaries, maintaining the 'pine lines' adjacent to U6006 and implementing new pine tree planting and new native grassland beneath the panels. The scale of the proposed solar panels and extent in relation to the wider LT would be very small and reversible.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels and within the ecological areas adjacent to Freckenham Road would have established. The new tree planting adjacent to U6006 and Golf Links Road and Elms Road, and around the land to the south of Elms Road, would also have established to reduce the perception of the solar panels from the surrounding road networks and establish an improved extent of Green Infrastructure. These changes are balanced with the retained, although reversible, presence of the solar panels, solar stations and associated structures, including the BESS and substations; although their perception would be reduced.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure and vegetation cover would be beneficial; although small in scale in relation to the wider extent of the LT. Activity to remove the panels would reflect that of the construction phase assessment.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
LT: Estate Sandlands	High	Cable Route A (covering the alignment between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B and from Heath Plantation to Sunnica West Site A)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would occur to the west of Freckenham Road and adjacent to Heath Plantation. The excavation would result in changes to surface landform and vegetation, up to 50 metres in width, in addition to boring techniques and associated machinery for cabling beneath hedgerows and woodlands. The construction activity for the cable route A would be localised in relation to the wider extent of the LT and not result in the loss of any key features.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Cable route A would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would be localised with no overall change to the character of LT.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the LT, due to the cables being below ground and that the proposed planting above the cable routes would have established to reflect the existing vegetation cover.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LT at decommissioning as the cables would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
LT: Estate Sandlands	High	Intra Project Effects (parts of Sunnica East Site B and parts of Cable Route A)			

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Construction Phase (winter)	With construction activity across parts of Sunnica East Site B and part of Cable Route A, the extent of excavation, alteration to surface landform and the presence of construction machinery and equipment would be greater than the above assessments for the individual aspects of the Scheme, but not sufficiently to warrant an increase in the effect. The construction activity would extend from the south of Worlington to the south-east of Chippenham Park. The key features of pine lines, roadside hedgerows, woodland blocks, would be retained and protected during the construction phase via the implementation of the CEMP.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable routes below ground, the main changes to the landscape character would be due to localised reductions in vegetation cover, the presence of the solar panels and substations, resulting in a change in land use and an 'infrastructure' character across part of the LT. The key characteristics of smaller 'geometric' rectangular field patterns adjacent to Elms Road or bordered by Freckenham Road would remain, with only localised removal of vegetation for new access points. The pattern of the gently undulating landform across the fields would also remain via the reinstatement of the ground levels. The perception of the pine lines on the skyline and woodland across Chalk Hill would also remain due to the 2.5m height of the panels in relation to these taller features and that the panels have been offset from the vegetation. The Scheme would therefore retain the key characteristics of a geometric field structure, blocks of woodland and characteristic 'pine lines', as well as long views. The Scheme is assessed as responding positively to the stated guidelines for the LT, by reinforcing the existing hedgerow boundaries, maintaining the 'pine lines' and implementing new pine tree planting and new native grassland beneath the panels, although this would not have established at year 1. The scale of the proposed solar panels and extent in relation to the wider LT would be small and reversible.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels and within the ecological areas adjacent to Freckenham Road would have established. The new tree planting adjacent to U6006 ad Golf Links Road and Elms Road, around the land to the south of Elms Road and bordering W13, would also have established to reduce the perception of the solar panels from the surrounding road networks and establish an improved extent of Green Infrastructure. These changes are balanced with the retained, although reversible, presence of the solar panels, solar stations and associated structures, including the BESS and substations in comparison to the open character of the fields. There would also be retained changes to the field boundary vegetation, via the access points.	Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure and vegetation cover would be beneficial; although small in scale in relation to the wider extent of the LT. The activity to remove the panels would reflect that of the construction phase assessment, although its perception would be reduced.	Very Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
LT: Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A (located across the north-east edge of the LT)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	Most of the Sunnica East Site A construction activity would be located in the LT. The construction activity would result in physical changes to the surface landform due to the topsoil stripping and implementation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels. The roadside hedgerows adjacent to Beck Road and Ferry Lane would be protected and retained during the construction phase. The scale of the construction activity would be small in relation to the wider extent of the LT and in combination with the duration the alteration to key features would be barely noticeable.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use, via the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, including the BESS and substations to the east of Lee Farm, resulting in additional massing and an 'infrastructure' character in comparison to the rural landscape and open character of the fields. With the ground levels reinstated below the panels, along with the topsoil, the pattern of the landform and the vegetation cover of roadside hedgerows would remain and be perceived as a result of the spacings between the solar panels. With no development to the west of Beck Road and the solar panels in E05 set back from Beck Road, the Scheme would respond positively to the stated landscape actions of conserving views to and from church landmarks in Isleham and Freckenham, when travelling along Beck Road and retaining the open character of the landscape to the west of Beck Road. The Scheme would respond positively to the stated land management guidelines by reinforcing the pattern of regular boundaries via new planting adjacent to Beck Road and Ferry Lane; including for enhancing the network of tree belts and expanding the area of chalk grassland. Whilst this planting would not have established, it would introduce new Green Infrastructure. On balance, the additional infrastructure within the LT would be reversible, localised and small in scale in relation to the overall extent of LT.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels and across E06 would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees to the south-east of Lee Farm, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover across this part of the LT would be improved and reflect the pattern of existing roadside vegetation and respond positively to the stated land management guidance, via new Green Infrastructure. Compared to the year 1 assessment, the increased height of the proposed planting (which would be in leaf) would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, the BESS and substation, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme. An impact would remain due to the continued change in and use and infrastructure character to this part of the NCA. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered on balance to be very small in relation to the wider extent of the LT and reversible.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial; although very small in scale in relation to the LT. The activity to remove the panels would reflect that of the construction phase assessment.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Sunnica East Site B (Part of the Order limits is located across the north-east edge of the LT)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity in E24 to E31 and the southern parts of E19 and E20 would be located in the LT. The construction activity would result in physical changes to the surface landform due to the topsoil stripping and implementation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels. The roadside hedgerows and pine lines would be protected overall and retained during the construction phase, although there would be localised vegetation removal for the access points into the Order limits. The scale of the construction activity would be small in relation to the wider extent of the LT and in combination with the duration the alteration to key features would be barely noticeable.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use, via the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, resulting in additional massing and an 'infrastructure' character in comparison to the rural landscape and open character of the fields. With the ground levels reinstated below the panels, along with the topsoil, the perception of the pattern of the landform and the vegetation cover of roadside hedgerows would remain and be perceived as a result of the spacings between the solar panels. The Scheme would respond positively to the stated land management guidelines by reinforcing the pattern of regular boundaries via new planting adjacent to Worlington Road, Golf Links Road and around the perimeter of E19 and E20; including for enhancing the network of tree belts and expanding the area of chalk grassland. Whilst this planting would not have established, it would introduce new Green Infrastructure. On balance, the additional infrastructure within the LT would be reversible, localised and small in scale in relation to the overall extent of the LT.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees adjacent to Worlington Road, Golf Links Road and around the perimeter of E19 and E20, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover across this part of the LT would be improved and reflect the pattern of existing roadside vegetation and respond positively to the stated land management guidance, via new Green Infrastructure. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to this part of the LT. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered on balance to be very small in relation to the wider extent of the LT and reversible.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial; although very small in scale in relation to the LT. The activity to remove the panels would reflect that of the construction phase assessment.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Cable Route A (covering the alignment to the north and south of the River Kennett)			
LT: Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would occur adjacent to the River Kennett. The excavation would result in changes to surface landform, up to 50 metres in width, in addition to the boring equipment, hoardings and associated machinery for boring beneath hedgerows and woodlands, with some localised vegetation removal. The construction activity for the Cable Route A would be very localised in relation to the wider extent of the LT and not result in the loss of any key features.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Cable Route A would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would be very localised, and therefore no overall change to the LT.	Very Low	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the LT, due to the cables being below ground and the establishment of the proposed planting.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LT at decommissioning as the cables would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
LT: Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Sunnica West Site A (covering all of Sunnica West Site A)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	There would be construction activity across the Sunnica West Site A. The construction activity would result in physical changes to the surface landform due to the topsoil stripping and implementation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels, as well as the BESS and substation. There would also be the presence of construction equipment, compounds and associated activity due to the proximity and open character of the landscape. The roadside and the vegetation structure of Sounds Plantation and across Sunnica West Site A would be protected and retained during the construction phase via the CEMP. The scale of the construction activity would be small in relation to the wider extent of the LT reducing the predicted effect from moderate adverse to minor adverse.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use, via the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, including the BESS (and firewater tanks) and substations, resulting in additional massing and an 'infrastructure' character adjacent to the A11/A14 in comparison to the rural landscape and open character of the fields across the Sunnica West Site A. The Scheme would respond positively to the land management guidelines through new chalk grassland beneath the panels, as well as reinforcing the existing roadside hedgerows and new tree belts between existing woodlands and reinforcing existing tree lines, including The Avenue.. Whilst not established at year 1, this planting would form the basis of new Green Infrastructure. The Scheme would alter the landscape character between Newmarket and Chippenham, by increasing the extent of infrastructure in comparison to the A11, A14 and railway line; albeit with structures which are reversible.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling adjacent to the road networks and tree planting around the perimeter of W15 and W16 and across the Sunnica West Site A to the north of A11 would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this, the vegetation cover across this part of the LT would be improved and respond positively to the statements of land management guidelines in terms of new Green Infrastructure and increasing biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, the BESS and substation, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to this part of the NCA. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered on balance to be small and reversible impact in relation to the wider extent of the LT.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of naïve grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial; although small in scale in relation to the wider extent of the LT. The activity to remove the panels and structures would reflect that of the construction phase assessment.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
