

West Burton Solar Project

Environmental Statement Appendix 8.2 Potential Landscape Effects

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March 2023

PINS reference EN010132

Document reference: WB6.3.8.2



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Yellow highlight indicates potential significant effects may be identified during final assessment process on landscape receptor.	
National Character Area (NCA) / Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT) Scoping Table	Site WB1 5km Study Area
NCA Profile: 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales (NE429)	/
A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains. The mature, powerful River Trent flows north through the full length of the area, meandering across its broad flood plain and continuing to influence the physical and human geography of the area as it has done for thousands of years.	/
The bedrock geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.	
Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops. While much pasture has been converted to arable use over the years, grazing is still significant in places, such as along the Trent and around settlements.	/
A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.	/
Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.	/
Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent flood plain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.	
Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.	
A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.	/
Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert a visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them. The same applies to the gas-fired power station and sugar beet factory near Newark, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.	
NCA Profile: 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (NE554)	
Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.	
Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.	
Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.	
Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber, and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.	
Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.	
Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.	
Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.	
Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.	
Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street; sparse on higher land, with springline villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.	
Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.	
Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-coloured limestone with dark brown pantiles.	
Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.	
RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys (East Midlands)	
Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;	
River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;	
Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;	
Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;	
Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;	
Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;	
Limited settlement and development in rural areas;	
Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;	
Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and	
Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.	
RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales (East Midlands)	/
Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.	/
Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.	/
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.	/
Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.	/
Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result.	/
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.	/
Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fieldscapes evident in areas of arable reversion.	/
Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.	/
RLCT Profile: 4b Wooded Vales	
Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type.	
Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover.	
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment.	
Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat.	
Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations.	
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping.	
Irregular shaped assorted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas.	
Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.	/
RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes	
Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope.	
Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology.	
Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries.	
Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland.	
Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.	/
LLCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley (West Lindsey)	

Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.	
Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape.	
River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.	
Historic parkland landscape including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle.	
Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main road, bypassing original village centres.	
Views towards the west are dominated by the power stations along the River Trent.	
LLCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale (West Lindsey)	/
Agricultural landscape with large, flat open fields.	/
Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.	/
Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelter belts	/
Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.	/
String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating grounds along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.	/
Large farm buildings and individual farmhouse on flatter land to the east.	/
Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.	/
Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'.	/
LLCA Profile: 4 The Cliff (West Lindsey)	
Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.	
Springline villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.	
Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.	
Pond and lakes along the springline.	
BLCA Policy Zones MNPZ 05 Leverton	
Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.	
A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.	
Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.	
Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.	
Isolated farmsteads.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands	
A predominantly large scale arable landscape	
Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham	
Views dominated by power stations and pylons	
Well trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees	
Less well maintained road side hedges, with trees	
Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.	
Limited small woodlands	
Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south	
Views are dominated by Cottam power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands	
This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD	
Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South	
Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties	
Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees	
Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy	
Watercourses are present throughout the PZ	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south	
Views are dominated by West Burton power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views to the north and south , views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough , characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
Flat topography	
A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent	
Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses	
Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees	
Grass flood bank	

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

NCA Profile 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is broadly characterised by a ridge of Jurassic limestone running north from Lincoln to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises prominently from adjacent low-lying land, forming the Edge or Cliff, and giving panoramic views out, in particular to the west. In the north is a second, lower scarp of ironstone. In the vicinity of Scunthorpe are the Coversands, post-glacial wind-blown sands which have given rise to mosaics of heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodland, supporting rare plant and animal communities akin to the Brecklands. At the northern boundary the limestone drops below the River Humber.

Ermine Street, a key Roman route from Lincoln to a crossing point on the Humber, follows the higher, drier land of the limestone plateau. Built in Norman times, the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral occupies a commanding position on top of the Edge and is visible from far around.

Key Features:

Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north–south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.

Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.

Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.

Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.

Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.

Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.

Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.

Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north–south route.

Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street, sparse on higher land, with spring line villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.

Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.

Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-colored limestone with dark brown pantiles.

Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Edge, an escarpment formed of Jurassic limestones combined with an escarpment of Lower Jurassic mudstones, rises prominently from the low-lying farmland in the Humberhead Levels and Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Areas (NCAs) to the west, giving rise to impressive long-distance views. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River. The outcrop of limestone forming the Edge extends south into the Southern Lincolnshire Edge NCA, bisected by the River Witham at Lincoln, and giving rise to a similar landscape of good-quality agricultural land. Lincoln Cathedral, built on top of the Edge above the Witham Gap, is a prominent landmark from miles around.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area, from Whitton on the Humber Estuary in the north to Lincoln in the south. To the east of Scunthorpe a second scarp of calcareous mudstones and siltstones, including ironstone, forms the western margin of the north part of the NCA. These slopes rise prominently from the flat cultivated lands of the Humberhead Levels and the Trent and Belvoir Vales, forming a distinct wooded edge to these areas. From the top of the Cliff there are impressive panoramic views out over the Humber Estuary, the Levels and the Vales.</p> <p>This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. Fields are typically large and rectilinear with gappy clipped hedgerows, or rubble limestone in places. Field sizes tend to be smaller around the villages. The dispersed farmsteads are typically large, with courtyard arrangements of barns and sheds that have developed over time, often overshadowing the original stone farmhouse. Copses of mixed-species trees provide some shelter. In places the limestone comes close to the surface, giving rise to small areas of calcareous grassland, which can also be found in a number of disused limestone quarries.</p> <p>The area is punctuated by a number of prominent features, from the massive steelworks at Scunthorpe and the hangars of military airfields along the top of the Edge, to the distinctive and prominent cathedral in Lincoln, standing high up on the Edge overlooking the Witham Gap, where the river cuts through the limestone. On the plateau top, some airfields have been put to new uses, and large buildings constructed for grain storage, light industry, warehousing and retail and communications masts are often very prominent out on the flat open land of the limestone plateau. Several farms now have large rectilinear reservoirs to provide for irrigation of crops on the light soils of the plateau.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Lincolnshire Edge is a long, prominent ridge, running from Grantham to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises sharply from low-lying land to the west, while the dip slope drops gently to the Ancholme Valley in the east. In the northern part of the NCA this forms a very distinct secondary scarp, overlooking the River Trent as it draws close below Alkborough.</p> <p>Cultural: There is widespread evidence of early settlement along the Edge, including prehistoric burial mounds and linear boundary features. The legacy of the Romans is more visible, particularly the roads that converge on the fort and later colonia at Lincoln. Ermine Street runs north-south along the full length of the NCA. The historic evidence that is most visible is that of the Roman period, with the network of long, straight roads, in particular Ermine Street which links the settlement of Lincoln with the crossing point of the Humber. Other features include the cathedral in Lincoln built by the Normans, deserted medieval villages and, more recently, military airfields and the steelworks that tower above Scunthorpe. There is scope for protecting these features and providing interpretation to bring them to the attention of a wider audience.</p> <p>Natural: The Coversands support important mosaics of heathland, akin to those of Breckland, as well as dry acid grassland and oak/birch woodland.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited, and there is scope for improving access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, especially providing links between urban areas and the countryside.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: While a predominantly arable landscape, it has many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff), the varied habitats of the Coversands, the prominent steelworks at Scunthorpe, historic villages, the airfields and inspirational long-distance views, especially out to the west. In the south is the city of Lincoln with its rich history and inspirational views to and from the cathedral. There is scope for strengthening the fabric of the landscape and for managing further development.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area. This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is shaped by the predominantly arable landscape, with many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff) and the varied habitats of the Coversands.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

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National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover, the NCA offers long, open views. Newark-on-Trent (generally referred to as Newark) lies at the centre with Grantham, Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough on the peripheries. The area's generally fertile soils and good quality agricultural land have supported a diversity of farming over a long period but, because of this, little semi-natural habitat remains. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain provide a strong feature running through the landscape. It is the greatest biodiversity resource, being a major corridor for wildlife moving through the area and supporting a variety of wetland habitats. It also provides flood storage as well as large amounts of cooling water for local power stations.

Key Features:

A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains.

The bedrock of geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.

Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops.

A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.

Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.

Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent floodplain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.

Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.

A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.

Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent and Belvoir Vales offer a gently undulating and low-lying landform with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys and flood plains. The landscape follows a strong north-south pattern due to the orientation of the underlying Triassic and Jurassic geology. Woodland cover is low. On the higher ground west of the Trent, small broadleaved, ancient semi-natural woodlands of oak and ash are frequently found, often as narrow strips alongside incised watercourses.</p> <p>Most of the area contains productive farmland, the majority of which is used for commercial arable production while grazing land for sheep, cattle and horses is locally significant in places. The sandy soils west of Lincoln have low natural fertility, but with fertiliser inputs these also provide very useful farmland, particularly for root crop production. Because of the value of the land for agriculture, the area has retained little semi-natural habitat. What remnants survive include flood plain grazing marsh such as The Holmes near Sutton on Trent, lowland meadows and some small areas of heathland, for example on the windblown sand deposits north of Collingham. Throughout the area, broadleaved woodlands, copses and the networks of hedgerows provide important habitats for farmland species.</p> <p>The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Throughout, hedgerow trees are few and limited to oak and ash, with willow along watercourses. In the east, hedgerows become fewer and the division of fields by dykes becomes more common, giving the landscape a fen-like character.</p> <p>The flood plains are distinctive features, especially that of the Trent; however, the rivers themselves are not visually prominent in the wider landscape and are often completely hidden from view by levees. They flow largely unnoticed, marked only by a fringe of scattered trees and riparian vegetation. The Trent is in its mature form as it meanders slowly but powerfully through the area. For ease of navigation and flood prevention, the channel has been deepened and, particularly in its lower reaches, tightly confined by levees. The Trent and its flood plain act as a major corridor for wildlife through the area and provide a variety of wetland habitats.</p> <p>The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them. Building styles vary but are unified in rural areas by red brick and pantiles.</p> <p>Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power</p>	<p>Scenic: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.</p> <p>Cultural: The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact. Medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation features can still be seen on land uncultivated since. At Laxton the medieval open field system of farming has been retained to the present day. Enclosure and reorganisation of the landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries is seen in the regular shaped fields bounded by hawthorn hedgerows and the red brick and pantile building style of farmsteads and villages. Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires are prominent historical landmarks in the landscape.</p> <p>Natural: A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46. The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Ancient hedgerows are still evident in many places, often as sinuous belts of trees and shrubs, occasionally defining ancient parish boundaries. The Vale of Belvoir has seen a steady decline in permanent pasture and conversion to arable uses. Increases in horse ownership across the NCA have led to some permanent pasture being used as horse paddocks. There has been pig and poultry unit expansion and upgrade across the NCA.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: Recreation is provided by numerous small country lanes and public rights of way, especially along the Trent corridor, including the Trent Valley Way. It is also provided by country parks such as Cotgrave and Hartsholme. The restoration of the numerous disused sand and gravel extraction sites to wetlands, along with the River Trent and the Fossdyke Navigation, provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for boating, water sports, fishing, walking and experiencing wildlife.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Higher ground defines the edges of the NCA from where there are extensive views across the vales. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain is a major feature running through the landscape. Villages are unified by the dominant rural vernacular style of red brick and pantile. The main settlements have strong associations with the area. Distinctive landmarks include Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires and the power stations on the Trent.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: PRow are often limited and lacking wider connectivity, with a reliance on the local rural road network. Greater access is provided alongside the River Trent. The Trent is the main river of this NCA, providing a functional, recreational and environmental link with the NCAs upstream and downstream through which it flows.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland</p>	<p>Character: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.</p> <p>Quality: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.</p> <p>Value: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, small hamlets and larger Market Towns. The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact.</p> <p>Capacity: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

<p>lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works and active sand and gravel extraction sites.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA48: Trent and Belvoir Vales is shaped by the strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland centred on the River Trent.</p>	
<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales.

The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Floodplain Valleys Landscape Character Type is found throughout the region, along the broad valleys of the Trent, Nene, Welland, Wreake, Soar and Dove, and short stretches of the Derwent and Witham. Despite occupying different parts of the region, and therefore contrasting bedrock geologies, the broad flat belts of alluvium and gravel terrace deposits flanking the river channels are a strong unifying characteristic. Historically, the floodplains would have shared common land use characteristics with a predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows and arable fields on drier gravel terraces. Whilst many stretches of permanent pasture and riverside meadows remain, increasing arable and silage production, and the influence of large urban areas and sand and gravel extraction creates significant contrasts in local landscape character. Whilst the floodplains themselves are generally devoid of settlement, the rivers and neighboring gravel terraces have been a focus for settlement for several thousands of years. As such, many areas are noted for their rich and varied archaeological deposits. The majority of the region's major towns are located adjacent to the floodplains and exert a strong but localized influence on their character. Elsewhere, the floodplains constitute some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas in the East Midlands.

The Floodplain Valleys tend to be sparsely wooded, and indeed no substantial ancient woodland sites are noted throughout the region's major floodplain river valleys. However, steep wooded bluffs at the fringes of the river channel and small broadleaved copses are characteristic of some areas, and notably close to areas of settlement on the fringes of the floodplain. Wet woodlands within or adjacent to floodplain meadows are also notable and form important remnants of once much more extensive semi-natural habitat. Despite low woodland cover, trees along rivers and in field boundaries add to the overall perception of a well treed landscape, particularly when viewed at ground level.

Key Features:

- Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;
- River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;
- Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;
- Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;
- Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;
- Limited settlement and development in rural areas;
- Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;
- Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and
- Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Development on settlement margins is damaging the character of the landscape, creating visual intrusion and extending the urban edge into the Floodplain Valleys. In particular the edges of Leicester, Nottingham and Derby, and also Northampton and Wellingborough in the Nene Valley, need to be carefully considered as these are identified Growth Points that will receive significant levels of new mixed use development in the short and longer term. Large-scale industrial developments, such as sewage treatment works and power stations are particularly prominent in this otherwise flat and open landscape.</p> <p>In response to flood risk, engineered solutions, such as concrete flood walls and embankments, have been installed in many locations along the river channels. This has resulted in the canalisation of rivers and loss of riverside vegetation, meadows and pastures, changing the natural character of the Floodplain Valleys, although historic structures can contribute to the character of the river. In some instances, the height of the defences screens the river from view, reducing the sense of openness and sense of place. There is marked evidence of agricultural intensification, accompanied by a move from pastoral towards arable farming. This has resulted in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including riverside meadows, which would have traditionally defined the river channels and distinguished them from the surrounding farmland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Floodplain Valleys aims to protect the open and unsettled character of the landscape from inappropriate development and that tree planting around settlement fringes can help with integration and help contribute to the overall perception of a well treed landscape. The changes from flood risk and engineered solutions are also changing the landscape, but there is potential for landscape restoration projects to assist with mitigation of this change. The potential for river landscape to change is also a key consideration, but there is potential to introduce positive landscape interventions such as biodiversity and nature conservation initiatives.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Floodplain Valleys is conditioned by a number of key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the impact of settlement on the edges of the river floodplain, the interventions associated with flood risk, the shifting of river channels, sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure. There are however also significant benefits to be gained from a range of landscape and biodiversity interventions such as restoration projects. The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Floodplain Valleys appeal to the visual senses in that vast stretches of the floodplain retain an intact and traditional character, despite the intrusion from sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths such as the Trent Valley Way Recreational Route.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys the value (medium) is shaped by the general absence of built development which enhances the quiet, rural character of the landscape, which across the wider area is only occasionally interrupted by roads crossing the river, or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Locally, however this is disrupted by the presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations. Hedgerows and rising landform fringing the floodplain enclose views and create an intimate, human scale landscape fringing the more open floodplain.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain to the east and southeast of Gainsborough extends as far south as Marton. This relatively elevated land is formed by local outcrops of resistant gypsum within the rock strata. There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. These are generally hawthorn, but there are also taller mixed species hedgerows and hedgerow trees, particularly adjacent to roads.

The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton. Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape.

Gainsborough, the major settlement in this area, is located at one of the few crossing points of the River Trent. A number of main roads pass through Gainsborough and are dominant features within this character area. The A156 runs north south and the A631 east west into Gainsborough. Railways also approach Gainsborough from the north and south. South of Gainsborough, the A156 passes through a string of small settlements; Knaith, Marton and Fenton. Towards the south, the A156 branches into the A1133 where it crosses the Fosdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fosdyke is a man-made canal linking the navigable river Witham with the Trent, giving access to the Midland river system from the Wash. Today it is used primarily for recreational boating and there are some limited visitor facilities at Torksey Lock.

The area has some important historic parkland landscapes at Knaith, Gate Burton and Kettlethorpe, and the remnants of a medieval deer park to the south east of Gainsborough. There are also a number of historic landmarks in addition to those in Gainsborough itself. These are the ruins of Torksey Castle and a hall and pavilion at Gate Burton, all of which are highly visible from the A156. This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including, settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the Fosdyke.

Key Features:

- Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.
- Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape.
- River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.
- Historic parklands landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle
- Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main roads, bypassing original village centers.
- Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent.

Landscape Sensitivities:

Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands. The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- The higher land to the south and east of Gainsborough, which extends as far south as Marton.
- The historic parklands of Kettlethorpe, Knaith, Gate Burton and Gainsborough, together with their associated boundary earthworks.
- Ancient woodlands, such as Thurlby Wood, Houghton Wood and Wharton Wood.

- River Trent washlands, such as the Lea Marshes.
- Village entrances which are frequently marred by linear development along adjacent main roads low-lying land along the River Trent (to the west of the A156/ A1133)
- The Fosseydyke -a low lying meadow landscape with potential for recreation
- Torksey Castle, a historic landmark with an important landscape setting

Landscape Strategy:

- New development can be accommodated on the higher ridges to the south and east of Gainsborough, provided it is associated with new tree and hedgerow planting which is designed to integrate with local field patterns.
- Further linear development along the principal roads in the area would be detrimental to local landscape character.
- Entrances to settlements, abrupt road bends and junctions are particularly sensitive sites; they are the focus for local views and can easily be marred by nondescript development. New development at such locations should be designed to provide 'one-off', distinctive buildings, which reflect local building types and materials.
- Many settlements are bypassed by major roads and there is a risk that views to the village center will be obscured by peripheral development; such key views should be identified and conserved.
- New development on the periphery of settlements should always be bounded by new or existing hedgerows and native hedgerow trees so that the buildings are visually 'anchored' within the wider landscape pattern.
- Development on the low-lying land to the west of the A156/ A1133 would be prominent and cannot easily be accommodated without detracting from the gentle transition to the open, flat farmland on the banks of the River Trent.
- New development should not impinge on views of the many important designed parkland landscapes in the area.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting will ensure that these important local landscape features are conserved and enhanced; they should remain a viable landscape screen and a valuable wildlife habitat.
- Priority should be given to new woodland, shelterbelt or hedgerow planting which is designed to link existing woodlands, particularly those with semi-natural or ancient woodland status. Appropriate local species include field maple, hawthorn, ash and oak.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees should be managed to retain the existing landscape pattern, screen settlements and contribute to local identity.
- There is scope to improve the setting of the Fosseydyke as a recreational landscape. For instance, tree planting might be designed to draw attention to the position of the lock and there may also be opportunities for more informal tree groups along the edge of the river corridor.
- Any schemes for the management of local water tables which allow the extension of existing areas of marshland to create relatively large-scale areas of wetland would have significant visual and nature conservation value. For instance, there may be opportunities to re-create riverine woodlands on low riverside banks (left-over belts of land).
- Roads are visually dominant in this area; their influence could be improved by a landscape strategy designed to incorporate tree planting, hedgerow management and signage. This should take account of key views and the entrances to settlements which would often benefit from distinctive planting schemes.
- The landscape setting of historic parklands and built features requires careful consideration, backed by research.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent Valley Character area stretches from Gainsborough and its suburbs south towards Newton on Trent, with the River Trent forming a definitive western boundary. The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain in the east and south east of Gainsborough extends as far South as Marton</p> <p>There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton.</p> <p>Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.</p> <p>This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.</p> <p>Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, Woodlands country groups, giving the landscapes on capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient Woodlands.</p> <p>The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat including a small central meadow.</p> <p>Overall, the Trent Valley character area is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, which is somewhat marred by the presence of the large scale power stations to the west of the river corridor.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough. Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape. River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments. Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent. Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices. Historic parkland landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths along the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 2 Trent Valley the value (medium) is shaped by its gently undulating and quite low lying landform which includes the washlands along the eastern edge of the River Trent. However, a band of higher relatively elevated land runs along the eastern edge of the character area extending as far south as Marton.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term. Views across the area are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone MNPZ 5: Leverton is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Located within the Policy Zone are Sturton le Steeple, North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe and South Wheatley. It wraps around but excludes West Burton Power Station in the east. A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively.

Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.

The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub. The Policy Zone also encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck.

Key Features:

- Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.
- A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.
- Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.
- Isolated farmsteads.

Landscape Analysis:

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone there is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features comprising the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines, high voltage power lines and pylons and a sewage works. This gives a visually unified area overall. The field pattern is partially intact, rationalization is more notable at the center where the land is under intensive arable use. A network of becks extends across the area, the water channels are flanked by vegetation which connects into hedgerow field boundaries. Most hedgerows are well maintained, where gaps occur, they have been in-filled with fencing or left. Trees are apparent in the hedgerows though some are over mature and not being replaced. Smaller areas of pasture and rough grazing surround the becks and villages, an area of parkland style pasture with individual trees is located north of South Leverton.

Settlement within the Policy Zone is predominantly traditional although both North Leverton and South Wheatley comprise a mix of vernacular buildings with both modern and older non-vernacular development, newer buildings tend to be at the village edges. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed. The overall cultural integrity is variable.

Two SINC's lie within the Policy Zone and comprise areas of grassland. Tree cover is relatively low and is concentrated along watercourses and the railway embankments [younger scrub], small deciduous clumps lie near to settlement areas. Oak and ash are dominant with some willow along the watercourses. There are no significant blocks of woodland within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is assessed as moderate which gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity result in a good landscape condition overall.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility results in high landscape sensitivity overall.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve historic field pattern, maintaining existing watercourses/hedgerows including ancient hedgerows, restoring and reinforcing where necessary, create new hedgerows to replace infill fencing.
- Conserve hedgerow trees and replace where necessary.
- Conserve permanent pasture and parkland area near to South Leverton, seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Conserve tree cover and landscape planting, enhance and reinforce where appropriate to increase the green infrastructure and wildlife habitats across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve areas of improved and unimproved pasture and grassland and areas of ridge and furrow.
- Conserve the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.
- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both the existing settlements and new development.
- Conserve the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Sturton-le-Steeple, North Leverton, Hablesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too.</p> <p>Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of MNPZ 5: Leverton stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of elements, with few detracting elements. However, despite being of limited quantity, the presence of the railway lines and the West Burton Power Station form significant detractors.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Policy Zone encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east</p> <p>Overall, with MNPZ 05 Leverton the value (medium) is shaped by the mix of arable and pastoral farmland. Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east. A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity results in a good landscape condition overall.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: A flat, intensively farmed arable landscape skirting the West Burton Power Station. Crossed by large scale transmission lines and railway. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. The major agricultural land use is cereal and oil seed rape production. There are several camping and caravan parks within the LCP.

There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, northeast of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the southeast to the northwest past Cottam Power Station. There are mature trees in association with the historic village cores. There are mixed species road side hedges including Hawthorn, Rose, Elder with mature trees predominantly Ash, but also Willow and Oak. These hedgerows vary in their standard of maintenance. Field boundaries are trimmed, mixed species Hedgerows, predominantly Hawthorn with mature trees -mostly Ash, but also Willow and Oak.

There are various small ponds, water courses and ditches dotted throughout the area with associated riparian vegetation Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- A predominantly large-scale arable landscape.
- Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons.
- Well-trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees.
- Less well-maintained roadside hedges, with trees.
- Nucleated villages characterized by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.
- Limited small woodlands.
- Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape Condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ , the detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam. Outside the villages some of the field boundaries shown on Sanderson's plan of 1835 are intact but intervening boundaries have been removed. The overall cultural integrity is described as variable.

There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands. There are two SINC's in the PZ designated for aquatic and bankside vegetation and neutral grassland. The ecological network is defined as moderate which combined with as variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape Sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to low landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve the traditional pattern of hedges, fields and pasture around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly along roadsides.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity of ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve mature hedge lines along tracks and promote measures for increasing existing tree cover.
- Conserve the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, north east of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the south east to the north west past Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the north west of the Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within this area itself. However, large scale pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.

The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks; species include Willow, Ash and Hawthorn. Internal field hedges are well trimmed in the pasture areas but some hedges are fragmented between arable fields; species are predominantly Hawthorn with Rose, Elder and Ash.

There are two SINCS within this area designated for their aquatic communities: Cottam Wetlands, mentioned above, made up of marshy grassland, swamp and a mosaic of wetlands, and Coates Wetland which is a group of pools with rough grazing. There are two MLAs within the LCP Littleborough (125) and Laneham / Cottam (124). A small portion of the Dunham Laneham (123) MLA is also contained within the south of the area. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south.
- Views are dominated by Cottam power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.
- There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is defined as variable. There is moderate tree cover which consists mainly of bands of riverside vegetation. There are 2 SINC sites within the PZ designated for their aquatic interest. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as moderate, which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife / functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, and long views to the north and south contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

The landform is insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture close to the River Trent.
- Conserve mature trees to the rivers edge.
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly around arable fields.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Cottam.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p>Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks.</p> <p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the river banks.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: PROW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the flat landscape of this area within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 meters AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, species include Elder, Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, and Rose. These also contain mature trees; species include Ash and Willow. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained, species include Hawthorn predominantly, also Elder, Hazel, Rose and Holly.

There are no MLAs within the area and 1 SINC. Small water courses are present throughout the area; some of these contain aquatic vegetation. There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular styles. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD.
- Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South.
- Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties.
- Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees.
- Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.
- Watercourses are present throughout the PZ.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is variable. The tree cover is poor, the integrity of the ecological network is weak which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall. A strongly visually unified area with a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam Power Station to the South and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover which leads to a moderate visibility both in and out of the PZ.

A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to road edges and field boundaries.
- Conserve mature hedgerows to field access tracks.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Seek opportunities to create small woodlands to reduce visual impact of power stations.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p>Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ.</p> <p>The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non vernacular styles.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, these also contain mature trees. However, Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south east of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. There is very limited settlement within the area. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area which also contain mature trees. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained. There are no large areas of woodland.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. The only woodland area is a narrow strip to the west of Littleborough. There are mature trees, species include Ash, Beech Oak, and Willow, and mature hedge lines including Holly within the settlement of Littleborough. Out Ings SINC contains some scrubby woodland. Mature trees are present in the riverside vegetation, species include Ash, Oak Sycamore, and Willow. Field boundary hedgerows are weak and gappy. The hedgerow species is predominantly Hawthorn; trees include Oak and Sycamore. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows, species include Elder, Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn and Rose with mature trees including Ash.

There are 4 SINCs within the area - including Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings, both designated for their aquatic communities. The Ferries MLA (18) forms the northern end of the LCP. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this. The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south.
- Views are dominated by West Burton power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views to the north and south, views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterized by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area. The overall cultural integrity is good due largely to the maturity of vegetation and time depth of the ancient settlement of Littleborough.

Tree cover is low, there are 4 SINCs in the area mostly designated for their aquatic communities, the integrity of the ecological network is moderate which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall.

A strongly visually unified area with a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/ time depth is described as historic (post 1600)' although the settlement of Littleborough is ancient, which gives a moderate sense of place.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover/ sense of enclosure which leads to moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate Sensitivity

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the River Trent and change arable land to permanent pasture where appropriate.
- Conserve mature trees to river edge, and within the village of Littleborough.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to field boundaries.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Littleborough.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.</p> <p>There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP.</p> <p>The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks. PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape at less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. There are mature trees, and mature hedgelines which are often weak and gappy. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD alongside the River Trent. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties and Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river.

The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.

The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.

The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.

Key Features:

- Flat topography.
- A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent.
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses.
- Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees.
- Grass flood bank.

Landscape Analysis:

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as very good. The pattern of landscape elements is unified. The area has few detracting features. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area. The historic field pattern is still evident therefore the cultural integrity is good. Although the area has no SINC designations the trees, improved and unimproved pasture, and riparian vegetation provides a moderate network of wildlife habitats.

A moderate network for wildlife and a good cultural integrity leads to a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is strongly visually unified with a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife has a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is historic (post 1600). The area has a moderate sense of place.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The landform is apparent and has intermittent tree cover which leads to moderate visibility of the area from outside the PZ. A moderate sense of place with a moderate degree of visibility leads to a moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- Conserve pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- Seek opportunities to re-create historic field boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p>The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, dominating views south along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station dominates views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The historic field pattern is still evident.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton 1 Site at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site. The Wooded Vales landscape character area is located approximately 4.25km south of WB1 to the south of the A57 and the Fosdyke and focused on the wooded countryside to the north west of Skellingthorpe.

Character Context:

The sparsely settled Wooded Vales Landscape Character Type generally occurs in north Lincolnshire and lies within the much broader and extensive Unwooded Vales. Whilst various underlying bedrock geologies can be identified, extensive superficial deposits of till and cover sand create a softly undulating landscape. The Wooded Vales generally has a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. High levels of woodland cover are in evidence when compared to the Unwooded Vales and add to local distinctiveness and provide a coherent and recognizable character and strong identity. Woodlands and localized variations in landform also foreshorten views and obstruct wide panoramas to create a more intimate scale landscape than is experienced in the Unwooded Vales. However, uninterrupted panoramic views across farmland are possible, albeit with woodlands often forming a dark backdrop or feature on the horizon.

The Wooded Vales landscape is generally characterized by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well-maintained hedgerows, sometimes marking ancient asserts. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands. Sizable areas of sandy heathland are also evident on areas of cover sand, although some have been extensively forested with conifers. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their course can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat, wet woodland and riverside trees. The vast majority of the Wooded Vales retains a historic, deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland and linked by narrow winding lanes and roads.

