Heckington Fen Solar Park

ENO10123

Appendix 6.9 – Detailed Visual Assessment

Applicant: Ecotricity (Heck Fen Solar) Limited

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APPENDIX 6.9- DETAILED VISUAL ASSESSMENT

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Appendix 6.9: Detailed Visual Assessment

The scoping out stage carried out in Appendix 6.8 identified that receptors present at the following viewpoints have the potential to experience significant visual effects or that their detailed assessment would be informative to the decision making process:

- Viewpoint 1.
- Viewpoint 2.
- Viewpoint 3.
- Viewpoint 4.
- Viewpoint 6.
- Viewpoint 8.
- Viewpoint 14.
- Viewpoint 15.
- Viewpoint 20.
- Viewpoint 21.
- Viewpoint 22.
- Viewpoint 23.
- Viewpoint 24.
- Viewpoint 25.
- Viewpoint 26.

The following table provides a detailed visual assessment of the shortlisted viewpoints and includes the description of baseline views for all of the identified viewpoints, provided for completeness. **Figure 6. 5a- c** and **Figure 6.6** provide the photographic evidence and support the assessment.

The assessment of the construction phase is written with reference to **Chapter 4** Proposed Development (document reference 6.1.4) and **Figure 4.3** Indicative Phasing Plan (document reference 6.2.4), as stated in **Chapter 6** (document reference 6.1.6) paragraph 6.2.1 and paragraph 6.5.2.

Viewpoint 1				
Public Footpath SKym/2/1 and Sidebar Lane overbridge at Head Dike				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational receptors	Medium	High	High	575m
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Existing View: This is one of the closest views, taken from the nearest public highways Sidebar Lane. It is representative of the open and level views across the local landscape gained from this section of the road. Views further north become interrupted by small blocks of woodland, with views further south along the road, restricted and eventually screened. With regard to recreational receptors similar views are available from the eastern section of the PRoW, east of Sidebar Lane, as receptors travel closer to the Energy Park. Views west of the road would be similarly open but increasingly distant and partially interrupted by the intervening vegetation around Glebe Farm and Chapel House. Electricity poles introduce vertical elements into the view; large scale wind farm is visible to the south. The pumping station associated with Head Dike is visible to the far right – Viewpoint 1B. The eye is drawn across the level foreground and towards the built form and trees on the horizon. Views are distant and there is a strong sense of openness. Some of the large-scale farm buildings appear somewhat isolated without any planting. The visible extent of the Application Site occupies the majority of the view. Elm Grange, visible to the south indicates the south western edge of the Energy Park with the course of Head Dike marking its northern edge. The large scale barn, visible in the distance is associated with Six Hundreds Farm and is located in the eastern part of the Energy Park. The appreciation of the landscape is focused on the level landform, sense of opens, and big skies. Hedgerows are limited with trees forming small clumps of vegetation. The distant horizon has the appearance of a relatively well wooded landscape.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: Phase 1 would introduce some limited movement and activities in the south western and central part of the Energy Park but would not detract from the overall view given the distance and intervening vegetation. Phase 2 would be associated with the north western part of the Energy Park, i.e., that closest to Viewpoint 1. Construction activities and movement within fields G7 and G8 would be the most relevant to this view, with G6 largely screened by the intervening block of woodland. The construction phase within Phase 2 would extend across much of the view, with Phase 3 located behind and Phase 4 visible to the right of the view, successively increasing the extent of construction activities and solar modules in the view. The construction compound associated with Phase 2 would be screened by the intervening small block of woodland, seen in the middle ground. The construction activities associated with the central substation would be visible but not prominent, given the distance and intervening infrastructure within Phase 2. The construction of the grid connection and works at the National Grid Bicker Fen substation would be inconsequential, in visual terms.			High	Short-term, temporary – Major
			High	Short-term, temporary – Major

Viewpoint 1		
Operational Phase: The north western part of the Proposed Development would form an easily recognisable feature in this view, due to its horizontal extent and typology. The proposed modules within the northern most part of field G6 – G8 would be 3.5m in height, thus would screen the 3.0m high modules located beyond, in the southern parts of G7 and G8 and G11 – G15 associated with the remaining areas of Phase 2. Development of solar modules within Phase 3 - Phase 5 would be inconsequential to this view as these are likely to be screened by the slightly taller solar modules on the north western edge of the Energy Park. The proposed central energy compound would be largely screened and unlikely to be identifiable. The proposed substation would protrude above the relatively uniform height of the solar modules and would be seen approximately 2km away at its closest point. As such distance the proposed substation infrastructure would appear as a relatively small element on the horizon with its height and extent diminished by the openness of the view. For comparison, the large scale shed of Six Hundreds Farm, seen in the distance is approximately 7.5m high to eaves, i.e., comparable in height to the majority of the infrastructure within the new substation.	High	Long-term, reversible - Major
	High	Long-term, reversible - Major
Mitigation Measures: Consistent height along the western edge; new perimeter hedgerow to grow out to approx. 3m height, visually linking with various groups and belts of trees – creating a perception of a vegetated close-range horizon. The substation compound located next to the existing large scale shed at Six Hundreds Farm – to provide context and balance the perception of scale and mass. Additional woodland trees and hedgerow trees along the northern edge of the Energy Park.		
Residual Effects: It is predicted that at Year 5 the introduced hedgerow planting would start to considerably restrict views of the closest solar modules, particularly in summer months. Note: The solar modules are likely to be completely screened, even in winter views, at Year 10. Seldom growing hedgerow trees along the north western edge of field G6 – G8 would help reduce the perception of scale and visually disintegrate the Energy Park and disrupt the horizontal extent of the solar modules.	Low	Long-term, reversible - Moderate to Minor
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: At this stage, it is predicted that the mature boundary hedgerows would completely screen the existing modules within the Energy Park, or their views would be inconsequential. During the decommissioning phase views are likely to include the cranes and activities across different parts of the Energy Park but these would be highly localised and temporary, and short-term with the mature boundary vegetation restricting views into the Energy Park. Assuming that the decommissioning work takes place in the north western most part of the Energy Park, it is predicted that a negligible change to the view may be experienced, with the effects also negligible.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 2				
Public Footpath Heck/15/1, near the north eastern edge of the Energy Park				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational receptors	Medium	High	High	195m
Existing View: View similar in character and nature to Viewpoint 1, but closer. The visible extent of the Application Site occupies the majority of the view to the west and south west. The course of Head Dike marks the northern edge of the Energy Park with Mill Green Farm visible in the distance. Elm Grange, visible to the south, helps locate the south western corner of the Energy Park. The existing large scale shed at Six Hundreds Farm is not visible, being screened by the intervening trees. The appreciation of the landscape is focused on the level landform, sense of opens, and big skies. Hedgerows are limited with trees forming small clumps of vegetation. The distant horizon has the appearance of a relatively well wooded landscape.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: It is predicted that the visibility of the construction stage and phasing would be, broadly speaking, similar to that described at Viewpoint 1 and at closer proximity. Activities within field G5 and G6 would be seen in the immediate foreground with the remaining area associated with Phase 2 located beyond. Construction activities within Phase 3 would be less apparent, being located beyond the already constructed Phase 2. Construction work associated with Phase 4 would be seen to the right of the view, to the south east of the viewpoint, and would increase the field of view of the construction activities and movement across this part of the Application Site. The construction of the grid connection and works at the National Grid Bicker Fen substation would be inconsequential, in visual terms.			High	Short-term, temporary – Major
Operational Phase: The solar modules within the north western part of the Energy Park would be the most apparent and prominent feature in this view. at the distance of approx. 200m the proposed fencing, CCTV, and modules of varied height (3.0 - 3.5m) would define the foreground and large proportion of the available panorama. Development within the south western part of the Energy Park would be seen stretching some distance away from this viewpoint, revealing the scale of the Energy Park. Development within the central and eastern part of the Energy Park would be largely screened by the infrastructure in the foreground. The 0.5m height difference between the solar modules would be identifiable at close quarters (fields G7) but not in the more distant parts of the Energy Park.			High	Long-term, reversible – Major