LT: Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Sunnica West Site B (all of Sunnica West Site B is within the LT)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would be located to the north-east of the River Snail, across W01 and W02. The construction activity would result in physical changes to the surface landform due to the topsoil stripping and implementation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels. There would also be the presence of construction equipment, compounds and associated activity. The woodland adjacent to the River Snail would be protected and retained during the construction phase. The scale of the construction activity would be very small in relation to the wider extent of the LT and in combination with the duration the alteration to key features would be barely noticeable.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The proposed solar panels and solar stations would be located centrally within W01 and W02, due to the proposed native grassland, which would offset the infrastructure in relation to the River Snail, Snailwell Road and Chippenham Fen. There would also be chalk grassland beneath the panels and the archaeological areas. The proposed planting would not have fully established at year 1 and the solar panels and solar stations would introduce additional massing and an infrastructure character within part of the LT, although very small in scale and extent in relation to the LT and reversible.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Due to this, the vegetation cover across this part of the LT would be improved and respond positively to the statements of environmental opportunity and landscape opportunities in terms of new Green Infrastructure and increasing biodiversity. The physical structures of the Scheme would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to this part of the LT. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered on balance to be very small and reversible impact in relation to the wider extent of the LT.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting and grassland would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial; although too small in scale in relation to the wider extent of the LT to result in an effect. The activity to remove the panels would reflect that of the construction phase assessment.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
LT: Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Cable Route B (located across the west part of the LT)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would occur between Sunnica West Site A and Site B and to the west of Sunnica West Site B, close to the railway line. The excavation would result in changes to surface landform in addition to the boring techniques and localised removal of vegetation. The construction activity for the cable route B would be very localised in relation to the wider extent of the LT and not result in the loss of any key features.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Cable route B would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would not alter the overall character of the LT which would remain as fields in winter.	Very Low	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the LT, due to the cables being below ground and the establishment of the proposed planting.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LT at decommissioning as the cables would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Intra Project Effects (Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B, Cable Route A and Cable Route B)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	Compared to the individual assessments of various parts of the Scheme as set out above, the extent of the construction activity would be greater, with a greater amount of excavation, implementation, vegetation removal and presence of machinery extending between the north of Freckenham, across to the west of Snailwell.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The massing and infrastructure character of the solar panels would extend from the north of Snailwell, adjacent to part of the A11 and A14 and to the north of Freckenham and east of Worlington. Whilst not contiguous, the additional massing would contrast with the open character of the fields and introduce an infrastructure character, via the change in land use. The massing would also locally reduce the tranquillity and perception of the 'open' landscape in the northern part of the LT and the 'parkland' or 'stud' landscape in the central part of the LT. There would be localised loss of vegetation cover above the Cable Routes. These impacts are balanced with the reversible nature of the Scheme, the additional recreational opportunities via permissive paths and the extent of new planting, albeit not established at year 1. The proposed planting is considered to respond positively to the stated land management guidelines via reinforcing the pattern of regular boundaries, including for enhancing the network of tree belts and expanding the area of chalk grassland, although not established by year 1.	Low	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the proposed planting would have established, such that the Green Infrastructure across this part of the LT would have increased. This is balanced with the continued presence of the solar panels, stations, BESS and substations and the associated infrastructure character, of which the perception would be reduced from the establishment of the proposed planting. This would include the tree planting around the perimeter of W15 and W16, adjacent to part of the A14 and across Sunnica West Site A and adjacent to Beck Road and Golf Links Road.	Low	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting and grassland would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial. The activity to remove the panels would reflect the construction phase assessment although its perception would be reduced.	Low	Moderate Adverse (significant)
LT: Settled Chalklands	Low	As the Scheme would not be located in this area and nor would any perception of the Scheme from it alter the landscape characteristics, there would be no effect to this LT during any of the assessment scenarios.		None	Neutral (not significant)
LT: Settled Fenlands	High	Sunnica East Site A (covering E01 and the below ground connections to E05)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The scale of the construction phase would be very small in relation to the wider extent of the LT. The presence of machinery and construction activity would be greater than general farming activities, but localised.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable routes below ground, the impact would relate to the change in land use, via solar panels and their massing and infrastructure character. The scale of this change, and that it is within the grounds of Lee Farm would not alter the wider character across the LT, nor any of the key characteristics.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be an improved vegetation cover, via the grassland beneath the panels; however the impacts would reflect those at year 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the panels would reflect the construction assessment, with the presence of machinery and activity.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
LT: Settled Fenlands	High	Cable Route B (located across the central part of the LT)				
		Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would occur from the west of the railway line and across Burwell Fen, to the west of Burwell. The excavation would result in changes to surface landform, up to 50 metres in width, in addition to the boring equipment, hoardings and associated machinery for cabling beneath Lodes, hedgerows and woodlands, along with localised vegetation removal. The construction activity for the cable route B would be localised in relation to the wider extent of the LT and not result in the loss of any key features.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Cable route B would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would not alter the overall character of LT.	Very Low	Neutral (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the LT, due to the cables being below ground and the establishment of the proposed planting.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LT at decommissioning as the cables would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
LT: Settled Fenlands	High	Burwell National Grid Substation Extension (located at the existing substation within the west part of the LT)				
		Construction Phase (winter)	The excavation and implementation of the substation extension (either option) would be located adjacent to the existing Burwell substation on the fringes of this LT where it adjoins the Rolling Estate Chalklands. The construction activity for either option would result in localised alteration to landform and vegetation cover, as well as the presence of construction equipment and machinery. As the construction activity would be located adjacent to the substation it would be perceived in this context and represent a very small area in relation to the wider geographic extent of the LT. This would be the same for the alternative location.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in additional infrastructure within the LT, via the substation extension for either option. However, as it would be located adjacent to the existing substation, that there would be no overall change to the character of the LT, as the Scheme would reflect the existing land use. This would be the same for the alternative location.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Due to the continued presence of the substation extension and its character, the assessment would reflect that at year 1. This would be the same for the alternative location.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity associated with decommissioning would reflect that of the construction phase assessment for both options.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
LT: Settled Fenlands	High	Intra Project Effects (Sunnica East Site A, part of Cable Route B and Burwell substation extension (either option))				
		Construction Phase (winter)	With the construction of Burwell National Grid Substation Extension (for either option) and the excavation for part of Cable Route B, the extent of construction activity across the LT would be greater than compared to the assessments of the individual parts of the Scheme.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With Cable Route B below ground the impacts would reflect those assessed for the Burwell substation extension (for either option), reduction in vegetation cover and Sunnica East Site A.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With Cable Route B below ground the impacts would reflect those assessed for the Burwell substation extension (for either option) and Sunnica East Site A as the establishment of the proposed planting would reflect the vegetation cover above the Cable Routes.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity associated with decommissioning would reflect that of the construction phase assessment for either option and Sunnica East Site A. Cable Route A would remain below ground.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
Valley Meadows and Fens	High	As the Scheme would not be located in this area and nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape characteristics, there would be no effect to this LT during any of the assessment scenarios.		None	Neutral (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines					
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Cable Route B (part of the alignment is located across the southern part of Area 2)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would occur across Burwell Fen, to the west of Burwell. The excavation would result in changes to surface landform, up to 50 metres in width, in addition to the boring equipment, hoardings around retained vegetation and associated machinery for cabling beneath watercourses (Lodes), hedgerows and woodlands. There would also be localised vegetation removal. The construction activity for the cable route B would be localised in relation to the wider extent of the Area and not result in the loss of any key features.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Cable route B would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would not alter the wider character of Area 2.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the Area, due to the cables being below ground and the establishment of the proposed planting.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the Area at decommissioning as the cables would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Burwell National Grid Substation Extension (located at the existing substation within the southern part of Area 2 (either option))			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The excavation and installation of the substation extension would be located adjacent to the existing Burwell substation for either option. The construction activity would result in localised alteration to landform and vegetation cover, as well as the presence of construction equipment and machinery. As the construction activity would be located adjacent to the substation it would be perceived in this existing built context for either option.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use and additional infrastructure within Area 2, via the substation extension for either location. However, as it would be located adjacent to the existing substation, there would be no change to the character of Area 2, as the Scheme would reflect the existing land use. This is considered to be the same for the alternative location.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Due to the continued presence of the substation extension and its character, the assessment would reflect that at year 1. This is considered to be the same for the alternative location.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity to associated with decommissioning would reflect that of the construction phase assessment for either option.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Intra Project Effects (Part of Cable Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension (either option))			