Key Features:

- Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type;
- Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover;
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment;
- Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat;
- Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping;
- Irregular shaped assorted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas;
- Open, modern fields capes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The sparsely settled landscape of the Wooded Vales has seen relatively little urban growth, although some expansion and in-fill development is noted in larger settlements, such as Market Rasen, Horncastle and Wragby. This can erode architectural and historic character, whilst creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. Agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation are resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. This contributes to a more homogenous landscape, and the effect is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages.</p> <p>Woodland is a significant component of this landscape, and new woodland planting would be generally appropriate, increasing the overall woodland coverage in the region. However, the landform of the Wooded Vales is typically low and extensive panoramas are possible, often framed by larger areas of woodland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Wooded Vales aims to promote new woodland planting as this is a significant component of the landscape. The aim should be to also protect the distinctive character of the settlements and consider the visual impact of any new development. The restoration of hedgerows should also be given priority to strengthen the field pattern and enhance linkages between woodlands. The impact on the setting of village churches is also particularly important as these are distinctive local landmarks. There are regular patterns of enclosure and modern arable fields where hedgerows have been removed, but due to the abundance of large woodland blocks this helps reinforce a sense of enclosure.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Wooded Vales is conditioned by several key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation that is resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. The loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages that is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Wooded Vales appeal to the visual senses with extensive access to a variety of footpaths often framed by these large areas of woodland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of small villages, hamlets, and farms but they are scarcely distributed within the landscape. This includes settlement of Knaith Park which falls within the Area of Greater Landscape Value (AGLV).</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: to the north of Gainsborough and towards the villages of Blyton and Laughton, there are large areas of ancient and species-rich native woodland juxtaposed with regular blocks of coniferous plantations. Sizable areas of water bodies are also notable within the wider character area with wet woodland sites characterised by native broadleaved species and affording SSSI status.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' endorsed by the strong woodland character, with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness, notably within the central wooded parts.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Wooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRoW within the wider landscape, but this is more than compensated for within Laughton Woods, which is the main focus for recreation.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landscape benefits from the woodland areas that occupy the northern part of the area, but also extend south towards Gainsborough and East Stockwith and include Owlet Plantation.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4b: Wooded Vales the value (high) is shaped by the sparsely settled landscape that has seen relatively little urban growth. The landscape is characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Areas have a positive character, but the loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Mature vegetation is characteristic that occupies the northern part of the area with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There would be a lower landscape tolerance and scope for landscape change due to the presence of extensive woodland that has seen relatively little settlement intervention.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 1)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The Wooded Vales Character Type is found throughout the region, there is another area around Gainsborough, but here it is focused on the wooded countryside to the north west of Skellingthorpe.</p> <p>The Wooded Vales landscape character area is located approximately 4.25km south of WB1 to the south of the A57 and the Fossdyke and within a separate and distinct landscape focused on the wooded countryside to the north west of Skellingthorpe.</p> <p>As such, the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 1 Site and able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB1 Site without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB1 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB1 Site and the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area surrounding Skellingthorpe. There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB1 Site from within this character area. The RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB1 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally to the WB1 Site would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape. Grassland mixes will have established and will create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 1 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing containment and enclosure across the Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB1 Site and the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area. There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB1 Site from within this character area. The RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB1 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. Potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the Wooded Vales landscape character area as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area. Overall, the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the WB1 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a The RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 1 Site. The distance, lack of intervisibility, intervening settlements and infrastructure combined with the low-level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB1 Site and the RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area.	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton 1 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes landscape character area is within the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site.

Character Context:

The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes Landscape Character Type is part of the Jurassic limestone belt that runs from Dorset to the Humber. It is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, both in its physical structure, large scale arable land uses and the character of many of the stone built villages along the lower scarp slopes. However, in contrast to elsewhere with areas of similar geology, locally occurring heathland on thinning limestone created a unique character up until agricultural improvement in the 19th century.

The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale. To the east of the scarp extends a gently undulating and tilted limestone dip slope that merges with the adjacent fenland and marshland fringes of eastern Lincolnshire. It is thought that the landscape has remained largely devoid of trees since the prehistoric period. Whilst it is assumed that the landscape was farmed from at least the Neolithic, place names and occasional indicator species provide clues to the marginal and heathy character of the landscape prior to agricultural improvement.

The consistent alignment of the edge has created a strong sense of linearity, further emphasized by ancient transportation routes. Ermine Street was created in Roman times to link London to York and possibly consolidated much more ancient trackways running along the top of the edge. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that adds to the geometric character of the dip slope landscape.

Despite evidence of long established settlement and exploitation, the dip slope retains a modern and sometimes declining character, largely as a result of intensive arable production and poor boundary maintenance.

However, the edge and scarp villages continue to retain a more intricate and intact historic character.

Key Features:

- Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment;
- Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope;
- Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology;
- Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries;
- Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland; and
- Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosure roads are distinctive landscape features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes; however, these are under threat from lack of management and inappropriate planting.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes is conditioned by the escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, that rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes appeal to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Scarps and Dipslopes are valued for recreation which often focuses on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes the value (high) is shaped by the Jurassic limestone belt that is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, particularly in terms of the large-scale arable land uses. The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighbouring vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (West Burton 1)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is found to the east of the WB1 Site forming a distinctive landscape feature known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff. The escarpment runs on a north south alignment and rises above the Vales and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale and the West Burton 1 Site. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are key views across the area and contribute to the sense of place across this and the wider area. The Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale, which includes the massive West Burton and Cottam Power Stations. Transmission lines cross the flat landscape leading to the power stations.</p> <p>RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is found approximately 2.4km east of the West Burton 1 Site and is not considered to form part of its immediate landscape context. However, given the opportunity for wide ranging and panoramic views west from the scarp of the Lincolnshire Cliff, it is clear that changes within neighboring landscapes could have the opportunity to adversely impact upon the appreciation of the rural setting of this character area.</p> <p>As demonstrated on Photo Viewpoints 15 and LCC-C-A, both from locations along the Lincolnshire Cliff, the arable farmland closer to the scarp is more visually open due to the elevation of the scarp allowing views down into these areas. Yet as the flat landscape to the west of the scarp lays out across the vale, vegetation within it, unites to provide enclosure and containment at a low level giving the impression of a well wooded landscape. Vertical elements that extend upwards out of the landscape have considerably greater prominence, such as wind turbines, pylons, transmission lines and the massive power stations at West Burton and Cottam.</p> <p>During the construction phase the construction of the solar panel areas and associated</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type, associated with the operation of the WB1 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility arising from the host landscapes ability to absorb the development combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the West Burton 1 Site and the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type.</p> <p>The RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the West Burton 1 Site at Year 1 without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally to the West Burton 1 Site would be augmented by increased vegetation cover across the Site (new native trees along the eastern boundary of the Site along with reinforced hedgerows throughout), creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape, whilst reinforcing the appreciation of a wooded landscape in views west from the scarp.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 1 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing containment and enclosure across the Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB1 Site and the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type. Following establishment of the new native trees across the Site, there would be no appreciation of the Substation or associated infrastructure within the West Burton 1 Site from within this character area.</p> <p>The RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the West Burton 1 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area. Overall, the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the West Burton 1 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>

	<p>infrastructure would be somewhat screened by existing vegetation across the Site and within the intervening landscape allowing the array to be readily absorbed into the landscape and not affect the integrity of the Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type.</p> <p>The construction of the substation, given its greater verticality than the low lying array, has the potential to be more visually apparent from the scarp than the surrounding array within the West Burton 1 Site.</p> <p>However, given the distance between the Substation and the scarp, any appreciation of the Substation from within RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type would be in context of the surrounding large scale transmission lines within cross directly through the West Burton 1 Site as they connect with the power stations.</p> <p>RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB1 Site without undue adverse effects.</p>			
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type of the West Burton 1 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 2 and 3) is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme itself within the West Burton 1 Site, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p>	<p>The Cottam Solar Project occupies the landscape to the north of Thorpe la Fallows and extending north across the landscape surrounding Coates and up towards Fillingham. The Tillbridge Solar Project continues from the northern extent of the Cottam Solar Project north towards the A631.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is approximately 1.5km north of West Burton 1. The Tillbridge Solar Project is approximately 7.25km north of West Burton 1.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is within RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character area, as is most of the Tillbridge Solar Project, save for an area on its eastern boundary which is within the RLCT Profile 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes. Other than this small part of the Tillbridge Solar Project, the remainder of the Tillbridge Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Sites are within the RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character type.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of these developments ensure separation between them and the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type. As such, the developments would clearly be within the adjacent flat arable vale landscapes that stretch out away from the scarp allowing the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type to accommodate the changes that arise through the development of these schemes without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects upon RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type of the West Burton 1 Site with the other Cumulative Developments is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme, together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced. Following establishment of the landscape scheme across the West Burton Sites, there would be no appreciation of the scheme or any associated infrastructure from within this character area.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff landscape character area is within the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 1 Site.

Character Context:

The Lincoln Cliff is a straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the center of the district. It is the narrowest part of an extensive band of resistant limestone which stretches from the Humber to the South Kesteven Uplands. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. Isolated storm-damaged ash trees, which often have grotesque shapes, are characteristic features of the scarp slope.

There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton.

The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.

The villages are small and compact. Limestone is the favored building material, with brick detailing and pantile roofs. Boundary walls are generally also constructed from the local limestone. The village of Ingham has grown larger than the others, with the introduction of newer brick houses, many of which are bungalows. Despite this, the center has retained its integrity and identity, with buildings placed around an attractive village green. There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline.

Key Features:

- Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.
- Diverse pattern of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.
- Spring line villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.
- Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.
- Ponds and lakes along the spring line.

Landscape Sensitivity:

A relatively small, but distinctive limestone scarp with a diverse landscape pattern; there is a transition from trees and woodlands enclosing a string of historic springline villages at the foot of the slope to a mix of pastures and arable fields on the steep slopes. The scarp is visible from much of the Till Vale and there are long views from the ridge-top road. The villages have a range of important historic and archaeological sites and many are associated with wooded parkland landscapes.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- diverse landscape pattern on scarp slope;
- wetlands - ponds and lakes at the springline;
- trees and woodlands - at the foot of the escarpment;
- village entrances - narrow, secluded contrast to the ridge-top road along the skyline (Middle Street);
- historic buildings and parkland eg. Glentworth,
- village greens, mature trees, limestone walls and churches.
- pastures on western fringes of villages - provide contrast to surrounding arable land.

Landscape Strategy:

- There is relatively little scope for new development in these historic and sensitive villages; only small-scale development of individual sites and the conversion of existing buildings will be appropriate.
- The 'Cliff' villages have a secluded landscape setting, surrounded by pasture and trees; new development should not encroach on the existing small pastures on the fringes of the village and should be associated with new tree planting designed to complement the existing diverse pattern of trees.
- New development and tree planting should be carefully sited and designed to avoid compromising the views associated with the designed historic parkland landscapes which are characteristic of many of these villages.
- There is a risk that further development on the 'Cliff' villages may lead to coalescence and loss of identity.
- Entrances to the villages are particularly vulnerable to change; there may be scope for development which can enhance the existing approach, but it should be carefully sited and designed to complement the existing buildings and form a clear entrance statement.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Woodland management - including thinning, possibly coppicing, replanting and tree surgery to mature trees - to ensure these valuable landscape features are retained.
- The management of hedgerows (and hedgerow trees) on the margins of villages and particularly at their entrances will help to retain the characteristic sense of enclosure.
- There may be scope for new hedgerow planting on the western edges of villages to reinforce the contrast in character between the 'Cliff' landscape and that of the open arable farmland to the west. Any new planting should be designed to frame rather than obscure views to village churches and other buildings. Appropriate local tree species include field maple, beech, ash, oak and wych elm; hedgerow species include hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, blackthorn, and privet.
- This narrow landscape band has a wealth of archaeological and historical interest. All proposals to alter land uses and/or the landscape pattern should take account of the findings of historical research. Tree planting or other landscape management schemes may be designed to frame key views and enhance the setting of landscape features with historic interest.
- Wherever possible, the reversion of arable land to grazing pastures should be encouraged to conserve the diverse landscape pattern on the scarp and the striking contrast with the surrounding arable farmland. Priority should be given to the retention of existing permanent pasture.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are a number of small, quiet and secluded spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings.</p> <p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosed roads leading to the small scarp villages are distinctive landscape features of the Cliff.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Cliff. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Cliff is formed through its prominence as a unique landscape feature that rises up to the east above the Trent Vale forming a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific</p>	<p>Scenic: There is a diverse landscape pattern along the scarp slope. There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope. The Cliff appeals to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline. The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Cliff provides recreation opportunities often focused on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Cliff provides a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 4 The Cliff the value (high) is shaped by the prominence and contrast of The Lincoln Cliff with the surrounding flat landscape. A straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the centre of the district. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale.</p>	
Medium	High	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 1)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The Cliff Landscape Character Area is found to the east of the WB1 Site forming a distinctive landscape feature known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff. The escarpment runs on a north south alignment and rises above the Vales and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale and the West Burton 1 Site. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are key views across the area and contribute to the sense of place across this and the wider area. The Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale, which includes the massive West Burton and Cottam Power Stations. Transmission lines cross the flat landscape leading to the power stations.</p> <p>The Cliff Landscape Character Area is found approximately 2.3km east of the West Burton 1 Site taking in the leading western edge of the scarp slope and is not considered to form part of its immediate landscape context. However, given the opportunity for wide ranging and panoramic views west from the Cliff, it is clear that changes within neighboring landscapes could have the opportunity to adversely impact upon the appreciation of the rural setting of this character area.</p> <p>As demonstrated on Photo Viewpoints 15 and LCC-C-A, both from locations along the Cliff, the arable farmland closer to the scarp within the Till Vale is more visually open due to the elevation of the scarp allowing views down into these areas. Yet as the flat landscape to the west of the scarp lays out across the Vale, vegetation within it, unites to provide enclosure and containment at a low level giving the impression of a well wooded landscape. Vertical elements that extend upwards out of the landscape have considerably greater prominence, such as wind turbines, pylons, transmission lines and the massive power stations at West Burton and Cottam.</p> <p>During the construction phase the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure would be somewhat screened by</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff, associated with the operation of the WB1 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility arising from the host landscapes ability to absorb the development combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the West Burton 1 Site and WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff.</p> <p>WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the West Burton 1 Site at Year 1 without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally to the West Burton 1 Site would be augmented by increased vegetation cover across the Site (new native trees along the eastern boundary of the Site along with reinforced hedgerows throughout), creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape, whilst reinforcing the appreciation of a wooded landscape in views west from the scarp.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 1 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing containment and enclosure across the Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB1 Site and the WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff . Following establishment of the new native trees across the Site, there would be no appreciation of the Substation or associated infrastructure within the West Burton 1 Site from within this character area.</p> <p>WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the West Burton 1 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff, as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area.</p> <p>Overall, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the West Burton 1 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>

	<p>existing vegetation across the Site and within the intervening landscape allowing the array to be readily absorbed into the landscape and not affect the integrity of the Cliff landscape Character Area.</p> <p>The construction of the substation, given its greater verticality than the low lying array, has the potential to be more visually apparent from the scarp than the surrounding array within the West Burton 1 Site.</p> <p>However, given the distance between the Substation and the scarp, any appreciation of the Substation from the Cliff would be in context of the surrounding large scale transmission lines within cross directly through the West Burton 1 Site as they connect with the power stations.</p> <p>WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB1 Site without undue adverse effects.</p>			
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff of the West Burton 1 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 2 and 3) is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme itself within the West Burton 1 Site, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p>	<p>The Cottam Solar Project occupies the landscape to the north of Thorpe la Fallows and extending north across the landscape surrounding Coates and up towards Fillingham. The Tillbridge Solar Project continues from the northern extent of the Cottam Solar Project north towards the A631.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is approximately 1.5km north of West Burton 1. The Tillbridge Solar Project is approximately 7.25km north of West Burton 1.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale as is most of the Tillbridge Solar Project, save for an areas on its eastern and western periphery.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of these developments ensure separation between them and WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff.</p> <p>As such, the developments would clearly be within the adjacent flat arable vale landscapes that stretch out away from the scarp allowing WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff to accommodate the changes that arise through the development of these schemes without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects upon WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff of the West Burton 1 Site with the other Cumulative Developments is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme, together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced. Following establishment of the landscape scheme across the West Burton Sites, there would be no appreciation of the scheme or any associated infrastructure from within this character area.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton 1 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales.

The Unwooded Vales extend across the majority of the 2km and 5km Study Area apart from the eastern edge, where it shares a boundary with RLCT Profile 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes, and a small section to the south of the A57 alongside Skellingthorpe which is within the RLCT Profile: 4b Wooded Vales.

Character Context:

The rural Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type within a central area of the region on a broadly north south axis, and whilst various underlying bedrock geologies exert a local influence, superficial deposits create a softly undulating landscape and consistent and recognizable character. The Vales generally have a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. Within the vales, low hills and ridges are also important, foreshortening views and creating subtle relief features.

The vale landscape is generally characterized by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of low, well-maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture, often grazed by dairy herds. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their courses can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat and riverside trees.

The vast majority of the Vales retain a deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland, linked by narrow winding lanes and roads. Despite low levels of woodland cover, local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts create visual containment and give the Vales landscape an intimate character. By contrast, panoramic views are possible from elevated locations albeit contained by rising land at the edges of the Vales.

The Unwooded Vales is a simple and unified landscape type, consisting of a limited palette of features and elements, principally comprising, permanent pastures alongside watercourses; productive mixed farmland within a planned pattern of hedged and ditched enclosures; and nucleated villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by narrow winding lanes and more direct arterial routes.

Whilst the landform of the Unwooded Vales is typically low and subdued, rising landform towards their fringes creates a sense of visual containment.

In the broader vales, this is sometimes difficult to discern; however, glimpses of neighbouring elevated areas are often sufficient to provide a strong sense of place. Within the broad vales, and typically along river and stream valleys, more intimate and human scale areas can be discerned. These 'sub-vales' generally follow river valleys with their outer limits defined by low hills and ridges along watersheds.

The soft and gently undulating landscape and low levels of woodland cover creates a relatively open and expansive landscape. Wide panoramic views are possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses. However, a more intimate character prevails in lower lying areas, particularly where intact hedgerow networks or belts of riverside trees truncate views. The Unwooded Vales landscape character type is also perceived as being relatively sparsely settled, with villages, hamlets and farms widely distributed throughout the rural landscape. These are often relatively small and nucleated, with surrounding belts of trees integrating them into their landscape setting, the skyline often only being punctuated by the church spire or tower which can be seen from some distance away.

The Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type has a strong agricultural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of rural tranquillity. This is particularly evident where the vale landscape is intact, with farmland interspersed with small villages and hamlets.

Key Features:

- Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.
- Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.
- Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.
- Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.
- Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well-maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fields capes evident in areas of arable reversion; and
- Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible. Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Unwooded Vales aims to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Many of the rural villages have not seen widespread expansion but development pressures continue with the demand for housing, commerce and industry creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. For development associated with the rural villages, specific mechanisms include Village Design Statements, and tree planting around settlement fringes to help integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Unwooded Vales is conditioned by managing growth, ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Unwooded Vales appeal to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Unwooded Vales are valued for recreation which often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of the Unwooded Vales is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Unwooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales the value (medium) is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquillity. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 1)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction phase, ground and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would predominantly be screened by existing vegetation, however, locally there would be some appreciation of construction activities within the Site.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, as the upper sections of the array is constructed including the Substation, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows, but these would be limited to locations locally to the Site and would not affect the integrity of the wider character area and these activities would be short term. Within the wider area the containment provided to the landscape by the layering of field boundary vegetation, woodland surrounding Broxholme, North Carlton Covert and woodland to the north of Broxholme Lane and alongside the Till tributary combined with the lowlying nature of the development would allow these activities to be readily absorbed into the Site itself and its immediate setting, limiting adverse effects upon the character of the wider area.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks. As well as the construction of the array, there would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including large scale planting across the Site and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries creating a much greater level of vegetation locally and enclosure to the Site, creating many associated beneficial effects. This includes the change to the arable land use within the Site, which would be beneficial to soils and watercourses, significantly increasing biodiversity across the Site and helping to capture carbon. The field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with visual layering of vegetation across the landscape and the integration of the new panels within the landscape.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would adversely affect the character of the 4a Unwooded Vales Character Area within the Site, and the</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT Profile 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB1 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The landscape proposals include for: New sections of native hedgerow throughout the Site to reinstate and connect existing hedgerows. Existing hedgerows would be reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting to help provide enclosure across the Site, whilst respecting the overall unwooded character of the area. A new native woodland shelter belt is proposed along southern site boundary to provide screening of the array from PRoW and transport links locally, which is supported across the Site by the planting of new native scattered trees along eastern and northern boundaries. A new native woodland shelter belt would be planted alongside the tributary to the Till, affirming its position within the landscape as identified within the landscape guidelines. Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term meadow - Tussocky grass mix - Flower rich pollinator mix - Tall herb mix - Diverse meadow mix <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become established, starting to create valuable habitats. Overall, this will help to link habitats and strengthen the overall character locally and maintain a sense of place. Important opportunities to bolster the local vegetation cover, buffering and connecting existing fragmented vegetation, aims to create a more resilient and biodiverse landscape. Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the Site is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would have begun to achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges. With secondary mitigation such as planting and grass seeding being taken into account at the operational stage (Year 15) the following changes to the landscape would occur and the effects are set out below:</p> <p>The new hedgerow and shelterbelt planting and the enhancement of existing hedges which would be managed to a height of 5m would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the array and associated infrastructure. These new and augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. Native woodland belts would follow the routes of the Till tributary to the north of the Site, strengthening this feature in the context of the wider landscape.</p> <p>The planting of large blocks of woodland within the Site have been avoided, instead native woodland shelter belts and individual trees have been utilised to support the existing character of this area. Where visible from within the wider landscape, the new planting would reinforce the well layered landscape with a backdrop of wooded vegetation in places on the horizon. Both new and existing vegetation would have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape locally, retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>The proposed grassland would have established and have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes. The soil quality would be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off would be reduced around the Site enhancing the water quality generally. There would be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>Without Secondary Mitigation having been applied throughout the scheme, the only change to the landscape following decommissioning would be the existing hedgerows which will have been allowed to grow out and will have been managed to a height of 5m. It is assumed that these will be retained.</p> <p>With Mitigation, the negative effects of the physical decommissioning will be balanced out by the long term landscape and visual effects of this mitigation. The now established mitigation planting would screen the decommissioning activities within the Site, limiting opportunities for adverse effects upon the wider character of the area.</p>

	<p>immediate area to a minor degree. However, these effects would be, limited, temporary and short term, and accompanied by additional benefits.</p> <p>Overall, the Unwooded Vales Character Area 4a is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction phase with minor adverse effects to the Site itself and its immediate surroundings.</p> <p>Within the wider character area, there would be limited appreciation of the array, associated infrastructure or the Substation as they are constructed, with the integrity of the character area, and all features within retained and enhanced resulting in Minor Neutral and short term effects to the wider character area only.</p>		<p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape to the adjoining woodland blocks, reinforcing the character of this area. Grassland mixes would have established and would create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation.</p> <p>By Year 15, the Site at West Burton 1 would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature.</p> <p>Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassland reversion - A more varied landscape across the LCA - Improved management of existing vegetation - Less intensively managed land - Soil improvements - Water quality improvements - Increased visibility/definition of watercourses across the landscape. - Increased woodland/vegetation cover - Increased riparian species vegetation - Significantly improved biodiversity - Improved carbon retention/capture - Overwintering opportunities within wetland and elsewhere with Bird mitigation - Potential animal grazing - Reinstatement of historic field patterns - Strengthened Character Area generally - Improved shelter/protection across the landscape <p>Adverse effects (mitigated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels and structures across landscape - Increased hard standing areas – water runoff management required - Potential minor pollution around substations - Visual intrusion in early years - Increased traffic in the local area <p>Following mitigation, the Site would be able to accommodate change brought about through the development without undue adverse effects. The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable beneficial effects in the increased level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the biodiversity benefits that this will bring, creating a stronger, more resilient framework across the local character area of the 4a Unwooded Vales.</p>	
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5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Medium Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Moderate – Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon LCA – 4a Unwooded Vales of the West Burton 1 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 2 and 3) is Minor (Neutral) at year 1 of operation and Minor (Beneficial) at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p> <p>There would be the introduction of new elements and features comprising the solar panel areas and the substation within the character area. However, there would not be the removal of or changes in individual elements or features of the landscape within the character area and with the substantial landscape mitigation planting that would occur as a consequence of the development, the RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character type is able to absorb these cumulative Sites whilst maintaining the integrity of the character of this area.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the Unwooded Vales is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquility. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The presence of the West Burton 1 and 2 Sites would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the Unwooded Vales Character Area.</p>	<p>The Cottam Solar Project occupies the landscape to the north of Thorpe la Fallows and extending north across the landscape surrounding Coates and up towards Fillingham. The Tillbridge Solar Project continues from the northern extent of the Cottam Solar Project north towards the A631.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is approximately 1.5km north of West Burton 1. The Tillbridge Solar Project is approximately 7.25km north of West Burton 1.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is within RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character area, as is most of the Tillbridge Solar Project, save for an area on its eastern boundary which is within the RLCT Profile 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes. Other than this small part of the Tillbridge Solar Project, the remainder of the Tillbridge Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Sites are within the RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character type.</p> <p>The southern extent of the Cottam Solar Project occupies the landscape to the north of Thorpe la Fallows with a number of local roads and the busy A1500 providing separation. There would be no intervisibility between the two developments. The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of these developments ensure separation between them and the development within the West Burton 1 Site.</p> <p>The new hedgerow and shelterbelt planting and the enhancement of existing hedgerows would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the array and associated infrastructure. These new and augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable beneficial effects in the increased level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the biodiversity benefits that this will bring, creating a stronger, more resilient framework across the local character area of the 4a Unwooded Vales.</p> <p>This planting would ensure that the West Burton 1 Site would present a ‘well treed’ landscape in line with the character area aims. The existing woodland and hedgerows locally would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape to the adjoining woodland blocks, reinforcing the character of this area.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects upon the RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character type of the West Burton 1 Site with the other Cumulative Developments is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the West Burton Sites themselves, together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and adverse effects upon landscape character are reduced. The RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character type is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the development of these schemes without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. The West Burton 1 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

Character Context:

This is an agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields and strong rural Character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominantly hawthorn; they are kept low and have few hedgerow trees. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation.

The area is crossed by three east-west. main roads; the A631 to Gainsborough in the north, the A1500 Roman road near Sturton by Stow and the A57 alongside the Fosdyke in the south. There is also an important north-south route, the B1241, which links a number of settlements, including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow. It continues northwards as a minor road, linking a further string of small, nucleated settlements, such as Upton, Springthorpe and Corringham. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting, but the sequence of views to village churches from the B1241 and other smaller lanes is particularly important. A number of windmills, some without sails, are similar landmarks in the landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features.

Some of the villages in the far north of the area, such as Pilham and Aisby, are very small, although archaeological evidence suggests they may once have been larger. By contrast, the larger villages of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow have expanded rapidly as a result of their proximity to Lincoln. There is also some warehouse and light industrial development in this southern area, between the A57 and the railway, and a major transmission line crosses the landscape. To the east, on the flatter land, there are some individual farmhouses and other large farm buildings, often with associated tree planting. Here there are some other interesting features, such as nodding donkeys at the oil well near Glentworth, and a number of above-ground reservoirs. The minor roads that lead across this flatter area to the Lincoln 'Cliff' exhibit the typical form of ancient enclosure roads; they are generally straight, with wide verges, a ditch and hedgerow.

This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Cliff' throughout the southern part of the area.

Key Features:

- Agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields.
- Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.
- Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelterbelts.
- Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.
- String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating ground along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.
- Large farm buildings and individual farmhouses on flatter land to the east.
- Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.
- Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'

Landscape Sensitivity:

This agricultural landscape is sensitive to changes in European Commission agricultural policy and its influence on farming practice. Some villages retain evidence of medieval settlement (earth works and cropmarks) and may once have been considerably larger. There is pressure for built development in villages within commuting distance of Lincoln and for the development of above-ground reservoirs within the open farmland.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- Rural roads and minor farm tracks boarded by wide verges and hedgerows.
- Edges of villages which show evidence of medieval settlement.