Viewpoint 2		
The proposed central energy compound would be inconsequential in visual terms, being if similar height or lower than the proposed solar modules. The proposed central substation would be seen immediately to the left of the existing belt of trees – seen in the middle ground of Viewpoint 2B.		
Mitigation Measures: Consistent height along the western edge; new perimeter hedgerow to grow out to approx. 3m height, visually linking with various groups and belts of trees – creating a perception of a vegetated close-range horizon. The substation is screened, given evidence of how small groups of trees can successfully screen large scale infrastructure, and help 'absorb' it into the view.		
Residual Effects: It is predicted that at Year 5 the introduced hedgerow planting would start to restrict views of the closest solar modules, particularly in summer months. Due to proximity, however, it is likely that the upper parts of the modules, and those located further away would still be evident. It is expected that at Year 10 the maturing hedgerow would serve to screen the modules, fencing, with only the upper most part of the CCTV system appearing above the new hedgerow line. No hedgerow trees are being proposed along the western edge of the Energy Park in order to retain the sense of openness.	Low	Long-term, reversible - Moderate
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: At this stage, it is predicted that the mature boundary hedgerows would almost completely screen the existing solar modules, with views into the interior of the Energy Park gained through access gates only. During the decommissioning phase views are likely to include the cranes and activities across different parts of the Energy Park but these would be highly localised and temporary, and short-term with the mature boundary vegetation restricting views into the Energy Park. Assuming that the decommissioning work takes place in the north western and western parts of the Energy Park, it is predicted that upon its completion, the degree of change would be low beneficial with the effects moderate beneficial – with views of the fencing, CCTV, and visible solar modules, removed from the view.	Low Beneficial	Short-term, temporary – Moderate Beneficial

Viewpoint 3

Littleworth Drove, near White House Farm and The Barns.

Receptor Type	Value of View	Receptor Susceptibility	Receptor Sensitivity	Distance to the Energy Park
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	865m

Existing View:

This location aims to illustrate medium range views from the western part of the study area, as perceived by road users. The view is open but largely limited to the immediate foreground with the built form and roadside vegetation along Sidebar Lane screening the landscape further east. Chapel House, visible in the middle ground, marks the highway. A single storey wooden shed, estimate to be at least 3m in height and located at the junction of Sidebar Laner and Crab Lane, is visible through the gap in the roadside hedgerow and above the hedgerow line. None of the features within the northern or north western part of the Energy Park are visible.

Views to the south east are distant and include the closer lying The Bungalow and No. 1-4 New Cottages along the southern section of Sidebar Lane, and Elm Grange near the south western corner of the Energy Park. The large-scale barn at Six Hundreds Farm is visible to the right of Chapel House and its curtilage. This, along with the built form of Chapel House and Elm Grange serve as height indicators.

Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development

Description of Predicted View / Change	Magnitude of Change	Nature and Significance of Effect
Construction Phase: The majority of the construction activities, movement and traffic within the northern part of the Energy Park would not be visible from this location or would be inconsequential. Based on the line of sight, the south eastern corner of Phase 2, that along Labour in Vain Drain, would be perceptible at the distance of approximately 1.4km away but the majority of filed G5 is screened by Chapel House and its curtilage. Phase 4 would be seen as a relatively modest area, largely seen in isolation and without any evident visibility of Phase 2 or Phase 3. Views would be interrupted by the isolated trees and The Bungalow along Sidebar Lane. Phase 5 would be developed with Phase 4 already in place. The construction of the grid connection and works at the National Grid Bicker Fen substation would be inconsequential, in visual terms.	Negligible (east/north east) to Low (south east)	Short-term, temporary – Negligible to Minor
Operational Phase: The solar modules in the south western part of the Energy Park would be evident in the view, given the gap in the roadside vegetation between Chapel House and The Bungalow, some 1km away. The introduced solar modules would appear as a relatively low lying feature, of consistent height but are likely to partially obstruct the wooded horizon. The more distant tree canopies and belts of trees within the Energy Park would continue to be perceived and understood as key landscape features within this part of the Application Site. Some of the solar modules would appear edge on, towards the receptor, but at such distance their geometry would be lost, and the modules would appear en masse. The closest parcel of solar modules along	Negligible (east/north east) to Low (south east)	Long-term, reversible - Negligible to Minor

Viewpoint 3		
the western edge would serve to screen those further away. The height and extent of the solar modules would be somewhat diminished by the openness of the landscape and its big skies. Whilst the large scale barn at Six Hundreds Farm is visible in this view, the proposed substation would not be visible, being screened by the nearby 'L' shaped belt of trees and vegetation associated with Chapel House seen in the middle ground.		
Mitigation Measures: The proposed hedgerow along the perimeter of the Energy Park would help, with time, screen the proposed solar modules as seen from this location. It would help deflect the attention with the focus shifting from long range views to close range and medium range views terminating on the western edge of the Energy Park, rather than extending towards Elm Grange and East Heckington.		
Residual Effects: It is predicted that even at Year 5 the maturing hedgerow would serve to reduce the visual influence of the introduced solar modules, given the distance. The proposed Energy Park would not be visible, or its visibility would be inconsequential and negligible.	Negligible	Negligible
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: Given the distance and assessment of the construction and operational stages, it is predicted that the decommissioning work would not be percpetible, or their influence would be inconsequential. The removal of the Energy Park would be largely inconsequential.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 4				
Sidebar Lane, near a telecommunication mast				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	400m
Existing View: This viewpoint is from the eastern edge of Sidebar Lane, between The bungalow to the north and No. 1-4 New Cottage to the south. Built form in Elm Grange helps identify the south western corner of the Energy Park. Views are close range and very open with views traveling across the level landscape and towards the distant vegetated horizon. Small block of woodland and tree belts break the strongly horizontal pattern and monotony of the landscape. The existing large scale shed at Six Hundreds Farm is an easily recognisable feature. The bank along Head Dike marks the northern edge of the Energy Park but this feature is not necessarily apparent due to being covered in grassland and visually merging with the surrounding fields. The visual experience mainly derives for the sense of openness, level landform, distant views and big skies.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: The activities and movement associated with Phase 2 would be seen at close quarters across the north western and western part of the Energy Park. Phase 3 would not be apparent, being located further away and screened by the infrastructure within Phase 2, although taller plant may be visible over the constructed solar modules. Views to the south east would include Phase 4, seen in direct context of the completed development within Phase 2, thus increasing the horizontal extent of the development. Movement and activities, however, would be contained to Phase 4 area only. Phase 5 would be developed with Phase 4 already in place. The construction of the grid connection and works at the National Grid Bicker Fen substation would be inconsequential, in visual terms.			High	Short-term, temporary – Major
Operational Phase: The proposed solar arrays, security fencing, and CCTV would be quite apparent given the distance and horizontal extent. With the landform level, views are likely to terminate on the western edge of the Energy Park, with the central and eastern parts of the Energy Park not apparent. Views would vary from slight oblige to very oblique, regardless of the direction of travel. The proposed substation would be considerably screened by the surrounding tree belts with views limited to a very narrow angle of view gained between the nearby 'L' shaped belt of trees and tree lines at Six Hundreds Farm and seen some 1.8km away. In other words, the proposed substation would be inconsequential in visual terms, and would be seen in an angle of			High	Long-term, reversible - Major