		Construction Phase (winter)	With the construction of Burwell National Grid Substation Extension and the excavation for part of Cable Route B, the extent of construction activity would be across more of Area 2 than compared to the assessments of the individual parts of the Scheme. This is considered to be the same for the either option of the substation extension.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With Cable Route B below ground the impacts would reflect those assessed for the Burwell National Grid Substation extension. This is considered to be the same for the either option of the substation extension.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With Cable Route B below ground the impacts would reflect those assessed for the Burwell substation extension. This is considered to be the same for the alternative location.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The decommissioning activity would relate to the substation, as Cable Route B would remain below ground. This is considered to be the same for the alternative location.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
Area 8 Fenlands	High	Cable Route B (part of the alignment is located across the southern part of Area 8)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	Construction activity would occur across Burwell Fen, to the north-east of the existing substation. The excavation would result in changes to surface landform, up to 50 metres in width, in addition to the boring equipment, hoardings and associated machinery for cabling beneath watercourses (Lodes), hedgerows and woodlands. There would be localised vegetation removal. The construction activity for the cable route B would be localised in relation to the wider extent of the Area and not result in the loss of any key features.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Cable route B would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would reflect the character of fields in winter and therefore no change to the Area.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of Area 8, due to the cables being below ground and the proposed planting would have established.	None	Neutral (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of Area 8 at the decommissioning as the cables would remain below ground.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
County - Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment					
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Sunnica East Site B (located across the south-west of the character area)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would result in physical changes to the surface landform due to the topsoil stripping and implementation of below ground ducts and pole foundations for the solar panels. The roadside hedgerows adjacent to Golf Links Road and Elms Road and the pine lines adjacent to U6006 would be protected and retained during the construction phase overall, with localised removal for the access points into the Order limits. The scale of the construction activity would be small in relation to the wider extent of the character area and in combination with the duration, the alteration to key features would be small, reducing the predicted effect from moderate adverse to minor adverse.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use, via the introduction of solar panels and associated structures, resulting in additional massing and an 'infrastructure' character in comparison to the rural landscape and open character of the fields. With the ground levels reinstated below the panels, along with the topsoil, the perceived pattern of the landform would be perceived. The Scheme would respond positively retain the key characteristics of belts of Scots pine and tree belts between the fields. With reference to the visual assessment, the Scheme would respond positively to the stated landscape strategy for this area by aiming to minimise the visual impact through siting the panels adjacent to existing hedgerows and the implementation of new planting, albeit it would not have established at year 1.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees adjacent to Worlington Road, Golf Links Road and around the perimeter of E19 and E20, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover across this part of the character area would be improved, with very localised reduction remaining for the access points. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to this part of the character area. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered on balance to be small in relation to the wider extent of the character area and reversible.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial; although very small in scale in relation to the character area. The activity to remove the panels would reflect that of the construction phase assessment.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Cable Route A (located across the southern part of the character area)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The excavation would result in changes to surface landform, up to 50 metres in width, in addition to the boring equipment, hoardings and associated machinery for cabling beneath hedgerows and woodlands. There would be localised vegetation removal. The construction activity for the cable route A would be very localised in relation to the wider extent of the character area and not result in the loss of any key features.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Cable route A would be below ground with ground levels reinstated above, to reflect the pattern of the existing landform. Any alteration to the vegetation cover would not alter the overall character of the published assessment due to being localised and small in scale.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the character area, due to the cables being below ground and the establishment of the proposed planting.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character area at decommissioning as the cables would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Intra Project Effects (Sunnica East Site B and Cable Route A)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would extend across Sunnica East Site B, as well as Cable Route A. There would be a greater extent of construction activity therefore in comparison to the assessment of the individual scenarios, with the same impacts of alteration to surface landform, excavation and presence of machinery, which would be of a greater scale than general farming activity.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	As Cable Route A would be below ground, the impacts would relate to the change in land use across Sunnica East Site A and Site B as a result of the solar panels and associated structures and the reduction in vegetation across the route of the Cable Route. These would be located between Freckenham and Isleham and to the south of Worlington, and result in a localised change in character, due to the massing and infrastructure character. The Scheme would respond positively retain the key characteristics of belts of Scots pine and tree belts between the fields. With reference to the visual assessment, the Scheme would respond positively to the stated landscape strategy for this area by aiming to minimise the visual impact through siting the panels adjacent to existing hedgerows and the implementation of new planting, albeit it would not have established at year 1.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees across Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover across this part of the character area would be improved. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to this part of the character area. Both these beneficial and adverse impacts from the Scheme are considered on balance to be small in relation to the wider extent of the character area and reversible.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial; although very small in scale in relation to the character area. The activity to remove the panels and associated structures would reflect that of the construction phase assessment.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
River Valleys	High	As the Scheme would not be located in this area and nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape characteristics, there would be no effect to this LT during any of the assessment scenarios.		None	Neutral (not significant)
Low Chalk Farmland	High	Sunnica East Site B (the north-east part of E33 is located within the Order limits)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would be localised and small in extent in relation to the character area, covering part of E33. The roadside vegetation would be retained, such that the impact would be to a field, which is a common feature.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would introduce additional infrastructure and a change in land use, via the panels, however the extent would be very small in relation to the Low Chalk Farmland area.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The proposed planting adjacent to Golf Links Road would have established to reinforce the existing character of roadside vegetation. The grassland beneath the panels would also have established. However the change in land use would remain, along with the Scheme being a very small part of the Low Chalk Farmland area.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Decommissioning (winter)	The activity would reflect that at the construction stage.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)		
Neighbourhood Level – Freckenham Local Plan Landscape Character Assessment					
Freckenham Village A: Fordham Road	Medium	Sunnica East Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would not be located in the character area and therefore there would be no physical change to the key characteristics. Due to the distance from the construction and implementation of the Scheme to the east of Beck Road, the perception of the construction activity would not barely alter the character of the area.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in or adjacent to this character area. The perception of the Scheme would not alter the character of the area.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the panels to the east of Beck Road would not alter the character of the area due to the distance and intervening features.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)		
Sunnica East Site A					

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
Freckenham Village B: Southern Fringes	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would not be located in the character area and therefore there would be no physical change to the key characteristics. The construction activity would be perceived within the setting to this area via the movement of vehicles and the height of machinery, such that the perception is visual.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in or adjacent to this character area. The setting to this part of the village would remain related to the rural landscape to the east.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the panels to the east of Beck Road would not alter the character of the area due to the distance and intervening features.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
Freckenham Village C: Heart of the Village	High	Sunnica East Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would not be located in the character area and therefore there would be no physical change to the key characteristics. Due to the distance from the construction activity, the perception of the construction activity would not alter the character of the area.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in or adjacent to this character area. The perception of the Scheme would not alter the character of the area.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the Scheme would not alter the character of the area due to the distance and intervening features.	None	Neutral (not significant)		
Freckenham Village D: Mildenhall Road	Medium	Sunnica East Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would not be located in the character area and therefore there would be no physical change to the key characteristics. Due to the distance from the construction, the perception of the construction activity would not alter the character of the area.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in or adjacent to this character area. The perception of the Scheme would not alter the character of the area.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the Scheme would not alter the character of the area due to the distance and intervening features.	None	Neutral (not significant)		
Freckenham Village E: Ems Road	Medium	Sunnica East Site B			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would not be located in the character area and therefore there would be no physical change to the key characteristics. The construction activity would be perceived as part of the setting to this area.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in or adjacent to this character area. The setting to this part of the village would remain via the rural landscape to the east.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Decommissioning (winter)	The removal of the panels to the east of Beck Road would not alter the character of the area due to the distance and intervening features.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)		