- The sequence of views of village churches along the B1241.
- Avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms.
- Small woodlands - their edges are vulnerable to the impact of agricultural machinery.
- Minor streams and their associated riparian vegetation

Landscape Strategy:

- Development on the fringes of villages should be accompanied by new tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with surrounding field patterns. New planting should be native species and design to frame (not screen) views from the surrounding, expansive farmland landscape.
- The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic; new development should be sited and designed to conserve this pattern by encouraging relatively dense development in villages and conserving key tracts of open farmland between villages and adjacent outlying farms.
- Linear development should be avoided particularly on the approaches to villages, as it will lead to the erosion of the landscape setting and the distinctive sequence of views from one village church to the next.
- Entrances and approaches to the villages are particularly sensitive sites, which requires special attention. There may be opportunities for new buildings in such locations, provided they are carefully designed to reflect the small scale and dense massing of traditional village buildings and provided they are associated with groups and lines of native trees.
- The introduction of protected zones between close adjacent settlements, such as Stow and Sturton by Stow, will prevent coalescence and ensure that individual landscape settings are conserved.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- The retention of buffer zones along rivers and streams will reduce the risk of fertilizer/pesticide runoff from arable land and will enhance their nature conservation value.
- There may be scope for new tree/scrub planting (goat willow, hawthorn, alder and alder buckthorn) along rivers, streams and ditches to increase their visual presence in the landscape.
- The nature conservation value of ditches may be enhanced by cutting shallow ledges into side slopes to provide habitats for aquatic plants.
- The existing small farm woodlands and shelterbelts would benefit from management, including thinning, replanting and the development of robust, well structured edges.
- The creation of buffer zones on the fringes of the woodland blocks will help to protect the existing woodland edges from damage by agricultural machinery; subsequent woodland encroachment onto farmland can be controlled by careful tree surgery and on-going woodland management. The aim should be to conserve (or in some cases create) a diverse age structure and an intact woodland edge.
- Trees and hedgerows make an important contribution to the landscape setting of villages and their management should be a priority in these areas, as well as along rural roads.
- Heavy vehicles can erode the character of rural roads, particularly where hedgerows are removed to improve sight-lines at junctions. Hedgerows should be reinstated to accommodate the new sight-lines.
- New tree planting along approaches to villages and farms could improve the identity of the local landscape. Lines of trees are characteristic in such locations. Tree planting should be confined to hedgerows (i.e. not on verges) on all historic enclosure roads.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Till Vale is located east of Gainsborough and the Trent valley and to the West of the scarp known as the Lincoln 'Cliff'. This is an agricultural landscape with large flat open fields and a strong rural character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominately hawthorn, which are kept low, with few hedgerow trees. The landform comes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west, it becomes more open with a flatter landform towards the east.</p> <p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible.</p> <p>Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, within the Till Vale there should be an aspiration to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size.</p> <p>The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape.</p> <p>This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Till Vale is conditioned by ensuring new developments are accompanied by new native tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with the surrounding tree patterns, by ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location and reinforces approaches to villages. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Till Vale appeals to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east. This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Till Vale is valued for recreation which is often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of The Till Vale is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Till Vale provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 3 The Till Vale the value (medium) is shaped by its strong rural character provided by the large, flat, open agricultural landscape that dominates this area. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features. Views to village churches from local lanes are particularly important.</p>	
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 1)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction phase, ground and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would predominantly be screened by existing vegetation, however, locally there would be some appreciation of construction activities within the Site.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, as the upper sections of the array is constructed including the Substation, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows, but these would be limited to locations locally to the Site and would not affect the integrity of the wider character area and these activities would be short term. Within the wider area the containment provided to the landscape by the layering of field boundary vegetation, woodland surrounding Broxholme, North Carlton Covert and woodland to the north of Broxholme Lane and alongside the Till tributary combined with the lowlying nature of the development would allow these activities to be readily absorbed into the Site itself and its immediate setting, limiting adverse effects upon the character of the wider area.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks. As well as the construction of the array, there would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including large scale planting across the Site and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries creating a much greater level of vegetation locally and enclosure to the Site, creating many associated beneficial effects. This includes the change to the arable</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale associated with the operation of the WB1 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The landscape proposals include for: New sections of native hedgerow throughout the Site to reinstate and connect existing hedgerows. Existing hedgerows would be reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting to help provide enclosure across the Site, whilst respecting the overall unwooded character of the area. A new native woodland shelter belt is proposed along southern site boundary to provide screening of the array from PRow and transport links locally, which is supported across the Site by the planting of new native scattered trees along eastern and northern boundaries. A new native woodland shelter belt would be planted alongside the tributary to the Till, affirming its position within the landscape as identified within the landscape guidelines. Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term meadow - Tussocky grass mix - Flower rich pollinator mix - Tall herb mix - Diverse meadow mix <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become established, starting to create valuable habitats. Overall, this will help to link habitats and strengthen the overall character locally and maintain a sense of place. Important opportunities to bolster the local vegetation cover, buffering and connecting existing fragmented vegetation, aims to create a more resilient and biodiverse landscape. Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the Site is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would have</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges. With secondary mitigation such as planting and grass seeding being taken into account at the operational stage (Year 15) the following changes to the landscape would occur and the effects are set out below:</p> <p>The new hedgerow and shelterbelt planting and the enhancement of existing hedges which would be managed to a height of 5m would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the array and associated infrastructure. These new and augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. Native woodland belts would follow the routes of the Till tributary to the north of the Site, strengthening this feature in the context of the wider landscape.</p> <p>The planting of large blocks of woodland within the Site have been avoided, instead native woodland shelter belts and individual trees have been utilised to support the existing character of this area. Where visible from within the wider landscape, the new planting would reinforce the well layered landscape with a backdrop of wooded vegetation in places on the horizon. Both new and existing vegetation would have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape locally, retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>Without Secondary Mitigation having been applied throughout the scheme, the only change to the landscape following decommissioning would be the existing hedgerows which will have been allowed to grow out and will have been managed to a height of 5m. It is assumed that these will be retained.</p> <p>With Mitigation, the negative effects of the physical decommissioning will be balanced out by the long term landscape and visual effects of this mitigation. The now established mitigation planting would screen the decommissioning activities within the Site, limiting opportunities for adverse effects upon the wider character of the area.</p>

	<p>land use within the Site, which would be beneficial to soils and watercourses, significantly increasing biodiversity across the Site and helping to capture carbon. The field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with visual layering of vegetation across the landscape and the integration of the new panels within the landscape.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would adversely affect the character of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale within the Site, and the immediate area to a minor degree. However, these effects would be, limited, temporary and short term, and accompanied by additional benefits.</p> <p>Overall, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction phase with minor adverse effects to the Site itself and its immediate surroundings.</p> <p>Within the wider character area, there would be limited appreciation of the array, associated infrastructure or the Substation as they are constructed, with the integrity of the character area, and all features within retained and enhanced resulting in Minor Neutral and short term effects to the wider character area only.</p>	<p>begun to achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>The proposed grassland would have established and have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes. The soil quality would be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off would be reduced around the Site enhancing the water quality generally. There would be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape to the adjoining woodland blocks, reinforcing the character of this area. Grassland mixes would have established and would create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation.</p> <p>By Year 15, the Site at West Burton 1 would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature.</p> <p>Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassland reversion - A more varied landscape across the LCA - Improved management of existing vegetation - Less intensively managed land - Soil improvements - Water quality improvements - Increased visibility/definition of watercourses across the landscape. - Increased woodland/vegetation cover - Increased riparian species vegetation - Significantly improved biodiversity - Improved carbon retention/capture - Overwintering opportunities within wetland and elsewhere with Bird mitigation 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential animal grazing - Reinstatement of historic field patterns - Strengthened Character Area generally - Improved shelter/protection across the landscape <p>Adverse effects (mitigated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels and structures across landscape - Increased hard standing areas – water runoff management required - Potential minor pollution around substations - Visual intrusion in early years - Increased traffic in the local area <p>Following mitigation, the Site would be able to accommodate change brought about through the development without undue adverse effects. The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable beneficial effects in the increased level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the biodiversity benefits that this will bring, creating a stronger, more resilient framework across the local character area of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.</p>	
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Medium Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Moderate – Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale of the West Burton 1 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 2 and 3) is Minor (Neutral) at year 1 of operation and Minor (Beneficial) at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p> <p>There would be the introduction of new elements and features comprising the solar panel areas and the substation within the character area. However, there would not be the removal of or changes in individual elements or features of the landscape within the character area and with the substantial landscape mitigation planting that would occur as a consequence of the development, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale is able to absorb these cumulative Sites whilst maintaining the integrity of the character of this area.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the Unwooded Vales is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquility. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The presence of the West Burton 1 and 2 Sites would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.</p>	<p>The Cottam Solar Project occupies the landscape to the north of Thorpe la Fallows and extending north across the landscape surrounding Coates and up towards Fillingham. The Tillbridge Solar Project continues from the northern extent of the Cottam Solar Project north towards the A631.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is approximately 1.5km north of West Burton 1. The Tillbridge Solar Project is approximately 7.25km north of West Burton 1. The Cottam Solar Project is almost wholly within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale, as is most of the Tillbridge Solar Project. The southern extent of the Cottam Solar Project occupies the landscape to the north of Thorpe la Fallows with a number of local roads and the busy A1500 providing separation. There would be no intervisibility between the two developments.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of these developments ensure separation between them and the development within the West Burton 1 Site.</p> <p>The new hedgerow and shelterbelt planting and the enhancement of existing hedgerows would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the array and associated infrastructure. These new and augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable beneficial effects in the increased level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the biodiversity benefits that this will bring, creating a stronger, more resilient framework across the local character area of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.</p> <p>This planting would ensure that the West Burton 1 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims. The existing woodland and hedgerows locally would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape to the adjoining woodland blocks, reinforcing the character of this area.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects upon the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale of the West Burton 1 Site with the other Cumulative Developments is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the West Burton Sites themselves, together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and adverse effects upon landscape character are reduced. The WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the development of these schemes without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**

Within the Study Area, is open agricultural land with field boundary hedgerows and some small woodlands. Occasional isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements are dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by hedgerows with trees, and drainage ditches that feed into the River Till.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is open agricultural land, within which is the small village of Broxholme located to the south west of the Site. Existing tree belts and mature vegetation wrap around the settlement, providing enclosure from the surrounding arable farmland and the Site. Occasional isolated residential properties and farmsteads are dotted throughout the surrounding countryside.

The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns and hedgerows. The Site is divided into two separate areas by Broxholme Lane, which crosses the north western corner of the Site. The smaller, northern parcel is bounded on the northern edge by an agricultural drainage ditch that feeds into the River Till approximately 400m west of the Site. The western boundary is marked by an established hedgerow and the eastern and southern boundaries are marked by a combination of existing hedgerows and Broxholme Lane. The parcel to the south of Broxholme Lane is larger and comprises flat, open arable fields, again separated by straight hedgerows and drainage ditches.

Immediately to the east of the Site is North Carlton Covert, a small block of woodland immediately adjacent to the Site's eastern boundary.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Poor hedgerow condition is commonplace across the area with hedgerows often excessively trimmed and gappy and that few surviving trees are in poor condition. There has also been a steady decline in permanent pasture and conversion to arable uses.</p> <p>Large-scale arable farmland and managed native field boundary vegetation exist within the West Burton 1 Site. Drainage ditches also exist across the Site along field boundaries.</p> <p>The land comprises a series of rectilinear field parcels managed under intensively arable production.</p> <p>For the West Burton 1 Site, this intensively managed land has increased the reliance on arable, increased the field sizes, and has degraded the land over time.</p> <p>Overall, the land use within the West Burton 1 Site lacks native vegetation and the intensively managed farmland has led to increase in field sizes.</p> <p>However, the field ditches and a network of managed native field boundary vegetation form a component of this landscape.</p> <p>The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scope to restore the habitats and landscape features that have been lost through agricultural intensification.</p> <p>On balance, land use in the West Burton 1 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation, large power cables, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields. Agriculture is the dominant land use.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanised methods. A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms and residential dwellings linked by long straight roads and a network of minor tracks which follow the geometric field patterns.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques. Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes access the surrounding countryside. The PRow network is limited and lacking wider connectivity. A small number of isolated PRow footpaths surrounding the West Burton 1 Site experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparse settlement and flat arable farmland are the key components that define the land use.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: A limited network of PRow. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the large arable fields.</p> <p>Overall, Within the Study Area is open agricultural, predominantly regular rectilinear farmland with field boundary hedgerows and some small woodlands. Occasional isolated residential properties and farmsteads are dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by hedgerows with trees, and drainage ditches that feed into the River Till.</p> <p>For the West Burton 1 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the large scale, flat and open agricultural field parcels that make up the Site itself and that follow the surrounding field patterns and hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Vegetated drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland within and surrounding the Site.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland dominates this landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation. The landscape has some scope for landscape change since the features are generally commonplace and could be readily replaced.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Land Use (West Burton 1)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The construction activities undertaken within the Site itself would be short term and temporary.</p> <p>The installation of the solar array and its ecological mitigation measures would change the land use and break up a landscape that is predominantly flat arable farmland. The change would be beneficial to the soils, watercourses, and biodiversity. Overall, the land use within the Site is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the array without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features will be retained and enhancement at ground level through initial grassland planting will have beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>The WB1 Site is currently a series of intensively managed arable fields with some varied features but predominantly forms part of a wide and exposed arable landscape. Field sizes and boundaries vary, and opportunities exist to reinforce the character across the Site.</p> <p>The installation of the solar array would change land use within the Site itself. The land would no longer be managed as arable fields. This change would be small in context to the large-scale arable landscape surrounding the Site.</p> <p>As ecological mitigation starts to establish, the overall level of vegetation cover will increase locally. A greater mix of land use will also be attained through the creation of meadows and grassland, creating valuable biodiversity benefits for a large number of species. Belts of native trees adjacent to properties and watercourses will augment the tree cover locally and help to visually link areas of woodland across the landscape, whilst providing valuable biodiversity benefits and better defining these watercourses.</p> <p>New hedgerows will replace those lost to intensive agriculture whilst infilling with strengthen those existing which have been overmanaged.</p> <p>Varied grassland mixes will provide habitats for pollinator and pest regulating species with flower rich and tussock mixes around existing and proposed hedgerows and shelterbelts. Tall herb mixes adjacent to watercourses will provide an open habitat for a wide variety of species whilst further defining the riparian landscape. Instead of the somewhat bland and monotypic arable landscape, the development will create a series of interlinked habitats with strong field boundaries dividing the Sites with an overall much greater level of tree cover. This will enhance the local character generally and integrate development into the landscape.</p> <p>Large areas of varied grassland mixes across the Site would significantly enhance the landscape in physical terms with varied management regimes ensuring that the biodiversity potential is maximised. Potential exists for limited sheep grazing around the Site for short periods, comprising low density grazing in line with conservation methods.</p> <p>The Scheme and its associated landscape mitigation will</p>	<p>As the ecological measures mature, woodland, hedgerows, and grassland would increase vegetation cover across an area dominated by large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p>Reversion to grassland, soil improvements, and river enhancements would create a diverse wildlife-rich land use. New and reinforced hedgerows would be managed to a height of 5m providing a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. Scattered tree belts will follow the routes of existing watercourses, strengthening their presence in the wider landscape.</p> <p>Both new and existing vegetation will have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape, and retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>The proposed grassland will have established and will have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes. The soil quality will be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off will be reduced around the Site/Sites enhancing the water quality generally. There will be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>New hedgerows will replace those lost to intensive agriculture whilst infilling with strengthen those existing which have been overmanaged.</p> <p>By Year 15, the proposed mitigation will have established and begun to mature. Existing vegetation will have grown out and will be enhanced with additional tree species. The overall scene will be somewhat more intimate, with tall hedges in places and trees along roads, watercourse, and</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years.</p>

Assessment of Effects – Land Use (West Burton 1)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
		<p>break up the over intensified local arable landscape and significantly diversify the land-use in the local area.</p> <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become established, starting to create valuable habitats.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the Site is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and will achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>field boundaries.</p> <p>Historic field patterns will also have been restored where possible.</p> <p>There will be a good mix of landscape elements locally and the use of grassland wildflower mixes and some areas of low-level grazing will create a much wider mix of habitats.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 15, the Site would be able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would achieve considerable beneficial effects in terms of varied land use improvements as well as improved carbon capture and significantly increased biodiversity across the Site.</p> <p>Changes to the land use would be seen as Minor beneficial in landscape terms.</p>	
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><i>In combination</i> West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km). The In-combination effects of the WB1 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (WB2 and WB3) is Minor Beneficial at year 1 of operation and Minor Beneficial at year 15 with mitigation. There will be positive changes in land use such (such as those outlined above) as the creation of extensive mixed grassland habitats and enhanced field boundaries that will help reinforce the pattern of the landscape. The existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area is predominantly arable and the change to grassland with a significantly improved hedgerow structure and new woodlands would give rise to overall benefits to biodiversity as well as landscape character in combination with all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

Within the Study Area the countryside is made up of flat, predominantly open agricultural land and is sited at approximately 5m AOD. A notable topographical feature lies to the east where the landform rises to create a distinctive sloping ridge forming a prominent landform.

The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels divided into two separate areas by Broxholme Lane, which crosses the north western corner of the Site. The smaller, northern parcel is bounded on the northern edge by an agricultural drainage ditch that feeds into the River Till approximately 400m west of the Site. The parcel to the south of Broxholme Lane is larger and comprises flat, open arable fields, again separated by straight hedgerows and drainage ditches.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area the countryside is made up of flat, predominantly open agricultural land and is sited at approximately 5m AOD. A notable topographical feature lies to the east where the landform rises to create a distinctive sloping ridge forming a prominent landform. Along this landform lie a linear line of small villages.

The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follows the surrounding field patterns and is divided into two separate areas by Broxholme Lane, which crosses the north western corner of the Site.

The smaller, northern parcel is bounded on the northern edge by an agricultural drainage ditch that feeds into the River Till approximately 400m west of the Site. The western boundary is marked by an established hedgerow and the eastern and southern are marked by a combination of existing hedgerows and Broxholme Lane.

The parcel to the south of Broxholme Lane is larger and comprises flat, open arable fields, again separated by straight hedgerows and drainage ditches.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 1)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>In the WB1 Site, the land is flat-lying farmland which gently drains towards the River Till to the west. Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches. Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography of the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the rectangular fields.</p> <p>Overall, the topography and watercourses within the West Burton 1 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation within flat farmland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes and a small number of isolated PRoW footpaths experience a flat rural landscape.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key components that define the topography.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.</p> <p>Overall, The Study Area is open agricultural, predominantly flat farmland. The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by drainage ditches that feed into the River Till.</p> <p>For the West Burton 1 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by flat agricultural field parcels that make up the Site itself and that follow the surrounding topography and water courses.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat farmland, vegetation and settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable dominates the landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The installation of the panels retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. Within the WB1 Site, the construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p> <p>The land within the WB1 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>During operation, the topography and watercourses within the Site would not change.</p> <p>The land within the WB1 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage ditches and, to an extent, help naturalize the watercourse.</p> <p>The land within the WB1 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however, benefit from the significantly enhanced planting that would create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Level of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Level of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km). The installation of the panels retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. The construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

Within the Study Area, the A1500 (a linear road) passes on a northwest to southeast alignment diagonally across the landscape to the north of the Site. Broxholme Lane, a narrow rural lane, runs south from the A1500, through the middle of the Site and continues south through Broxholme. The Site has overhead powerlines which run across the southern portion in a northwest to southeast alignment.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area, the A1500 (a linear road) passes on a northwest to southeast alignment diagonally across the landscape to the north of the Site. Local roads lead away from the A1500 across the countryside surrounding the Site providing access to the small settlements dotted within this landscape.

Broxholme Lane, a narrow rural lane, runs south from the A1500, through the middle of the Site and continues south through Broxholme. The small settlement of Broxholme is located to the west of the Site.

Existing tree belts and mature vegetation wrap around the settlement, providing enclosure from the surrounding arable farmland and the Site.

The Site has overhead powerlines which run across the southern portion in a northwest to southeast alignment defining the largest vertical elements on the Site and in the surrounding landscape.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 1)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>In the WB1 Site, large electricity power cables cross the arable farmland in an east/ west direction.</p> <p>There is sparse, scattered settlement across the area, and as a result, limited infrastructure within the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Communications and Infrastructure for the WB1 Site is conditioned by the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor tracks, lanes and farm roads that are bordered by wide verges. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scope to protect the character and diversity of the road networks through conservation and enhancement of the local lanes and recognition of the value that the strategic routes provide in connections across the region. The communications and infrastructure within the West Burton 1 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Large electricity power cables cross an open agricultural landscape.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The A1500 Roman road near Sturton on Stow is an important historic route and the B1241 is a strategic north-south minor route which links several settlements including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow. Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The large electricity power cables that crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The east west travel direction often links the older settlements moving in a more random pattern. These roads gain access to smaller villages and are popular for recreation since they provide attractive destinations as narrow country lanes often with hedgerows on both sides.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes and a small number of isolated PRow footpaths experience a flat rural landscape and large electricity infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Large electricity infrastructure crosses the landscape and links with the large power stations (e.g. West Burton Power Station). This is a typical view within this flat arable landscape and the electricity infrastructure contributes to the local distinctiveness. This is a predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes that connect across the landscape to the wider strategic road network linking the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland slightly detracts from the rural characteristics of the area. The local roads (that gain access to smaller villages) are popular for recreation since they provide attractive destinations as narrow country lanes often with high levels of tranquility and isolation.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Large power infrastructure cuts through the WB1 Site in an east/ west direction, splitting the Site into two. Main roads are significant features in the landscape with recent development concentrated along these main roads. The bypassing of original village centers has also changed the spatial function of the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, The Study Area is open flat farmland with large electricity power cables in the area. Large power infrastructure crosses the Site and links in an east/west direction linking with West Burton Power Station. The area has a number of power stations on this flat farmland, including Cottam Power Station and West Burton Power Station. The large electricity power cables link with these power stations, and the farmland and electricity power cables within the Site is a continuation of this surrounding energy infrastructure. The strategic major road network is defined by important historic routes and in contrast, the east west minor road network links several historic and distinctive smaller string of settlements across the area. Overall, the prevailing road network is formed by narrow lanes that are often tranquil and hedged to both sides with wide grassed verges. For the West Burton 1 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by flat agricultural field parcels with large power infrastructure that links with West Burton Power Station in the west.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat farmland and power infrastructure linking with power stations. This is defined by A1500 Roman road near Sturton on Stow that is an important historic route and the B1241 is a strategic north-south minor route which links several settlements including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat farmland and electricity infrastructure. The east west travel direction between the north-south routes links the older settlements moving in a more random pattern, and which adds interest to the landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: There is a network of large electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale farmland that dominates the land. The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland, and electricity infrastructure is part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation. Main roads are significant features in the landscape with recent development concentrated along these main roads.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the Site as they facilitate construction traffic, enabling works, access etc. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the WB1 Site to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Sites and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects. The integrity and tranquillity of these routes, often used for informal recreation, would be affected to some degree by increased traffic during the construction phase but this will be short term and field specific at any one time to the WB 1 Site.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the WB1 Site and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the WB1 Site and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the Site as they facilitate construction traffic, etc associated with the decommissioning of the array. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the WB1 Site to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would have benefitted from the enhanced planting and a more robust landscape which retains the overall character of the landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site. There will be positive changes in the communications and infrastructure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local road network. The existing character associated with these roads and local lanes of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area are predominantly grass verges, with roadside hedgerows or trees providing enclosure. Significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character and views along these road networks in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

The nearest settlement is the small village of Broxholme located immediately to the south west of the Scheme.

Key Features:

The Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure network is broadly defined to the north-west by the large settlement of Gainsborough (approximately 12.5km) which is Britain's most inland port and one of the main cities within the area along with Newark-on-Trent, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Grantham.

To the southeast (approximately 8km), the city of Lincoln is a prominent landmark with the Cathedral that captures the skyline in views across the area. Other settlements to the south include the main town of Saxilby at approximately 2.5km. Otherwise, larger settlements are sparse to the surrounding area.

To the east, the landscape is defined by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads with the A15 (Ermine Street), which is also a Roman road, following a distinctive straight alignment along the limestone capped scarp slope. Ermine Street connects the city of Lincoln from the south as far as the Humber Estuary in the north. The B1398 (Middle Street) also passes along the scarp slope following an almost parallel alignment with Ermine Street and this historic route supports a string of smaller settlements including Burton, South Carlton, North Carlton and Scampton.

Finally, to the west, there are immense coal-fired power stations that exert a visual influence over a wide area, particularly the cooling towers that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

To the west, the A156 (Gainsborough Road) is almost true to the River Trent and passes through the settlements of Torksey, Marton, Gate Burton before reaching the large settlement of Gainsborough.

The B1241 runs north from the A57 through Saxilby and the smaller settlements of Ingleby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.

The A1500 connects the A156 in the west with the A15 on the scarp slope.

With the exception of the villages/hamlets mentioned above, the area is relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. Smaller settlements and hamlets are pocketed through the rural countryside surrounding the Sites including Broxholme, Bransby and Brampton.

The Site lies within the parish of Broxholme.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 1)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The economic driver for the settlements north of Saxilby is arable farming, and this is illustrated by the large-scale, flat, rectangular parcels of arable land, isolated farmsteads, and a network of farm tracks.</p> <p>For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other industry and commerce and a limited amount of leisure. Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.</p> <p>This landscape has some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor farm tracks. The edges of the villages, the sequence of views to the churches and the avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms are also sensitive features. The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic.</p> <p>Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the West Burton 1 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. A number of a listed buildings are dotted across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small, narrow country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The small narrow country lanes provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the value of Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure for the WB1Site is shaped by the nature of the predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes, contrasting with the busy city of Lincoln and town of Gainsborough. The villages have a broad landscape setting and the sequence of views towards churches is an important feature along with the other long views across the landscape.</p> <p>Within the Study Area, the nearest settlement is the small village of Broxholme located immediately to the south west of the Scheme. Around 2.5km to the north west of the Site lies the settlement of Sturton by Stow and the larger village of Saxilby is located approximately 2.5km to the south west of the Site. To the west lie the hamlets of Bransby (approximately 1km) and Ingleby (approximately 2km), and to the east lies the village of North Carlton (approximately 2.0km).</p> <p>For the West Burton 1 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the area being relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. The Site lies within the rural parish of Broxholme.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The landscape is influenced by the sparsely populated flat arable farmland. The string of small, nucleated settlements on the limestone capped scarp slope add to the sequence of views and help define the settled character of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable and scattered sparsely populated settlement. There is little commerce or economic activity other than agriculture. The farmsteads and dwellings add a positive character to the local network where there are associated heritage features.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland prevalent in the landscape, and a sparsely populated scattered settlement, contribute to the value of the countryside within the site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The sparsely populated, flat large-scale arable farmland forms part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction stage, ground, and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would be predominantly screened by existing vegetation. During the latter part of the construction stage, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows may be possible, but this would be short term.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks. There would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including planting and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries of the Site/Sites.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would not affect any of the settlements or other commercial/industrial areas in this area. There would be a change to the arable land use, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels. Development would not have any adverse effects on the integrity of the local settlements.</p>	<p>The proposed development will have little effect on local industry and commerce although the introduction of the solar farm will provide some additional traffic to the roads and lanes locally. Mitigation will be in the form of tree, hedge, and shelterbelt planting as well as shrub and grassland areas which will both screen views of the additional traffic and provide benefits in terms of reducing noise and carbon impacts. The overall increase in vegetative cover and the reduction of over intensively farmed arable land will have benefits locally both in landscape character and visual terms and with regard to a considerable increase in the biodiversity around settlements/isolated dwellings across the area.</p> <p>The development will have no adverse effects on the larger settlements such Gainsborough, Saxilby and Lincoln. There will be no industrial development associated with the use of the WB1 Site, and other built infrastructure associated with the solar farm will be limited to temporary (but long term) buildings with the overall development having an anticipated life span of 40 years.</p>	<p>Over time, the proposals would be perceived as part of the economic activities within the predominantly arable farming landscape.</p> <p>The local settlement and commercial/industrial facilities are able to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects. The proposed Scheme will have no adverse effects in the physical integrity of the settlements adjacent to the Site and there will be beneficial effects in terms of local tree/hedge cover and biodiversity net gains enhancing the local character and the setting of these settlements.</p> <p>The solar panels within the WB1 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. Bird mitigation fields and wetland grazing marshes are likely to be retained and the potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p>

5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km). There will be positive changes to the settlements, industry, commerce and leisure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local settlements and their approaches, and particularly in the context of the church spires. The existing landscape character associated with the outer edges of these settlements of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area is predominantly woodland and tree cover around the margins and the change to grassland with scattered trees and a significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

There are no PRow that cross the Site, however, there are numerous PRow that run within 2km of the Site and to the Site boundaries.

Key Features:

The PRow network is mainly restricted to routes that generally follow the pattern of watercourses, tracks, and woodlands across the area. The PRow network is mainly aligned along field boundaries connecting with the local road network and to nearby settlements and farmsteads across the area. The network is generally intermittent because there are few landscape features to help form continuous links. The footpath network is particularly sporadic in the landscape due to these inconsistent links, the local lanes are used to supplement for recreation and the lack of connectivity. The routes mainly follow an east-west and north-south direction to reflect the prevailing landscape pattern and to connect the local lanes with nearby settlements.

There are no Public Rights of Way (PRow) that cross the Site, however there are numerous PRow that run within 2km of the Site and to the Site boundaries.

Public Footpath Brox/198/1 is located to the south west corner of the Site and runs from Broxholme Lane to Carlton Lane. Public Footpath Brox/197/1 lies directly to the west of the Site connecting Broxholme Lane to the Site boundary. Public Footpaths Brox/196/1 and Scmp/196/1 lie to the west and north west of the Site, connecting Broxholme Lane with the outskirts of Thorpe in the Fallows.

A Public Bridleway, TLF/31/1, is also located to the north west as well as a Public Bridleway, NCar/225/1, located to the east.

Further PRow are located within Bransby to the north west and North Carlton to the south east.

Assessment of Sensitivity - PRoW Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 1)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>No Public Rights of Way (PRoW) cross the Site. The wider PRoW network travels through the countryside. A number of PRoW's surrounds the Site and provides access to the wider landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the PRoW network in the West Burton 1 Site has a high susceptibility to change. The susceptibility of the Public Rights of Way and Access for the Site is conditioned by the limited network of footpaths and bridleways and the availability of the rural roads and minor tracks for extended access. The relevant characteristics therefore have some scope to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. There is however scope to increase recreation opportunities including where there are natural features and historical elements to draw interest from residents and tourists.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape and countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site. A number of PRoW in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside. Recreation is provided by the numerous local lanes and public rights of way, especially along the Trent corridor, including the Trent Valley Way.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. Some views from the footpaths and bridleways offer long westward views to the power stations on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of Lincoln 'Cliff' including Lincoln Cathedral.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside. The landscape feels exposed in parts, but the combination of the bends in the local lanes and small blocks of woodlands provide a stronger sense of enclosure.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape. Roads and minor farm tracks are bordered by wide verges and hedgerows, and this contributes to their function in providing an open setting to villages. Access for recreation is an important factor in these locations.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that cross the Site. Whilst there are some locally, they are limited. The PRoW network surrounding the Site and crossing the countryside to the east of Broxholme often do not connect with the wider PRoW network, limiting opportunities to explore and enjoy the wider landscape.</p> <p>For the West Burton 1 Site, the judgement on value (high) is shaped by the presence of some footpaths that offer long eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'. The landscape has a strong rural character, but the public right of way (PRoW) network is disconnected.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. There are isolated PRoW footpaths that surround the Site. Some of the villages have a broad landscape setting where the minor roads lead across this area as access for recreation, particularly as a landscape with long views and this is a substitute for the sparse network of PRoW.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. The landscape surrounding the Site has isolated public access. There is scope for development and mitigation. The footpaths and bridleways are key features especially where they offer a sequence of views to landmark churches. Some views from the footpaths also offer westward views to the power stations on the Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of Lincoln 'Cliff'.</p>
High	High	High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site.</p> <p>At the early stages of the construction stage, ground, and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would be predominantly screened by existing vegetation.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows, but this would be short term.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks. There would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including planting and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries of the Site/Sites.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would not affect landscape receptors in this area. There would be a change to the arable land use within the Sites, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels.</p> <p>Although there would be an alteration to the views and setting of surrounding PRoW in terms of these features as a landscape receptor, their overall quality would be enhanced in the medium to long term and construction generally would have no adverse effects on the integrity of the landscape character of these routes.</p>	<p>There is no PRoW within or crossing the WB1 Site. Within the WB1 Site, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the Site.</p> <p>Native hedgerows within and on the boundaries of the WB1 Site would be retained and reinforced with new native trees. Hedgerows would also be maintained at a taller height (c5m). The landscape proposals include for a reinforcement of the adjacent boundary hedgerow with new native trees.</p> <p>Once established, these measures, combined with the additional tree planting across the Site, would help break up the views of the Array, substation and associated infrastructure. However, at Year 1 the embedded landscape mitigation would yet to be providing any notable increase in screening of the array with effects therefore similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>As well as the enhancement and retention of native hedgerows, other mitigation includes native shelter belts and woodland planting within the wider WB1 Site. These mitigation measures would help improve the landscape fabric of the existing landscape. Newly planted trees and joined-up and intact hedgerows in the landscape would help break up the flat arable fields.</p>	<p>There is no PRoW within or crossing the WB1 Site. Within the WB1 Site, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the Site.</p> <p>Once established, the new native scattered trees along the adjacent section of hedgerow, along with the taller height of the hedgerow itself would screen and filter direct views of the array and substation.</p> <p>However, given the proximity to the Site, it is likely that there would be some glimpses and overall appreciation of the array within the adjacent fields. However, across the wider array additional tree cover reinforces existing hedgerows combining with new native hedgerow and shelter belts to provide greater enclosure across the WB1 Site and screening views of the wider array whilst reinforcing the character of the area.</p>	<p>There is no PRoW within or crossing the WB1 Site. Within the WB1 Site, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the Site.</p>

5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km).</p> <p>There will be some positive changes to the PRow due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character, however the presence of the array and associated infrastructure would detract somewhat, leading to an overall position of neutral. The existing landscape character associated with these PRow of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area would predominantly provide tree cover along their margins with a change to grassland with scattered trees and a significantly improved hedgerow networks, which would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the landscape and the Public Rights of Way and Access is shaped by the villages and isolated settlement that have a broad landscape setting where the minor roads lead across this area as access for recreation, particularly as a landscape with long views. The PRow network is often confined to the settlement edges where the woodland and tree cover closes down views of this broad landscape setting. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project</p> <p>Tillbridge Solar Project</p> <p>Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Very low</p> <p>Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Very low</p> <p>Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Very low</p> <p>Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Very low</p> <p>Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

West Lindsey District contains a local landscape designation, the West Lindsey Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) which comprises different and disparate parts. These different parts are not named, therefore for clarity, in the descriptions below the areas are named as follows (and shown on **Figure 8.6 Landscape Receptors**):

- AGLV1 – The Ridge
- AGLV2 – Gainsborough
- AGLV3 – Laughton Wood

The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.

The Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) 1 is located approximately 2.3km east of the Site.