Viewpoint 4		
view no larger than the horizontal extent of the large scale shed at Six Hundreds Farm, seen immediately to the right of the proposed substation.		
Mitigation Measures: The proposed hedgerow along the perimeter of the Energy Park would help, with time, screen the proposed solar modules. Due to the openness of the landscape no tree planting is being proposed along this edge of the Energy Park.		
Residual Effects: It is predicted that at Year 10 the maturing hedgerow would serve to screen the introduced solar modules with the substation almost completely obscured by the maturing trees located along its western edge. The introduced tree planting would be in keeping with the landscape and would help visually link the two neighbouring belts of trees that collectively serve to enclose the substation.	Low	Long-term, reversible - Minor
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: At this stage, it is predicted that the mature boundary hedgerows would almost completely screen the existing solar modules. Views into the interior of the Energy Park would be gained through gaps where the existing ditches/ drains puncture the perimeter hedgerow. During the decommissioning phase views are likely to include the cranes and activities across different parts of the Energy Park but these would be highly localised and temporary, and short-term with the mature boundary vegetation restricting views into the Energy Park. Assuming that the decommissioning work takes place in the western parts of the Energy Park, it is predicted that upon its completion, the degree of change would be low beneficial with the effects moderate beneficial – with views of the fencing, CCTV, and visible solar modules, removed from the view.	Low Beneficial	Short-term, temporary – Moderate Beneficial

Viewpoint 5				
Lay by along the A17, near Garwick Cottage.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	1040m
Existing View: This viewpoint forms part of the sequential analysis carried out along the A17 - refer to Viewpoint 6 and 7. This view is taken from a layby along the northern edge of the A17, between Heckington and East Heckington. It is illustrative of views gained by road users as they travel eastbound, and before they reach the junction with Sidebar Lane. Built form along Sidebar Lane is visible on the horizon, albeit partially screened by the vegetation in rear gardens and along field boundaries. The majority of the Energy Park would be screened with a relatively narrow angle of view available where the south western most part of the Energy Park would be perceptible at the distance of approx. 1km. Views would be slight oblique to oblique. Similar and close range views would be gained on the approach to Sidebar Lane where gaps in the roadside vegetation allow for views north and north east.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 6				
Footway in East Heckington, near Six Hundred Farm House.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	245m
Existing View: This viewpoint forms part of the sequential analysis carried out along the A17 - refer to Viewpoint 5 and 7. This location is representative of the very oblique to right angle views gained by road users as they travel through the eastern part of East Heckington. The road lacks any structural vegetation along this section and indeed further east, with Six Hundreds Farmhouse interrupting the view from the road. Vegetation along the eastern edge of East Heckington frames the view to the west and screens the western part of the Energy park site. A mature belt of trees that runs north to south, away from the village interrupts views of the landscape beyond with the eye directed to the immediate foreground and features directly north of the road: the large scale shed associated with Six Hundreds Farm, various small scale blocks of woodland, and hedgerows. The distant landscape further to the north is visible but its contribution is considerably reduced due to the limited inter-visibility and intervening features. The eye is drawn towards the distant landscape seen to the north east, away from the Energy Park site.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: Views from this location would be largely influenced by Phase 5 of the Energy Park construction stage, its construction compound, located in the south eastern part of Phase 5, with movement and human presence evident across much of the view. The completed Phase 3 would be seen behind the large scale shed associated with Six Hundreds Farm with the completed Phase 2 and Phase 4 heavily obscured by the intervening vegetation, built form in East Heckington. Views for further east along the A17 would be of similar character and nature. The works and movement associated with the grid connection are unlikely to be visible from this particular viewpoint and section of the road, but are likely to have a high degree of influence on road users further to the east, past Six Hundreds Farmhouse.			Medium	Short-term, temporary – Moderate

Viewpoint 6		
Operational Phase: The proposed solar arrays would be set back by one field from the A17, at their closest point with the majority of the Energy Park located further away, and beyond the various lines of trees and hedgerows that characterise the fields in this part of the site. Due to the proximity, the proposed fencing, CCTV, and solar arrays would be prominent – largely due to their physical extent rather than height, with the perception of scale reduced by the openness of the landscape. The proposed substation and energy centre would be located behind the existing large scale shed and other farm buildings associated with Six Hundreds Farm, visible directly to the north, some 1.5km away. This existing built form would largely screen the proposed infrastructure with the adjacent lines of trees heavily interrupting the western edge of the energy centre. Energy storage units, within the energy centre, would not be visible with the solar modules in the middle ground screening the centre of the Energy Park. The slight elevated nature of this viewpoint suggests that views may extend across the tops of the modules located further beyond than just the southern most edge of the Energy Park.	High	Long-term, reversible - Major
Mitigation Measures: The southern edge of the Energy Park would be enclosed by a new hedgerow, of up to 3m height when mature. There are a number of tall, albeit somewhat isolated hedgerow trees and mature tall overgrown hedgerows along Six Hundreds Drove, as it leads towards the aforementioned large scale shed to the north.		
Residual Effects: It is likely that a Year 5 the maturing perimeter hedgerow and hedgerow trees would enclose the Energy Park and limit views of the introduced infrastructure. The proposed vegetation would be located slightly closer that the panels themselves in order to follow the existing field boundaries and respond to the prevailing field pattern. Views over the new hedgerow line may continue to be gained, due to the extent of the Energy Park, but the upper edges of the solar modules would appear as a relatively small linear element, sat low above the vegetation and seen against the maturing hedgerow trees in the background. Views into the interior of the Energy Park would be gained along Six Hundred Drove which reveals the internal fence line and solar modules.	Medium	Long-term, reversible - Moderate
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: At this stage, it is predicted that the mature boundary hedgerows would almost completely screen the existing solar modules. Views into the interior of the Energy Park would be gained along Six Hundred Drove which reveals the internal fence line and solar modules. During the decommissioning phase views are likely to include the cranes and activities across this part of the Energy Park but such views would be highly localised and temporary, and short-term with the mature boundary vegetation restricting views into the remaining parts of the Energy Park. Assuming that the decommissioning work takes place in the southern eastern part of the Energy Park, it is predicted that upon its completion, the degree of change would be low beneficial with the effects minor beneficial – with views of the fencing, CCTV, and visible solar modules, removed from the view.	Low Beneficial	Short-term, temporary – Minor Beneficial