Rural 1: West	Medium	Sunnica East Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would be located in the northern part of the area to implement the grassland and Stone Curlew plots to the south of Beck Road and part of the permissive path and grassland to the north east of Beck Road. The construction activity would be similar in scale and character to agricultural activity, whilst the implementation of the permissive path would be of a greater scale but localised in relation to the wider extent of the area. There would also be the perception of the construction activity within R2 and E05, which would locally alter the tranquillity of the character area.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	At year 1, the Scheme would alter the character from arable fields to chalk grassland (although not established), such that overall it would reflect bare fields, as per agricultural fields. The permissive path would increase the recreational value of the area. These beneficial changes are balanced with the perception of the solar panels and associated infrastructure in R2 and to the north of the area, which would alter the setting.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The establishment of the chalk grassland would improve the vegetation cover and biodiversity in the area, given that the published study notes that the condition of the land is 'poor'. This is balanced with the change to the setting of the area from the solar panels and associated infrastructure.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no physical change to the area as the grassland would remain. The perception of the decommissioning from R2 and to the north of the area would alter the tranquillity.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Sunnica East Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction of the panels across the area would extend to the Lee Brook and across the grounds of Lee Farm, Ferry Lane and Beck Road. The construction activity would include for the topsoil stripping and localised excavation to implement the solar panels and perimeter fencing and hoardings. The compound would be located to the east of Lee Farm, with the construction of the BESS (including firewater tanks) and substation in E33 requiring tall lifting equipment and associated machinery. The duration of the construction activity would be short but located across most of the area.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be a change in land use across the area as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. These structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS (including firewater tanks) and substation would result in an infrastructure character and change from the open character of the fields. The key landscape features across the area would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from the Lee Brook. The existing hedgerows adjacent to Beck Road and Ferry Lane and to the east of Lee Farm would also be retained. Whilst the Scheme would be of a static character, i.e. with limited activity or movement, its massing and uniformity, as well as the colour tonal changes to the landscape as a result of the solar panels would be a large scale change at the Order limits level to this landscape character area.	Medium	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees across the area would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], opportunities for improved biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to the area.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity to remove the panels would reflect that of the construction activity.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Sunnica East Site B			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would include for the topsoil stripping and localised excavation to implement the solar panels and perimeter fencing and hoardings across the southern part of area, either side of Elms Road. The construction of the BESS (including firewater tanks) and substation in E18 would require tall lifting equipment and associated machinery. There would also be localised vegetation removal from the hedgerows adjacent to Elms Road to enable the construction access. There would also be the perception of the implementation of the Cable Routes.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be a change in land use across the southern part of the area as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. These structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS and substation would result in infrastructure character. The key landscape features across the area would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from the pine lines adjacent to U6006 and the pine lines across the fields to the north and south of Elms Road and from the mature woodland at the base of Chalk Hill. This siting of the panels is assessed as responding positively to the published study, which notes there is some capacity for solar arrays by using the existing woodland structure. The Scheme would introduce additional recreational access via a permissive path from U6006 extending to the south of E22 and enabling connectivity with the wider PRoW network to Red Lodge. Whilst the Scheme would be of a static character, i.e. with limited activity or movement, its massing and uniformity, as well as the colour tonal changes to the landscape as a result of the solar panels would be a large scale change at the Order limits level to this landscape character area.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
Rural 2: North	High				
Rural 3: East	Medium				

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees across the area, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], opportunities for improved biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to the Order limits.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The activity to remove the panels and associated structures would reflect that of the construction phase assessment. This is balanced with the improved vegetation cover across the character area.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
Rural 4: South	High	Cable Route A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	There would be excavation across the cable route, along with boring to enable the cables to path beneath the River Kennet and key vegetation. There would also be alterations to tranquillity due to the perception of the construction of the Scheme in R3.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable below ground, there would be a localised reduction in vegetation cover. The perception of the solar panels in R3 would alter the tranquillity and the perception of the eastern part of the area; however the western part of the area, and its function of providing a rural setting to Freckenham would remain.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The establishment of the proposed planting would reflect the vegetation cover in R4 and reduce the perception of the solar panels in R3.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character as the cable would remain beneath the ground. Perception of the removal of the panels in R3 would be reduced in comparison to the construction assessment by the increased vegetation structure.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Order limits Areas defined by the Applicant					
Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity across Sunnica East Site A would include for the topsoil stripping and localised excavation to implement the solar panels and perimeter fencing and hoardings. The compound would be located to the east of Lee Farm, with the construction of the BESS (including firewater tanks) and substation in E33 requiring tall lifting equipment and associated machinery. To the west of Beck Road, the construction activity would reflect farming practices, via the changing of the landcover from arable to native grassland or preparation of 'bare ground' for the Stone Curlew. The duration of the construction activity would be short, but located across all of Sunnica East Site A.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be a change in land use across the Sunnica East Site A as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. There structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS (including firewater tanks) and substation would result in infrastructure character and change from the open character of the fields. The key landscape features across Sunnica East Site A would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from the Lee Brook and the PRoW to the west of Beck Road. The existing hedgerows adjacent to Beck Road and Ferry Lane and to the east of Lee Farm would also be retained. The panels in E05 would also be offset from Beck Road, in combination with a permissive path for new recreational opportunities. Whilst the Scheme would be of a static character, i.e. with limited activity or movement, its massing and uniformity, as well as the colour tonal changes to the landscape as a result of the solar panels would be a large scale change at the Order limits level.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees across Sunnica East Site A, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], opportunities for improved biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to the Order limits.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover	High	Moderate Adverse (significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
			would be beneficial. The activity to remove the panels would reflect that of the construction phase assessment. This is balanced with the improved vegetation cover across the character area.		
Sunnica East Site B	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would include for the topsoil stripping and localised excavation to implement the solar panels and perimeter fencing and hoardings. The construction of the BESS (including firewater tanks) and substation in E18 would require tall lifting equipment and associated machinery. The duration of the construction activity would be short, but located across all of Sunnica East Site B.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be a change in land use across the Sunnica East Site B as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. These structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS and substation would result in infrastructure character. The key landscape features across Sunnica East Site B would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from the pine lines adjacent to U6006 and the pine lines across the fields to the north and south of Elms Road and from the mature woodland at the base of Chalk Hill. The Scheme would introduce additional recreational access via a permissive path from U6006 extending to the south of E22 and enabling connectivity with the wider PRoW network to Red Lodge. Whilst the Scheme would be of a static character, i.e. with limited activity or movement, its massing and uniformity, as well as the colour tonal changes to the landscape as a result of the solar panels would be a large scale change at the Order limits level.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees across Sunnica East Site B, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], opportunities for improved biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to the Order limits.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The activity to remove the panels and associated structures would reflect that of the construction phase assessment. This is balanced with the improved vegetation cover across the character area.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
Sunnica West Site A	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would include for the presence of construction activity, topsoil stripping and localised excavation to implement the solar panels and perimeter fencing and hoardings. The construction of the BESS and substation in W07 would require tall lifting equipment and associated machinery. The duration of the construction activity would be short, but located across all of Sunnica West Site A.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be a change in land use across the Sunnica Wes Site A as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. These structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS and substation would result in infrastructure character. The key landscape features across Sunnica West Site A would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from stream corridor to the north of W10, offset from Sounds Plantation and the hedgerows bordering La Hogue Road and the vegetation adjacent to the stream between W15 and W16. Whilst the Scheme would be of a static character, i.e. with limited activity or movement, its massing and uniformity, as well as the colour tonal changes, although sought to be mitigated where practicable, to the landscape as a result of the solar panels would be a large scale change at the Order limits level.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees across Sunnica West Site A, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], opportunities for improved biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to the Order limits.	High	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial. The removal of the panels and structures would reflect the construction phase assessment, balanced with the improved vegetation cover.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
Sunnica West Site B	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would be located across all the parcels in Sunnica West Site B and would include for the topsoil stripping and localised excavation to implement the solar panels and perimeter fencing and hoardings, as well as the implementation of the native grassland.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be a change in land use across the Sunnica West Site B as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks which would result in an infrastructure character. However, there would also be extensive areas of native grassland due to the solar panels being offset from Chippenham Fen and the below ground archaeology. The key landscape features across Sunnica West Site B would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from the River Snail and its mature woodland. The hedgerow boundaries would also be retained and reinforced with new planting to infill gaps. The massing and uniformity of the Scheme would be of a static character, i.e. with limited activity or movement, and it would result in colour tonal changes to the landscape as a result of the solar panels.	High	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels and around the edges of Sunnica West Site A would have established into a continuous sward. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], opportunities for improved biodiversity. The physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to the Order limits, but the impact is reduced due to the establishment of the grassland.	Medium	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The proposed landscape structure of native grassland and increased vegetation cover would be beneficial, balanced with the activity to remove the panels, which would reflect the construction phase assessment.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