Key Features:

AGLV1 The Ridge: This is centered on the landscape associated with the distinct landform ridge extending north from South Carlton to the east of the Site.

The adjoining escarpment of the Lincolnshire Edge defines this low-lying landscape to the east, and this is an important landscape feature in the landscape to the east of the Site.

The landscape mainly comprises of open arable and pastoral farmland with good hedgerow boundaries.

The scarp slope then supports woodlands that appear as a distinctive feature and help define landscape pattern.

There are also further woodlands lining the scarp slopes and surrounding the small settlements that. The landscape is crossed by minor roads and those that descend from the ridge-top route of the B1398 as steep lanes where valuable views can be experienced over the Till Vale.

Views west from the top of the scarp slope across the low lying landscape towards the River Trent are a key feature and views from the junction with the A1500 Roman road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. The views from this location show the transition within the landscape from the trees and woodlands enclosing the string of historic springline villages at the foot of the slope. Village entrances are secluded and narrow at the top of the scarp slope.

The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.

AGLV1 is located approximately 2.3km east of the Site. AGLV1 forms a 20km fringe running north to south from Grayingham village at B1205 in the north to South Carton.

AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.

Assessment of Sensitivity - National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 1)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.</p> <p>AGLV1 is located approximately 2.3km east of the Site. AGLV1 forms a 20km fringe running north to south from Grayingham village at B1205 in the north to South Carton. AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.</p> <p>Recent trends have shown that the AGLV has undergone rapid change in some areas and in some parts, this is leading to homogenization of the landscape and loss of hedgerows. However, there is an opportunity to reinforce landscape character and build in more diversity across the area especially in terms of improvements to hedgerows but also in increasing native vegetation across the wider area, increased broadleaved woodland and improvements to woodland edge species.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the National and Local Designations for the WB1 Site is conditioned by the striking differences across the varying elements of the AGLV and how these can be appreciated across the landscape. There is an opportunity to use landscape mitigation to build upon these differences and bolster this landscape diversity. The AGLV therefore have a limited susceptibility to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. There is, however, robust hedgerows with smaller fields and many trees in these locations that assist with mitigation.</p> <p>Overall, the National and Locally Designated Landscapes network in the West Burton 1 Site have a high susceptibility to change.</p>	<p>Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms expansive countryside views. There are striking variations in character and scenic appeal across the differing AGLV, and this diversity is a key element of value. The main feature is how the narrow landscape band of the ridge landscape contrasts with the wider Till Vale and the wide ranging panoramic views available from within it of the wider flat arable landscape to the west.</p> <p>Cultural: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The AGLV provides a culture of 'soft tourism', in the form of walking, cycling, and boating and short breaks and this is a key aspect of this strategy. The villages at the foot of the scarp slope benefit from attractive settings due to the presence of woodland cover associated with the historic halls and associated parklands.</p> <p>Natural: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside. There is little direct linkage between the settlements to the east at the lower level of the scarp, and so the B1398 as the ridge-top road provides the key linkage and dips down to the bottom of the scarp in this location linking villages</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. There is a strong relationship between landscape character and settlement where many villages derive their sense of place from distinctive views, local landmarks, and features around their edges.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside. The district has relatively few tourist 'attractions' and many visitors just simply enjoy the scenic drives, including the historic churches, the Till Vale, and the Lincolnshire Cliff.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV. The Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) 1 is located approximately 2.3km east of the Site. AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.</p> <p>For the West Burton 1 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of any designation across the Site itself, but in recognition of the elevated nature and intervisibility with the Ridge AGLV to the east.</p>	<p>Character: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The scarp and cliff form a notable element in the landscape to the east.</p> <p>Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages within AGLV1 and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change. The countryside is open flat arable farmland. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
High	Medium	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the WB1 Site, the construction and installation of the solar panels would be approximately 2.3km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.</p> <p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction stage, ground, and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would be screened due to existing vegetation, intervening settlements, and topography.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows. Some views from limited specific areas of the elevated land to the east are likely to occur, but these would not affect the integrity of the landscape receptor in itself and would be limited in their duration.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks. There would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including planting and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries of the Site/Sites. There would be a change to the arable land use, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels. There would not be a fundamental change to the surroundings to the views and settings of the AGLV.</p>	<p>For the WB1 Site, the operation of the solar panels would be approximately 2.3km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.</p> <p>In terms of mitigation for the AGLV associated with the WB1 Site, due to distance and varied relationship with the immediate landscape to their boundaries, it is anticipated that the overall scheme of mitigation will reinforce the landscape character where this has been lost or eroded in the last century to intensive arable farming.</p> <p>There will be a much greater level of tree and hedgerow cover over the WB1 Site although this will be immature at this point. Considerable biodiversity gains will be brought forward by the increase in tree and hedge cover as well as having the benefit of capturing carbon in the longer term.</p> <p>The reversion of arable land to grassland will have considerable ecological benefits, widely increasing the biodiversity, resilience, and sustainability of the area generally and starting to improve soil structure and water quality. Varied grassland mixes and flower rich pollinator mixes will build in more diversity and begin to create visual interest across the landscape.</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree cover, although immature at this stage will have a very minor but beneficial effect on the setting of the local villages and will enhance the character generally in the context of the AGLV.</p>	<p>For the WB1 Site, the long-term operation of the solar panels would be approximately 2.3km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.</p> <p>There will be a much greater level of tree cover over the WB1 Site. This tree cover will have matured to integrate into the existing field boundary and woodland vegetation both locally and across the wider landscape setting of the AGLV.</p> <p>The reversion of arable land to grassland will have established to achieve a rich tapestry of habitats where grassland mixes have integrated into their natural environment and established their natural composition with the help of some appropriate management. Soil structure will be much improved through the lack of cultivation and water quality improvement will be seen.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>By Year 15, new tree cover in the form of scattered native tree belts and shelterbelts/woodlands will have established and begun to mature, reaching a height of some 7.5m. These elements will sit within the landscape and will begin to better define field boundaries and roadsides, with watercourses better presented by riparian species along their winding routes. Hedgerows will have established and outgrown, being managed to a height of 5m creating a layered vegetated scene across the landscape from the higher land and a more intimate environment from the lower levels. Strong lines of tree lined hedges will run across and down the landscape forming a rich pattern of colour and form.</p> <p>The AGLV is able to accommodate the proposed development within the wider landscape without undue adverse effects with long term physical and visual benefits over the Sites as a whole.</p>	<p>For the WB1 Site, the decommissioning of the solar panels would be approximately 2.3km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.</p> <p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has begun to mature to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years.</p>

5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km).</p> <p>There will be positive changes to the wider setting of the AGLVs due to the additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character. The existing landscape character associated with these Cumulative Sites and Study Area would predominantly provide tree cover along the hedge lines and their margins with a change to grassland with scattered trees, which would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the landscape and the Locally Designated features is shaped by the striking variations in character and scenic appeal across the differing AGLV and this diversity is a key element of value. The main feature is how the narrow landscape band of the ridge landscape contrasts with the wider Till Vale. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The cumulative visibility for the WB1 and WB2 Sites would not alter the overall character of the landscape and its Locally Designated features. Moreover, these designations are set within a well-vegetated context or associated with undulating landform that plays a positive role in reducing the overall cumulative effects. The baseline of the AGLV would not be affected but its wider setting would be improved with the landscape mitigation to yield beneficial effects.</p>	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cottam to the north of West Burton 1 (approximately 1.5km).</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes in Nationally and Locally Designated elements or features of the landscape as a consequence of development within the WB Sites. The landscape is shaped by the striking differences where there is a marked contrast between the locally designated Areas of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) being AGLV1- The Ridge and the surrounding flat landscape of the Till Vale. The steep minor lanes that descend from the ridge-top route of the B1398 offer valuable views over the Till Vale from The Ridge. The landscape settings of historic parklands and built features within the Till Vale are often shrouded in woodland, shelterbelts, or hedgerows at their edges. The skylines, key views, watercourses, and river corridors are also key features.</p> <p>There would be the introduction of new elements and features comprising the solar panel areas, the substation area and Cable Route Corridor, however the proposals include for substantial landscape planting, including native woodland blocks, woodland belts, individual native tree and hedgerow which would sit within the landscape and will begin to better define field boundaries and roadsides, with watercourses better presented by riparian species along their winding routes. Hedgerows will have established and outgrown, being managed to a height of 5m creating a layered vegetated scene across the landscape from the higher land and a more intimate environment from the lower levels. Strong lines of tree lined hedges will run across and down the landscape forming a rich pattern of colour and form.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the landscape and the Locally Designated features is shaped by the striking variations in character and scenic appeal across the AGLV and the surrounding arable countryside to the west and this diversity is a key element of value. The main feature is how the narrow landscape band of the ridge landscape contrasts with the wider Till Vale. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The cumulative visibility with the WB Sites alongside the Cottam Sites would not alter the overall character of the landscape and its Locally Designated features. Moreover, these designations are set within a well-vegetated context or associated with undulating landform that plays a positive role in reducing the overall cumulative effects. The AGLV is able to accommodate the proposed developments within the wider landscape without undue adverse effects with long term physical and visual benefits over the Sites as a whole.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.

Key Features:

There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site.

The closest Scheduled Monument is Broxholme medieval settlement and cultivation remains (List Entry Number: 1016797), located immediately adjacent to the southwest of the Site.

The Deserted Village of North Ingleby (List Entry Number: 1003570) is approximately 2km west of the Site.

The Thorpe medieval settlement (List Entry Number: 1016978) in Thorpe in the Fallows hamlet is approximately 1.5km north.

There are no Listed Buildings on the Site.

The closest listed buildings in proximity to the Site are located to the south west within Broxholme village. These are: Church of All Saints (List Entry Number: 1064095) Grade II (approximately 80m west of the Site); the Old Rectory (List Entry Number: 1147028) Grade II (approximately 45m west of the Site); the Boontown Cottage (List Entry Number: 1147027) Grade II (approximately 100m south west of the Site); the Farm Building at Manor Farm (List Entry Number: 1147032) Grade II (approximately 335m south west of the Site).

The Site is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.

Riseholme Hall (Listed Number 1000989) is the closest to the Site at 6.5km and outside of the Study Area.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 1)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings on the Site. There is a Scheduled Monument near Broxholme, and a number of monuments and listed buildings in the area.</p> <p>The Site is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area or Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the West Burton 1 Site have a high susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Medieval settlement and cultivation remains (List Entry Number: 1016797), located immediately adjacent to the southwest of the Site.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>For the West Burton 1 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the absence of assets across the Site itself and the proximity to Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monument at Broxholme.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in this landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside, and the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the area have not become degraded.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside has little man-made interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
High	Medium	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Within the WB1 Site, the construction and installation of the solar panels would not interfere with the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens surrounding the Site. There would be a change to the arable land use, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels. There would not be a fundamental change to the surroundings to the views and settings of the landscape receptors.</p>	<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree and hedgerow cover across the Site would help to reinforce the structure and character of the landscape within and surrounding the Site helping reinforce the wider character of the landscape in which heritage assets are appreciated.</p>	<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree and hedgerow cover across the Site would help to reinforce the structure and character of the landscape within and surrounding the Site helping reinforce the wider character of the landscape in which heritage assets are appreciated.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff. Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has begun to mature to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km).</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree and hedgerow cover across the Site would help to reinforce the structure and character of the landscape within and surrounding the Site helping reinforce the wider character of the landscape in which heritage assets are appreciated.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 1, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

Natural Designations include National Parks and AONBs. In addition to these there are further national and international statutory environmental designations which contribute to England's natural environment and make a major contribution to national and regional character. These include the following:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Ramsar Sites
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 1)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations have a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site. There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>For the West Burton 1 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of designations across the Site or locally.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands or Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside has little man-made interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km). There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Contents

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- 8.2.2.2 LCA Overview [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.2.3 Individual Land Use Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.2.4 Individual Topography and Watercourses Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.2.5 Individual Communications and Infrastructure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.2.6 Individual Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.2.7 Individual Public Rights of Way and Access Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.2.8 Individual Nationally and Locally Designated Landscapes Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.2.9 Individual Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.2.10 Individual Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]

Yellow highlight indicates potential significant effects may be identified during final assessment process on landscape receptor.	
National Character Area (NCA) / Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT) Scoping Table	Sites WB2 5km Study Area
NCA Profile: 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales (NE429)	/
A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains. The mature, powerful River Trent flows north through the full length of the area, meandering across its broad flood plain and continuing to influence the physical and human geography of the area as it has done for thousands of years.	/
The bedrock geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.	
Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops. While much pasture has been converted to arable use over the years, grazing is still significant in places, such as along the Trent and around settlements.	/
A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.	/
Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.	/
Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent flood plain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.	
Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.	
A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.	/
Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert a visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them. The same applies to the gas-fired power station and sugar beet factory near Newark, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.	
NCA Profile: 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (NE554)	
Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.	
Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.	
Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.	
Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber, and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.	
Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.	
Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.	
Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.	
Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.	
Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street; sparse on higher land, with springline villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.	
Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgeline.	
Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-coloured limestone with dark brown pantiles.	
Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.	
RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys (East Midlands)	
Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;	
River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;	
Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;	
Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;	
Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;	
Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;	
Limited settlement and development in rural areas;	/
Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;	/
Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and	
Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.	
RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales (East Midlands)	/
Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.	/
Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.	/
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.	/
Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.	/
Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result.	/
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.	/
Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fieldscapes evident in areas of arable reversion.	/
Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.	/
RLCT Profile: 4b Wooded Vales	
Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type.	
Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover.	
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment.	
Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat.	/
Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations.	
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping.	
Irregular shaped assorted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas.	
Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.	/
RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes	
Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope.	
Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology.	
Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries.	
Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland.	
Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.	/

LLCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley (West Lindsey)	
Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.	
Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape.	
River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.	
Historic parkland landscape including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle.	
Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main road, bypassing original village centres.	
Views towards the west are dominated by the power stations along the River Trent.	
LLCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale (West Lindsey)	/
Agricultural landscape with large, flat open fields.	/
Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.	/
Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelter belts	/
Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.	/
String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating grounds along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.	/
Large farm buildings and individual farmhouse on flatter land to the east.	/
Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.	/
Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'.	
LLCA Profile: 4 The Cliff (West Lindsey)	
Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.	
Springline villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.	
Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.	
Pond and lakes along the springline.	
BLCA Policy Zones MNPZ 05 Leverton	
Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.	
A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.	
Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.	
Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.	
Isolated farmsteads.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands	
A predominantly large scale arable landscape	
Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham	
Views dominated by power stations and pylons	
Well trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees	
Less well maintained road side hedges, with trees	
Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.	
Limited small woodlands	
Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south	
Views are dominated by Cottam power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands	
This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD	
Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South	
Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties	
Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees	
Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy	
Watercourses are present throughout the PZ	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south	
Views are dominated by West Burton power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views to the north and south , views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough , characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
Flat topography	
A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent	
Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses	
Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees	
Grass flood bank	

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

NCA Profile 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is broadly characterised by a ridge of Jurassic limestone running north from Lincoln to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises prominently from adjacent low-lying land, forming the Edge or Cliff, and giving panoramic views out, in particular to the west. In the north is a second, lower scarp of ironstone. In the vicinity of Scunthorpe are the Coversands, post-glacial wind-blown sands which have given rise to mosaics of heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodland, supporting rare plant and animal communities akin to the Brecklands. At the northern boundary the limestone drops below the River Humber.

Ermine Street, a key Roman route from Lincoln to a crossing point on the Humber, follows the higher, drier land of the limestone plateau. Built in Norman times, the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral occupies a commanding position on top of the Edge and is visible from far around.

Key Features:

Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.

Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.

Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.

Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.

Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.

Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.

Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.

Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.

Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street, sparse on higher land, with spring line villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.

Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.

Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-colored limestone with dark brown pantiles.

Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Edge, an escarpment formed of Jurassic limestones combined with an escarpment of Lower Jurassic mudstones, rises prominently from the low-lying farmland in the Humberhead Levels and Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Areas (NCAs) to the west, giving rise to impressive long-distance views. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River. The outcrop of limestone forming the Edge extends south into the Southern Lincolnshire Edge NCA, bisected by the River Witham at Lincoln, and giving rise to a similar landscape of good-quality agricultural land. Lincoln Cathedral, built on top of the Edge above the Witham Gap, is a prominent landmark from miles around.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area, from Whitton on the Humber Estuary in the north to Lincoln in the south. To the east of Scunthorpe a second scarp of calcareous mudstones and siltstones, including ironstone, forms the western margin of the north part of the NCA. These slopes rise prominently from the flat cultivated lands of the Humberhead Levels and the Trent and Belvoir Vales, forming a distinct wooded edge to these areas. From the top of the Cliff there are impressive panoramic views out over the Humber Estuary, the Levels and the Vales.</p> <p>This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. Fields are typically large and rectilinear with gappy clipped hedgerows, or rubble limestone in places. Field sizes tend to be smaller around the villages. The dispersed farmsteads are typically large, with courtyard arrangements of barns and sheds that have developed over time, often overshadowing the original stone farmhouse. Copses of mixed-species trees provide some shelter. In places the limestone comes close to the surface, giving rise to small areas of calcareous grassland, which can also be found in a number of disused limestone quarries.</p> <p>The area is punctuated by a number of prominent features, from the massive steelworks at Scunthorpe and the hangars of military airfields along the top of the Edge, to the distinctive and prominent cathedral in Lincoln, standing high up on the Edge overlooking the Witham Gap, where the river cuts through the limestone. On the plateau top, some airfields have been put to new uses, and large buildings constructed for grain storage, light industry, warehousing and retail and communications masts are often very prominent out on the flat open land of the limestone plateau. Several farms now have large rectilinear reservoirs to provide for irrigation of crops on the light soils of the plateau.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Lincolnshire Edge is a long, prominent ridge, running from Grantham to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises sharply from low-lying land to the west, while the dip slope drops gently to the Ancholme Valley in the east. In the northern part of the NCA this forms a very distinct secondary scarp, overlooking the River Trent as it draws close below Alkborough.</p> <p>Cultural: There is widespread evidence of early settlement along the Edge, including prehistoric burial mounds and linear boundary features. The legacy of the Romans is more visible, particularly the roads that converge on the fort and later colonia at Lincoln. Ermine Street runs north-south along the full length of the NCA. The historic evidence that is most visible is that of the Roman period, with the network of long, straight roads, in particular Ermine Street which links the settlement of Lincoln with the crossing point of the Humber. Other features include the cathedral in Lincoln built by the Normans, deserted medieval villages and, more recently, military airfields and the steelworks that tower above Scunthorpe. There is scope for protecting these features and providing interpretation to bring them to the attention of a wider audience.</p> <p>Natural: The Coversands support important mosaics of heathland, akin to those of Breckland, as well as dry acid grassland and oak/birch woodland.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited, and there is scope for improving access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, especially providing links between urban areas and the countryside.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: While a predominantly arable landscape, it has many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff), the varied habitats of the Coversands, the prominent steelworks at Scunthorpe, historic villages, the airfields and inspirational long-distance views, especially out to the west. In the south is the city of Lincoln with its rich history and inspirational views to and from the cathedral. There is scope for strengthening the fabric of the landscape and for managing further development.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area. This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is shaped by the predominantly arable landscape, with many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff) and the varied habitats of the Coversands.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover, the NCA offers long, open views. Newark-on-Trent (generally referred to as Newark) lies at the centre with Grantham, Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough on the peripheries. The area's generally fertile soils and good quality agricultural land have supported a diversity of farming over a long period but, because of this, little semi-natural habitat remains. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain provide a strong feature running through the landscape. It is the greatest biodiversity resource, being a major corridor for wildlife moving through the area and supporting a variety of wetland habitats. It also provides flood storage as well as large amounts of cooling water for local power stations.

Key Features:

A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains.

The bedrock of geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.

Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops.

A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.

Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.

Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent floodplain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.

Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.

A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.

Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent and Belvoir Vales offer a gently undulating and low-lying landform with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys and flood plains. The landscape follows a strong north-south pattern due to the orientation of the underlying Triassic and Jurassic geology. Woodland cover is low. On the higher ground west of the Trent, small broadleaved, ancient semi-natural woodlands of oak and ash are frequently found, often as narrow strips alongside incised watercourses.</p> <p>Most of the area contains productive farmland, the majority of which is used for commercial arable production while grazing land for sheep, cattle and horses is locally significant in places. The sandy soils west of Lincoln have low natural fertility, but with fertiliser inputs these also provide very useful farmland, particularly for root crop production. Because of the value of the land for agriculture, the area has retained little semi-natural habitat. What remnants survive include flood plain grazing marsh such as The Holmes near Sutton on Trent, lowland meadows and some small areas of heathland, for example on the windblown sand deposits north of Collingham. Throughout the area, broadleaved woodlands, copses and the networks of hedgerows provide important habitats for farmland species.</p> <p>The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Throughout, hedgerow trees are few and limited to oak and ash, with willow along watercourses. In the east, hedgerows become fewer and the division of fields by dykes becomes more common, giving the landscape a fen-like character.</p> <p>The flood plains are distinctive features, especially that of the Trent; however, the rivers themselves are not visually prominent in the wider landscape and are often completely hidden from view by levees. They flow largely unnoticed, marked only by a fringe of scattered trees and riparian vegetation. The Trent is in its mature form as it meanders slowly but powerfully through the area. For ease of navigation and flood prevention, the channel has been deepened and, particularly in its lower reaches, tightly confined by levees. The Trent and its flood plain act as a major corridor for wildlife through the area and provide a variety of wetland habitats.</p> <p>The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them. Building styles vary but are unified in rural areas by red brick and pantiles.</p> <p>Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power</p>	<p>Scenic: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.</p> <p>Cultural: The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact. Medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation features can still be seen on land uncultivated since. At Laxton the medieval open field system of farming has been retained to the present day. Enclosure and reorganisation of the landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries is seen in the regular shaped fields bounded by hawthorn hedgerows and the red brick and pantile building style of farmsteads and villages. Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires are prominent historical landmarks in the landscape.</p> <p>Natural: A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46. The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Ancient hedgerows are still evident in many places, often as sinuous belts of trees and shrubs, occasionally defining ancient parish boundaries. The Vale of Belvoir has seen a steady decline in permanent pasture and conversion to arable uses. Increases in horse ownership across the NCA have led to some permanent pasture being used as horse paddocks. There has been pig and poultry unit expansion and upgrade across the NCA.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: Recreation is provided by numerous small country lanes and public rights of way, especially along the Trent corridor, including the Trent Valley Way. It is also provided by country parks such as Cotgrave and Hartsholme. The restoration of the numerous disused sand and gravel extraction sites to wetlands, along with the River Trent and the Fossdyke Navigation, provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for boating, water sports, fishing, walking and experiencing wildlife.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Higher ground defines the edges of the NCA from where there are extensive views across the vales. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain is a major feature running through the landscape. Villages are unified by the dominant rural vernacular style of red brick and pantile. The main settlements have strong associations with the area. Distinctive landmarks include Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires and the power stations on the Trent.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: PRow are often limited and lacking wider connectivity, with a reliance on the local rural road network. Greater access is provided alongside the River Trent. The Trent is the main river of this NCA, providing a functional, recreational and environmental link with the NCAs upstream and downstream through which it flows.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland</p>	<p>Character: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.</p> <p>Quality: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.</p> <p>Value: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, small hamlets and larger Market Towns. The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact.</p> <p>Capacity: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

<p>lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works and active sand and gravel extraction sites.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA48: Trent and Belvoir Vales is shaped by the strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland centred on the River Trent.</p>	
<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone MNPZ 5: Leverton is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Located within the Policy Zone are Sturton le Steeple, North Leverton with Habbleshorpe and South Wheatley. It wraps around but excludes West Burton Power Station in the east. A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively.

Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.

The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub. The Policy Zone also encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck.

Key Features:

- Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.
- A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.
- Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.
- Isolated farmsteads.

Landscape Analysis:

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone there is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features comprising the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines, high voltage power lines and pylons and a sewage works. This gives a visually unified area overall. The field pattern is partially intact, rationalization is more notable at the center where the land is under intensive arable use. A network of becks extends across the area, the water channels are flanked by vegetation which connects into hedgerow field boundaries. Most hedgerows are well maintained, where gaps occur, they have been in-filled with fencing or left. Trees are apparent in the hedgerows though some are over mature and not being replaced. Smaller areas of pasture and rough grazing surround the becks and villages, an area of parkland style pasture with individual trees is located north of South Leverton.

Settlement within the Policy Zone is predominantly traditional although both North Leverton and South Wheatley comprise a mix of vernacular buildings with both modern and older non-vernacular development, newer buildings tend to be at the village edges. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed. The overall cultural integrity is variable.

Two SINC's lie within the Policy Zone and comprise areas of grassland. Tree cover is relatively low and is concentrated along watercourses and the railway embankments [younger scrub], small deciduous clumps lie near to settlement areas. Oak and ash are dominant with some willow along the watercourses. There are no significant blocks of woodland within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is assessed as moderate which gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity result in a good landscape condition overall.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place.

Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility results in high landscape sensitivity overall.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve historic field pattern, maintaining existing watercourses/hedgerows including ancient hedgerows, restoring and reinforcing where necessary, create new hedgerows to replace infill fencing.
- Conserve hedgerow trees and replace where necessary.
- Conserve permanent pasture and parkland area near to South Leverton, seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Conserve tree cover and landscape planting, enhance and reinforce where appropriate to increase the green infrastructure and wildlife habitats across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve areas of improved and unimproved pasture and grassland and areas of ridge and furrow.
- Conserve the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both the existing settlements and new development.
- Conserve the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Sturton-le-Steeple, North Leverton, Hablesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too.</p> <p>Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of MNPZ 5: Leverton stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of elements, with few detracting elements. However, despite being of limited quantity, the presence of the railway lines and the West Burton Power Station form significant detractors.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Policy Zone encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east</p> <p>Overall, with MNPZ 05 Leverton the value (medium) is shaped by the mix of arable and pastoral farmland. Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east. A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity results in a good landscape condition overall.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: A flat, intensively farmed arable landscape skirting the West Burton Power Station. Crossed by large scale transmission lines and railway. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. The major agricultural land use is cereal and oil seed rape production. There are several camping and caravan parks within the LCP.

There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, northeast of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the southeast to the northwest past Cottam Power Station. There are mature trees in association with the historic village cores. There are mixed species road side hedges including Hawthorn, Rose, Elder with mature trees predominantly Ash, but also Willow and Oak. These hedgerows vary in their standard of maintenance. Field boundaries are trimmed, mixed species Hedgerows, predominantly Hawthorn with mature trees -mostly Ash, but also Willow and Oak.

There are various small ponds, water courses and ditches dotted throughout the area with associated riparian vegetation Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- A predominantly large-scale arable landscape.
- Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons.
- Well-trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees.
- Less well-maintained roadside hedges, with trees.
- Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.
- Limited small woodlands.
- Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape Condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ , the detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam. Outside the villages some of the field boundaries shown on Sanderson's plan of 1835 are intact but intervening boundaries have been removed. The overall cultural integrity is described as variable.

There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands. There are two SINC's in the PZ designated for aquatic and bankside vegetation and neutral grassland. The ecological network is defined as moderate which combined with as variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape Sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to low landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve the traditional pattern of hedges, fields and pasture around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly along roadsides.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity of ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve mature hedge lines along tracks and promote measures for increasing existing tree cover.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, north east of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the south east to the north west past Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the north west of the Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within this area itself. However, large scale pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.

The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks; species include Willow, Ash and Hawthorn. Internal field hedges are well trimmed in the pasture areas but some hedges are fragmented between arable fields; species are predominantly Hawthorn with Rose, Elder and Ash.

There are two SINCS within this area designated for their aquatic communities: Cottam Wetlands, mentioned above, made up of marshy grassland, swamp and a mosaic of wetlands, and Coates Wetland which is a group of pools with rough grazing. There are two MLAs within the LCP Littleborough (125) and Laneham / Cottam (124). A small portion of the Dunham Laneham (123) MLA is also contained within the south of the area. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south.
- Views are dominated by Cottam power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.
- There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is defined as variable. There is moderate tree cover which consists mainly of bands of riverside vegetation. There are 2 SINC sites within the PZ designated for their aquatic interest. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as moderate, which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife / functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, and long views to the north and south contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

The landform is insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture close to the River Trent.
- Conserve mature trees to the rivers edge.
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly around arable fields.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Cottam.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p>Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks.</p> <p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the river banks.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: PROW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the flat landscape of this area within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 meters AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, species include Elder, Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, and Rose. These also contain mature trees, species include Ash and Willow. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained, species include Hawthorn predominantly, also Elder, Hazel, Rose and Holly.

There are no MLAs within the area and 1 SINC. Small water courses are present throughout the area; some of these contain aquatic vegetation. There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular styles. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD.
- Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South.
- Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties.
- Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees.
- Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.
- Watercourses are present throughout the PZ.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is variable. The tree cover is poor, the integrity of the ecological network is weak which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall. A strongly visually unified area with a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam Power Station to the South and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover which leads to a moderate visibility both in and out of the PZ.

A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to road edges and field boundaries.
- Conserve mature hedgerows to field access tracks.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Seek opportunities to create small woodlands to reduce visual impact of power stations.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p>Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ.</p> <p>The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non vernacular styles.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, these also contain mature trees. However, Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south east of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. There is very limited settlement within the area. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area which also contain mature trees. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained. There are no large areas of woodland.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape less than 5 meters AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. The only woodland area is a narrow strip to the west of Littleborough. There are mature trees, species include Ash, Beech Oak, and Willow, and mature hedge lines including Holly within the settlement of Littleborough. Out Ings SINC contains some scrubby woodland. Mature trees are present in the riverside vegetation, species include Ash, Oak Sycamore, and Willow. Field boundary hedgerows are weak and gappy. The hedgerow species is predominantly Hawthorn; trees include Oak and Sycamore. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows, species include Elder, Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn and Rose with mature trees including Ash.

There are 4 SINC's within the area - including Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings, both designated for their aquatic communities. The Ferries MLA (18) forms the northern end of the LCP. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this. The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south.
- Views are dominated by West Burton power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views to the north and south, views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterized by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall this gives a strongly visually unified area. The overall cultural integrity is good due largely to the maturity of vegetation and time depth of the ancient settlement of Littleborough.

Tree cover is low, there are 4 SINC's in the area mostly designated for their aquatic communities, the integrity of the ecological network is moderate which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall.

A strongly visually unified area with a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/ time depth is described as historic (post 1600) although the settlement of Littleborough is ancient, which gives a moderate sense of place.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover/ sense of enclosure which leads to moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate Sensitivity

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the River Trent and change arable land to permanent pasture where appropriate.
- Conserve mature trees to river edge, and within the village of Littleborough.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to field boundaries.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Littleborough.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.</p> <p>There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP.</p> <p>The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks. PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape at less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. There are mature trees, and mature hedgelines which are often weak and gappy. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD alongside the River Trent. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties and Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales.

The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is within the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site.