Viewpoint 7				
Lay by along the A1121 near Skerth Bridge.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	945m
Existing View: This viewpoint forms part of the sequential analysis carried out along public highways - refer to Viewpoint 5 and 6. This viewpoint is representative of restricted and transitory views gained along the A1121, between Boston and the A17. This particular section of the road offers least restricted views to the north west where various built form and features in the local landscape help identify the direction of view towards the proposed Energy Park. The view is characterised by the level and open fenland landscape with views, generally speaking, terminating on the built form and vegetation along Brown's Drove. The proposed energy Park would be visible in a relatively narrow angle of view, between the northern edge of No. 1-14 Brown's Drove and Cattlehome Farm. The small rectangular block of woodland, located to the north of Six Hundreds Farmhouse, can be identified in the distance seen through the tree canopies that line Brown's Drove.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 8				
Claydike Bank, Amber Hill				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	1635m

Existing View:

This viewpoint is taken from Claydike Bank near Lodge Mill, Amber Hill. Views are illustrative of the worst case scenario as views along this road (excluding it northern continuation known as Marylands Bank) are screened or heavily interrupted. Views are open and the eye travels across the low lying expanse of agricultural landscape with the distant dwellings along the A17 and Sidebar Lane identifiable in the background. The farm buildings at College Farm - northern end of Brown's Drove, curtail the view of the grid connection route but its northern most edge – as it joins the Energy Park would be visible, given the visibility of Rake's Farm. Various landscape features associated with the site of the Energy Park are visible: the isolated rectangular block of woodland (north of Six Hundreds Farmhouse) and the existing large scale shed, and farm buildings associated with Six Hundreds Farm and nearby tree vegetation (northern end of Six Hundreds Drove). The bank associated with Skerth Drain acts to restrict views to a degree. The pumping station at Skerth Drain / Holland Dyke helps identify the north eastern corner of the proposed Energy Park.

Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development		
Description of Predicted View / Change	**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: Phase 3 would introduce some limited movement and activities in the north eastern and eastern part of the Energy Park, seen approx. 1.5km away at its closest point. Given the distance this would not redefine the view with any vehicle movement forming a very small addition to the view and exerting limited influence. Human presence would not be evident with the construction compound located next to a very small block of trees, in the south eastern corner of field SH9. The construction work associated with the new substation would form part of the same angle of view and experience. The constructed Phase 2, due to being located further away, would be inconsequential in visual terms. As the work progresses, Phase 5 would increase the horizontal extent of the works, but at this stage it is predicted that Phase 3 would not require any additional movement or human presence and would form a static element in the view.	Low	Short-term, temporary – Minor
Operational Phase: The aforementioned farm buildings, and unoccupied and neglected two storey high dwelling, at Six Hundreds Farm provide a scale indicator with regard to the proposed solar modules and new substation. The new substation and energy storage compound would be seen directly against the various farm buildings and vegetation at Six Hundreds Farm, seen some 2.5km away and behind the solar modules located along the eastern edge of the Energy Park – fields SH11 – SH13. At approx. 1.6km away the proposed solar modules would be apparent due to their horizontal extent rather than height or mass. Given the height of the bank along Skerth Drain, the upper most parts of the modules would be seen above this man-made feature and would read as a simple and very small element in the overall wide panorama. Its scale would be diminished due to the distance and large-scale character of the landscape.	Low	Long-term, reversible - Minor

Viewpoint 8		
The foreground would remain unchanged, and the tree lined horizon would continue to be identifiable, albeit partially screened and influenced by the introduced Energy Park.		
Mitigation Measures: Whilst the man made bank along Skerth Drain provides some enclosure and limits views in and out of the Energy Park, it is proposed that the eastern perimeter is enclosed with a new hedgerow. It is envisaged that this hedgerow would be maintained, once mature, at approx. 3m in height – sufficient to screen the majority of the solar modules in the south eastern part of the Energy Park. With regard to the north eastern and eastern part of the Energy Park, where the solar modules reach 3.5m height, the proposed hedgerow would be locally maintained at an increased height.		
Residual Effects: It is envisaged that, with the successful implementation of the proposed mitigation planning, the maturing hedgerows and hedgerow trees would almost completely screen the proposed solar modules with the remaining areas of modules seen as inconspicuous and low-lying elements in the view. The upper parts of the substation are likely to remain visible but at the distance of 2.5km, this infrastructure would not be apparent.	Negligible	Long-term, reversible - Negligible
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: Given the distance and assessment of the construction and operational stages, it is predicted that the decommissioning work would be largely imperceptible, or their influence would be inconsequential. The removal of the Energy Park would be largely inconsequential.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 9				
Bicker Drove at Bicker Fen				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Order Limits**
Recreational receptors (Other Route with Public Access)	Medium	High	High	35m
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Existing View: This viewpoint lies to the south of the A17, within Bicker Fen with the landscape and visual amenity heavily influenced by the presence of the existing Bicker Fen National Grid Substation, smaller scale substation to the north east of the viewpoint, and large-scale Bicker Fen Wind Farm that defines the foreground. Views north extend towards the vegetated corridor of the A17 with the landscape beyond, i.e., the site of the Energy Park, not visible. Views east, towards the revised grid corridor and south east towards the proposed extension to the existing Bicker Fen National Grid Substation are affected by the aforementioned energy infrastructure.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 10				
Sutterton Drove near Sheperds Farm				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	3280m
Existing View: This viewpoint is representative of distant views from the northern part of the study area. The landscape is level with the settlement pattern comprising isolated dwellings and clusters of built form, which coupled with the associated garden vegetation and small blocks of woodland act to interrupt views across the level landscape. Theoretically, the proposed Energy Park would be visible in a very narrow angle of view curtailed by the properties and vegetation along Clyde Bank, for example Maryland House and Chestnut House Farm – seen to the left of the view and more distant farm buildings and vegetation associated with Mill Green Farm. None of the features within the northern or central part of the Energy Park site are visible.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 11				
Public Footpath Ambe/5/1 near Chestnut House Farm				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational users	Medium	High	High	2200m
Existing View: This viewpoint is similar in nature and character to Viewpoint 10, albeit the foreground is free from any crop vegetation. Chestnut House Farm is seen in close proximity to the right of the view, but outside of the presented photographs. Elliss Farmhouse, located along Claydike Bank some 0.7km away and Mill Green Farm, some 2km away, help identify the horizontal extent of the proposed Energy Park – its northern edge. The landscape in between is level, simple, with various hedgerows and trees in the far distance creating a perception of a well treed horizon. Isolated trees and groups of vegetation mark internal boundaries within the Energy Park site. An agricultural barn with skylights, located in the north western part of the Energy Park – field G14, is visible in the far distance.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 12				
Sutterton Drove near Sutterton Bridge				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	1815m
Existing View: This view has been purposely selected to illustrate distant views to the north east and help establish the actual zone of visual influence of the proposed Energy Park. The viewpoint is taken from Sutterton Drove, where a gap in the roadside hedgerow line allows for views south west and west. The property known as Mob's Eye and its associated garden vegetation curtail views to the right. Dwellings along Claydike Bank and roadside hedgerow, marked by evenly spaced hedgerow trees screen views out. The focus is on the immediate foreground. An incidental gap in the roadside hedgerow allows for views out. Due to the distance and heavily restricted nature of such view, however, the contribution of this very distant landscape is extremely limited. The view does not include any features within the site of the Energy Park.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 13				
Harrison's Drove, Other Route with Public Access				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational users (Route with Other Public Access)	Medium	High	High	2030m
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Existing View: The view is defined by the strong sense of openness associated with this part of the landscape, level landform, distant views and big skies. The foreground is open with little structural vegetation. Large scale fields allow the eye to travel freely but only in close range views or to the north where views are long range. Views north east towards the Energy Park, however, are interrupted by the built form and vegetation along Skerth Drain: Cattle Holme Farm and High House Farm. Further beyond, the vegetation and buildings along Brown's Drove add to the visual separation. None of the landscape features present within the Energy Park site are visible in this view.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 14				
Junction of Timm's Drove and Tilebarn Lane, West Low Grounds				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Order limits**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	710m
Existing View: Large scale and very open landscape; large scale field pattern with limited to non-structural vegetation along the field boundaries. The vegetation along the South Forty Foot Drain creates a strong line in the landscape blocking views further west and north. Views towards the Energy Park are not gained. The proposed grid connection route is located some 0.8km away, behind the dwellings along Timm's Drove. The corridor leads from the north, from around Royalty Farm, and leads south towards the existing Bicker Fen National Grid Substation. The proposed extension would be located approx. 3.8km away and behind the existing substation, which is screened by its mitigation planting. Very large-scale sheds, seen behind in the far distance under construction, are associated with the Viking Link project.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: The construction stage, if carried out simultaneously for the whole of the grid connection route, would be visible across much of the available panorama with movement and activities quite evident. The existing large scaly pylons, substation, and large-scale Bicker Wind Farm augment the landscape character, form detracting features, and add to the developed character of the area. This would help reduce the perceived change. The construction zone would be seen at approx. 0.8km away at its closest point without any substantial features that would block its visibility.			High	Short-term, temporary – Major
Operational Phase: Not relevant as this part of the Proposed Development is underground.				
Mitigation Measures: Built in as part of the iterative design process only. No further mitigation measures are necessary.				
Cumulative Effects: Depending on the timing of the application, the construction stage of the proposed grid connection may be potentially experienced in combination with the construction or operational stage of the cumulative scheme Vicarage Drove [B/21/0443]. This cumulative scheme would be located some 3.3km away at its closest point.			Low	Short-term, reversible - Minor