Cable Route A	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	There would be excavation across the cable route, along with boring to enable the cables to path beneath the River Kennet and key vegetation.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable below ground, there would be no overall change to the landscape character with some small scale localised reduction in vegetation cover.	Low	Minor (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the establishment of the proposed planting the vegetation patterns would reflect the existing baseline with only very localised reduction in vegetation cover.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character as the cable would remain beneath the ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Cable Route B	High	Construction Phase (winter)	There would be excavation across the cable route, along with High Direction Drilling to enable the cables to path beneath the road and rail networks, the Lodes and retain key vegetation.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable below ground, there would be no overall change to the landscape character with localised areas of reduced vegetation cover.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the establishment of the proposed planting the vegetation patterns would reflect those at year 1 overall, with some very localised reduction.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character as the cable would be beneath the ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Burwell National Grid Substation Extension	Option 1 – Medium Option 2 - Low	Construction Phase (winter)	For Option1, the excavation and implementation of the substation extension would be located to the east side of the existing substation and across several small scale fields divided by hedgerows and trees adjacent to the existing substation area. The construction activity would result in localised changes to landform, topsoil stripping and removal of vegetation across the fields and from along Weirs Drove road, as part of the construction of the access into the Site. For option 2, there would be localised vegetation removal from along Newham Drove. The construction activity would be located within a larger scale field in comparison to Option 1, such that the extent of vegetation removal would be less, but the presence of construction activity, changes to surface landform and presence of construction activity would retain a high impact, as per option 1.	Option 1 High Option 1 - High	Option 1 Major Adverse (significant) Option 2 – Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	For Option 1, the Scheme would result in a change in land use via the introduction of the substation extension, associated fencing and access roads. The Scheme would introduce an infrastructure character across the Site at an adjacent point to the existing substation, but with alteration to the roadside vegetation structure and the loss of the internal small scale field and vegetation patterns.	Option 1 – High Option 2 - High	Option 1 - Major Adverse (significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
			For Option 2, the Scheme would similarly result in a change in land use via the introduction of the substation. However, the underlying large scale field pattern would remain, along with the extent of boundary vegetation.		Option 2 – Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	For Option 1, the change in land use and infrastructure character would remain. The proposed planting adjacent to the Weirs Drove road would have established, but the form and extent of vegetation would remain less than in comparison to the existing baseline. For Option 2, compared to the year 1 assessment the new planting along the western edge of the Site would have established to improve the vegetation pattern and reinforce the field boundaries. Whilst the change in land use and infrastructure character would remain, this would reduce the impact in comparison to the year 1 assessment, but the effect would remain similar to that at year 1.	Option 1 – High Option 2 - Medium	Option 1 - Major Adverse (significant) Option 2 – Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The decommissioning activity for both options would reflect that of the construction phase, with the exception of less vegetation removal.	Option 1 High Option 2 - High	Option 1 Major Adverse significant) Option 2 – Moderate Adverse (significant)
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) defined by the Applicant					
1. Mildenhall Woods	High	As the Scheme is not located within this LLCA there would be no physical change to landform nor vegetation cover. The combination of distance and intervening features would not enable perception of the Scheme, such that there would be no change to the landscape character during any of the assessment scenarios.		None	Neutral (not significant)
2. Mildenhall Airfield	Very Low	As an airfield and that proposed Scheme is not located within this LLCA, such that there would be no physical change to landform nor vegetation cover, there would be no change to the landscape character during any of the assessment scenarios.		None	Neutral (not significant)
3. Mildenhall	Medium	Due to the dominance of the settlement pattern and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)
Sunnica East Site B					
4. Barton Mills	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would not be located in LLCA 4; although would be to the south of the LLCA, within the north-east part of Sunnica East Site B. The combination of the distance and intervening features would reduce any perception of the construction activity, such that the Scheme would not alter the characteristics of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and would be physically separated from the LLCA by intervening vegetation and road networks. Any perception of the Scheme would not alter the key characteristics of the village.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LLCA 4 as the decommissioning activity is not located within it.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Sunnica East Site A					
5. West Row and Thistley Green	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would not be located in LLCA 5; and would be on the opposite side of the River Lark, at Sunnica East Site A. The combination of the distance and intervening features would reduce any perception of the construction activity, such that the Scheme would not alter the characteristics of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and would be physically separated from the LLCA by The River Lark and intervening vegetation. Any perception of the Scheme would not alter the key characteristics of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
Sunnica East Site A					
6. West Row Village Chalklands	Low	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would not be located in LLCA 6; and would be on the opposite side of the River Lark, at Sunnica East Site A. The combination of the distance and intervening features would reduce any perception of the construction activity, such that the Scheme would not alter the characteristics of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and would be physically separated from the LLCA by The River Lark and intervening vegetation. Any perception of the Scheme would not alter the key characteristics of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LLCA as the decommissioning phase would not be located in the area.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Sunnica East Site A					
7. River Lark Valley	High	Construction Phase (winter)	Although the construction activity would not be located within the LLCA, parts of the construction activity across Sunnica East Site A would be perceived. The construction activity would be of scale greater than general farming activity and therefore result in a limited alteration to the setting of the LLCA in comparison to the settled character of the landscape.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located within the LLCA. Any perception of the Scheme would be limited by the relatively low height of the panels and static nature of the Scheme, and intervening distance, such that the immediate setting would not be altered, nor the wider perception of vegetated skylines and pine lines. Any perception of the Scheme would be in the context of the villages of Freckenham and Isleham.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The perception would be of a more vegetated landscape to the south of the LLCA as a result of the establishment of the proposed planting, in contrast to the open character of the fields. This is considered to be a beneficial change, but not one which would alter the character of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	In comparison to the construction phase assessment, the proposed planting would negate the perception of the demolition phase.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Sunnica East Site B					
8. Worlington	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not result in any physical changes to the LLCA, as it is located to the south and east of the settlement, across Sunnica East Site B. The perception of the construction activity, including noise or temporary lighting would be of a greater scale of activity than compared to general farming, including for construction vehicles on the road networks and the presence of construction activity within the immediate setting of the LLCA.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located within the LLCA. The proposed solar panels in E24 would be offset from the settlement by proposed native grassland and new woodland, as well as being offset from Freckenham Road by grassland, tree planting and hedgerows around the northern edges of E12. Whilst this vegetation would not have established at year 1, the physical distance from the LLCA would aid in reducing the perception of the Scheme. The retention of the field boundaries around E26 to E29 would also reduce the perception of this part of the Scheme. The solar panels in E30 to E32 would be perceived upon travelling between the LLCA but in the context of the approach to the LLCA already being defined by a golf course, i.e. a change from agricultural land use.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the establishment of the proposed planting around the northern edges E12 and along the northern edges of E30 to E32, adjacent to Golf Links Road, the perception of the proposed structures would be reduced. The establishment of the tree planting adjacent to Golf Links Road would reflect the vegetated character of the road.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The establishment of the proposed planting would result in a more vegetated setting to the LLCA and reduce the perception of the activity to remove the panels and associated structures.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Sunnica East Site B					
9. Six Acre Chalk Farmland	Low	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not result in any physical changes to the LLCA, as it is located to the south of Golf Links Road, within the Sunnica East Site B. The perception of the construction activity would be of a greater scale of activity than compared to farming, but due to the proximity of Newmarket Road and Golf Links Road, the impact to the character of LLCA would be small.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located within the LLCA, but the panels and solar stations across E30 to E32 would be perceived as a result of their proximity to the LLCA and the rising landform to the south of the LLCA. The LLCA would be bordered in part by additional infrastructure, but the key characteristics of the LLCA would remain, via its land use and recreational value.	Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the establishment of the proposed planting along the northern edges of E30 to E32, adjacent to Golf Links Road, the perception of the proposed structures would be reduced. The establishment of the tree planting adjacent to Golf Links Road would reflect the vegetated character of the road and mature woodland across Chalk Hill, which form part of the setting to the LLCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be a more vegetated setting to the LLCA, which in turn would reduce the perception of the activity to remove the structures.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Sunnica East Site A			
10. Isleham	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not result in any physical changes to the LLCA, as it is located to the south of the LLCA, within the Sunnica East Site A and on the opposite side of Sheldrick's Road. The perception of the construction activity would be of a greater scale of activity than compared to farming.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located within the LLCA, but the panels and solar stations across E05 would be located to the south of the settlement, on the opposite side of Sheldrick's Road. There would also be the perception of the infrastructure character of the Scheme within Lee Farm. The perceived visual relationship with the Freckenham would remain, due to the low height of the panels and the associated offsets from Beck Road such that the visual perception between the churches and journeying adjacent to fields would remain. The change in land use within E05 and in combination with that across Sunnica East Site A, would alter the immediate setting to the south of the LLCA. The perception of the flat landform to the south of the LLCA would remain, although the perception of the aesthetic quality of the setting to the LLCA would be adversely impacted by the massing and colour tones of the panels. There would be beneficial impacts via the permissive path adjacent to Beck Road through new recreational opportunities.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the establishment of the proposed planting adjacent to E05 the perceived massing and colour tones of the Scheme would be reduced. The grassland to the west of Beck Road would retain the perceived open character of the landscape between Isleham and Freckenham with the new planting at the edge of panels in E05 reflecting the pattern of vegetation at Beck Bridge and woodlands to the south of Isleham. The perception of the Scheme would therefore reduce in comparison to that at year 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The vegetated setting to part of the LLCA would be greater than at year 15. The height and density of the vegetation adjacent to Beck Road would reduce the perception of some of the ground level activity to remove the panels and associated structures; however, the impacts would reflect those at the construction phase.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Sunnica East Site A			
11. East Fen Chalklands	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity for Sunnica East Site A would be located across the eastern part of the LLCA, resulting in activity of a greater scale than general farming via the excavation, presence of machinery and associated activity. Most of the activity would be perceived in the context of Lee Farm, which is already characterised by structures and engineered reservoirs.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would introduce structures and an infrastructure character across part of the LLCA, via the solar panels, solar stations, BESS and substation. The scale and extent of the massing would reduce the open character of the landscape on the east side of Beck Road between Isleham and Freckenham, but the open character between the two settlements and across the LLCA would remain to the west of Beck Road. This is because the proposed panels in E05 would be set back from Beck Road, in combination with the land uses to the west of Beck Road remaining open in character and that the remainder of the solar panels would be within the grounds of Lee Farm. The key characteristics of the Lee Brook and roadside hedgerows would remain, due to the Scheme being offset from these boundary features.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment the proposed planting adjacent to Ferry Lane and Beck Road would have established. This planting would reflect the vegetated character of these routes, particularly the vegetation structure adjacent to Beck Bridge. With the planting offset from Beck Road, travelling across the LLCA via Beck Road would retain the perception of the wider landscape and moving across the landscape between the settlements. The infrastructure character would remain. The proposed planting is considered to be beneficial for the land cover in contrast to the open and intermittent condition of existing vegetation and the biodiversity value of this part of the LLCA in comparison to the fields which reduces the effect from moderate adverse.	Medium	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The proposed planting would reduce the perception of the ground level activity to remove the panels, but the removal of the BESS and associated structures, although the decommissioning would reflect the construction activity.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