Character Context:

The Floodplain Valleys Landscape Character Type is found throughout the region, along the broad valleys of the Trent, Nene, Welland, Wreake, Soar and Dove, and short stretches of the Derwent and Witham. Despite occupying different parts of the region, and therefore contrasting bedrock geologies, the broad flat belts of alluvium and gravel terrace deposits flanking the river channels are a strong unifying characteristic. Historically, the floodplains would have shared common land use characteristics with a predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows and arable fields on drier gravel terraces. Whilst many stretches of permanent pasture and riverside meadows remain, increasing arable and silage production, and the influence of large urban areas and sand and gravel extraction creates significant contrasts in local landscape character. Whilst the floodplains themselves are generally devoid of settlement, the rivers and neighboring gravel terraces have been a focus for settlement for several thousands of years. As such, many areas are noted for their rich and varied archaeological deposits. The majority of the region's major towns are located adjacent to the floodplains and exert a strong but localized influence on their character. Elsewhere, the floodplains constitute some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas in the East Midlands.

Key Features:

- Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;
- River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;
- Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;
- Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;
- Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;
- Limited settlement and development in rural areas;
- Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;
- Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and
- Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Development on settlement margins is damaging the character of the landscape, creating visual intrusion and extending the urban edge into the Floodplain Valleys. In particular the edges of Leicester, Nottingham and Derby, and also Northampton and Wellingborough in the Nene Valley, need to be carefully considered as these are identified Growth Points that will receive significant levels of new mixed use development in the short and longer term. Large-scale industrial developments, such as sewage treatment works and power stations are particularly prominent in this otherwise flat and open landscape.</p> <p>In response to flood risk, engineered solutions, such as concrete flood walls and embankments, have been installed in many locations along the river channels. This has resulted in the canalisation of rivers and loss of riverside vegetation, meadows and pastures, changing the natural character of the</p> <p>Floodplain Valleys, although historic structures can contribute to the character of the river. In some instances, the height of the defences screens the river from view, reducing the sense of openness and sense of place. There is marked evidence of agricultural intensification, accompanied by a move from pastoral towards arable farming. This has resulted in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including riverside meadows, which would have traditionally defined the river channels and distinguished them from the surrounding farmland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Floodplain Valleys aims to protect the open and unsettled character of the landscape from inappropriate development and that tree planting around settlement fringes can help with integration and help contribute to the overall perception of a well treed landscape. The changes from flood risk and engineered solutions are also changing the landscape, but there is potential for landscape restoration projects to assist with mitigation of this change. The potential for river landscape to change is also a key consideration, but there is potential to introduce positive landscape interventions such as biodiversity and nature conservation initiatives.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Floodplain Valleys is conditioned by a number of key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the impact of settlement on the edges of the river floodplain, the interventions associated with flood risk, the shifting of river channels, sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure. There are however also significant benefits to be gained from a range of landscape and biodiversity interventions such as restoration projects. The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><i><u>Scenic</u></i>: The Floodplain Valleys appeal to the visual senses in that vast stretches of the floodplain retain an intact and traditional character, despite the intrusion from sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure.</p> <p><i><u>Cultural</u></i>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices.</p> <p><i><u>Natural</u></i>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p><i><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u></i>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths such as the Trent Valley Way Recreational Route.</p> <p><i><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u></i>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><i><u>Health and Wellbeing</u></i>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><i><u>Important Spatial Function</u></i>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys the value (medium) is shaped by the general absence of built development which enhances the quiet, rural character of the landscape, which across the wider area is only occasionally interrupted by roads crossing the river, or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Locally, however this is disrupted by the presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations. Hedgerows and rising landform fringing the floodplain enclose views and create an intimate, human scale landscape fringing the more open floodplain.</p>	<p><i><u>Character</u></i>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><i><u>Quality</u></i>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><i><u>Value</u></i>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><i><u>Capacity</u></i>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The Floodplain Valleys Landscape Character Type is found throughout the region, but here it is focused on the broad valley of the River Trent and identifies the character of the river corridor and associated floodplain, which at its closest point is located approximately 3.6km west of the WB2 Site.</p> <p>The character of the landscape alongside the Trent markable differs from the gently rolling arable countryside within which the WB2 Site is located. As such, the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site.</p> <p>The WB2 Site is located to the east of the Trent valley corridor within RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, where the intervening woodlands, arable land use and changes in landform provide strong elements of separation in the landscape. The landform to the east of the Trent corridor rises up out of the floodplains and up into the more elevated Vales landscape.</p> <p>During the construction phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the Floodplain Valleys landscape character area as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area.</p> <p>Overall, the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB2 Site, would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area. There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB2 Site from within this character area. The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally will be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape. Grassland mixes will have established and will create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 2 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing containment and enclosure across the Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area. There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB2 Site from within this character area. The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. Bird mitigation fields and wetland grazing marshes are likely to be retained and the potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the Floodplain Valleys landscape character area as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area. Overall, the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>n/a</p> <p>The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton 2 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site. The Wooded Vales landscape character area is located approximately 2.7km south of WB2 to the south of Saxilby, the A57, the Fosdyke and focused on the wooded countryside to the north west of Skellingthorpe.

Character Context:

The sparsely settled Wooded Vales Landscape Character Type generally occurs in north Lincolnshire and lies within the much broader and extensive Unwooded Vales. Whilst various underlying bedrock geologies can be identified, extensive superficial deposits of till and cover sand create a softly undulating landscape. The Wooded Vales generally has a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. High levels of woodland cover are in evidence when compared to the Unwooded Vales and add to local distinctiveness and provide a coherent and recognizable character and strong identity. Woodlands and localized variations in landform also foreshorten views and obstruct wide panoramas to create a more intimate scale landscape than is experienced in the Unwooded Vales. However, uninterrupted panoramic views across farmland are possible, albeit with woodlands often forming a dark backdrop or feature on the horizon.

The Wooded Vales landscape is generally characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows, sometimes marking ancient asserts. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands. Sizable areas of sandy heathland are also evident on areas of cover sand, although some have been extensively forested with conifers. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their course can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat, wet woodland and riverside trees. The vast majority of the Wooded Vales retains a historic, deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland and linked by narrow winding lanes and roads.

Key Features:

- Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type;
- Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover;
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment;
- Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat;
- Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping;
- Irregular shaped assorted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas;
- Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The sparsely settled landscape of the Wooded Vales has seen relatively little urban growth, although some expansion and in-fill development is noted in larger settlements, such as Market Rasen, Horncastle and Wragby. This can erode architectural and historic character, whilst creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. Agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation are resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. This contributes to a more homogenous landscape, and the effect is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages.</p> <p>Woodland is a significant component of this landscape, and new woodland planting would be generally appropriate, increasing the overall woodland coverage in the region. However, the landform of the Wooded Vales is typically low and extensive panoramas are possible, often framed by larger areas of woodland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Wooded Vales aims to promote new woodland planting as this is a significant component of the landscape. The aim should be to also protect the distinctive character of the settlements and consider the visual impact of any new development. The restoration of hedgerows should also be given priority to strengthen the field pattern and enhance linkages between woodlands. The impact on the setting of village churches is also particularly important as these are distinctive local landmarks. There are regular patterns of enclosure and modern arable fields where hedgerows have been removed, but due to the abundance of large woodland blocks this helps reinforce a sense of enclosure.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Wooded Vales is conditioned by several key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation that is resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. The loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages that is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Wooded Vales appeal to the visual senses with extensive access to a variety of footpaths often framed by these large areas of woodland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of small villages, hamlets, and farms but they are scarcely distributed within the landscape. This includes settlement of Knaith Park which falls within the Area of Greater Landscape Value (AGLV).</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: to the north of Gainsborough and towards the villages of Blyton and Laughton, there are large areas of ancient and species-rich native woodland juxtaposed with regular blocks of coniferous plantations. Sizable areas of water bodies are also notable within the wider character area with wet woodland sites characterised by native broadleaved species and affording SSSI status.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' endorsed by the strong woodland character, with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness, notably within the central wooded parts.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Wooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRoW within the wider landscape, but this is more than compensated for within Laughton Woods, which is the main focus for recreation.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landscape benefits from the woodland areas that occupy the northern part of the area, but also extend south towards Gainsborough and East Stockwith and include Owlet Plantation.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4b: Wooded Vales the value (high) is shaped by the sparsely settled landscape that has seen relatively little urban growth. The landscape is characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Areas have a positive character, but the loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Mature vegetation is characteristic that occupies the northern part of the area with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There would be a lower landscape tolerance and scope for landscape change due to the presence of extensive woodland that has seen relatively little settlement intervention.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The Wooded Vales Character Type is found throughout the region, there is another area around Gainsborough, but here it is focused on the wooded countryside to the north west of Skellingthorpe.</p> <p>The Wooded Vales landscape character area is located approximately 2.7km south of WB2 to the south of the settlement of Saxilby, the A57, the Fosdyke and within a separate and distinct landscape focused on the wooded countryside to the north west of Skellingthorpe.</p> <p>As such, the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site and able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB2 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area surrounding Skellingthorpe. There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB2 Site from within this character area. The RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally to the WB2 Site would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape. Grassland mixes will have established and will create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 2 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing containment and enclosure across the Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility and intervening settlement of Saxilby, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area. There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB2 Site from within this character area. The RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. Bird mitigation fields and wetland grazing marshes are likely to be retained and the potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the Wooded Vales landscape character area as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area. Overall, the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a The RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site. The distance, lack of intervisibility, intervening settlements and infrastructure combined with the low-level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area.	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton 2 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes landscape character area is within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site.

Character Context:

The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes Landscape Character Type is part of the Jurassic limestone belt that runs from Dorset to the Humber. It is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, both in its physical structure, large scale arable land uses and the character of many of the stone built villages along the lower scarp slopes. However, in contrast to elsewhere with areas of similar geology, locally occurring heathland on thinning limestone created a unique character up until agricultural improvement in the 19th century.

The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale. To the east of the scarp extends a gently undulating and tilted limestone dip slope that merges with the adjacent fenland and marshland fringes of eastern Lincolnshire. It is thought that the landscape has remained largely devoid of trees since the prehistoric period. Whilst it is assumed that the landscape was farmed from at least the Neolithic, place names and occasional indicator species provide clues to the marginal and heathy character of the landscape prior to agricultural improvement.

The consistent alignment of the edge has created a strong sense of linearity, further emphasized by ancient transportation routes. Ermine Street was created in Roman times to link London to York and possibly consolidated much more ancient trackways running along the top of the edge. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that adds to the geometric character of the dip slope landscape.

Despite evidence of long established settlement and exploitation, the dip slope retains a modern and sometimes declining character, largely as a result of intensive arable production and poor boundary maintenance.

However, the edge and scarp villages continue to retain a more intricate and intact historic character.

Key Features:

- Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment;
- Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope;
- Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology;
- Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries;
- Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland; and
- Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosure roads are distinctive landscape features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes; however, these are under threat from lack of management and inappropriate planting.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes is conditioned by the escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, that rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes appeal to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Scarps and Dipslopes are valued for recreation which often focuses on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes the value (high) is shaped by the Jurassic limestone belt that is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, particularly in terms of the large-scale arable land uses. The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighbouring vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is found to the east of the West Burton 2 Site forming a distinctive Landscape feature known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff. The escarpment runs on a north south alignment and rises above the Vales and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale and the West Burton 2 Site. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are key views across the area and contribute to the sense of place across this and the wider area. The Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale, which includes the massive West Burton and Cottam Power Stations. Transmission lines cross the flat landscape leading to the power stations.</p> <p>RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is found approximately 3.5km east of the West Burton 2 Site and is not considered to form part of its immediate landscape context. However, given the opportunity for wide ranging and panoramic views west from the scarp of the Lincolnshire Cliff, it is clear that changes within neighboring landscapes could have the opportunity to adversely impact upon the appreciation of the rural setting of this character area.</p> <p>As demonstrated on Photo Viewpoints 15 and LCC-C-A, both from locations along the Lincolnshire Cliff, the arable farmland closer to the scarp is more visually open due to the elevation of the scarp allowing views down into these areas. Yet as the flat landscape to the west of the scarp lays out across the vale, vegetation within it, unites to provide enclosure and containment at a low level giving the impression of a well wooded landscape. Vertical elements that extend upwards out of the landscape have considerably greater prominence, such as wind turbines, pylons, transmission lines and the massive power stations at West Burton and Cottam.</p> <p>During the construction phase the construction of the solar panel areas and associated</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type, associated with the operation of the WB2 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility of the array arising from the host landscapes ability to absorb the development combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the West Burton 2 Site and the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type.</p> <p>The RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the West Burton 2 Site at Year 1 without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally to the West Burton 2 Site would be augmented by increased vegetation cover across the Site, creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape, further reinforcing the appreciation of a wooded landscape in views west from the scarp.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 2 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing further containment and enclosure across the Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, enclosure provided by the layering of vegetation across the landscape combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type.</p> <p>The RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the West Burton 2 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area.</p> <p>Overall, the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the West Burton 2 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>

	<p>infrastructure would be screened by the layering of existing vegetation across the Site and within the intervening landscape, including that along the River Till, allowing the array to be readily absorbed into the landscape and not affect the integrity of the Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type.</p> <p>RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects.</p>			
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type of the West Burton 2 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 1 and 3) is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme itself within the West Burton 2 Site, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p>	<p>The Cottam Solar Project occupies the landscape to the north of Thorpe la Fallows and extending north across the landscape surrounding Coates and up towards Fillingham. The Tillbridge Solar Project continues from the northern extent of the Cottam Solar Project north towards the A631.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is approximately 2.5km north of West Burton 2. The Tillbridge Solar Project is approximately 8.25km north of West Burton 2.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is within RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character area, as is most of the Tillbridge Solar Project, save for an area on its eastern boundary which is within the RLCT Profile 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes. Other than this small part of the Tillbridge Solar Project, the remainder of the Tillbridge Solar Project, Cottam Solar Project and West Burton Sites are within the RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character type.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of these developments ensure separation between them and the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type. As such, the developments would clearly be within the adjacent flat arable vale landscapes that stretch out away from the scarp allowing the RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type to accommodate the changes that arise through the development of these schemes without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects upon RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type of the West Burton 2 Site with the other Cumulative Developments is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme itself, together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced. Following establishment of the landscape scheme across the West Burton Sites, there would be no appreciation of the West Burton 2 scheme or any associated infrastructure from within this character area.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant



Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is within the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site.

Character Context:

The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain to the east and southeast of Gainsborough extends as far south as Marton. This relatively elevated land is formed by local outcrops of resistant gypsum within the rock strata. There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. These are generally hawthorn, but there are also taller mixed species hedgerows and hedgerow trees, particularly adjacent to roads.

The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton. Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape.

Gainsborough, the major settlement in this area, is located at one of the few crossing points of the River Trent. A number of main roads pass through Gainsborough and are dominant features within this character area. The A156 runs north south and the A631 east west into Gainsborough. Railways also approach Gainsborough from the north and south. South of Gainsborough, the A156 passes through a string of small settlements; Knaith, Marton and Fenton. Towards the south, the A156 branches into the A1133 where it crosses the Fosdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fosdyke is a man-made canal linking the navigable river Witham with the Trent, giving access to the Midland river system from the Wash. Today it is used primarily for recreational boating and there are some limited visitor facilities at Torksey Lock.

The area has some important historic parkland landscapes at Knaith, Gate Burton and Kettlethorpe, and the remnants of a medieval deer park to the south east of Gainsborough. There are also a number of historic landmarks in addition to those in Gainsborough itself. These are the ruins of Torksey Castle and a hall and pavilion at Gate Burton, all of which are highly visible from the A156. This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including, settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the Fosdyke.

Key Features:

- Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.
- Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape."
- River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.
- Historic parklands landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle
- Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main roads, bypassing original village centres.
- Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent."

Landscape Sensitivities:

Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands. The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI."

Key sensitivities of the landscape:

- The higher land to the south and east of Gainsborough, which extends as far south as Marton.
- The historic parklands of Kettlethorpe, Knaith, Gate Burton and Gainsborough, together with their associated boundary earthworks.
- Ancient woodlands, such as Thurlby Wood, Houghton Wood and Wharton Wood.
- River Trent washlands, such as the Lea Marshes.
- Village entrances which are frequently marred by linear development along adjacent main roads low-lying land along the River Trent (to the west of the A156/ A1133)
- The Fosseydyke -a low lying meadow landscape with potential for recreation
- Torksey Castle, a historic landmark with an important landscape setting

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting will ensure that these important local landscape features are conserved and enhanced; they should remain a viable landscape screen and a valuable wildlife habitat.
- Priority should be given to new woodland, shelterbelt or hedgerow planting which is designed to link existing woodlands, particularly those with semi-natural or ancient woodland status. Appropriate local species include field maple, hawthorn, ash and oak.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees should be managed to retain the existing landscape pattern, screen settlements and contribute to local identity.
- There is scope to improve the setting of the Fosseydyke as a recreational landscape. For instance, tree planting might be designed to draw attention to the position of the lock and there may also be opportunities for more informal tree groups along the edge of the river corridor.
- Any schemes for the management of local water tables which allow the extension of existing areas of marshland to create relatively large-scale areas of wetland would have significant visual and nature conservation value. For instance, there may be opportunities to re-create riverine woodlands on low riverside banks (left-over belts of land).
- Roads are visually dominant in this area; their influence could be improved by a landscape strategy designed to incorporate tree planting, hedgerow management and signage. This should take account of key views and the entrances to settlements which would often benefit from distinctive planting schemes.

The landscape setting of historic parklands and built features requires careful consideration, backed by research.

Landscape Strategy:

- New development can be accommodated on the higher ridges to the south and east of Gainsborough, provided it is associated with new tree and hedgerow planting which is designed to integrate with local field patterns.
- Further linear development along the principal roads in the area would be detrimental to local landscape character.
- Entrances to settlements, abrupt road bends and junctions are particularly sensitive sites; they are the focus for local views and can easily be marred by nondescript development. New development at such locations should be designed to provide 'one-off', distinctive buildings, which reflect local building types and materials.
- Many settlements are bypassed by major roads and there is a risk that views to the village centre will be obscured by peripheral development; such key views should be identified and conserved.
- New development on the periphery of settlements should always be bounded by new or existing hedgerows and native hedgerow trees so that the buildings are visually 'anchored' within the wider landscape pattern.
- Development on the low-lying land to the west of the A156/ A1133 would be prominent and cannot easily be accommodated without detracting from the gentle transition to the open, flat farmland on the banks of the River Trent.
- New development should not impinge on views of the many important designed parkland landscapes in the area.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent Valley Character area stretches from Gainsborough and its suburbs south towards Newton on Trent, with the River Trent forming a definitive western boundary. The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain in the east and south east of Gainsborough extends as far South as Marton</p> <p>There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton.</p> <p>Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.</p> <p>This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.</p> <p>Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, Woodlands country groups, giving the landscapes on capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient Woodlands.</p> <p>The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat including a small central meadow.</p> <p>Overall, the Trent Valley character area is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, which is somewhat marred by the presence of the large scale power stations to the west of the river corridor.</p>	<p>Scenic: Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough. Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape. River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments. Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent. Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands.</p> <p>Cultural: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices. Historic parkland landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle</p> <p>Natural: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths along the River Trent.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 2 Trent Valley the value (medium) is shaped by its gently undulating and quite low lying landform which includes the washlands along the eastern edge of the River Trent. However, a band of higher relatively elevated land runs along the eastern edge of the character area extending as far south as Marton.</p>	<p>Character: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p>Quality: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p>Value: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p>Capacity: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term. Views across the area are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects Local Scale Landscape Character – 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is focused on the broad valley of the River Trent and identifies the character of the river corridor, associated floodplain and the rising landform along the eastern valley slopes, which at its closest point is located approximately 1.3km west of the WB2 Site.</p> <p>The character of the landscape alongside the Trent markable differs from the gently rolling arable countryside within which the WB2 Site is located.</p> <p>As such, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site.</p> <p>The WB2 Site is located to the east of the Trent valley corridor within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale, where the intervening woodlands, arable land use and changes in landform provide strong elements of separation in the landscape. The landform to the east of the Trent corridor rises up out of the floodplains and up into the more elevated Vales landscape.</p> <p>During the construction phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area.</p> <p>Overall, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB2 Site, would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area. There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB2 Site from within this character area.</p> <p>The WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally will be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape. Grassland mixes will have established and will create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 2 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing containment and enclosure across the Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area.</p> <p>There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB2 Site from within this character area. The WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. Bird mitigation fields and wetland grazing marshes are likely to be retained and the potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the Trent Valley landscape character area as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area.</p> <p>Overall, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>n/a</p> <p>The WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff landscape character area is within the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site.

Character Context:

The Lincoln Cliff is a straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the center of the district. It is the narrowest part of an extensive band of resistant limestone which stretches from the Humber to the South Kesteven Uplands. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. Isolated storm-damaged ash trees, which often have grotesque shapes, are characteristic features of the scarp slope.

There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton.

The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.

The villages are small and compact. Limestone is the favored building material, with brick detailing and pantile roofs. Boundary walls are generally also constructed from the local limestone. The village of Ingham has grown larger than the others, with the introduction of newer brick houses, many of which are bungalows. Despite this, the center has retained its integrity and identity, with buildings placed around an attractive village green. There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the spring line.

Key Features:

- Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.
- Diverse pattern of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.
- Spring line villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.
- Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.
- Ponds and lakes along the spring line.

Landscape Sensitivity:

A relatively small, but distinctive limestone scarp with a diverse landscape pattern; there is a transition from trees and woodlands enclosing a string of historic springline villages at the foot of the slope to a mix of pastures and arable fields on the steep slopes. The scarp is visible from much of the Till Vale and there are long views from the ridge-top road. The villages have a range of important historic and archaeological sites and many are associated with wooded parkland landscapes.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- diverse landscape pattern on scarp slope.
- wetlands - ponds and lakes at the spring line;
- trees and woodlands - at the foot of the escarpment.
- village entrances - narrow, secluded contrast to the ridge-top road along the skyline (Middle Street).
- historic buildings and parkland eg. Glentworth,
- village greens, mature trees, limestone walls and churches.
- pastures on western fringes of villages - provide contrast to surrounding arable land.

Landscape Strategy:

- There is relatively little scope for new development in these historic and sensitive villages; only small-scale development of individual sites and the conversion of existing buildings will be appropriate.
- The 'Cliff' villages have a secluded landscape setting, surrounded by pasture and trees; new development should not encroach on the existing small pastures on the fringes of the village and should be associated with new tree planting designed to complement the existing diverse pattern of trees.
- New development and tree planting should be carefully sited and designed to avoid compromising the views associated with the designed historic parkland landscapes which are characteristic of many of these villages.
- There is a risk that further development on the 'Cliff' villages may lead to coalescence and loss of identity.
- Entrances to the villages are particularly vulnerable to change; there may be scope for development which can enhance the existing approach, but it should be carefully sited and designed to complement the existing buildings and form a clear entrance statement.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Woodland management - including thinning, possibly coppicing, replanting and tree surgery to mature trees - to ensure these valuable landscape features are retained.
- The management of hedgerows (and hedgerow trees) on the margins of villages and particularly at their entrances will help to retain the characteristic sense of enclosure.
- There may be scope for new hedgerow planting on the western edges of villages to reinforce the contrast in character between the 'Cliff' landscape and that of the open arable farmland to the west. Any new planting should be designed to frame rather than obscure views to village churches and other buildings. Appropriate local tree species include field maple, beech, ash, oak and elm; hedgerow species include hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, blackthorn, and privet.
- This narrow landscape band has a wealth of archaeological and historical interest. All proposals to alter land uses and/or the landscape pattern should take account of the findings of historical research. Tree planting or other landscape management schemes may be designed to frame key views and enhance the setting of landscape features with historic interest.
- Wherever possible, the reversion of arable land to grazing pastures should be encouraged to conserve the diverse landscape pattern on the scarp and the striking contrast with the surrounding arable farmland. Priority should be given to the retention of existing permanent pasture.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are a number of small, quiet and secluded spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings.</p> <p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosed roads leading to the small scarp villages are distinctive landscape features of the Cliff.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Cliff. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Cliff is formed through its prominence as a unique landscape feature that rises up to the east above the Trent Vale forming a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the</p>	<p>Scenic: There is a diverse landscape pattern along the scarp slope. There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope. The Cliff appeals to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline. The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Cliff provides recreation opportunities often focused on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Cliff provides a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 4 The Cliff the value (high) is shaped by the prominence and contrast of The Lincoln Cliff with the surrounding flat landscape. A straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the centre of the district. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale.</p>	
Medium	High	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is found to the east of the West Burton 2 Site forming a distinctive Landscape feature known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff. The escarpment runs on a north south alignment and rises above the Vales and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale and the West Burton 2 Site. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are key views across the area and contribute to the sense of place across this and the wider area. The Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale, which includes the massive West Burton and Cottam Power Stations. Transmission lines cross the flat landscape leading to the power stations.</p> <p>The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is found approximately 3.6km east of the West Burton 2 Site and is not considered to form part of its immediate landscape context. However, given the opportunity for wide ranging and panoramic views west from the scarp of the Lincolnshire Cliff, it is clear that changes within neighboring landscapes could have the opportunity to adversely impact upon the appreciation of the rural setting of this character area.</p> <p>As demonstrated on Photo Viewpoints 15 and LCC-C-A, both from locations along the Lincolnshire Cliff, the arable farmland closer to the scarp is more visually open due to the elevation of the scarp allowing views down into these areas. Yet as the flat landscape to the west of the scarp lays out across the vale, vegetation within it, unites to provide enclosure and containment at a low level giving the impression of a well wooded landscape. Vertical elements that extend upwards out of the landscape have considerably greater prominence, such as wind turbines, pylons, transmission lines and the massive power stations at West Burton and Cottam.</p> <p>During the construction phase the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure would be screened by the layering</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff, associated with the operation of the WB2 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility of the array arising from the host landscapes ability to absorb the development combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the West Burton 2 Site and The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff.</p> <p>The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the West Burton 2 Site at Year 1 without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally to the West Burton 2 Site would be augmented by increased vegetation cover across the Site, creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape, further reinforcing the appreciation of a wooded landscape in views west from the Cliff.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 2 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing further containment and enclosure across the Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, enclosure provided by the layering of vegetation across the landscape combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff.</p> <p>The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the West Burton 2 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area.</p> <p>Overall, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the West Burton 2 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>

	<p>of existing vegetation across the Site and within the intervening landscape, including that along the River Till, allowing the array to be readily absorbed into the landscape and not affect the integrity of The Cliff.</p> <p>The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB2 Site without undue adverse effects.</p>			
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff of the West Burton 2 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 1 and 3) is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme itself within the West Burton 2 Site, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p>	<p>The Cottam Solar Project occupies the landscape to the north of Thorpe la Fallows and extending north across the landscape surrounding Coates and up towards Fillingham. The Tillbridge Solar Project continues from the northern extent of the Cottam Solar Project north towards the A631.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is approximately 2.5km north of West Burton 2. The Tillbridge Solar Project is approximately 8.25km north of West Burton 2.</p> <p>The Cottam Solar Project is within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale as is most of the Tillbridge Solar Project, save for an areas on its eastern and western periphery.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of these developments ensure separation between them and the WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff. As such, the developments would clearly be within the adjacent flat arable vale landscapes that stretch out away from the scarp allowing WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff to accommodate the changes that arise through the development of these schemes without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p> <p>The Cumulative Effects upon The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff of the West Burton 2 Site with the other Cumulative Developments is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme itself, together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced. Following establishment of the landscape scheme across the West Burton Sites, there would be no appreciation of the West Burton 2 scheme or any associated infrastructure from within this character area.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is within the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 2 Site.

Character Context:

This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river.

The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.

The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.

The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.

Key Features:

- Flat topography.
- A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent.
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses.
- Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees.
- Grass flood bank.

Landscape Analysis:

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as very good. The pattern of landscape elements is unified. The area has few detracting features. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall this is a strongly visually unified area. The historic field pattern is still evident therefore the cultural integrity is good. Although the area has no SINC designations the trees, improved and unimproved pasture, and riparian vegetation provide a moderate network of wildlife habitats.

A moderate network for wildlife and a good cultural integrity leads to a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is strongly visually unified with a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife has a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is historic (post 1600). The area has a moderate sense of place.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The landform is apparent and has intermittent tree cover which leads to moderate visibility of the area from outside the PZ. A moderate sense of place with a moderate degree of visibility leads to a moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.

- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- Conserve pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- Seek opportunities to re-create historic field boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p>The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, dominating views south along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station dominates views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The historic field pattern is still evident.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. As such, the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site.</p> <p>The West Burton 2 Site is located to the east of the Trent valley corridor within the District of West Lindsey, and within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale, where the intervening woodlands, arable land use and changes in landform provide strong elements of separation in the landscape.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 2 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent. The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands, associated with the operation of the WB2 Site, would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 2 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 2 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB2 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 2 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 2 Site.	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton 2 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales.

The Unwooded Vales extend across the majority of the 2km and 5km Study Area apart from the eastern edge, where it shares a boundary with RLCT Profile 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes, and a small section to the south of the A57 alongside Skellingthorpe which is within the RLCT Profile: 4b Wooded Vales.

Character Context:

The rural Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type within a central area of the region on a broadly north south axis, and whilst various underlying bedrock geologies exert a local influence, superficial deposits create a softly undulating landscape and consistent and recognizable character. The Vales generally have a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. Within the vales, low hills and ridges are also important, foreshortening views and creating subtle relief features.

The vale landscape is generally characterized by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of low, well-maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture, often grazed by dairy herds. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their courses can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat and riverside trees.

The vast majority of the Vales retain a deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland, linked by narrow winding lanes and roads. Despite low levels of woodland cover, local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts create visual containment and give the Vales landscape an intimate character. By contrast, panoramic views are possible from elevated locations albeit contained by rising land at the edges of the Vales.

Key Features:

- Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.
- Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.
- Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.
- Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.
- Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well-maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fields capes evident in areas of arable reversion; and
- Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes."

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible.</p> <p>Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Unwooded Vales aims to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Many of the rural villages have not seen widespread expansion but development pressures continue with the demand for housing, commerce and industry creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. For development associated with the rural villages, specific mechanisms include Village Design Statements, and tree planting around settlement fringes to help integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Unwooded Vales is conditioned by managing growth, ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Unwooded Vales appeal to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Unwooded Vales are valued for recreation which often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of the Unwooded Vales is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Unwooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales the value (medium) is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquillity. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage..