Viewpoint 14		
It is predicted that the construction stage, if occurring simultaneously, would be perceived as one development given the somewhat transformed character of the immediate area and the extent of the Proposed Development and the cumulative scheme Vicarage Drove. The magnitude of change would be low with the effects minor adverse. With regard to the operational phase of the Proposed Development, the cumulative effects are expected to be negligible with the proposed National Grid Bicker Fen Substation Extension Works reading as being part of the existing substation infrastructure.	Negligible	Long-term, reversible – Negligible
Decommissioning Phase: The underground cables associated with the Cable Route Corridor and the Off-site Cable Route Corridor are envisaged to remain in situ with the extension to the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation also retained. Thus, the decommissioning stage would be inconsequential.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 15				
Junction of Bicker Drove and Vicarage Drove along Mill Drain				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Order limits**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	365m
Existing View: The character and nature of this view is similar to Viewpoint 14. Large scale field pattern and limited structural vegetation allows the eye to travel freely across the fenland. The existing Bicker Fen National Grid Substation is screened by its mitigation tree planting. Large scale pylons and Bicker Fen Wind Farm form prominent and highly detract features. Their scale is somewhat reduced due to the openness and large scale of the landscape.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: Construction activity and vehicle movements would be seen at very close proximity, approx. 0.5km away at its closest point. The linear nature of the Application Site would be experienced across the majority of the available panorama when looking west. Views east would not be affected.			High	Short-term, temporary – Major
Operational Phase: Not relevant as this part of the Proposed Development is underground.				
Mitigation Measures: Built in as part of the iterative design process only. No further mitigation measures are necessary.				
Cumulative Effects: Depending on the timing of the application, the construction stage of the proposed grid connection may be potentially experienced in combination with the construction or operational stage of the cumulative scheme Vicarage Drove [B/21/0443]. This cumulative scheme would be located approx. 0.5km away at its closest point. At such distance it is predicted that any potential change to the views would be very limited with a low magnitude of change.			Low	Short-term, reversible - Minor
With regard to the operational phase of the Proposed Development, the cumulative effects are expected to be negligible with no views of the proposed National Grid Bicker Fen Substation Extension Works or Off-site Cable Route Corridor.			Negligible	Long-term, reversible – Negligible
Decommissioning Phase: The underground cables associated with the Cable Route Corridor and the Off-site Cable Route Corridor are envisaged to remain in situ with the extension to the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation also retained. Thus, the decommissioning stage would be inconsequential.			Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 16				
Public Footpath Heck/2/2, east of Heckington				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational users	Medium	High	High	4010m
Existing View: This viewpoint has been specifically selected to respond to the initial comments received during the Scoping Report stage. Coupled with Viewpoint 17, it aims to illustrate views from around the settlement of Heckington and help establish the actual zone of visual influence of the proposed Energy Park. The view is very short range and terminate on the strongly enclosed corridor of the A17. Views out towards the Energy Park and grid connection route are not available.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 17				
Public Footpath Heck/3/1 near Littleworth Drove and Holme House				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational users	Medium	High	High	2025m
Existing View: This location aims to represent views from the western part of the study area, between the Energy Park and the settlement of Heckington, where PRoWs are relatively sparse. Views terminate on tree and hedgerow vegetation in very close proximity; agricultural barn at Holme House is visible amongst the vegetation. This location is characterised by lack of any inter-visibility with the Energy Park site or proposed grid connection route.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 18				
Public Footpath Skym/1/1 and Cow Drove near Whitehouse Farm				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational users	Medium	High	High	2405m
Existing View: This location aims to represent views from the north western part of the study area. Beyond Sidebar Lane, public access is limited to minor lanes, such as Cow Drove, which lead to private dwellings. PRoWs are sparse. The view is defined by the large-scale fields, which form the foreground, high degree of openness, and big skies. In medium range landscape, structural vegetation is limited to groups of trees associated with dwellings and farm buildings. The horizon is very distant with the vegetation seen as a very minor feature against the skyline. The landscape is expansive. Certain features in the landscape and around the proposed Energy Park are identifiable: the small rectangular block of woodland in the middle ground – left of the view, Five Willow Wath Farm and nearby pumping station at Head Dike, Glebe Farm, and triangular woodland near the north western edge of the Energy Park. These features help identify the extent of the Energy Park and give evidence of the very limited inter-visibility with the landscape beyond Heady Dike.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 19				
Public Footpath Skym/8/1, south western edge of South Kyme near Kyme Tower.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational users	Medium	High	High	3595m
Existing View: Similarly, to Viewpoint 18, the landscape is expansive, large scale, with big skies. Blocks of woodland and tree lines break up the landscape but form occasional features seen at varying distance. The very distant horizon appears well treed, with wind turbines punctuating the horizon to the south. Pattingden House is screened by the intervening linear blocks of woodland, seen in mid-range to the left of the view. This vegetation would also screen the north eastern part of the Energy Park. Four semi-detached dwellings No. 91 – 94 along Clay Bank and Five Willow Wath Farm (with two silos), and Glebe Farm are identifiable in the distance (also seen in Viewpoint 18) and indicate the direction of view towards the Energy Park, and serve as scale indicators. The area proposed as the main substation and energy storage compound would be theoretically visible, just over 5km away. None of the nearby landscape features or built form – the large scale shed at Six Hundreds Farm, are identifiable in the view.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Refer to Appendix 6.8. Receptors at this Viewpoint are unlikely to experience significant visual effects. Not taken for detailed assessment.				