	Medium	Cable Route A			

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
11. East Fen Chalklands		Construction Phase (winter)	The Cable Route between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B would be located within the LLCA. The construction activity would result in localised changes to landform, via the excavation. There would also be the presence of construction machinery and associated activity to a greater degree than that associated with farming activity. The scale and duration of the construction activity would be small in relation to the wider extent of the LLCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the proposed Cable Route A below ground, there would be no change to the landscape character of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	As the proposed Cable Route A would remain below ground, there would be no change to the landscape character at decommissioning.	None	Neutral (not significant)
11. East Fen Chalklands	Medium	Intra Project Effects (Sunnica East Site A and Cable Route A)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The combined construction activity would result in additional excavation and machinery than compared to the individual assessments; however as the scale and extent of that required for Cable Route A would remain very small, it is considered not to increase the overall effect.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (t significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the proposed Cable Route A below ground, the assessment would reflect that for Sunnica East Site A only.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (t significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The establishment of the proposed planting would reflect that of the assessment of Sunnica East Site A only, as the cable route would be below ground.	Medium	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	As the proposed Cable Route A would remain below ground, the assessment would reflect that above for Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Moderate Adverse (t significant)
12. Freckenham	High	Sunnica East Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located within the LLCA. The implementation of the grassland and Stone Curlew to the west of Beck Road would reflect agricultural activity, with the remainder of the construction activity to the east of Beck Road. The perception of the construction activity around Lee Farm within the LLCA would be limited as a result of the vegetated character across the eastern part of the LLCA. The key characteristics of the LLCA would remain.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in the LLCA. The Scheme would introduce massing and structures to the north of the LLCA, beyond Beck Road, resulting in an infrastructure character in contrast to the fields. The physical separation between Freckenham and Isleham to the west of Beck Road would remain due to the agricultural land use, as well as the key characteristics of inter-visibility with buildings in Isleham, due to grassland to the west of Beck Road. The perception of the panels, BESS and substation in the eastern part of Sunnica East Site A would be in the context of Lee Farm and its structures, although to a greater scale. The permissive path would be a beneficial impact, due to improved recreational access which in combination with the reversibility of the Scheme is balanced with the above adverse impacts.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The establishment of the proposed planting to the west of Beck Road and adjacent to Ferry Lane would aid in increasing the vegetation cover to the north of the LLCA. The retained presence of the Scheme and its massing would retain an infrastructure character to the north of the LLCA, although reversible.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be a more vegetated setting to the LLCA, which in turn would reduce the perception of the ground level activity to remove the panels and associated structures, although the effects would reflect those of the construction phase.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
12. Freckenham	High	Sunnica East Site B			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located within the LLCA, although it would be perceived on travelling from the village along Elms Road, due to the construction access points being off of Elms Road, as well as the construction of Scheme. The distance between Freckenham and Sunnica East Site B would retain the key characteristics to the LLCA along with the perception of the Church of St Andrew altering only part of its immediate setting.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in the LLCA but would be perceived when travelling from the LLCA along Elms Road as part of the LLCA's immediate setting. The retained hedgerows adjacent to Elms Road and the distance from the LLCA would limit any adverse impacts to the LLCA, along with it being reversible.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The establishment of the proposed planting around adjacent to Elms Road would reduce the perception of the Scheme. The retained presence of the Scheme and its massing would retain an infrastructure character to the north of the LLCA, along with it being reversible.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Decommissioning (winter)	Decommissioning (winter) With there would be no change to the character of the LLCA due to the distance from Sunnica East Site B and the establishment of the proposed planting.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
Intra Project Effects (Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B)					
12. Freckenham	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would be located to the north and east of the LLCA and perceived due to the presence of machinery and associated activity from either within the LLCA or on travelling across the immediate setting of the LLCA. The construction activity would be greater in scale than general farming activity.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in the LLCA, but there would be panels to the north and panels and the BESS and substation to the east of the LLCA. These would be perceived when travelling between the LLCA but would not impact the key characteristics.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The establishment of the proposed planting would reduce the perception of the Scheme in the immediate setting of the LLCA.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The perception of the activity to remove the panels and associated structures would be lessened in comparison to the construction assessment due to the establishment of the proposed planting.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Sunnica East Site B					
13. Elms Sandlands Mosaic	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity for Sunnica East Site B would be located across part of the LLCA, resulting in activity of a greater scale than general arable and pig farming; although the LLCA does contain Worlington Quarry. The construction activity would protect the key characteristics of the pine lines adjacent to U6006 and across the fields whilst there would be localised reduction in the vegetation adjacent to Elms Road to facilitate the construction access.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use across most of the LLCA as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. These structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS and substation would result in infrastructure character and change from the open character of the fields. The key vegetation landscape features across the LLCA would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from the pine lines adjacent to U6006 and the pine lines across the fields to the north and south of Elms Road and from the mature woodland at the base of Chalk Hill. The Scheme would introduce additional recreational access via a permissive path from U6006 to the south of E22, to connect with existing PRoW to Red Lodge. The geometric pattern of the fields would remain via the solar panels and associated structures being set within the field boundaries. Whilst the Scheme would be of a static character, i.e. with limited activity or movement, its massing and uniformity, as well as the colour tonal changes to the landscape as a result of the solar panels are balanced with the reversibility of the Scheme and that key characteristics would be retained.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees across the LLCA, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to the Ecology chapter, opportunities for improved biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to the Order limits.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The activity to remove the solar panels and associated structures however would reflect that at the construction stage.	High	Moderate Adverse (significant)
Cable Route A					
14. River Kennett	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The Cable Route across the fields to the south of E22 would be located within the LLCA. The construction activity would result in localised changes to landform, via the excavation; however the key features of the River Kennett and its associated vegetation would remain due to the boring. There would also be the presence of construction machinery and associated activity to a greater degree than that associated with farming activity.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the proposed Cable Route A below ground, the pattern of landform would reflect the existing baseline across the LLCA. Any removal of vegetation would be very small and localised, such that it would also not alter the overall key characteristics.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the cables below ground, there would be no change to the character of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LLCA, as the cables would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
Sunnica East Site B					
14. River Kennett	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located in the LLCA and therefore only perceived from a very small part of the northern part of the LLCA. The perception would be of machinery and activity of a greater scale than general farming activity.	Very Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The solar panels to the north of the LLCA would result in an additional infrastructure character compared to the reservoir in the immediate setting of the LLCA, but it would not alter the key characteristics.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the establishment of the proposed planting, the perception of the structures would be negated, and the planting would provide an increased vegetated setting to the NCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity to remove the panels would reflect that of the construction phase assessment; however, the perception of the decommissioning would be reduced in comparison due to the retained vegetation.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
Intra Project Effect (Cable Route A and Sunnica East Site B)					
14. River Kennett	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The combined impact from the boring and the adjacent installation of part of Sunnica East Site B would increase the magnitude of effect in comparison to the individual assessments.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With Cable Route A below ground and any changes considered to be very small, the main impact would be from the perception of the panels.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the cables remaining below ground, the establishment of the planting would negate the perception of the panels.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The cable would remain below ground, therefore no physical impacts and the impacts would relate to the perception of the removal of the panels to the north, although this would be reduced by the retained planting.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
15. Red Lodge	Low	As the Scheme is not located within this LLCA there would be no physical change to landform nor vegetation cover. The combination of distance and intervening features would not enable perception of the Scheme, such that there would be no change to the landscape character during any of the assessment scenarios.		None	Neutral (not significant)
16. Brecks Estate Heathland	Medium	As the Scheme is not located within this LLCA there would be no physical change to landform nor vegetation cover. The combination of distance and intervening features would not enable perception of the Scheme, such that there would be no change to the landscape character during any of the assessment scenarios.		None	Neutral (not significant)
17. Fordham Chalklands	Medium	As the Scheme is not located within this LLCA there would be no physical change to landform nor vegetation cover. The combination of distance and intervening features would not enable perception of the Scheme, such that there would be no change to the landscape character during any of the assessment scenarios.		None	Neutral (not significant)
18. Fordham	Medium	As the Scheme is not located within this LLCA there would be no physical change to landform nor vegetation cover. The combination of distance and intervening features would not enable perception of the Scheme, such that there would be no change to the landscape character during any of the assessment scenarios.		None	Neutral (not significant)
Cable Route B					
19. Fordham Abbey and Nursery	High	Construction Phase (winter)	The installation of part of Cable Route B would be located across the southern part of the LLCA and would be perceived in the context of the road infrastructure, as well as being localised and short in duration. There would be localised alteration to surface landform and land cover, but the key characteristics would remain.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the proposed Cable Route B below ground, any changes to the landcover or vegetation across the LLCA would be localised.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LLCA as the cable route would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