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction phase, ground and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would predominantly be screened by existing vegetation, however, locally there would be some appreciation of construction activities within the Site, notably from Saxilby Road.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, as the upper sections of the array is constructed including the Substation, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows, but these would be limited to locations locally to the Site, again Saxilby Road and Broxholme Lane, but this would not affect the integrity of the wider character area and these activities would be short term.</p> <p>Within the wider area the containment provided to the landscape by the layering of field boundary vegetation, the Codder Lane Belt and woodland surrounding local farmsteads and along Saxilby Road combine with the lowlying nature of the development to allow these activities to be readily absorbed into the Site itself and its immediate setting, limiting adverse effects upon the character of the wider area.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks.</p> <p>As well as the construction of the array, there would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including large scale planting across the Site and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries creating a much greater level of vegetation locally and enclosure to the Site, creating many associated beneficial effects. This includes the change to the arable</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT Profile 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB2 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The landscape proposals include for a substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the River Till. This area of land is currently in use as arable farmland, and its conversion into meadow would create an attractive naturalistic setting to the Till. New sections of native hedgerow throughout the Site to be reinstated and provide additional connection with existing hedgerows. Existing hedgerows would be reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting to help provide enclosure across the Site, whilst respecting the overall unwooded character of the area. New native woodland shelter belts are proposed to the west of Saxilby Road around Ingleby, fronted by a large swathe of successional scrub, screening the array from Saxilby Road and helping to break up the array.</p> <p>New native scattered trees would be planted along existing hedgerows throughout the Site, increasing tree cover and providing greater enclosure.</p> <p>Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term meadow - Tussocky grass mix - Flower rich pollinator mix - Tall herb mix - Diverse meadow mix <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become established, starting to create valuable habitats.</p> <p>Overall, this will help to link habitats and strengthen the overall character locally and maintain a sense of place. Important opportunities to bolster the local vegetation</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>With secondary mitigation such as planting and grass seeding being taken into account at the operational stage (Year 15) the following changes to the landscape would occur and the effects are set out below:</p> <p>The new hedgerow and shelterbelt planting and the enhancement of existing hedges which would be managed to a height of 5m would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the array and associated infrastructure. These new and augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. Native woodland belts would connect with the Codder Lane Belt.</p> <p>The planting of large blocks of woodland within the Site have been avoided, instead native woodland shelter belts and individual trees have been utilised to support the existing character of this area. Where visible from within the wider landscape, the new planting would reinforce the well layered landscape with a backdrop of wooded vegetation in places on the horizon. Both new and existing vegetation would have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape locally, retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be:</p> <p>Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>Without Secondary Mitigation having been applied throughout the scheme, the only change to the landscape following decommissioning would be the existing hedgerows which will have been allowed to grow out and will have been managed to a height of 5m. It is assumed that these will be retained.</p> <p>With Mitigation, the negative effects of the physical decommissioning will be balanced out by the long term landscape and visual effects of this mitigation.</p> <p>The now established mitigation planting would screen the decommissioning activities within the Site, limiting opportunities for adverse effects upon the wider character of the area.</p>

	<p>land use within the Site, which would be beneficial to soils and watercourses, significantly increasing biodiversity across the Site and helping to capture carbon. The field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with visual layering of vegetation across the landscape and the integration of the new panels within the landscape. A significant section of the West Burton 2 Site alongside the River Till would be utilised as a large swathe of bird mitigation meadowlands. This would create an attractive naturalistic setting to the Till.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would adversely affect the character of the 4a Unwooded Vales Character Area within the Site, and the immediate area to a minor degree. However, these effects would be, limited, temporary and short term, and accompanied by additional benefits, including the new bird mitigation alongside the Till and the new woodland shelter belts throughout the Site.</p> <p>Overall, the Unwooded Vales Character Area 4a is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction phase with minor adverse effects to the Site itself and its immediate surroundings.</p> <p>Within the wider character area, there would be limited appreciation of the array, associated infrastructure or the Substation as they are constructed, with the integrity of the character area, and all features within retained and enhanced resulting in Minor Neutral and short term effects to the wider character area only.</p>	<p>cover, buffering and connecting existing fragmented vegetation, aims to create a more resilient and biodiverse landscape.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would have begun to achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>The proposed grassland would have established and have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes.</p> <p>The large bird mitigation alongside the Till would be providing an attractive naturalistic setting of the Till and providing significant ecological, habitat and biodiversity benefits.</p> <p>The soil quality would be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off would be reduced around the Site enhancing the water quality generally. There would be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes further across the Site and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing hedgerows locally and the Codder Belt would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape, reinforcing the character of this area.</p> <p>Grassland mixes would have established and would create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation.</p> <p>By Year 15, the Site at West Burton 2 would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature.</p> <p>Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassland reversion - A more varied landscape across the LCA - Improved management of existing vegetation - Less intensively managed land - Soil improvements - Water quality improvements - Increased visibility/definition of watercourses across the landscape. - Increased woodland/vegetation cover - Significantly improved biodiversity - Improved carbon retention/capture 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overwintering opportunities within wetland and elsewhere with Bird mitigation - Potential animal grazing - Reinstatement of historic field patterns - Strengthened Character Area generally - Improved shelter/protection across the landscape <p>Adverse effects (mitigated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels and structures across landscape - Increased hard standing areas – water runoff management required - Potential minor pollution around substations - Visual intrusion in early years - Increased traffic in the local area <p>Following mitigation, the Site would be able to accommodate change brought about through the development without undue adverse effects. The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable beneficial effects in the increased level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the biodiversity benefits that this will bring, creating a stronger, more resilient framework across the local character area of the 4a Unwooded Vales.</p>	
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Medium Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Moderate – Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon LCA – 4a Unwooded Vales of the West Burton 2 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 1 and 3) is Minor (Neutral) at year 1 of operation and Minor (Beneficial) at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p> <p>There would be the introduction of new elements and features comprising the solar panel areas and the substation within the character area. However, there would not be the removal of or changes in individual elements or features of the landscape within the character area and with the substantial landscape mitigation planting that would occur as a consequence of the development, the RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character type is able to absorb these cumulative Sites whilst maintaining the integrity of the character of this area.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the Unwooded Vales is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquility. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The presence of the West Burton 1 and 3 Sites would only occupy a relatively minor part of this wider character area and their development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the Unwooded Vales Character Area.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. The West Burton 2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

Character Context:

This is an agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields and strong rural Character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominantly hawthorn; they are kept low and have few hedgerow trees. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation.

The area is crossed by three east-west, main roads; the A631 to Gainsborough in the north, the A1500 Roman road near Sturton by Stow and the A57 alongside the Fosdyke in the south. There is also an important north-south route, the B1241, which links a number of settlements, including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow. It continues northwards as a minor road, linking a further string of small, nucleated settlements, such as Upton, Springthorpe and Corringham. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting, but the sequence of views to village churches from the B1241 and other smaller lanes is particularly important. A number of windmills, some without sails, are similar landmarks in the landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features.

Some of the villages in the far north of the area, such as Pilham and Aisby, are very small, although archaeological evidence suggests they may once have been larger. By contrast, the larger villages of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow have expanded rapidly as a result of their proximity to Lincoln. There is also some warehouse and light industrial development in this southern area, between the A57 and the railway, and a major transmission line crosses the landscape. To the east, on the flatter land, there are some individual farmhouses and other large farm buildings, often with associated tree planting. Here there are some other interesting features, such as nodding donkeys at the oil well near Glentworth, and a number of above-ground reservoirs. The minor roads that lead across this flatter area to the Lincoln 'Cliff' exhibit the typical form of ancient enclosure roads; they are generally straight, with wide verges, a ditch and hedgerow.

This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Cliff' throughout the southern part of the area.

Key Features:

- Agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields.
- Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.
- Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelterbelts.
- Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.
- String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating ground along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.
- Large farm buildings and individual farmhouses on flatter land to the east.
- Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.
- Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'

Landscape Sensitivity:

This agricultural landscape is sensitive to changes in European Commission agricultural policy and its influence on farming practice. Some villages retain evidence of medieval settlement (earth works and cropmarks) and may once have been considerably larger. There is pressure for built development in villages within commuting distance of Lincoln and for the development of above-ground reservoirs within the open farmland.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- Rural roads and minor farm tracks boarded by wide verges and hedgerows.
- Edges of villages which show evidence of medieval settlement.
- The sequence of views of village churches along the B1241.

- Avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms.
- Small woodlands - their edges are vulnerable to the impact of agricultural machinery.
- Minor streams and their associated riparian vegetation

Landscape Strategy:

- Development on the fringes of villages should be accompanied by new tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with surrounding field patterns. New planting should be native species and design to frame (not screen) views from the surrounding, expansive farmland landscape.
- The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic; new development should be sited and designed to conserve this pattern by encouraging relatively dense development in villages and conserving key tracts of open farmland between villages and adjacent outlying farms.
- Linear development should be avoided particularly on the approaches to villages, as it will lead to the erosion of the landscape setting and the distinctive sequence of views from one village church to the next.
- Entrances and approaches to the villages are particularly sensitive sites, which requires special attention. There may be opportunities for new buildings in such locations, provided they are carefully designed to reflect the small scale and dense massing of traditional village buildings and provided they are associated with groups and lines of native trees.
- The introduction of protected zones between close adjacent settlements, such as Stow and Sturton by Stow, will prevent coalescence and ensure that individual landscape settings are conserved.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- The retention of buffer zones along rivers and streams will reduce the risk of fertilizer/pesticide runoff from arable land and will enhance their nature conservation value.
- There may be scope for new tree/scrub planting (goat willow, hawthorn, alder and alder buckthorn) along rivers, streams and ditches to increase their visual presence in the landscape.
- The nature conservation value of ditches may be enhanced by cutting shallow ledges into side slopes to provide habitats for aquatic plants.
- The existing small farm woodlands and shelterbelts would benefit from management, including thinning, replanting and the development of robust, well structured edges.
- The creation of buffer zones on the fringes of the woodland blocks will help to protect the existing woodland edges from damage by agricultural machinery; subsequent woodland encroachment onto farmland can be controlled by careful tree surgery and on-going woodland management. The aim should be to conserve (or in some cases create) a diverse age structure and an intact woodland edge.
- Trees and hedgerows make an important contribution to the landscape setting of villages and their management should be a priority in these areas, as well as along rural roads.
- Heavy vehicles can erode the character of rural roads, particularly where hedgerows are removed to improve sight-lines at junctions. Hedgerows should be reinstated to accommodate the new sight-lines.
- New tree planting along approaches to villages and farms could improve the identity of the local landscape. Lines of trees are characteristic in such locations. Tree planting should be confined to hedgerows (i.e. not on verges) on all historic enclosure roads.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Till Vale is located east of Gainsborough and the Trent valley and to the West of the scarp known as the Lincoln 'Cliff'. This is an agricultural landscape with large flat open fields and a strong rural character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominately hawthorn, which are kept low, with few hedgerow trees. The landform comes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west, it becomes more open with a flatter landform towards the east.</p> <p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees.</p> <p>The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible.</p> <p>Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, within the Till Vale there should be an aspiration to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size.</p> <p>The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape.</p> <p>This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Till Vale is conditioned by ensuring new developments are accompanied by new native tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with the surrounding tree patterns, by ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location and reinforces approaches to villages. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Till Vale appeals to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east. This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Till Vale is valued for recreation which is often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of The Till Vale is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Till Vale provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 3 The Till Vale the value (medium) is shaped by its strong rural character provided by the large, flat, open agricultural landscape that dominates this area. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features. Views to village churches from local lanes are particularly important.</p>	
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction phase, ground and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would predominantly be screened by existing vegetation, however, locally there would be some appreciation of construction activities within the Site, notably from Saxilby Road.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, as the upper sections of the array is constructed including the Substation, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows, but these would be limited to locations locally to the Site, again Saxilby Road and Broxholme Lane, but this would not affect the integrity of the wider character area and these activities would be short term.</p> <p>Within the wider area the containment provided to the landscape by the layering of field boundary vegetation, the Codder Lane Belt and woodland surrounding local farmsteads and along Saxilby Road combine with the lowlying nature of the development to allow these activities to be readily absorbed into the Site itself and its immediate setting, limiting adverse effects upon the character of the wider area.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks.</p> <p>As well as the construction of the array, there would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including large scale planting across the Site and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries creating a much greater level of vegetation locally and enclosure to the Site, creating many associated beneficial effects. This includes the change to the arable</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale, associated with the operation of the WB2 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The landscape proposals include for a substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the River Till. This area of land is currently in use as arable farmland, and its conversion into meadow would create an attractive naturalistic setting to the Till.</p> <p>New sections of native hedgerow throughout the Site to be reinstated and provide additional connection with existing hedgerows. Existing hedgerows would be reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting to help provide enclosure across the Site, whilst respecting the overall unwooded character of the area.</p> <p>New native woodland shelter belts are proposed to the west of Saxilby Road around Ingleby, fronted by a large swathe of successional scrub, screening the array from Saxilby Road and helping to break up the array.</p> <p>New native scattered trees would be planted along existing hedgerows throughout the Site, increasing tree cover and providing greater enclosure.</p> <p>Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term meadow - Tussocky grass mix - Flower rich pollinator mix - Tall herb mix - Diverse meadow mix <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>With secondary mitigation such as planting and grass seeding being taken into account at the operational stage (Year 15) the following changes to the landscape would occur and the effects are set out below:</p> <p>The new hedgerow and shelterbelt planting and the enhancement of existing hedges which would be managed to a height of 5m would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the array and associated infrastructure. These new and augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. Native woodland belts would connect with the Codder Lane Belt.</p> <p>The planting of large blocks of woodland within the Site have been avoided, instead native woodland shelter belts and individual trees have been utilised to support the existing character of this area. Where visible from within the wider landscape, the new planting would reinforce the well layered landscape with a backdrop of wooded vegetation in places on the horizon. Both new and existing vegetation would have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape locally, retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be:</p> <p>Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>The proposed grassland would have established and have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes.</p> <p>The large bird mitigation alongside the Till would be providing an attractive naturalistic setting of the Till and</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>Without Secondary Mitigation having been applied throughout the scheme, the only change to the landscape following decommissioning would be the existing hedgerows which will have been allowed to grow out and will have been managed to a height of 5m. It is assumed that these will be retained.</p> <p>With Mitigation, the negative effects of the physical decommissioning will be balanced out by the long term landscape and visual effects of this mitigation.</p> <p>The now established mitigation planting would screen the decommissioning activities within the Site, limiting opportunities for adverse effects upon the wider character of the area.</p>

	<p>land use within the Site, which would be beneficial to soils and watercourses, significantly increasing biodiversity across the Site and helping to capture carbon. The field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with visual layering of vegetation across the landscape and the integration of the new panels within the landscape. A significant section of the West Burton 2 Site alongside the River Till would be utilised as a large swathe of bird mitigation meadowlands. This would create an attractive naturalistic setting to the Till.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would adversely affect the character of WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale within the Site, and the immediate area to a minor degree. However, these effects would be, limited, temporary and short term, and accompanied by additional benefits, including the new bird mitigation alongside the Till and the new woodland shelter belts throughout the Site.</p> <p>Overall, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction phase with minor adverse effects to the Site itself and its immediate surroundings.</p> <p>Within the wider character area, there would be limited appreciation of the array, associated infrastructure or the Substation as they are constructed, with the integrity of the character area, and all features within retained and enhanced resulting in Minor Neutral and short term effects to the wider character area only.</p>	<p>established, starting to create valuable habitats.</p> <p>Overall, this will help to link habitats and strengthen the overall character locally and maintain a sense of place. Important opportunities to bolster the local vegetation cover, buffering and connecting existing fragmented vegetation, aims to create a more resilient and biodiverse landscape.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would have begun to achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>providing significant ecological, habitat and biodiversity benefits.</p> <p>The soil quality would be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off would be reduced around the Site enhancing the water quality generally. There would be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes further across the Site and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing hedgerows locally and the Codder Belt would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape, reinforcing the character of this area.</p> <p>Grassland mixes would have established and would create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation.</p> <p>By Year 15, the Site at West Burton 2 would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature.</p> <p>Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassland reversion - A more varied landscape across the LCA - Improved management of existing vegetation - Less intensively managed land - Soil improvements - Water quality improvements - Increased visibility/definition of watercourses across the landscape. - Increased woodland/vegetation cover - Significantly improved biodiversity - Improved carbon retention/capture - Overwintering opportunities within wetland and elsewhere with Bird mitigation - Potential animal grazing - Reinstatement of historic field patterns - Strengthened Character Area generally - Improved shelter/protection across the landscape <p>Adverse effects (mitigated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels and structures across landscape - Increased hard standing areas – water runoff management required - Potential minor pollution around substations - Visual intrusion in early years - Increased traffic in the local area 	
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			Following mitigation, the Site would be able to accommodate change brought about through the development without undue adverse effects. The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable beneficial effects in the increased level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the biodiversity benefits that this will bring, creating a stronger, more resilient framework across the local character area of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.	
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Medium Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Moderate – Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale of the West Burton 2 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 1 and 3) is Minor (Neutral) at year 1 of operation and Minor (beneficial) at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p> <p>There would be the introduction of new elements and features comprising the solar panel areas and the substation within the character area. However, there would not be the removal of or changes in individual elements or features of the landscape within the character area and with the substantial landscape mitigation planting that would occur as a consequence of the development, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale is able to absorb these cumulative Sites whilst maintaining the integrity of the character of this area.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the Unwooded Vales is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquility. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The presence of the West Burton 1 and 3 Sites would only occupy a relatively minor part of this wider character area and their development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the Unwooded Vales Character Area.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farms and villages, in addition to the larger settlements of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow. The Site is currently being used for agricultural purposes and is divided into three separate areas, with Sturton Road cutting through the centre of the Site in a north south direction.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farms and villages, alongside the larger settlements of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow. The landform is relatively flat with a gentle slope to the east towards the River Till.

The Site is currently being used for agricultural purposes and is divided into three separate areas, with Sturton Road cutting through the centre of the Site in a north south direction. To the east of Sturton Road the Site falls east down towards the River Till and the flat alluvial farmland alongside. Broxholme Road crosses the southern area of this part of the Site. To the west, the landform remains more elevated but is more undulating. Here, the Site falls towards the railway line at approximately 10m AOD.

There is a small, isolated Site parcel located between Ingleby and Ingleby Chase. Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north of centre and Ingleby Grange to the south of centre.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Large-scale arable farmland, isolated properties, and managed native field boundary vegetation exist within the West Burton 2 Site.</p> <p>The land comprises a series of field parcels which are managed intensively.</p> <p>For the West Burton 2 Site, this intensively managed arable land has increased the reliance on arable, increased the field sizes, and degraded the land over time.</p> <p>Overall, the land use within the West Burton 2 Site lacks native vegetation and the intensively managed farmland means the land has become degraded.</p> <p>However, the woodland blocks, field ditches and managed native field boundary vegetation form components of the landscape.</p> <p>On balance, land use in the West Burton 2 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation, small settlements, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields. Agriculture is the dominant land use, although there are some small areas of grazing and paddocks locally.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanized methods.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural. The PRow network is limited and lacking wider connectivity. A small number of isolated PRow footpaths surrounding the West Burton 2 Site experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small country lanes and flat arable farmland are the key components that define the land use.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Absence of PRow network.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable fields.</p> <p>Overall, Within the Study Area is agricultural farmland interspersed with farms and villages, in addition to the larger settlements of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow.</p> <p>For the West Burton 2 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the Site currently being used for large scale agricultural purposes. The landform is relatively flat with a gentle slope to the east towards the River Till and the flat alluvial farmland alongside. To the west, the landform remains more elevated but is more undulating. Here, the Site falls towards the railway line at approximately 10m AOD.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Vegetated drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland within and surrounding the Site.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland dominates this landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation. The landscape has some scope for landscape change since the features are generally commonplace and could be readily replaced.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Land Use (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The construction activities undertaken within the Site itself would be short term and temporary.</p> <p>The installation of the solar array and its ecological mitigation measures would change the land use and break up a landscape that is predominantly flat arable farmland. The change would be beneficial to the soils, watercourses, and biodiversity.</p> <p>Overall, the land use within the Site is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the array without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features will be retained and enhancement at ground level through initial grassland planting will have beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>The WB2 Site is currently a series of intensively managed arable fields with some varied features but predominantly forms part of a wide and exposed arable landscape to the west of the River Till. Field sizes and boundaries vary, and opportunities exist to reinforce the character of the landscape across the Site.</p> <p>The installation of the solar array would change land use within the Site itself. The land would no longer be managed as arable fields. This change would be small in context to the large-scale arable landscape surrounding the Site.</p> <p>A greater mix of land use will also be attained through the creation of bird mitigation habitat fields to the east of the Site alongside the River Till, creating valuable biodiversity benefits for a large number of species.</p> <p>As ecological mitigation starts to establish, the overall level of vegetation cover will increase locally. A greater mix of land use will also be attained through the creation of meadows and grassland, creating valuable biodiversity benefits for a large number of species.</p> <p>Belts of native trees adjacent to properties and watercourses will augment the tree cover locally and help to visually link areas of woodland across the landscape.</p> <p>New hedgerows will replace those lost to intensive agriculture whilst infilling with strengthen those existing which have been overmanaged. Varied grassland mixes will provide habitats for pollinator and pest regulating species with flower rich and tussock mixes around existing and proposed hedgerows and shelterbelts. Tall herb mixes adjacent to watercourses will provide an open habitat for a wide variety of species whilst further defining the riparian landscape.</p> <p>Instead of the somewhat bland and monotypic arable landscape, the development will create a series of interlinked habitats with strong field boundaries dividing the Sites with an overall much greater level of tree cover. This will enhance the local character</p>	<p>As the ecological measures mature, woodland, hedgerows, and grassland would increase vegetation cover across an area dominated by large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p>Reversion to grassland, soil improvements, and river enhancements would create a diverse wildlife-rich land use. New and reinforced hedgerows would be managed to a height of 5m providing a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape.</p> <p>Both new and existing vegetation will have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape, and retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>The proposed grassland will have established and will have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes. The soil quality will be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off will be reduced around the Site/Sites enhancing the water quality generally. There will be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>New hedgerows will replace those lost to intensive agriculture whilst infilling with</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will, however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years.</p>

		<p>generally and integrate development into the landscape.</p> <p>Large areas of varied grassland mixes across the Site would significantly enhance the landscape in physical terms with varied management regimes ensuring that the biodiversity potential is maximized. Potential exists for limited sheep grazing around the Site for short periods, comprising low density grazing in line with conservation methods.</p> <p>The Scheme and its associated landscape mitigation will break up the over intensified local arable landscape and significantly diversify the land-use in the local area.</p> <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become established, starting to create valuable habitats.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the Site is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and will achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>strengthen those existing which have been overmanaged.</p> <p>By Year 15, the proposed mitigation will have established and begun to mature. Existing vegetation will have grown out and will be enhanced with additional tree species. The overall scene will be somewhat more intimate, with tall hedges in places and trees along roads, watercourse, and field boundaries. Historic field patterns will also have been restored where possible. There will be a good mix of landscape elements locally and the use of grassland wildflower mixes and some areas of low-level grazing will create a much wider mix of habitats.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 15, the Site would be able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would achieve considerable beneficial effects in terms of varied land use improvements as well as improved carbon capture and significantly increased biodiversity across the Site.</p> <p>Changes to the land use would be seen as Minor beneficial in landscape terms.</p>	
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><i>In combination</i> Yes West Burton 1 Site to the east of West Burton 2 (within 1km). West Burton 3 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 2km).</p> <p>The In-combination effects of the WB2 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (WB1 and WB3) is Minor Beneficial at year 1 of operation and Minor Beneficial at year 15 with mitigation. There will be positive changes in land use such (such as those outlined above) as the creation of extensive mixed grassland habitats and enhanced field boundaries that will help reinforce the pattern of the landscape. The existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area is predominantly arable and the change to grassland with a significantly improved hedgerow structure and new woodlands would give rise to overall benefits to biodiversity as well as landscape character in combination with all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

Within the Study Area the landform is relatively flat with a gentle slope to the east towards the River Till which meanders along the eastern edge of the Site. The Site is divided into three separate areas, with Sturton Road cutting through the centre of the Site in a north south direction. The Site to the east of Sturton Road falls east down towards the River Till and the flat alluvial farmland alongside it. Broxholme Road crosses the southern area of this part of the Site. To the west, the landform remains more elevated but is more undulating. Here, the Site falls towards the railway line at approximately 10m AOD. Ingleby and Sturton Road are located on an elevated landform and sit at approximately 15m AOD.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area there is a network of agricultural land interspersed with farms and villages, in addition to the larger settlements of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow. The landform is relatively flat with a gentle slope to the east towards the River Till which meanders along the eastern edge of the Site.

The Site is divided into three separate areas, with Sturton Road cutting through the centre of the Site in a north south direction. The Site to the east of Sturton Road falls east down towards the River Till and the flat alluvial farmland alongside. Broxholme Road crosses the southern area of this part of the Site. To the west, the landform remains more elevated but is more undulating. Here, the Site falls towards the railway line at approximately 10m AOD. Ingleby and Sturton Road are located on an elevated landform and sit at approximately 15m AOD.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>In the WB2 Site, the land is flat-lying farmland which gently drains towards the River Till to the east.</p> <p>Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches.</p> <p>Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography of the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the rectangular fields.</p> <p>Overall, the topography and watercourses within the West Burton 2 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation within flat farmland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes experience a flat rural landscape.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key components that define the topography.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.</p> <p>Overall, The Study Area is open agricultural, predominantly flat farmland. The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by drainage ditches that feed into the River Till.</p> <p>For the West Burton 2 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by flat agricultural field parcels that make up the Site itself and that follow the surrounding topography and water courses.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Drainage ditches and the vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable dominates the landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The installation of the panels retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. Within the WB2 Site, the construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p> <p>The land within the WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.</p> <p>The land within the WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.</p> <p>The land within the WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however, benefit from the significantly enhanced planting that would create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 1 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 1km). West Burton 3 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 2km). The installation of the panels retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. The construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

The medieval village of Ingleby is located towards the centre of the Site to the east of Sturton Road. Ingleby Hall and Ingleby Grange now occupy the land the village once sat upon. The Site is divided by Sturton Road which cuts through the centre of the Site in a north south direction. Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north of centre and Ingleby Grange to the south of centre.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area, the countryside is crossed by local rural lanes, with Sturton Road being the most prominent locally.

The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line across the countryside to the west of the Site. The medieval village of Ingleby is located towards the centre of the Site to the east of Sturton Road. Ingleby Hall and Ingleby Grange now occupy the land the village once sat upon.

The Site is divided by Sturton Road which cuts through the centre of the Site in a north south direction. Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north of centre and Ingleby Grange to the south of centre.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The B1241 crosses the flat farmland and travels through the Site in a north/west direction. Large power cables cross the farmland near to the Site and links with West Burton Power Station.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Communications and Infrastructure for the WB2 Site is conditioned by the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor tracks, lanes and farm roads that are bordered by wide verges. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scope to protect the character and diversity of the road networks through conservation and enhancement of the local lanes and recognition of the value that the strategic routes provide in connections across the region.</p> <p>The communications and infrastructure within the West Burton 2 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Small roads and narrow country lanes cross the Site in an agricultural landscape with large energy infrastructure. The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line across the countryside to the west of the Site.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The power and communication infrastructure that crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association. The historic settlement of Ingleby and surrounding ridge and furrow form an attractive landscape alongside Sturton Road.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. The large electricity infrastructure that crosses the landscape does not interfere with this green infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes experience a flat rural landscape, country roads, and views of large electricity infrastructure,</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Large electricity infrastructure crosses the landscape and links with the large power station. This is typical of this flat arable landscape and the electricity infrastructure contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland, and the small roads, slightly detracts from the rural characteristics of the area.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The alignment of the small road cuts through the WB2 Site in a north/ south direction, splitting the land into two. The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line across the countryside to the west of the Site marking the easterly edge of the Site.</p> <p>Overall, within the Study Area, the countryside is crossed by local rural lanes, with Sturton Road being the most prominent locally. The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line across the countryside to the west of the Site.</p> <p>For the West Burton 2 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by a lack of communication routes or presence of major roads crossing the Site or the surrounding countryside. The Site is divided by Sturton Road which cuts through the centre of the Site in a north south direction connecting the settlements of Saxilby to the south with Sturton by Stow in the north. Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. The strategic major road network is defined by important historic routes and in contrast, the east west minor road network links several historic and distinctive smaller string of settlements across the area. Overall, the prevailing road network is formed by narrow lanes that are often tranquil and hedged to both sides with wide grassed verges. Local lanes are bordered by isolated farmsteads and residential dwellings, often with very narrow grass verges and high hedgerows that add elements of intimacy to the routes. The sense of natural enjoyment adds to the value, which stems from the local lanes, small villages, arable fields, and the peacefulness of the landscape</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat farmland and power infrastructure linking with power stations. The B1241 is a strategic north-south minor route which links several settlements including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat farmland and electricity infrastructure. The east west travel direction between the north-south routes links the older settlements moving in a more random pattern, and which adds interest to the landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: There is a network of large electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale farmland that is prevalent in the land. Small country lanes connect the scattering settlement across the landscape. The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland, and electricity infrastructure is part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation. Main roads are significant features in the landscape with recent development concentrated along these main roads.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the Site as they facilitate construction traffic, enabling works, access etc. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the WB2 Site to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Sites and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects. The integrity and tranquillity of these routes, often used for informal recreation, would be affected to some degree by increased traffic during the construction phase but this will be short term and field specific at any one time to the WB2 Site.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the WB2 Site and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the WB2 Site and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the Site as they facilitate construction traffic, etc associated with the decommissioning of the array. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the WB2 Site to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would have benefitted from the enhanced planting and a more robust landscape which retains the overall character of the landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 1 Site to the east of West Burton 2 (within 1km). West Burton 3 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 2km).</p> <p>There will be positive changes in the communications and infrastructure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local road network. The existing character associated with these roads and local lanes of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area are predominantly grass verges, with roadside hedgerows or trees providing enclosure. Significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character and views along these road networks in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

The Site is located alongside the hamlet of Ingleby in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The hamlet is situated less than 1.5 km north of the village of Saxilby and approximately 1.5km south of the village of Sturton by Stow.

Key Features:

The Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure network is broadly defined to the north-west by the large settlement of Gainsborough (approximately 11.5km) which is Britain's most inland port and one of the main cities within the area along with Newark-on-Trent, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Grantham.

To the southeast (approximately 8km), the city of Lincoln is a prominent landmark with the Cathedral that captures the skyline in views across the area. The settlement of Saxilby is immediately to the south of the Site. Otherwise, larger settlements are sparse to the surrounding area.

To the east, the landscape is defined by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads with the A15 (Ermine Street), which is also a Roman road, following a distinctive straight alignment along the limestone capped scarp slope. Ermine Street connects the city of Lincoln from the south as far as the Humber Estuary in the north. The B1398 (Middle Street) also passes along the scarp slope following an almost parallel alignment with Ermine Street and this historic route supports a string of smaller settlements including Burton, South Carlton, North Carlton and Scampton.

Finally, to the west, there are immense coal-fired power stations that exert a visual influence over a wide area, particularly the cooling towers that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

To the west, the A156 (Gainsborough Road) is almost true to the River Trent and passes through the settlements of Torksey, Marton, Gate Burton before reaching the large settlement of Gainsborough.

The B1241 runs north from the A57 through Saxilby and the smaller settlements of Ingleby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.

The A1500 connects the A156 in the west with the A15 on the scarp slope.

With the exception of the villages/hamlets mentioned above, the area is relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. Smaller settlements and hamlets are pocketed through the rural countryside surrounding the Sites including Broxholme, Bransby and Brampton.

The Site is located alongside, but outside of the hamlet of Ingleby, immediately north of Saxilby in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The hamlet is situated less than 1.5 km north of the village of Saxilby and approximately 1.5km south of the village of Sturton by Stow. Sturton Road / Saxilby Road connects the settlements. The Site is located approximately 500m east of the West Burton 1 Site (Broxholme). Ingleby and Sturton Road are located on an elevated landform and sits at approximately 15m AOD.

Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north and Ingleby Grange to the south.