Viewpoint 20				
Sidebar Lane, near Pattingden House, South Kyme Fen.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	1515m
Existing View: This viewpoint is taken from a grass verge along Sidebar Lane/ the B1395 when travelling southbound from South Kyme towards the A17. Views are very open and travel across the level fenland landscape. The built form along the A17 is barely perceptible due to the distance with the tree vegetation forming as very minor feature against the sky. The Bicker Fen Wind Farm is identifiable but does not form a feature and appears lower than the nearby electricity poles that cross the foreground. The extent of the Energy Park is difficult to establish due to the distance and limited landscape features present in the view. Tree vegetation around Mill Green Farm assists to a degree.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: Phase 2 would introduce some limited movement and activities in the north western part of the Energy Park, seen approx. 1.5km away at its closest point. Given the distance this would not redefine the view with any vehicle movement forming a very small addition to the view and exerting limited influence. The construction compound would be located further away and any movement and storage materials within it would be inconsequential, in visual terms. The construction work associated with the new substation and energy storage element and Phase 3 would form part of the same angle of view and experience but would be seen behind Phase 2 thus the perception of any activities would be greatly diminished. The constructed Phase 4 and Phase 5, due to being located further away, would be inconsequential in visual terms.			Low	Short-term, temporary – Minor
Operational Phase: The solar modules within the north western part of the Energy Park would be theoretically visible but their perception would be considerably reduced for the travelling receptors. Whilst the majority of the norther edge of the Energy Park would be theoretical visible, in reality, the distance and embankment associated with Head Dike would reduce this perception. The introduced solar modules, if visible, would read as a very minor and very low sitting element in this expansive and wide panoramic transitory view. The proposed central energy compound and substation would be inconsequential in visual terms.			Low	Long-term, reversible – Minor
Mitigation Measures: Consistent height along the northern edge; new perimeter hedgerow to grow out to approx. 3m height, visually linking with various groups and belts of trees – creating a perception of a vegetated feature located in the medium range landscape. Additional woodland trees and hedgerow trees along the northern edge of the Energy Park.				

Viewpoint 20		
Residual Effects: It is envisaged that, with the successful implementation of the proposed mitigation planning, the maturing hedgerow, new woodland trees, and hedgerow tees along the northern edge of the Energy Park, coupled with the embankment along Head Dike the proposed solar modules would be inconspicuous. The upper parts of the substation are likely to remain visible but at the distance of 1.5km, this infrastructure would not be apparent.	Negligible	Long-term, reversible - Negligible
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: Given the distance and assessment of the construction and operational stages, it is predicted that the decommissioning work would not be percpetible, or their influence would be inconsequential. The removal of the Energy Park would be largely inconsequential.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 21				
Public Footpath Skym/2/1 footbridge at Head Dike, Fenside.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational users	Medium	High	High	2160m
Existing View: This viewpoint is similar to Viewpoint 1, in terms of direction of view and general character of the view. It is, however, more distant with the foreground and mid-range landscape largely devoid of any features; acknowledging the proximity to Whitehouse Farm and built form in Fenside. This viewpoint was requested by LCC's landscape advisor, thus has been purposely shortlisted for detailed assessment to prove lack of any evident inter-visibility with the proposed Energy Park.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: Theoretical views would include the construction work across Phase 2 and Phase 4, which are located along the western edge of the Energy Park. At the distance of over 2km, however, the perception of vehicle movement, built form, and activities within the Energy Park would be extremely reduced. The vehicle movement along Sidebar Lane is perceptible, but does not form a feature or attract attention. The same would be true for the construction work within the Energy Park.			Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible
Operational Phase: Given the distance the built form within the Energy Park would not be evident with static solar modules visually merging with the very distant vegetated horizon. None of the elements associated with the Energy Park would be evident or easily appreciated. The focus would remain on the foreground and mid-range landscape with the intervening blocks of trees and vegetation around farmsteads forming the main elements in the view. Receptors at this Viewpoint would be subject to a negligible magnitude of change and negligible effects.			Negligible	Long-term, reversible - Negligible
Mitigation Measures: The proposed mitigation planting is likely to be ineffective given the distance but would reinforce the perception of the distant vegetated horizon.				
Residual Effects: Based on the above the residual effects are expected to be negligible.			Negligible	Long-term, reversible - Negligible

Viewpoint 21		
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: Given the distance and assessment of the construction and operational stages, it is predicted that the decommissioning work would not be percpetible, or their influence would be inconsequential. The removal of the Energy Park would be largely inconsequential.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 22				
Claydike Bank, near Mob's Eye, Sutterton Fen.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Energy Park**
Recreational users	Medium	High	High	1275m
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	
Existing View: This viewpoint is not too dissimilar from Viewpoint 8 and serves as a worst case scenario for views from the nearby Public Footpath Ambe/4/1. Refer to the description of Viewpoint 8 for details.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: Phase 3 would introduce some limited movement and activities in the north eastern and eastern part of the Energy Park, seen approx. 1.3km away at its closest point. Given the distance such activities would be perceived as a very minor feature, seen in oblique to very oblique views from the road and very restricted views from the southern end of Public Footpath Ambe/4/1. The construction stage would not redefine the view with any vehicle movement forming a very small addition to the view and exerting limited influence. Human presence would not be evident with the nearest construction compound located next to a very small block of trees, in the south eastern corner of field SH9. The construction work associated with the new substation would form part of the same angle of view and experience. The constructed Phase 2, due to being located further away, would be inconsequential in visual terms. As the work progresses, Phase 5 would increase the horizontal extent of the works, but at this stage it is predicted that Phase 3 would not require any additional movement or human presence and would form a static element in the view.				Low	Short-term, temporary – Minor
Operational Phase: The farm buildings and unoccupied and neglected two storey high dwelling at Six Hundreds Farm provide a scale indicator with regard to the proposed solar modules and new substation. The new substation and energy storage compound would be seen directly against the various farm buildings and vegetation at Six Hundreds Farm, seen some 2.1km away and behind the solar modules located along the eastern edge of the Energy Park. At approx. 1.3m away the proposed solar modules would be apparent due to their horizontal extent rather than height or mass. Given the height of the bank along Skerth Drain, the upper most parts of the modules would be seen above this man made feature and would read as a simple and very small element in the overall wide panorama. Its scale would be diminished due to the distance and large-scale character of the landscape. The foreground would remain unchanged, and the tree lined horizon would continue to be identifiable, albeit partially screened and influenced by the introduced Energy Park.				Low	Long-term, reversible - Minor