19A: Fordham Estate Sandlands	Medium	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)
	Very Low	Cable Route B			

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
20. Snailwell Industrial Estate		Construction Phase (winter)	The installation of part of Cable Route B would be located across the northern part of the LLCA and would be perceived in the context of the road infrastructure, as well as being localised and short in duration. The construction activity would result in changes to landcover and surface landform but would be localised in relation to the extent of the LLCA and the key characteristics would remain.	Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the proposed Cable Route B below ground and the LLCA characterised by large scale buildings and extensive hardstanding, and changes to vegetation or landcover would be localised such as not to alter the overall character.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LLCA as the Cable Route would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
21. Snailwell	High	Cable Route B			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The implementation of Cable Route B would not be located in the LLCA, but to the east, across the fields which form the immediate setting of the LLCA. The perception of the construction activity would be in the context of the vehicles along Chippenham Road, albeit of a larger scale than agricultural activity. None of the key characteristics of the LLCA would be impacted upon.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the proposed Cable Route B below ground, there would be no change to the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the character of the LLCA as the Cable Route would remain below ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
21. Snailwell	High	Sunnica West Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located in the LLCA. Any perception of the construction activity in W3 would be limited by the distance from the LLCA and intervening vegetation.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be no physical change to the LLCA. The perception of the Scheme would be limited by distance and intervening features, such that any perception from travelling into the village would not fundamentally alter the village character.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no to the character of the LLCA as the Cable Route would remain below ground.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
21. Snailwell	High	Sunnica West Site B			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located in the LLCA and any perception of the construction or traffic management measures would be limited by the distance and intervening features.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The solar panels and solar stations at W01 and W02 would not be located in the LLCA. The perception of the Scheme would be limited by distance and intervening features, such that any perception from travelling into the village would not fundamentally alter the village character.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no to the character of the LLCA as the Cable Route would remain below ground.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
21. Snailwell	High	Intra Project Effects (Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B and Cable Route A)			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located in the LLCA and any perception of Sunnica West Site B would be limited by the distance and intervening features. Therefore the impacts would relate to the Cable Route B excavation and the perception of the change to the immediate setting of the LLCA.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The impacts would reflect those as stated for Sunnica West Site B.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The impacts would reflect those as stated for Sunnica West Site B.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Decommissioning (winter)	The perception of the decommissioning activity would be negated by the increased density of the intervening vegetation.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
22. Chippenham Fen	High	Sunnica West Site B			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located within the LLCA, and the proposed offsets from the edges of W01 and W02 would avoid excavation for the solar panels in proximity to the boundaries of the LLCA. There would be no change to the character of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would introduce additional infrastructure to the south-west of the LLCA, but this would not be perceived due to the density of the intervening vegetation and therefore the Scheme would not alter any of the key characteristics.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the establishment of the proposed grassland, the land cover would respond positively to the habitat types across the LLCA, but not alter its character.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity to remove the panels would not be perceived from within the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
23A. Chippenham	High	Sunnica West Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located within the LLCA; there would be no perception of the construction activity due to the intervening distance and features.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and therefore there would be no physical change to the key characteristics. The combination of the distance from the LLCA and the intervening features would negate any perception of the Scheme.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be a more wooded land cover, with additional tree planting within the Avenue; however this would not change the character of the LLCA. The activity to remove the panels would not be perceived.	None	Neutral (not significant)
23B. Chippenham Park	High	Sunnica West Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located within the LLCA. Any perception of the construction activity, i.e. noise, would be limited due to the intervening vegetation and features. In landscape terms, the LLCA is not contiguous with Sunnica West Site A, due to the boundary wall and vegetation, however the woodland blocks and field pattern to the south of the LLCA do provide a vegetated setting, which would be altered via the construction activity.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and therefore there would be no physical change to the key characteristics. The change in land use would result in an increased infrastructure character to the setting of the LLCA, compared to the A14 and railway line. However, the distance from the LLCA and that the perception would be limited to when travelling along La Hogue Road would result in no overall change to the character of the LLCA, along with the Scheme being reversible.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1, as whilst the proposed planting would have established, the change in land use would remain.	Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be a more wooded land cover, with additional tree planting within the Avenue along with native grassland rather than agricultural fields. Any perception of the activity to remove the panels would be reduce in comparison to the construction assessment due to the establishment of the proposed planting.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Sunnica West Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would include for the topsoil stripping and localised excavation to implement the solar panels and perimeter fencing and hoardings. The construction of the BESS and substation would require tall lifting equipment and associated machinery. The duration of the construction activity would be short but located across most of the LLCA.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be a change in land use across the LLCA as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. These structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS and substation would result in an infrastructure character. The key landscape features across the LLCA would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from stream corridor to the north of W10, offset from Sounds Plantation and the hedgerows bordering La Hogue Road and the vegetation adjacent to the stream between W15 and W16. There would be new recreational access across the LLCA via the permissive path connecting to The Avenue and around W04. Whilst the Scheme would be of a static character, i.e. with limited activity or movement, its massing and uniformity, as well as the colour tonal changes to the landscape as a result of the solar panels would be a large scale change to the LLCA.	Medium	Major Adverse (significant)

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels would have established into a continuous sward. Similarly the proposed hedgerow infilling and new trees across Sunnica West Site A, would have established, being taller in height than at year 1. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], opportunities for improved biodiversity. The increased height of the proposed planting and that it would be in leaf would reduce the perception of the solar panels and solar stations, i.e. the physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to the Order limits.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The activity to remove the solar panels and associated structures would reflect that of the construction assessment.	High	Major Adverse (significant)
		Sunnica West Site B			
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would be located across the north-west part of the LLCA and would include for the topsoil stripping and localised excavation to implement the solar panels and perimeter fencing and hoardings, as well as the implementation of the native grassland.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	There would be a change in land use across the north-west part of the LLCA as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks which would result in an infrastructure character. However, there would also be extensive areas of native grassland due to the solar panels being offset from Chippenham Fen and the below ground archaeology. The key landscape features across the LLCA would be retained, via the Scheme being offset from the River Snail and its mature woodland. The hedgerow boundaries would also be retained and reinforced with new planting to infill gaps. The massing and uniformity of the Scheme would be of a static character, i.e. with limited activity or movement, and it would result in colour tonal changes to the landscape as a result of the solar panels.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	Compared to the year 1 assessment, the native grassland beneath the panels and around the edges of W01 and W02 would have established into a continuous sward. Due to this the vegetation cover, it is considered that this aspect of the Scheme would result in beneficial changes to the land cover and with reference to the Chapter 8: Ecology of the ES [EN010106/APP/6.1], opportunities for improved biodiversity. The physical structures of the Scheme, which would remain as per the year 1 assessment and retain an infrastructure character to the LLCA, but the impact is reduced due to the establishment of the grassland.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	Compared to the year 15 assessment, the proposed planting would have established to a greater extent, both in terms of height, density and composition. The activity to remove the solar panels and associated structures would reflect the construction assessment.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Cable Route B			
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	There would be excavation across the cable route, along with High Direction Drilling to enable the cables to path beneath Chippenham Road and retain key vegetation in the LLCA.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable below ground, there would be no change to the landscape character.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character as the cable would be beneath the ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Cable Route B			
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	There would be excavation across the cable route, along with High Direction Drilling to enable the cables to path beneath Chippenham Road and retain key vegetation in the LLCA.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable below ground, there would be no change to the landscape character.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character as the cable would be beneath the ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
	Medium	Intra Project Effects (Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B, Cable Route A and Cable Route B)			

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect	
24. Lowland Estate Chalkland		Construction Phase (winter)	The combined construction activity would result in additional excavation and machinery than compared to the individual assessments.	High	Major Adverse (significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the proposed Cable Route A and B below ground, the assessment would reflect that for Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica West Site only.	High	Major Adverse (significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The establishment of the proposed planting would reflect that of the assessment of Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica West Site B only, as the cable route would be below ground.	High	Moderate Adverse (significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	With the solar panels and associated infrastructure removed the vegetation cover across the LLCA would be improved with an additional landscape structure of woodland, hedgerows and native grassland. The activity to remove the panels and associated structures would reflect that of the construction phase assessment.	High	Moderate Adverse (significant)	
25. Kennett	Low	Sunnica West Site A				
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction phase would not be located in the LLCA, being sited to the west, across W15 and W16. In combination with the distance, any perception of the construction activity would be in the context of the A11 and therefore limit any change to the LLCA.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would result in a change in land use and an increased infrastructure character to the west of the LLCA. There would be no change to the key characteristics and the additional massing and change in land use would result in a limited change.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the establishment of the proposed planting around the perimeter of W15 and W16 the perception of the Scheme would be reduced and there would be a more vegetated setting to the LLCA and in proximity to the A14.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	The vegetation cover adjacent to the LLCA would be improved with an additional landscape structure of woodland, hedgerows and native grassland. This would negate the perception of the activity to remove the panels and solar stations.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