The Site lies within the parish of Saxilby with Ingleby. Ingleby is comprised of three areas, North Ingleby, South Ingleby and Low Ingleby.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The economic driver for the settlements north of Saxilby is arable farming, and this is illustrated by the large-scale, flat, rectangular parcels of arable land, isolated farmsteads, and a network of farm tracks.</p> <p>For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other industry and commerce and a limited amount of leisure. Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.</p> <p>This landscape has some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor farm tracks. The edges of the villages, the sequence of views to the churches and the avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms are also sensitive features. The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic.</p> <p>Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the West Burton 2 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small, narrow country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The small narrow country lanes provide a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall. The Site is located alongside, but outside of the hamlet of Ingleby in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The hamlet is situated less than 1.5 km north of the village of Saxilby and approximately 1.5km south of the village of Sturton by Stow. Sturton Road / Saxilby Road connects the settlements. Ingleby and Sturton Road are located on an elevated landform and sits at approximately 15m AOD.</p> <p>Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north and Ingleby Grange to the south.</p> <p>For the West Burton 2 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the area, outside of the settlement of Saxilby to the south, being relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The landscape is influenced by the sparsely populated flat arable farmland. The string of small, nucleated settlements on the limestone capped scarp slope add to the sequence of views and help define the settled character of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable and scattered sparsely populated settlement. There is little commerce or economic activity other than agriculture. The farmsteads and dwellings add a positive character to the local network where there are associated heritage features.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland prevalent in the landscape, and a sparsely populated scattered settlement, contribute to the value of the countryside within the site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The sparsely populated, flat large-scale arable farmland forms part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction stage, ground, and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would be predominantly screened by existing vegetation. During the latter part of the construction stage, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows may be possible, but this would be short term.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks. There would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including planting and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries of the Site/Sites.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would not affect any of the settlements or other commercial/industrial areas in this area. There would be a change to the arable land use, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels. Development would not have any adverse effects on the integrity of the local settlements.</p>	<p>The proposed development will have little effect on local industry and commerce although the introduction of the solar farm will provide some additional traffic to the roads and lanes locally. Mitigation will be in the form of tree, hedge, and shelterbelt planting as well as shrub and grassland areas which will both screen views of the additional traffic and provide benefits in terms of reducing noise and carbon impacts.</p> <p>The overall increase in vegetative cover and the reduction of over intensively farmed arable land will have benefits locally both in landscape character and visual terms and with regard to a considerable increase in the biodiversity around settlements/isolated dwellings across the area. The development will have no adverse effects on the larger settlements such as Gainsborough, Saxilby and Lincoln.</p> <p>There will be no industrial development associated with the use of the WB2 Site, and other built infrastructure associated with the solar farm will be limited to temporary (but long term) buildings with the overall development having an anticipated life span of 40 years.</p>	<p>Over time, the proposals would be perceived as part of the economic activities within the predominantly arable farming landscape.</p> <p>The local settlement and commercial/industrial facilities are able to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects. The proposed Scheme will have no adverse effects in the physical integrity of the settlements adjacent to the Site and there will be beneficial effects in terms of local tree/hedge cover and biodiversity net gains enhancing the local character and the setting of these settlements.</p> <p>The solar panels within the WB2 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. Bird mitigation fields and wetland grazing marshes are likely to be retained and the potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 1 Site to the east of West Burton 2 (within 1km). West Burton 3 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 2km).</p> <p>There will be positive changes to the settlements, industry, commerce and leisure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local settlements and their approaches, and particularly in the context of the church spires. The existing landscape character associated with the outer edges of these settlements of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area is predominantly woodland and tree cover around the margins and the change to grassland with scattered trees and a significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

There are no PRow across the Site.

Key Features:

The PRow network is mainly restricted to routes that generally follow the pattern of watercourses, tracks, and woodlands across the area. The PRow network is mainly aligned along field boundaries connecting with the local road network and to nearby settlements and farmsteads across the area. The network is generally intermittent because there are few landscape features to help form continuous links. The footpath network is particularly sporadic in the landscape due to these inconsistent links, the local lanes are used to supplement for recreation and the lack of connectivity. The routes mainly follow an east-west and north-south direction to reflect the prevailing landscape pattern and to connect the local lanes with nearby settlements.

In closest proximity are the Public Footpaths Brox/198/1 and Brox/197/1, located about 700m east of the Site.
Public Footpaths Saxi/203/1, Saxi/207/1 and Saxi/208/1, are all located approximately 700m to the south of the Site.

Assessment of Sensitivity - PRoW Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>No Public Rights of Way (PRoW) cross the WB2 Site, and there is limited PRoW through the immediate countryside surroundings.</p> <p>The wider PRoW network surrounding the Site provides access to the wider countryside.</p> <p>Overall, the PRoW network in the West Burton 2 Site has a high susceptibility to change. The susceptibility of the Public Rights of Way and Access for the Site is conditioned by the limited network of footpaths and bridleways and the availability of the rural roads and minor tracks for extended access. The relevant characteristics therefore have some scope to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. There is however scope to increase recreation opportunities including where there are natural features and historical elements to draw interest from residents and tourists.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Views of flat, large-scale arable landscape and settlement.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. Ingleby forms a historical point of interest along Sturton Road, as does views back towards the Church of St Botolph in Saxilby.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. A network of small country lanes connects the sparse settlements within the surrounding area. Recreation is provided by the numerous local lanes and public rights of way, especially along the Trent corridor, including the Trent Valley Way.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. Views offer long westward views to the power stations on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of Lincoln 'Cliff' including Lincoln Cathedral.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Limited PRoW in the surrounding area provides poor access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: A sparse and scattered settled landscape with a poor PRoW network creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape. Roads and minor farm tracks are bordered by wide verges and hedgerows, and this contributes to their function in providing an open setting to villages. Access for recreation is an important factor in these locations.</p> <p>Overall, there are no PRoW across the Site and the surrounding area is lacking routes or connections limiting public access. However, where the minor roads and tracks have legitimate access for recreation there is scope for providing improvements.</p> <p>For the West burton 2 Site, the judgement on value (Low) is shaped by the lack of public access across this area of countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the surrounding area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and space and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. There are no PRoW footpaths within or surrounding the Site. Some of the villages have a broad landscape setting where the minor roads lead across this area as access for recreation, particularly as a landscape with long views and this is a substitute for the sparse network of PRoW.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The countryside within and surrounding the Site has poor public access other than small narrow country lanes.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. The Site has poor public access. There is scope for development and mitigation. The footpaths and bridleways are key features especially where they offer a sequence of views to landmark churches. Some views from the footpaths also offer westward views to the power stations on the Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of Lincoln 'Cliff'.</p>
High	Low	Low to Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	There is no PRow within or crossing the WB2 Site. Within the WB2 Site, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site. Proposed Permissive Access from Sykes Lane into new nature area.	There is no PRow within or crossing the WB2 Site. Within the WB2 Site, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site. Proposed Permissive Access from Sykes Lane into new nature area.	There is no PRow within or crossing the WB2 Site. Within the WB2 Site, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site. Proposed Permissive Access from Sykes Lane into new nature area.	There is no PRow within or crossing the WB2 Site. Within the WB2 Site, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>West Burton 1 Site to the east of West Burton 2 (within 1km). West Burton 3 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 2km).</p> <p>There will be some positive changes to the PRow due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character, however the presence of the array and associated infrastructure would detract somewhat, leading to an overall position of neutral. The existing landscape character associated with these PRow of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area would predominantly provide tree cover along their margins with a change to grassland with scattered trees and a significantly improved hedgerow networks, which would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the landscape and the Public Rights of Way and Access is shaped by the villages and isolated settlement that have a broad landscape setting where the minor roads lead across this area as access for recreation, particularly as a landscape with long views. The PRow network is often confined to the settlement edges where the woodland and tree cover closes down views of this broad landscape setting. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

West Lindsey District contains a local landscape designation, the West Lindsey Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) which comprises different and disparate parts. These different parts are not named, therefore for clarity, in the descriptions below the areas are named as follows (and shown on **Figure 8.6 Landscape Receptors**):

- AGLV1 – The Ridge
- AGLV2 – Gainsborough
- AGLV3 – Laughton Wood

The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV. The Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) 1 in West Lindsey District is located approximately 3.6km east of the Site.

Key Features:

AGLV1 The Ridge: This is centered on the landscape associated with the distinct landform ridge extending north from South Carlton to the east of the Site.

The adjoining escarpment of the Lincolnshire Edge defines this low-lying landscape to the east, and this is an important landscape feature in the landscape to the east of the Site.

The landscape mainly comprises of open arable and pastoral farmland with good hedgerow boundaries.

The scarp slope then supports woodlands that appear as a distinctive feature and help define landscape pattern.

There are also further woodlands lining the scarp slopes and surrounding the small settlements that. The landscape is crossed by minor roads and those that descend from the ridge-top route of the B1398 as steep lanes where valuable views can be experienced over the Till Vale.

Views west from the top of the scarp slope across the low lying landscape towards the River Trent are a key feature and views from the junction with the A1500 Roman road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. The views from this location show the transition within the landscape from the trees and woodlands enclosing the string of historic springline villages at the foot of the slope. Village entrances are secluded and narrow at the top of the scarp slope.

The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.

AGLV1 in West Lindsey District is located approximately 3.6km east of the Site.

AGLV1 forms a 20km fringe running north to south from Grayingham village at B1205 in the north and ends in South Carton.

AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.

Assessment of Sensitivity - National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.</p> <p>AGLV1 is located approximately 3.6km east of the Site. AGLV1 forms a 20km fringe running north to south from Grayingham village at B1205 in the north to South Carton.</p> <p>AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.</p> <p>Recent trends have shown that the AGLV has undergone rapid change in some areas and in some parts, this is leading to homogenization of the landscape and loss of hedgerows. However, there is an opportunity to reinforce landscape character and build in more diversity across the area especially in terms of improvements to hedgerows but also in increasing native vegetation across the wider area, increased broadleaved woodland and improvements to woodland edge species.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the National and Local Designations for the WB1 Site is conditioned by the striking differences across the varying elements of the AGLV and how these can be appreciated across the landscape. There is an opportunity to use landscape mitigation to build upon these differences and bolster this landscape diversity. The AGLV therefore have a limited susceptibility to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. There is, however, robust hedgerows with smaller fields and many trees in these locations that assist with mitigation.</p> <p>Overall, the National and Locally Designated Landscapes network in the West Burton 2 Site has a high susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms expansive countryside views. There are striking variations in character and scenic appeal across the differing AGLV, and this diversity is a key element of value. The main feature is how the narrow landscape band of the ridge landscape contrasts with the wider Till Vale and the wide ranging panoramic views available from within it of the wider flat arable landscape to the west.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The AGLV provides a culture of 'soft tourism', in the form of walking, cycling, and boating and short breaks and this is a key aspect of this strategy. The villages at the foot of the scarp slope benefit from attractive settings due to the presence of woodland cover associated with the historic halls and associated parklands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside. There is little direct linkage between the settlements to the east at the lower level of the scarp, and so the B1398 as the ridge-top road provides the key linkage and dips down to the bottom of the scarp in this location linking villages</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. There is a strong relationship between landscape character and settlement where many villages derive their sense of place from distinctive views, local landmarks, and features around their edges.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside. The district has relatively few tourist 'attractions' and many visitors just simply enjoy the scenic drives, including the historic churches, the Till Vale, and the Lincolnshire Cliff.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV. The Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) 1 in West Lindsey District is located approximately 3.6km east of the Site. AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln. For the West Burton 2 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of any designation across the Site itself, but in recognition of the elevated nature and intervisibility with the Ridge AGLV to the east.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The scarp and cliff form a notable element in the landscape to the east.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages within AGLV1 and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change. The countryside is open flat arable farmland. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
High	Medium	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the WB2 Site, the construction and installation of the solar panels would be approximately 3.6km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.</p> <p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction stage, ground, and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would be screened due to existing vegetation, intervening settlements, and topography.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, some filtered appreciation of the elevated activities above the hedgerows within the eastern sections of the WB2 Site may become available – depending upon atmospheric conditions and time of year. Some views from limited specific areas of the elevated land to the east may occur, but these would not affect the integrity of the landscape receptor in itself and would be limited in their duration.</p> <p>There would be a change to the arable land use, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels. There would not be a fundamental change to the surroundings or to the views and settings of the AGLV.</p>	<p>For the WB2 Site, the operation of the solar panels would be approximately 3.6km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.</p> <p>In terms of mitigation for the AGLV associated with the WB2 Site, due to distance and varied relationship with the immediate landscape to their boundaries, it is anticipated that the overall scheme of mitigation will reinforce the landscape character where this has been lost or eroded in the last century to intensive arable farming.</p> <p>There will be a much greater level of tree and hedgerow cover over the WB2 Site although this will be immature at this point. Considerable biodiversity gains will be brought forward by the increase in tree and hedge cover as well as having the benefit of capturing carbon in the longer term.</p> <p>The reversion of arable land to grassland will have considerable ecological benefits, widely increasing the biodiversity, resilience, and sustainability of the area generally and starting to improve soil structure and water quality. Varied grassland mixes and flower rich pollinator mixes will build in more diversity and begin to create visual interest across the landscape.</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree cover, although immature at this stage will have a very minor but beneficial effect on the setting of the local villages and will enhance the wider character generally in the context of the AGLV.</p>	<p>For the WB2 Site, the long-term operation of the solar panels would be approximately 3.6km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.</p> <p>There will be a much greater level of tree cover over the WB2 Site. This tree cover will have matured to integrate into the existing field boundary and woodland vegetation both locally and across the wider landscape setting of the AGLV.</p> <p>The reversion of arable land to grassland will have established to achieve a rich tapestry of habitats where grassland mixes have integrated into their natural environment and established their natural composition with the help of some appropriate management. Soil structure will be much improved through the lack of cultivation and water quality improvement will be seen.</p> <p>By Year 15, new tree cover in the form of scattered native tree belts and shelterbelts/woodlands will have established and begun to mature, reaching a height of some 7.5m. These elements will sit within the landscape and will begin to better define field boundaries and roadsides, with watercourses better presented by riparian species along their winding routes. Hedgerows will have established and outgrown, being managed to a height of 5m creating a layered vegetated scene across the landscape from the higher land and a more intimate environment from the lower levels. Strong lines of tree lined hedges will run across and down the landscape forming a rich pattern of colour and form.</p> <p>The AGLV is able to accommodate the proposed development within the wider landscape without undue adverse effects with long term physical and visual benefits over the Sites as a whole.</p>	<p>For the WB2 Site, the decommissioning of the solar panels would be approximately 3.6km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.</p> <p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has begun to mature to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years.</p>

5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 1 Site to the east of West Burton 2 (within 1km). West Burton 3 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 2km).</p> <p>There will be positive changes to the wider setting of the AGLVs due to the additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character. The existing landscape character associated with these Cumulative Sites and Study Area would predominantly provide tree cover along the hedge lines and their margins with a change to grassland with scattered trees, which would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the landscape and the Locally Designated features is shaped by the striking variations in character and scenic appeal across the differing AGLV and this diversity is a key element of value. The main feature is how the narrow landscape band of the ridge landscape contrasts with the wider Till Vale. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The cumulative visibility for the WB1 and WB2 Sites would not alter the overall character of the landscape and its Locally Designated features. Moreover, these designations are set within a well-vegetated context or associated with undulating landform that plays a positive role in reducing the overall cumulative effects. The baseline of the AGLV would not be affected but its wider setting would be improved with the landscape mitigation to yield beneficial effects.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

The Deserted village of North Ingleby (List Entry Number: 1003570) is located on Sturton Road in the middle of, but outside of the Site. There are also three Scheduled Monuments within 2km. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The closest in proximity is Grade II Listed Ingleby Chase (Listed Number: 1147263), located to the Site northern boundary. The Site is not located within a Conservation Area. However, within a 2km radius of the Site there is one Conservation Area to the south of Saxilby village, the Bridge Street at Saxilby Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site or within 2km.

Key Features:

There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site.

The Deserted village of North Ingleby (List Entry Number: 1003570), located on the eastern side of Sturton Road outside of the Site.

There are also three Scheduled Monuments within the 2km proximity. To the northwest is The Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park, Stow Park (List Entry Number: 1019229). To the northeast, in the Thorpe in the Fallows hamlet is Thorpe medieval settlement (List Entry Number: 1016978); and eastward, in Broxholme, is Broxholme medieval settlement and cultivation remains (List Entry Number: 1016797). (Refer to **Figure 8.6: Landscape Receptors**).

There are no Listed Buildings on the Site.

The closest in proximity is Grade II Listed Ingleby Chase (Listed Number: 1147263), located to the Site northern boundary. Within a 2km proximity there are further Grade I and II Listed Buildings, including to the south of the Site within the town of Saxilby, where the Grade I Church of St Botolph (Listed Number: 1359490) and Grade II* The Old Hall (Listed Number 1064072) are located. (Refer to **Figure 8.6: Landscape Receptors**).

The Site is not located within a Conservation Area.

However, within a 2km radius of the Site there is one Conservation Area to the south of Saxilby village, the Bridge Street at Saxilby Conservation Area. This Conservation Area includes most of Bridge Street's buildings from the latter half of the nineteenth century. Architecturally, they are a mixture of sizes, uses and materials. Where red brick is predominant, few of the buildings are in their original form as built but most show evidence of rebuilding. The most important architectural buildings are two public houses: The Sun Inn and The Ship. Both are well maintained and attractive buildings. (Refer to **Figure 8.6: Landscape Receptors**).

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site or within 2km.

Doddington Hall (Listed Number 1000975) is the closest located approximately 5.6km south of the Site and outside of the Study Area.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Deserted village of North Ingleby is located on Sturton Road. There are no Listed Buildings on Site. There are a number of monuments and listed buildings in the area.</p> <p>Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the West Burton 2 Site have a high susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Deserted village of North Ingleby (List Entry Number: 1003570), located on Sturton Road in the middle, but outside of the Site.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: No PRoW's in the surrounding area provide a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, located to the immediate east of Sturton Road, the Deserted village of North Ingleby (List Entry Number: 1003570), is located outside of, but in close proximity to the Site. There are also three Scheduled Monuments within 2km. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The closest in proximity is Grade II Listed Ingleby Chase (Listed Number: 1147263), located to the Site northern boundary. The Site is not located within a Conservation Area. However, within a 2km radius of the Site there is one Conservation Area to the south of Saxilby village, the Bridge Street at Saxilby Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site or within 2km.</p> <p>For the West Burton 2 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the absence of assets across the Site itself and the proximity to the Scheduled Monument at Ingleby.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not widely recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens. However the Deserted village of North Ingleby provides time depth locally.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in this landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside, and the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the area have not become degraded.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside has little man-made interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
High	Medium	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Within the WB2 Site, the construction and installation of the solar panels would not interfere with the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens surrounding the Site. There would be a change to the arable land use, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels. There would not be a fundamental change to the surroundings to the views and settings of the landscape receptors.</p> <p>The presence of the Deserted village of North Ingleby has been recognized within the Site layout and generous offset of panels and infrastructure has been provided as well as extensive landscaping to provide separation from the array and maintain its isolated location within the landscape to the north of Saxilby.</p>	<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree and hedgerow cover across the Site would help to reinforce the structure and character of the landscape within and surrounding the Site helping reinforce the wider character of the landscape in which heritage assets are appreciated.</p> <p>The presence of the Deserted village of North Ingleby has been recognized within the Site layout and generous offset of panels and infrastructure has been provided as well as extensive landscaping to provide separation from the array and maintain its isolated location within the landscape to the north of Saxilby.</p>	<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree and hedgerow cover across the Site would help to reinforce the structure and character of the landscape within and surrounding the Site helping reinforce the wider character of the landscape in which heritage assets are appreciated.</p> <p>New woodland blocks alongside Sturton road are now established providing containment to the array to the west and maintaining the isolated position of the Deserted village of North Ingleby.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has begun to mature to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 1 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 1km). West Burton 3 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 2km).</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree and hedgerow cover across the Site would help to reinforce the structure and character of the landscape within and surrounding the Site helping reinforce the wider character of the landscape in which heritage assets are appreciated.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Minor - moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor - moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Minor - moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor - moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Low</p>	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Minor - moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor - moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor - moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor - moderate Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Minor - moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor - moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor - moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor - moderate Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

Natural Designations include National Parks and AONBs. In addition to these there are further national and international statutory environmental designations which contribute to England's natural environment and make a major contribution to national and regional character. These include the following:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Ramsar Sites
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations have a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognised for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site. There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site. For the West Burton 2 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of designations across the Site or locally.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not recognised for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside has little man-made interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 2 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.2].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of bird mitigation alongside the river Till

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km). There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

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Yellow highlight indicates potential significant effects may be identified during final assessment process on landscape receptor.	
National Character Area (NCA) / Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT) Scoping Table	Site WB3 5km Study Area
NCA Profile: 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales (NE429)	/
A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains. The mature, powerful River Trent flows north through the full length of the area, meandering across its broad flood plain and continuing to influence the physical and human geography of the area as it has done for thousands of years.	/
The bedrock geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.	
Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops. While much pasture has been converted to arable use over the years, grazing is still significant in places, such as along the Trent and around settlements.	/
A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.	/
Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.	/
Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent flood plain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.	
Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.	
A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.	/
Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert a visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them. The same applies to the gas-fired power station and sugar beet factory near Newark, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.	
NCA Profile: 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (NE554)	
Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.	
Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.	
Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.	
Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber, and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.	
Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.	
Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.	
Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.	
Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.	
Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street; sparse on higher land, with springline villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.	
Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.	
Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-coloured limestone with dark brown pantiles.	
Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.	
RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys (East Midlands)	
Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;	
River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;	
Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;	
Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;	
Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;	
Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;	
Limited settlement and development in rural areas;	/
Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;	/
Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and	
Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.	
RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales (East Midlands)	/
Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.	/
Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.	/
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.	/
Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.	/
Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result.	/
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.	/
Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fieldscapes evident in areas of arable reversion.	/
Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.	/
RLCT Profile: 4b Wooded Vales	
Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type.	
Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover.	
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment.	
Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat.	
Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations.	
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping.	
Irregular shaped assorted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas.	
Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.	/
RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes	
Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope.	
Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology.	
Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries.	
Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland.	
Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.	

LLCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley (West Lindsey)	/
Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.	/
Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape.	/
River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.	/
Historic parkland landscape including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle.	/
Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main road, bypassing original village centres.	/
Views towards the west are dominated by the power stations along the River Trent.	/
LLCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale (West Lindsey)	/
Agricultural landscape with large, flat open fields.	/
Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.	/
Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelter belts	/
Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.	/
String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating grounds along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.	/
Large farm buildings and individual farmhouse on flatter land to the east.	/
Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.	/
Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'.	/
LLCA Profile: 4 The Cliff (West Lindsey)	
Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.	
Springline villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.	
Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.	
Pond and lakes along the springline.	
BLCA Policy Zones MNPZ 05 Leverton	
Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.	
A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.	
Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.	
Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.	
Isolated farmsteads.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands	
A predominantly large scale arable landscape	/
Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham	
Views dominated by power stations and pylons	/
Well trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees	
Less well maintained road side hedges, with trees	/
Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.	
Limited small woodlands	/
Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south	
Views are dominated by Cottam power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands	
This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD	
Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South	
Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties	
Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees	
Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy	
Watercourses are present throughout the PZ	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south	
Views are dominated by West Burton power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views to the north and south , views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough , characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
Flat topography	
A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent	
Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses	
Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees	
Grass flood bank	

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

NCA Profile 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is broadly characterised by a ridge of Jurassic limestone running north from Lincoln to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises prominently from adjacent low-lying land, forming the Edge or Cliff, and giving panoramic views out, in particular to the west. In the north is a second, lower scarp of ironstone. In the vicinity of Scunthorpe are the Coversands, post-glacial wind-blown sands which have given rise to mosaics of heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodland, supporting rare plant and animal communities akin to the Brecklands. At the northern boundary the limestone drops below the River Humber.

Ermine Street, a key Roman route from Lincoln to a crossing point on the Humber, follows the higher, drier land of the limestone plateau. Built in Norman times, the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral occupies a commanding position on top of the Edge and is visible from far around.

Key Features:

Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.

Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.

Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.

Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.

Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.

Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.

Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.

Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.

Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street, sparse on higher land, with spring line villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.

Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.

Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-colored limestone with dark brown pantiles.

Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Edge, an escarpment formed of Jurassic limestones combined with an escarpment of Lower Jurassic mudstones, rises prominently from the low-lying farmland in the Humberhead Levels and Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Areas (NCAs) to the west, giving rise to impressive long-distance views. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River. The outcrop of limestone forming the Edge extends south into the Southern Lincolnshire Edge NCA, bisected by the River Witham at Lincoln, and giving rise to a similar landscape of good-quality agricultural land. Lincoln Cathedral, built on top of the Edge above the Witham Gap, is a prominent landmark from miles around.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area, from Whitton on the Humber Estuary in the north to Lincoln in the south. To the east of Scunthorpe a second scarp of calcareous mudstones and siltstones, including ironstone, forms the western margin of the north part of the NCA. These slopes rise prominently from the flat cultivated lands of the Humberhead Levels and the Trent and Belvoir Vales, forming a distinct wooded edge to these areas. From the top of the Cliff there are impressive panoramic views out over the Humber Estuary, the Levels and the Vales.</p> <p>This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. Fields are typically large and rectilinear with gappy clipped hedgerows, or rubble limestone in places. Field sizes tend to be smaller around the villages. The dispersed farmsteads are typically large, with courtyard arrangements of barns and sheds that have developed over time, often overshadowing the original stone farmhouse. Copses of mixed-species trees provide some shelter. In places the limestone comes close to the surface, giving rise to small areas of calcareous grassland, which can also be found in a number of disused limestone quarries.</p> <p>The area is punctuated by a number of prominent features, from the massive steelworks at Scunthorpe and the hangars of military airfields along the top of the Edge, to the distinctive and prominent cathedral in Lincoln, standing high up on the Edge overlooking the Witham Gap, where the river cuts through the limestone. On the plateau top, some airfields have been put to new uses, and large buildings constructed for grain storage, light industry, warehousing and retail and communications masts are often very prominent out on the flat open land of the limestone plateau. Several farms now have large rectilinear reservoirs to provide for irrigation of crops on the light soils of the plateau.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Lincolnshire Edge is a long, prominent ridge, running from Grantham to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises sharply from low-lying land to the west, while the dip slope drops gently to the Ancholme Valley in the east. In the northern part of the NCA this forms a very distinct secondary scarp, overlooking the River Trent as it draws close below Alkborough.</p> <p>Cultural: There is widespread evidence of early settlement along the Edge, including prehistoric burial mounds and linear boundary features. The legacy of the Romans is more visible, particularly the roads that converge on the fort and later colonia at Lincoln. Ermine Street runs north-south along the full length of the NCA. The historic evidence that is most visible is that of the Roman period, with the network of long, straight roads, in particular Ermine Street which links the settlement of Lincoln with the crossing point of the Humber. Other features include the cathedral in Lincoln built by the Normans, deserted medieval villages and, more recently, military airfields and the steelworks that tower above Scunthorpe. There is scope for protecting these features and providing interpretation to bring them to the attention of a wider audience.</p> <p>Natural: The Coversands support important mosaics of heathland, akin to those of Breckland, as well as dry acid grassland and oak/birch woodland.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited, and there is scope for improving access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, especially providing links between urban areas and the countryside.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: While a predominantly arable landscape, it has many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff), the varied habitats of the Coversands, the prominent steelworks at Scunthorpe, historic villages, the airfields and inspirational long-distance views, especially out to the west. In the south is the city of Lincoln with its rich history and inspirational views to and from the cathedral. There is scope for strengthening the fabric of the landscape and for managing further development.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area. This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is shaped by the predominantly arable landscape, with many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff) and the varied habitats of the Coversands.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover, the NCA offers long, open views. Newark-on-Trent (generally referred to as Newark) lies at the centre with Grantham, Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough on the peripheries. The area's generally fertile soils and good quality agricultural land have supported a diversity of farming over a long period but, because of this, little semi-natural habitat remains. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain provide a strong feature running through the landscape. It is the greatest biodiversity resource, being a major corridor for wildlife moving through the area and supporting a variety of wetland habitats. It also provides flood storage as well as large amounts of cooling water for local power stations.

Key Features:

A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains.

The bedrock of geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.

Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops.

A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.

Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.

Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent floodplain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.

Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.

A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.

Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent and Belvoir Vales offer a gently undulating and low-lying landform with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys and flood plains. The landscape follows a strong north-south pattern due to the orientation of the underlying Triassic and Jurassic geology. Woodland cover is low. On the higher ground west of the Trent, small broadleaved, ancient semi-natural woodlands of oak and ash are frequently found, often as narrow strips alongside incised watercourses.</p> <p>Most of the area contains productive farmland, the majority of which is used for commercial arable production while grazing land for sheep, cattle and horses is locally significant in places. The sandy soils west of Lincoln have low natural fertility, but with fertiliser inputs these also provide very useful farmland, particularly for root crop production. Because of the value of the land for agriculture, the area has retained little semi-natural habitat. What remnants survive include flood plain grazing marsh such as The Holmes near Sutton on Trent, lowland meadows and some small areas of heathland, for example on the windblown sand deposits north of Collingham. Throughout the area, broadleaved woodlands, copses and the networks of hedgerows provide important habitats for farmland species.</p> <p>The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Throughout, hedgerow trees are few and limited to oak and ash, with willow along watercourses. In the east, hedgerows become fewer and the division of fields by dykes becomes more common, giving the landscape a fen-like character.</p> <p>The flood plains are distinctive features, especially that of the Trent; however, the rivers themselves are not visually prominent in the wider landscape and are often completely hidden from view by levees. They flow largely unnoticed, marked only by a fringe of scattered trees and riparian vegetation. The Trent is in its mature form as it meanders slowly but powerfully through the area. For ease of navigation and flood prevention, the channel has been deepened and, particularly in its lower reaches, tightly confined by levees. The Trent and its flood plain act as a major corridor for wildlife through the area and provide a variety of wetland habitats.</p> <p>The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them. Building styles vary but are unified in rural areas by red brick and pantiles.</p> <p>Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power</p>	<p>Scenic: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.</p> <p>Cultural: The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact. Medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation features can still be seen on land uncultivated since. At Laxton the medieval open field system of farming has been retained to the present day. Enclosure and reorganisation of the landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries is seen in the regular shaped fields bounded by hawthorn hedgerows and the red brick and pantile building style of farmsteads and villages. Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires are prominent historical landmarks in the landscape.</p> <p>Natural: A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46. The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Ancient hedgerows are still evident in many places, often as sinuous belts of trees and shrubs, occasionally defining ancient parish boundaries. The Vale of Belvoir has seen a steady decline in permanent pasture and conversion to arable uses. Increases in horse ownership across the NCA have led to some permanent pasture being used as horse paddocks. There has been pig and poultry unit expansion and upgrade across the NCA.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: Recreation is provided by numerous small country lanes and public rights of way, especially along the Trent corridor, including the Trent Valley Way. It is also provided by country parks such as Cotgrave and Hartsholme. The restoration of the numerous disused sand and gravel extraction sites to wetlands, along with the River Trent and the Fossdyke Navigation, provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for boating, water sports, fishing, walking and experiencing wildlife.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Higher ground defines the edges of the NCA from where there are extensive views across the vales. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain is a major feature running through the landscape. Villages are unified by the dominant rural vernacular style of red brick and pantile. The main settlements have strong associations with the area. Distinctive landmarks include Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires and the power stations on the Trent.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: PRow are often limited and lacking wider connectivity, with a reliance on the local rural road network. Greater access is provided alongside the River Trent. The Trent is the main river of this NCA, providing a functional, recreational and environmental link with the NCAs upstream and downstream through which it flows.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland</p>	<p>Character: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.</p> <p>Quality: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.</p> <p>Value: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, small hamlets and larger Market Towns. The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact.</p> <p>Capacity: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

<p>lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works and active sand and gravel extraction sites.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA48: Trent and Belvoir Vales is shaped by the strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland centred on the River Trent.</p>	
<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton 3 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes landscape character area is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Landscape Character Type is part of the Jurassic limestone belt that runs from Dorset to the Humber. It is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, both in its physical structure, large scale arable land uses and the character of many of the stone built villages along the lower scarp slopes. However, in contrast to elsewhere with areas of similar geology, locally occurring heathland on thinning limestone created a unique character up until agricultural improvement in the 19th century.