Viewpoint 22		
Mitigation Measures: Whilst the man made bank along Skerth Drain provides some enclosure and limits views in and out of the Energy Park, it is proposed that the eastern perimeter is enclosed with a new hedgerow. It is envisaged that this hedgerow would be maintained, once mature, at approx. 3m in height – sufficient to screen the majority of the solar modules in the south eastern part of the Energy Park. With regard to the north eastern and eastern part of the Energy Park, where the solar modules reach 3.5m height, the proposed hedgerow would be locally maintained at an increased height. The additional hedgerow trees and new woodland along the norther edge of the Energy Park are unlikely to be effective due to the location of this viewpoint and direction of view.		
Residual Effects: It is envisaged that, with the successful implementation of the proposed mitigation planning, the maturing hedgerows and hedgerow trees would almost completely screen the proposed solar modules with the remaining areas of modules seen as inconspicuous and low-lying elements in the view. The upper parts of the substation are likely to remain visible but at the distance of 2.5km, this infrastructure would not be apparent.	Negligible	Long-term, reversible - Negligible
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: Given the distance and assessment of the construction and operational stages, it is predicted that the decommissioning work would not be percpetible, or their influence would be inconsequential. The removal of the Energy Park would be largely inconsequential.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 23				
Brown's Drove, near No.14.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Order limits**
Road users	Medium	Medium	Medium	240m
Existing View: This relatively open view is gained from the central section of Brown's Drove. Views from the road are partially interrupted by hedgerows and trees that mark its alignment. Views west and north west include the nearby Rakes Farm, which acts as a scale indicator. The small-scale block of woodland, seen immediately to the right of Rakes Farm, is located east of Rakes Farm, thus closer to the receptor and outside of the Application Site. The block of woodland further to the right is located in the south eastern corner of the Energy Park. The farm buildings associated with Six Hundreds Farm, visible further to the right, help located the eastern edge of the Energy Park.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: The construction phase associated with Phase 3 and Phase 5 would be identifiable as they form the eastern edge of the Energy Park, seen some 950m away. The construction of the Off-site Cable Route Corridor would cross the close range landscape, between this viewpoint and Rakes Farm. Whilst the construction phase would be located in a relatively close proximity the extent of the works is unlikely to be large and would be localised within the defined corridor. Construction activities within the Energy Park would not be evident. For that reason the magnitude of change is considered to be medium.			Medium	Short-term, temporary – Minor
Operational Phase: The proposed solar arrays are likely to be perceptible largely due to their horizontal extent rather than height or mass. The Energy Park would be seen across much of the view, but would be sat very low against the sky, partially screening the more distant vegetation and built form. The new substation, energy facilities, and associated equipment would be screened by the large scale shed / grain dryer, other neighbouring built form and vegetation associated with Six Hundreds Farm, visible further to the right. Its introduction is considered to be inconsequential given the distance, screening, with the solar modules enclosing and partially screening the eastern edge of this compound, seen some 1.8km away. Receptors at this Viewpoint would be subject to a low magnitude of change and minor effects.			Low	Long-term, reversible - Minor
Mitigation Measures: Whilst the man made bank along Skerth Drain provides some enclosure and limits views in and out of the Energy Park, views towards the grain dryer and other built form at Six Hundreds Farm are available. Thus, it is predicted that the eastern edge of the Energy Park would be visible. In order to reduce the potential for any adverse effects it is proposed that the eastern perimeter of the Energy Park is enclosed with a new hedgerow. It is envisaged that this hedgerow would be maintained, once mature, at approx. 3m in height – sufficient to screen the majority of the solar modules in the south eastern and eastern part of the Energy Park. With regard to the				

Viewpoint 23		
north eastern and eastern part of the Energy Park, where the solar modules reach 3.5m height, the proposed hedgerow would be locally maintained at an increased height, but this part of the development would be seen some distance away thus the change in height of the solar modules is unlikely to be perceptible.		
Residual Effects: It is envisaged that, with the successful implementation of the proposed mitigation planning, the maturing hedgerows and hedgerow trees would almost completely screen the proposed solar modules with the remaining areas of modules seen as inconspicuous and low lying elements in the view.	Negligible	Long-term, reversible - Negligible
Cumulative Effects: The Proposed Development would not be seen from this viewpoint in cumulation with any other solar farms.	No Change	No Effects
Decommissioning Phase: Given the distance and assessment of the construction and operational stages, it is predicted that the decommissioning work would not be percpetible, or their influence would be inconsequential. The removal of the Energy Park would be largely inconsequential.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 24				
View from Vicarage Drove looking east.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Order limits**
Road users	Low. Note: exception to the LVIA Methodology; this road does not serve any settlements and does not connect with other highways; it serves as access to the substation and wind farm only. The scenic quality is degraded by the energy infrastructure.		Low	100m
Existing View: This open and panoramic view is gained from Vicarage Drove as the road skirts the southern edge of the "Additional Works" area. Views from the road are substantially influenced by the existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation and Bicker Fen Wind Farm that define the foreground. Other energy related infrastructure is evident or perceptible in the middle ground and distant landscape to the north and south.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: The construction phase associated with the "Additional Works" area south of the Substation would be seen in very close proximity and in direct views. Due to the location of this viewpoint and line of sight, the partial removal of woodland W7 would not increase the visibility of the existing Substation infrastructure as the majority of this infrastructure is already visible in this view. With regard to the Additional Works area AW2 west of the Substation any development and construction activities occurring in this particular area would not be visible or would be inconsequential as this area is screened in views from Viewpoint 24 and this section of Vicarage Drove. The plant movement and construction activities would be evident but would be contained to a relatively small area and small proportion of the overall expansive panorama. The magnitude of change is considered to be medium and effects minor due to the very close proximity of this viewpoints, partially mitigated by the context. With regard the GIS system, the area of the removed woodland is expected to be smaller and the retained vegetation along the perimeter of woodland W7 would serve to screen the development zone – the construction activities, movement and			Medium to Low	Short-term, temporary – Minor