26. The Limekilns and Gallops	Medium	Sunnica West Site A				
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located in the LLCA and therefore there would be no physical change to the LLCA. There would be the perception of the construction activity across most of the Sunnica West Site A, as the LLCA is located across rising land. The construction activity would be perceived in the context of the A14 and railway line but represent a greater scale and extent of activity in comparison to agricultural activity and settled character to the setting of the LLCA.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and therefore there would be no physical change to the LLCA. The Scheme would be located to the north of the LLCA, on the opposite side of the A14 and railway line. The Scheme would introduce additional massing and increase the infrastructure character to the setting of the LLCA in comparison to the character of the fields across the Sunnica West Site A. However, the static nature of the Scheme, i.e. fixed panels would present the perception of a settled infrastructure, in contrast to the movement of vehicles and trains adjacent to the LLCA.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The proposed planting across the Sunnica West Site A would have established to reduce the perception of the Scheme.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity to remove the panels and associated structures would reflect the construction phase assessment, although the perception would be lessened due to the establishment of the proposed planting.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
27. Newmarket Studs	Medium	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)	
28. Kentford	Medium	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)	
29. Moulton	High	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)	
30. Gazeley	Medium	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)	
31. Gazeley Chalkland	Medium	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)	
32. Planned East Fens	Medium	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)	
33. Soham Mere	Medium	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect	
34. Soham	Medium		Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
35. Wicken	High		Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
36. Burwell Fen	Medium	Cable Route B				
		Construction Phase (winter)	There would be excavation across the cable route, along with High Direction Drilling to enable the cables to path beneath Lodes and retain key vegetation in the LLCA. The extent of excavation would be localised in relation to the wider scale of the LLCA and perceived in the context of the existing infrastructure character.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable below ground, there would be no overall change to the landscape character with some localised reduction in vegetation patterns.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the establishment of the proposed planting, the vegetation cover would reflect the baseline.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character as the cable would be beneath the ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
36. Burwell Fen	Medium	Burwell Substation Extension (both options)				
		Construction Phase (winter)	<p>For Option 1, the construction activity would be located to the east of the existing substation, resulting in alteration to the vegetation and field patterns within the Site, as well as adjacent to Weirs Drove. The construction activity would be perceived visually and aurally from along Weirs Drove, which from the fieldwork, appears to be a well used route. In relation to the scale of the construction activity, it would be localised in relation to the wider extent of the character area and perceived at an isolated fringe point of the character area, in the context of the existing substation. The changes to the landscape features at the Site level would reflect those stated above for the Burwell site.</p> <p>Option 2 would have similar impacts as per Option 1 at the site level. The perception of the construction activity would be reduced in comparison to Option 1 in relation to users of Weir's Drove, but would be greater for those across the wider parts of Burwell Fen due to the open character of the Option 2 site as part of the wider fen landscape. Like Option 1, the impacts would be localised in relation to the extent of the character area and perceived in the context of the existing substation.</p>	<p>Option 1 Very Low</p> <p>Option 2 Low</p>	<p>Option 1 - Minor Adverse (not significant)</p> <p>Option 2 - Minor Adverse (not significant)</p>	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	<p>For Option 1, the Scheme would increase the infrastructure character adjacent to Weirs Drove road, due to its proximity and the reduced density of roadside vegetation. The Scheme would be consolidated to between the existing substation and the substation to the east of the road.</p> <p>For Option 2, the Scheme would extend the extent of infrastructure slightly to the west of the existing substation, as well as to the north of Newham Drove. The substation would therefore be perceived from the wider landscape to the west of the substation, with existing vegetation reducing the perception to the east and from along Weirs Drove.</p>	<p>Option 1 Very Low</p> <p>Option 2 - Low</p>	<p>Option 1 - Negligible Adverse (not significant)</p> <p>Option 2 - Minor Adverse (significant)</p>	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	<p>For Option 1, the change in land use and additional infrastructure massing within the character area would remain. The proposed planting along the edges of the Site would have established, however it would not screen the substation fully, such that the substation would be perceived from along Weirs Drove, but still in the context of the existing substation. Due to this, the impacts and effects are assessed as remaining as per the year 1 assessment.</p> <p>For Option 2, the establishment of the proposed planting along the western edge of the Option 2 site would have established to reduce the perception from the wider fen landscape, reducing the impact in relation to year 1.</p>	<p>Option 1 - Very Low</p> <p>Option 2 - Low</p>	<p>Negligible Adverse (not significant)</p> <p>Minor Adverse (not significant)</p>	
		Decommissioning (winter)	The decommissioning activity would reflect that of the construction phase.	Option 1 Very Low	Option 1 - Minor Adverse (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect	
				Option 2 Low	Option 2 – Minor Adverse (not significant)	
36. Burwell Fen	Medium	Intra Project Effects (Cable Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension)				
		Construction Phase (winter)	The combined construction activity would result in additional excavation and machinery than compared to the individual assessments. The activity would be within the grounds of an existing substation and associated infrastructure. This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations.	Medium	Moderate Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the proposed Cable Route B below ground, the impact is from the loss of vegetation. This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations.	Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The establishment of the proposed planting would reduce the impact in comparison the year 1 assessment.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity associated with decommissioning would reflect that of the construction phase assessment. Cable Route B would remain below ground, reducing the impact in comparison to the construction assessment. This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
37. Reach	Medium	Burwell National Grid Substation Extension				
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located in the LLCA, although would be perceived. However, this would be in the context of existing infrastructure, such that the construction activity would not alter the character of the LLCA. This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The additional infrastructure would be perceived in the same context as the existing substation and extent of pylons across the landscape. This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1. This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity to associated with decommissioning would not alter the character of Reach. This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
38. Burwell	Medium	Cable Route B				
		Construction Phase (winter)	The excavation and implementation of Cable Route B would not be located in the LLCA, but would be adjacent to it, as it crosses the landscape to the north and west of the LLCA. The perception of the construction phase would not alter any of the key characteristics of the LLCA, although would be of a greater scale of activity in the fields than farming activity.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable below ground, there would be no change to the landscape character.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character as the cable would be beneath the ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)	
38. Burwell	Medium	Burwell National Grid Substation Extension				
		Construction Phase (winter)	For Option 1, the excavation and implementation of the substation extension would be located adjacent to the existing Burwell substation and not in the LLCA. The construction activity would be perceived in this context and from along Weirs Drove, such that whilst there would be no physical change to the landscape features, there would be visual and aural perception of the construction activity. For Option 2, the increased distance from the LLCA and the reduced perception from the intervening vegetation would not alter the character area.	Option 1 Low Option 2 - None	Option 1 -Minor Adverse (not significant) Option 2 – Neutral (not significant)	
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	Option 1 would introduce additional infrastructure and massing via the substation extension adjacent to the LLCA and Weirs Drove; however it would be perceived in the context of the existing substation. For Option 2, the increased distance from the character area and the intervening vegetation would limit any perception of the Scheme.	Option 1 Low Option 2 - None	Option 1 Minor Adverse (not significant) Option 2 -Neutral (not significant)	

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	For Option 1, the proposed planting along the eastern edge of the Site would have established, but the perception from along Weirs Drove would remain. For Option 2, the increased distance from the character area and the intervening vegetation would limit any perception of the Scheme.	Option 1 Very Low Option 2	Option 1 Negligible Adverse (not significant) Option 2 – Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The activity associated with decommissioning would reflect that of the construction assessment. This is considered to be the same for either location.	Option 1 Low Option 2 - None	Option 1 -Minor Adverse (not significant) Option 2 – Neutral (not significant)
		Intra Project Effects (Cable Route B and Burwell National Grid Substation Extension (both options))			
38. Burwell	Medium	Construction Phase (winter)	The combined construction activity would result in additional excavation and machinery than compared to the individual assessments, but not within the LLCA. This is considered to be the same for the alternative location.	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the proposed Cable Route B below ground, the assessment would reflect that for the substation extension for Option 1	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	With the proposed Cable Route B below ground, the assessment would reflect that for the substation extension for Option 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	The decommissioning phase would reflect that of the construction assessment, reflecting the predicted effects for both options.	Option 1 Low Option 2 - None	Option 1 -Minor Adverse (not significant) Option 2 – Neutral (not significant)
39. Burwell Wooded Chalklands	Low	Cable Route B			
		Construction Phase (winter)	There would be excavation across the cable route, along with boring to enable the cables to path beneath Lodes and retain key vegetation in the LLCA. The extent of excavation would be localised in relation to the wider scale of the LLCA	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable below ground, there would be no change to the landscape character overall. Any changes to vegetation cover would be localised.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character as the cable would be beneath the ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
40. Exning	Medium	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)
41. Newmarket	High	Sunnica West Site A			
		Construction Phase (winter)	The construction activity would not be located in the LLCA, with the construction located beyond the railway line and A14. Any perception of the construction activity would not alter the key characteristics of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	The Scheme would introduce additional infrastructure to the north-west of the LLCA, but beyond the A14 and railway line and any perception of the Scheme would not alter the key characteristics of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	The assessment would reflect that at year 1.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character.	None	Neutral (not significant)
42. Newmarket Racecourse	High	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)
	Medium	Cable Route B			

Receptor	Sensitivity (refer to Appendix 10D and 10E)	Assessment Phase	Assessment Commentary	Magnitude of Impact	Significance of Effect
43. Burwell Chalklands		Construction Phase (winter)	There would be excavation across the cable route, along with boring to enable the cables to path beneath Lodes and retain key vegetation in the LLCA. The extent of excavation would be localised in relation to the wider scale of the LLCA	Low	Minor Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 1 (winter)	With the cable below ground, there would be no change to the landscape character overall. Any changes to vegetation cover would be localised and very small in scale.	Very Low	Negligible Adverse (not significant)
		Operation Phase Year 15 (summer)	There would be no change to the character of the LLCA.	None	Neutral (not significant)
		Decommissioning (winter)	There would be no change to the landscape character as the cable would be beneath the ground.	None	Neutral (not significant)
44. Swaffham Prior	High	Due to the distance and that the Scheme is not located within the LLCA, there would be no change to the landscape character during the assessment scenarios; nor would any perception of the Scheme alter the landscape character.		None	Neutral (not significant)