Viewpoint 24		
plant, storage compounds etc. The magnitude of change is considered to be low and effects minor due to the very close proximity of this viewpoint, partially mitigated by the context. Construction activities within the Energy Park would not be evident.		
Operational Phase: The partial removal of woodland W7 would cause some limited adverse influence as it serves to visually contain the existing substation infrastructure. The open and visually permeable AIS would form logical extension of the existing infrastructure and would be of similar typology and scale with the maximum height parameters set at 15m. The proposed busbars etc within the "Additional Works" area south of the Substation would increase the horizontal extent of the substation infrastructure. This view, and indeed other locations along this section of Vicarage Drove, are substantially influenced by the existing large scale energy related infrastructure which acts to mitigate against the introduced change. The AIS system would be clearly visible, but its visual permeability would help retain the sense of openness. Woodland W7 would be visible behind, helping to visually curtail the development. The large-scale barn associated with the GIS system would appear above the retained tree canopies. Assuming that it would be located within the western part of the "Additional Works" area south of the Substation, i.e., the area closest to the receptor, its visibility would only be partially controlled by the retained woodland. It is important to note that the barn associated with the GIS system would be a permanent feature, retained by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET). Regardless of the proposed topology, the magnitude of change is considered to be low and effects minor given the context. With regard to the "Additional Works" area west of the Substation any development in this particular area would not be visible or would be inconsequential as this area is screened in views from Viewpoint 24 and this section of Vicarage Drove.	Low	Long-term, (partly) reversible - Minor
Mitigation Measures: No opportunities for mitigation planting. Should a GIS system be used, then it is recommended that the barn is painted muted matt and recessive green colour, based on the palette of greens prevailing in the local landscape, such as RAL6002 Leaf Green, or similar.		
Residual Effects:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Cumulative Effects:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Decommissioning Phase: Given the proximity, it is predicted that the decommissioning work associated with AIS system would exert a similar degree of change and effects as those assessed during the construction stage. The removal of the Energy Park would be inconsequential.	Medium to Low	Short-term, temporary – Minor

Viewpoint 25				
View from North Ing Drove looking north.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Order limits**
Road users and recreational receptors associated with the Cross Britain Way	Medium	Medium to High	Medium to High	1.5km
Existing View: Open and expansive panoramic view gained from North Ing Drove. Views are substantially influenced by the existing Bicker Fen Wind Farm that characterises the middle ground. Other energy related infrastructure is evident in the foreground – the two very large-scale sheds (a converter station) associated with the Viking Link, and the pylons and substations in the distance. The existing National Grid Bicker Fen Substation is largely screened although the upper parts of its infrastructure are evident above the tree canopies. The large-scale pylons, converging at the Substation, highlight its presence.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: The construction phase associated with the "Additional Works" area south of the Substation would be seen approx. 1.5km away thus any movement and plant, storage area etc would appear very small scale, being diminished by the scale of the landscape and the distance, and would be inconsequential in visual terms – regardless of the typology. The magnitude of change is considered to be negligible and effects negligible due to the distance and context. With regard to the "Additional Works" area west of the Substation this part of the Proposed Development would be imperceptible, and inconsequential in visual terms. Construction activities within the Energy Park would not be evident.			Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible
Operational Phase: The partial removal of woodland W7 would cause some very limited adverse influence as it forms a linear feature against the horizon. The increased sense of openness would be in keeping with the character of the local landscape and appreciation of the landscape. The proposed AIS system would be seen as a relatively small element in the distance, seen against the sky and in direct context of the existing pylons and Substation infrastructure. Views north are heavily influenced by the aforementioned elements of energy infrastructure and the addition of the proposed AIS system would represent an insignificant and inconsequential incremental change. Whilst visible, it would not be evident or easily appreciated given its 'light' appearance			Negligible	Long-term, (partly) reversible - Negligible

Viewpoint 25		
and visual permeability. The bulk and mass of the AIS system would be very modest, comparable to the appreciation of the existing infrastructure around it with the overlapping upper part of the bus bars being the only element that allows this new infrastructure to be identified in this view. The retained oak trees G42 – G45 (**Appendix 6.3** Arboricultural Impact Assessment, Tree Survey and Tree Protection Plan (document reference 6.3.6.3/APP-179)) along Vicarage Drove would read as a group of isolated trees. In comparison, the GIS system would introduce a large-scale barn, which would be seen just above the tree line with the ancillary busbars appearing to the left of it and over the tree canopies. The perception of the scale and mass would be reduced with woodland W7 screening the majority of the barn and its dark green muted colour allowing the barn to blend in into the receiving landscape. It is important to reiterate that the barn associated with the GIS system would be a permanent feature, retained by National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) . Regardless of the proposed topology, the magnitude of change is considered to be negligible and effects negligible given the context. With regard to the "Additional Works" area west of the Substation the proposed development would be inconsequential in visual terms with the degree of change and effects assessed as negligible.		
Mitigation Measures: No opportunities for mitigation planting. Should a GIS system be used, then it is recommended that the barn is painted muted matt and recessive green colour, based on the palette of greens prevailing in the local landscape, such as RAL6002 Leaf Green, or similar. Consideration should be given whether the roof of the barn should be painted light grey / goose grey as it's visible against the sky.		
Residual Effects:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Cumulative Effects:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Decommissioning Phase: Given the distance and context, it is predicted that the decommissioning work associated with AIS system would exert a similar degree of change and effects as those assessed during the construction stage. The removal of the Energy Park would be inconsequential.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible

Viewpoint 26				
View from Northorpe Road looking north.				
Receptor Type	**Value of View**	**Receptor Susceptibility**	**Receptor Sensitivity**	**Distance to the Order limits**
Road users, residential receptors, and recreational receptors associated with the Cross Britain Way	Medium	Medium to High	Medium to High	1.6km
Existing View: The character and nature of the view is comparable to that gained at Viewpoint 25. Description is not repeated here.				
Predicted Visual Impacts of Proposed Development				
Description of Predicted View / Change			**Magnitude of Change**	**Nature and Significance of Effect**
Construction Phase: Similarly, to the assessment presented for Viewpoint 25, the construction phase associated with the "Additional Works" area south and west of the Substation would be seen approx. 1.6km away at its closest point. Any movement and plant, human presence, storage area etc would be inconsequential in visual terms – regardless of the typology. The magnitude of change is considered to be negligible and effects negligible due to the distance and context. Construction activities within the Energy Park would not be evident.			Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible
Operational Phase: The assessment of the operational stage and scale of effects would be identical to that carried out at Viewpoint 25. The partial removal of woodland W7 would cause some very limited adverse influence as it forms a linear feature against the horizon. The increased sense of openness would be in keeping with the character of the local landscape and appreciation of the landscape.			Negligible	Long-term, (partly) reversible - Negligible
Mitigation Measures: No opportunities for mitigation planting. Should a GIS system be used, then it is recommended that the barn is painted muted matt and recessive green colour, based on the palette of greens prevailing in the local landscape, such as RAL6002 Leaf Green, or similar. Consideration should be given whether the roof of the barn should be painted light grey / goose grey as it's visible against the sky.				

Viewpoint 26		
Residual Effects:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Cumulative Effects:	Not applicable	Not applicable
Decommissioning Phase: Given the distance and context, it is predicted that the decommissioning work associated with AIS system would exert a similar degree of change and effects as those assessed during the construction stage. The removal of the Energy Park would be inconsequential.	Negligible	Short-term, temporary – Negligible