The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale. To the east of the scarp extends a gently undulating and tilted limestone dip slope that merges with the adjacent fenland and marshland fringes of eastern Lincolnshire. It is thought that the landscape has remained largely devoid of trees since the prehistoric period. Whilst it is assumed that the landscape was farmed from at least the Neolithic, place names and occasional indicator species provide clues to the marginal and heathy character of the landscape prior to agricultural improvement.

The consistent alignment of the edge has created a strong sense of linearity, further emphasized by ancient transportation routes. Ermine Street was created in Roman times to link London to York and possibly consolidated much more ancient trackways running along the top of the edge. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that adds to the geometric character of the dip slope landscape.

Despite evidence of long established settlement and exploitation, the dip slope retains a modern and sometimes declining character, largely as a result of intensive arable production and poor boundary maintenance.

However, the edge and scarp villages continue to retain a more intricate and intact historic character.

Key Features:

- Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment;
- Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope;
- Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology;
- Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries;
- Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland; and
- Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosure roads are distinctive landscape features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes; however, these are under threat from lack of management and inappropriate planting.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes is conditioned by the escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, that rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes appeal to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Scarps and Dipslopes are valued for recreation which often focuses on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes the value (high) is shaped by the Jurassic limestone belt that is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, particularly in terms of the large-scale arable land uses. The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighbouring vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff landscape character area is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Lincoln Cliff is a straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the center of the district. It is the narrowest part of an extensive band of resistant limestone which stretches from the Humber to the South Kesteven Uplands. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. Isolated storm-damaged ash trees, which often have grotesque shapes, are characteristic features of the scarp slope.

There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton.

The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.

The villages are small and compact. Limestone is the favored building material, with brick detailing and pantile roofs. Boundary walls are generally also constructed from the local limestone. The village of Ingham has grown larger than the others, with the introduction of newer brick houses, many of which are bungalows. Despite this, the center has retained its integrity and identity, with buildings placed around an attractive village green. There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline.

Key Features:

- Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.
- Diverse pattern of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.
- Spring line villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.
- Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.
- Ponds and lakes along the spring line.

Landscape Sensitivity:

A relatively small, but distinctive limestone scarp with a diverse landscape pattern; there is a transition from trees and woodlands enclosing a string of historic springline villages at the foot of the slope to a mix of pastures and arable fields on the steep slopes. The scarp is visible from much of the Till Vale and there are long views from the ridge-top road. The villages have a range of important historic and archaeological sites and many are associated with wooded parkland landscapes.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- diverse landscape pattern on scarp slope;
- wetlands - ponds and lakes at the springline;
- trees and woodlands - at the foot of the escarpment;
- village entrances - narrow, secluded contrast to the ridge-top road along the skyline (Middle Street);
- historic buildings and parkland eg. Glentworth,
- village greens, mature trees, limestone walls and churches.
- pastures on western fringes of villages - provide contrast to surrounding arable land.

Landscape Strategy:

- There is relatively little scope for new development in these historic and sensitive villages; only small-scale development of individual sites and the conversion of existing buildings will be appropriate.
- The 'Cliff' villages have a secluded landscape setting, surrounded by pasture and trees; new development should not encroach on the existing small pastures on the fringes of the village and should be associated with new tree planting designed to complement the existing diverse pattern of trees.
- New development and tree planting should be carefully sited and designed to avoid compromising the views associated with the designed historic parkland landscapes which are characteristic of many of these villages.
- There is a risk that further development on the 'Cliff' villages may lead to coalescence and loss of identity.
- Entrances to the villages are particularly vulnerable to change; there may be scope for development which can enhance the existing approach, but it should be carefully sited and designed to complement the existing buildings and form a clear entrance statement.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Woodland management - including thinning, possibly coppicing, replanting and tree surgery to mature trees - to ensure these valuable landscape features are retained.
- The management of hedgerows (and hedgerow trees) on the margins of villages and particularly at their entrances will help to retain the characteristic sense of enclosure.
- There may be scope for new hedgerow planting on the western edges of villages to reinforce the contrast in character between the 'Cliff' landscape and that of the open arable farmland to the west. Any new planting should be designed to frame rather than obscure views to village churches and other buildings. Appropriate local tree species include field maple, beech, ash, oak and elm; hedgerow species include hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, blackthorn, and privet.
- This narrow landscape band has a wealth of archaeological and historical interest. All proposals to alter land uses and/or the landscape pattern should take account of the findings of historical research. Tree planting or other landscape management schemes may be designed to frame key views and enhance the setting of landscape features with historic interest.
- Wherever possible, the reversion of arable land to grazing pastures should be encouraged to conserve the diverse landscape pattern on the scarp and the striking contrast with the surrounding arable farmland. Priority should be given to the retention of existing permanent pasture.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are a number of small, quiet and secluded spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings.</p> <p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosed roads leading to the small scarp villages are distinctive landscape features of the Cliff.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Cliff. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Cliff is formed through its prominence as a unique landscape feature that rises up to the east above the Trent Vale forming a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: There is a diverse landscape pattern along the scarp slope. There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.</p> <p>The Cliff appeals to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline. The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Cliff provides recreation opportunities often focused on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Cliff provides a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 4 The Cliff the value (high) is shaped by the prominence and contrast of The Lincoln Cliff with the surrounding flat landscape. A straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the centre of the district. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ5: Leverton (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone MNPZ 5: Leverton is outside of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3 Site, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Located within the Policy Zone are Sturton le Steeple, North Leverton with Habbleshthorpe and South Wheatley. It wraps around but excludes West Burton Power Station in the east. A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively.

Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.

The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub. The Policy Zone also encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck.

Key Features:

- Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.
- A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.
- Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.
- Isolated farmsteads.

Landscape Analysis:

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone there is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features comprising the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines, high voltage power lines and pylons and a sewage works. This gives a visually unified area overall. The field pattern is partially intact, rationalization is more notable at the center where the land is under intensive arable use. A network of becks extends across the area, the water channels are flanked by vegetation which connects into hedgerow field boundaries. Most hedgerows are well maintained, where gaps occur, they have been in-filled with fencing or left. Trees are apparent in the hedgerows though some are over mature and not being replaced. Smaller areas of pasture and rough grazing surround the becks and villages, an area of parkland style pasture with individual trees is located north of South Leverton.

Settlement within the Policy Zone is predominantly traditional although both North Leverton and South Wheatley comprise a mix of vernacular buildings with both modern and older non-vernacular development, newer buildings tend to be at the village edges. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed. The overall cultural integrity is variable.

Two SINCs lie within the Policy Zone and comprise areas of grassland. Tree cover is relatively low and is concentrated along watercourses and the railway embankments [younger scrub], small deciduous clumps lie near to settlement areas. Oak and ash are dominant with some willow along the watercourses. There are no significant blocks of woodland within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is assessed as moderate which gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity result in a good landscape condition overall.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility results in high landscape sensitivity overall.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve historic field pattern, maintaining existing watercourses/hedgerows including ancient hedgerows, restoring and reinforcing where necessary, create new hedgerows to replace infill fencing.
- Conserve hedgerow trees and replace where necessary.
- Conserve permanent pasture and parkland area near to South Leverton, seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Conserve tree cover and landscape planting, enhance and reinforce where appropriate to increase the green infrastructure and wildlife habitats across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve areas of improved and unimproved pasture and grassland and areas of ridge and furrow.
- Conserve the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both the existing settlements and new development.
- Conserve the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Sturton-le-Steeple, North Leverton, Hablesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too.</p> <p>Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of MNPZ 5: Leverton stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of elements, with few detracting elements. However, despite being of limited quantity, the presence of the railway lines and the West Burton Power Station form significant detractors.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Policy Zone encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east</p> <p>Overall, with MNPZ 05 Leverton the value (medium) is shaped by the mix of arable and pastoral farmland. Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east. A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity results in a good landscape condition overall.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: A flat, intensively farmed arable landscape skirting the West Burton Power Station. Crossed by large scale transmission lines and railway. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales.

The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is within the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3 Site.

Character Context:

The Floodplain Valleys Landscape Character Type is found throughout the region, along the broad valleys of the Trent, Nene, Welland, Wreake, Soar and Dove, and short stretches of the Derwent and Witham. Despite occupying different parts of the region, and therefore contrasting bedrock geologies, the broad flat belts of alluvium and gravel terrace deposits flanking the river channels are a strong unifying characteristic. Historically, the floodplains would have shared common land use characteristics with a predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows and arable fields on drier gravel terraces. Whilst many stretches of permanent pasture and riverside meadows remain, increasing arable and silage production, and the influence of large urban areas and sand and gravel extraction creates significant contrasts in local landscape character. Whilst the floodplains themselves are generally devoid of settlement, the rivers and neighboring gravel terraces have been a focus for settlement for several thousands of years. As such, many areas are noted for their rich and varied archaeological deposits. The majority of the region's major towns are located adjacent to the floodplains and exert a strong but localized influence on their character. Elsewhere, the floodplains constitute some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas in the East Midlands.

Key Features:

- Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types.
- River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat.
- Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing.
- Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;
- Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees.
- Limited settlement and development in rural areas.
- Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;
- Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and
- Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Development on settlement margins is damaging the character of the landscape, creating visual intrusion and extending the urban edge into the Floodplain Valleys. In particular the edges of Leicester, Nottingham and Derby, and also Northampton and Wellingborough in the Nene Valley, need to be carefully considered as these are identified Growth Points that will receive significant levels of new mixed use development in the short and longer term. Large-scale industrial developments, such as sewage treatment works and power stations are particularly prominent in this otherwise flat and open landscape.</p> <p>In response to flood risk, engineered solutions, such as concrete flood walls and embankments, have been installed in many locations along the river channels. This has resulted in the canalisation of rivers and loss of riverside vegetation, meadows and pastures, changing the natural character of the Floodplain Valleys, although historic structures can contribute to the character of the river. In some instances, the height of the defences screens the river from view, reducing the sense of openness and sense of place. There is marked evidence of agricultural intensification, accompanied by a move from pastoral towards arable farming. This has resulted in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including riverside meadows, which would have traditionally defined the river channels and distinguished them from the surrounding farmland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Floodplain Valleys aims to protect the open and unsettled character of the landscape from inappropriate development and that tree planting around settlement fringes can help with integration and help contribute to the overall perception of a well treed landscape. The changes from flood risk and engineered solutions are also changing the landscape, but there is potential for landscape restoration projects to assist with mitigation of this change. The potential for river landscape to change is also a key consideration, but there is potential to introduce positive landscape interventions such as biodiversity and nature conservation initiatives.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Floodplain Valleys is conditioned by a number of key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the impact of settlement on the edges of the river floodplain, the interventions associated with flood risk, the shifting of river channels, sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure. There are however also significant benefits to be gained from a range of landscape and biodiversity interventions such as restoration projects. The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Floodplain Valleys appeal to the visual senses in that vast stretches of the floodplain retain an intact and traditional character, despite the intrusion from sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such as Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths such as the Trent Valley Way Recreational Route.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys the value (medium) is shaped by the general absence of built development which enhances the quiet, rural character of the landscape, which across the wider area is only occasionally interrupted by roads crossing the river, or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Locally, however this is disrupted by the presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations. Hedgerows and rising landform fringing the floodplain enclose views and create an intimate, human scale landscape fringing the more open floodplain.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The Floodplain Valleys Landscape Character Type is found throughout the region, but here it is focused on the broad valley of the River Trent and identifies the character of the river corridor and associated floodplain, which is located to the west of the A156 approximately 300m west of the WB3 Site.</p> <p>The character of the landscape alongside the Trent markable differs from the softly undulating arable countryside within which the WB3 Site is located. The WB3 Site is located to the east of the Trent valley corridor within RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, where the intervening woodlands, arable land use and changes in landform provide strong elements of separation in the landscape. The landform to the east of the Trent corridor rises up out of the floodplains and up into the more elevated Vales landscape within which the WB3 Site is located.</p> <p>The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site, but it is recognized that inappropriate development within the WB3 Site could have the capacity to lead to adverse effects across this adjacent character area.</p> <p>At the early stages of the construction phase, ground, and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would predominantly be screened by existing vegetation. There may however be some slight appreciation of the construction of the array within the western most areas of the Site alongside the western boundary, where gaps within the adjacent woodland blocks on the eastern valley slopes of the Trent allow permeability into the edge of the Site. The array has been intentionally set back off of the top of this slope to reduce its presence within the valley corridor.</p> <p>Large scale transmission lines form notable manmade features marching down the slopes and continuing across the Trent and leading to the power stations which dominate the landscape to the west.</p> <p>Existing field boundary hedgerows and woodland along the western Site boundary provide enclosure to the array, however, during the latter part of the construction stage, glimpsed views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows. These would be limited and would not affect the integrity of the character area and would be short term.</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB3 Site, would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The distance, lack of wider visibility of the array, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area. There would only be very limited appreciation of the array or any associated infrastructure within the WB3 Site from within isolated locations within this character area, with the wider area remaining unaffected.</p> <p>The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area therefore is able to accommodate the limited changes that arise through the construction of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects and retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally will be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape. Grassland mixes will have established and will create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation. However, the most notable addition would be the establishment of the extensive woodland along the western boundary of the Site.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 3 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape along the top of the valley slopes of the Trent corridor, in line with the character area aims. The existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing containment and enclosure across the Site.</p> <p>The lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area. There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB3 Site from within this character area. The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. Bird mitigation fields and wetland grazing marshes are likely to be retained and the potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the Floodplain Valleys landscape character area as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area.</p> <p>Overall, the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>

	<p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks. There would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including large scale tree planting along the western Site boundary and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries of the Site creating a much greater level of vegetation locally, and once established, enclosure to the WB3 Site.</p> <p>During the construction phase, given the overall limited appreciation of these activities expected, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the Floodplain Valleys landscape character area as these are short term activities only, and within an area of landscape distinct from this character area. Overall, the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>			
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>n/a</p> <p>The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area.</p> <p>There would be no wider appreciation of any of the other West Burton Sites from within the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton 3 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3. The Wooded Vales landscape character area is located approximately 1km north of WB3 to the north of Marton and Clay Lane, encompassing the wooded countryside at Gate Burton and extending north towards Gainsborough.

Character Context:

The sparsely settled Wooded Vales Landscape Character Type generally occurs in north Lincolnshire and lies within the much broader and extensive Unwooded Vales. Whilst various underlying bedrock geologies can be identified, extensive superficial deposits of till and cover sand create a softly undulating landscape. The Wooded Vales generally has a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. High levels of woodland cover are in evidence when compared to the Unwooded Vales and add to local distinctiveness and provide a coherent and recognizable character and strong identity. Woodlands and localised variations in landform also foreshorten views and obstruct wide panoramas to create a more intimate scale landscape than is experienced in the Unwooded Vales. However, uninterrupted panoramic views across farmland are possible, albeit with woodlands often forming a dark backdrop or feature on the horizon.

The Wooded Vales landscape is generally characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows, sometimes marking ancient asserts. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands. Sizable areas of sandy heathland are also evident on areas of cover sand, although some have been extensively forested with conifers. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their course can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat, wet woodland and riverside trees. The vast majority of the Wooded Vales retains a historic, deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland and linked by narrow winding lanes and roads.

Key Features:

- Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type;
- Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover;
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment;
- Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat;
- Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping;
- Irregular shaped assarted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas;
- Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The sparsely settled landscape of the Wooded Vales has seen relatively little urban growth, although some expansion and in-fill development is noted in larger settlements, such as Market Rasen, Horncastle and Wragby. This can erode architectural and historic character, whilst creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. Agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation are resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. This contributes to a more homogenous landscape, and the effect is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages.</p> <p>Woodland is a significant component of this landscape, and new woodland planting would be generally appropriate, increasing the overall woodland coverage in the region. However, the landform of the Wooded Vales is typically low and extensive panoramas are possible, often framed by larger areas of woodland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Wooded Vales aims to promote new woodland planting as this is a significant component of the landscape. The aim should be to also protect the distinctive character of the settlements and consider the visual impact of any new development. The restoration of hedgerows should also be given priority to strengthen the field pattern and enhance linkages between woodlands. The impact on the setting of village churches is also particularly important as these are distinctive local landmarks. There are regular patterns of enclosure and modern arable fields where hedgerows have been removed, but due to the abundance of large woodland blocks this helps reinforce a sense of enclosure.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Wooded Vales is conditioned by several key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation that is resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. The loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages that is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Wooded Vales appeal to the visual senses with extensive access to a variety of footpaths often framed by these large areas of woodland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of small villages, hamlets, and farms but they are scarcely distributed within the landscape. This includes settlement of Knaith Park which falls within the Area of Greater Landscape Value (AGLV).</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: to the north of Gainsborough and towards the villages of Blyton and Laughton, there are large areas of ancient and species-rich native woodland juxtaposed with regular blocks of coniferous plantations. Sizable areas of water bodies are also notable within the wider character area with wet woodland sites characterised by native broadleaved species and affording SSSI status.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' endorsed by the strong woodland character, with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness, notably within the central wooded parts.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Wooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRow within the wider landscape, but this is more than compensated for within Laughton Woods, which is the main focus for recreation.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landscape benefits from the woodland areas that occupy the northern part of the area, but also extend south towards Gainsborough and East Stockwith and include Owlet Plantation.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4b: Wooded Vales the value (high) is shaped by the sparsely settled landscape that has seen relatively little urban growth. The landscape is characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Areas have a positive character, but the loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Mature vegetation is characteristic that occupies the northern part of the area with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There would be a lower landscape tolerance and scope for landscape change due to the presence of extensive woodland that has seen relatively little settlement intervention.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The Wooded Vales Character Type is found throughout the region, there is another area found to the south of the A57 within the wooded countryside to the north west of Skellingthorpe.</p> <p>Here, it is focused on the wooded countryside to the north of Marton at Gate Burton and extending north to Gainsborough. It includes blocks of woodland throughout giving it a wooded character and localised variations in landform foreshorten views and obstruct wide panoramas to create a more intimate scale landscape than is experienced in the Unwooded Vales within which the West burton 3 Site is located.</p> <p>RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3. The Wooded Vales landscape character area is located approximately 1km north of WB3 to the north of Marton and Clay Lane, encompassing the wooded countryside at Gate Burton and extending north towards Gainsborough. Settlement, woodland associated with Gate Burton and mature roadside woodland along the east west Willingham Road and the A1500 provides separation between the Wooded Vales and the WB3 Site. The RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site and able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB3 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The intervening settlement, lack of intervisibility and separation between the landscape within which the WB3 Site is located and this landscape Character Type combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area extending across the landscape to the to the north of Clay Lane.</p> <p>There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB3 Site from within this character area. The RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing woodland and hedgerows locally to the WB3 Site would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape. Grassland mixes will have established and will create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation.</p> <p>The landscape proposals for the WB3 Site include for a new native woodland belt to the south of the A1500 and a new native woodland block within the north western corner of the Site alongside Marton.</p> <p>By Year 15, the West Burton 3 Site would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature, providing containment and enclosure across the Site reinforcing separation between the countryside containing the WB3 Site and the landscape to the north of the A1500 and Clay Lane.</p> <p>The, lack of intervisibility and intervening settlement of Marton, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area. There would be no appreciation of the array or associated infrastructure within the WB3 Site from within this character area. The RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the operation of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects, retaining the integrity of this character area.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. Bird mitigation fields and wetland grazing marshes are likely to be retained and the potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the Wooded Vales landscape character area as these are short term activities only, and distinct from this character area. Overall, the RLCT Profile4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the decommissioning of the WB Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>n/a</p> <p>The RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The distance, lack of intervisibility, intervening settlements and infrastructure combined with the low-level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area.</p>	<p>The Gate Burton Energy Park occupies the landscape to the north of Willingham Road, extending across Gate Burton and within RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area.</p> <p>The Wooded Vales landscape character area is located approximately 1km north of WB3, with the Gate Burton Energy Park, to the north of Willingham Road some 700m north of the WB3 Site. Woodland associated with Gate Burton and mature roadside woodland along the east west Willingham Road and the A1500 provides separation between the gate Burton Energy Park and the WB3 Site, ensuring that these developments occupy separate landscape compartments and maintain spatial separation.</p> <p>The RLCT Profile 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site and able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Very low</p> <p>Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Very low</p> <p>Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands is within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3 Site.

Character Context:

This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. The major agricultural land use is cereal and oil seed rape production. There are several camping and caravan parks within the LCP.

There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, northeast of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the southeast to the northwest past Cottam Power Station. There are mature trees in association with the historic village cores. There are mixed species road side hedges including Hawthorn, Rose, Elder with mature trees predominantly Ash, but also Willow and Oak. These hedgerows vary in their standard of maintenance. Field boundaries are trimmed, mixed species Hedgerows, predominantly Hawthorn with mature trees -mostly Ash, but also Willow and Oak.

There are various small ponds, water courses and ditches dotted throughout the area with associated riparian vegetation Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- A predominantly large-scale arable landscape.
- Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons.
- Well-trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees.
- Less well-maintained roadside hedges, with trees.
- Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.
- Limited small woodlands.
- Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape Condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ , the detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam. Outside the villages some of the field boundaries shown on Sanderson's plan of 1835 are intact but intervening boundaries have been removed. The overall cultural integrity is described as variable.

There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands. There are two SINC's in the PZ designated for aquatic and bankside vegetation and neutral grassland. The ecological network is defined as moderate which combined with as variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape Sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to low landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve the traditional pattern of hedges, fields and pasture around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly along roadsides.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity of ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve mature hedge lines along tracks and promote measures for increasing existing tree cover.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, north east of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the south east to the north west past Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the north west of the Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within this area itself. However, large scale pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham, located approximately 2.4km west of the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is within the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3 Site.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.

The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks; species include Willow, Ash and Hawthorn. Internal field hedges are well trimmed in the pasture areas but some hedges are fragmented between arable fields; species are predominantly Hawthorn with Rose, Elder and Ash.

There are two SINCS within this area designated for their aquatic communities: Cottam Wetlands, mentioned above, made up of marshy grassland, swamp and a mosaic of wetlands, and Coates Wetland which is a group of pools with rough grazing. There are two MLAs within the LCP Littleborough (125) and Laneham / Cottam (124). A small portion of the Dunham Laneham (123) MLA is also contained within the south of the area. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south.
- Views are dominated by Cottam power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.
- There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is defined as variable. There is moderate tree cover which consists mainly of bands of riverside vegetation. There are 2 SINC sites within the PZ designated for their aquatic interest. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as moderate, which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife / functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, and long views to the north and south contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

The landform is insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture close to the River Trent.
- Conserve mature trees to the rivers edge.
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly around arable fields.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Cottam.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p>Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks.</p> <p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the river banks.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: PROW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the flat landscape of this area within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent, approximately 1.2km west of the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>As such, the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site but it is recognized that inappropriate development within the WB3 Site could have the capacity to lead to adverse effects across this nearby character area.</p> <p>As demonstrated from Viewpoints 48 there is no visibility of the western extents of the West Burton Site from within this character area, with levees, vegetation and rising landform separating these distinct areas and reinforcing the surrounding river corridor of the Trent valley. The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands, associated with the operation of the WB3 Site, would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>n/a</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site. The lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands.</p> <p>There would be no wider appreciation of any of the other West Burton Sites from within the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3 Site.

Character Context:

This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, species include Elder, Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, and Rose. These also contain mature trees, species include Ash and Willow. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained, species include Hawthorn predominantly, also Elder, Hazel, Rose and Holly.

There are no MLAs with in the area and 1 SINC. Small water courses are present through out the area; some of these contain aquatic vegetation. There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non vernacular styles. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD.
- Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South.
- Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties.
- Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees.
- Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.
- Watercourses are present throughout the PZ.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is variable. The tree cover is poor, the integrity of the ecological network is weak which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall. A strongly visually unified area with a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam Power Station to the South and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover which leads to a moderate visibility both in and out of the PZ.

A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to road edges and field boundaries.
- Conserve mature hedgerows to field access tracks.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Seek opportunities to create small woodlands to reduce visual impact of power stations.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p>Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ.</p> <p>The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non vernacular styles.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, these also contain mature trees. However, Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south east of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. There is very limited settlement within the area. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area which also contain mature trees. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained. There are no large areas of woodland.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p>Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is located approximately 3.2km west of the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands is within the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3 Site.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. The only woodland area is a narrow strip to the west of Littleborough. There are mature trees, species include Ash, Beech Oak, and Willow, and mature hedgelines including Holly within the settlement of Littleborough. Out Ings SINC contains some scrubby woodland. Mature trees are present in the riverside vegetation, species include Ash, Oak Sycamore, and Willow. Field boundary hedgerows are weak and gappy. The hedgerow species is predominantly Hawthorn; trees include Oak and Sycamore. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows, species include Elder, Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn and Rose with mature trees including Ash.

There are 4 SINC's within the area - including Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings, both designated for their aquatic communities. The Ferries MLA (18) forms the northern end of the LCP. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this. The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south.
- Views are dominated by West Burton power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views to the north and south, views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall this gives a strongly visually unified area. The overall cultural integrity is good due largely to the maturity of vegetation and time depth of the ancient settlement of Littleborough.

Tree cover is low, there are 4 SINC's in the area mostly designated for their aquatic communities, the integrity of the ecological network is moderate which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall.

A strongly visually unified area with a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/ time depth is described as historic (post 1600) although the settlement of Littleborough is ancient, which gives a moderate sense of place.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover/ sense of enclosure which leads to moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate Sensitivity

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the River Trent and change arable land to permanent pasture where appropriate.
- Conserve mature trees to river edge, and within the village of Littleborough.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to field boundaries.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Littleborough.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.</p> <p>There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP.</p> <p>The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks. PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape at less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. There are mature trees, and mature hedgelines which are often weak and gappy. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD alongside the River Trent. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties and Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

T The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD alongside the western banks of the River Trent and approximately 2.2km west of the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West Burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton 3 Site.

Character Context:

This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river.

The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.

The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.

The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.

Key Features:

- Flat topography.
- A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent.
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses.
- Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees.
- Grass flood bank.

Landscape Analysis:

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as very good. The pattern of landscape elements is unified. The area has few detracting features. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall this is a strongly visually unified area. The historic field pattern is still evident therefore the cultural integrity is good. Although the area has no SINC designations the trees, improved and unimproved pasture, and riparian vegetation provide a moderate network of wildlife habitats.

A moderate network for wildlife and a good cultural integrity leads to a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is strongly visually unified with a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife has a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is historic (post 1600). The area has a moderate sense of place.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The landform is apparent and has intermittent tree cover which leads to moderate visibility of the area from outside the PZ. A moderate sense of place with a moderate degree of visibility leads to a moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.

- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- Conserve pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- Seek opportunities to re-create historic field boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p>The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, dominating views south along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station dominates views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The historic field pattern is still evident.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent, to the east of the settlement of Cottam approximately 1.5km west of the West Burton 3 Site. As such, the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site but it is recognized that inappropriate development within the WB3 Site could have the capacity to lead to adverse effects across this nearby character area. As demonstrated from Viewpoints 49 and LCC-C-K there is no visibility of the western extents of the West Burton Site from within this character area, with levees, vegetation and rising landform separating these distinct areas and reinforcing the surrounding river corridor of the Trent valley.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the WB3 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands, associated with the operation of the WB3 Site, would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p> <p>The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>The landscape to the west of the river Trent is separate and distinct from the West Burton 3 Site, limiting any opportunity for development within the West burton Site to lead to adverse effects on the character of the landscape to the west of the River Trent.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>n/a</p> <p>The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site. The lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p> <p>There would be no wider appreciation of any of the other West Burton Sites from within the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton 3 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales.

The Unwooded Vales extend across the majority of the 2km and 5km Study Area apart from to the west where the Study Area takes in the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys along the Trent corridor.

Character Context:

The rural Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type within a central area of the region on a broadly north south axis, and whilst various underlying bedrock geologies exert a local influence, superficial deposits create a softly undulating landscape and consistent and recognizable character. The Vales generally have a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. Within the vales, low hills and ridges are also important, foreshortening views and creating subtle relief features.

The vale landscape is generally characterized by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of low, well-maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture, often grazed by dairy herds. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their courses can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat and riverside trees.

The vast majority of the Vales retain a deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland, linked by narrow winding lanes and roads. Despite low levels of woodland cover, local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts create visual containment and give the Vales landscape an intimate character. By contrast, panoramic views are possible from elevated locations albeit contained by rising land at the edges of the Vales.

Key Features:

- Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.
- Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.
- Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.
- Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.
- Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well-maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fields capes evident in areas of arable reversion; and
- Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes."

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible. Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Unwooded Vales aims to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Many of the rural villages have not seen widespread expansion but development pressures continue with the demand for housing, commerce and industry creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. For development associated with the rural villages, specific mechanisms include Village Design Statements, and tree planting around settlement fringes to help integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Unwooded Vales is conditioned by managing growth, ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Unwooded Vales appeal to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Unwooded Vales are valued for recreation which often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of the Unwooded Vales is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Unwooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales the value (medium) is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquillity. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction phase, ground and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would predominantly be screened by existing vegetation, notably existing vegetation along the A1500. However, locally there would be some appreciation of construction activities within the Site, notably from the A1500, but overall visibility into the West Burton 3 Site is extremely limited.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, as the upper sections of the array is constructed including the Substation, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows, but these would be limited to locations locally to the Site, again predominantly from the A1500 as those sections of array are constructed within the adjacent fields, but given separation and screening, this would not affect the integrity of the wider character area and these activities would be short term.</p> <p>Within the wider area the containment provided to the landscape by the layering of field boundary vegetation, vegetation along the railway line and woodland blocks on the Site boundaries combine with the lowlying nature of the development to allow these activities to be readily absorbed into the Site itself and its immediate setting, limiting adverse effects upon the character of the wider area.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks.</p> <p>As well as the construction of the array, there would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including large scale planting</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the RLCT Profile 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB3 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The landscape proposals include for a substantial area of new woodland along the western boundary of the Site, alongside Marton and running east west through the Site and new areas of scrub helping provide enclosure and break up views of the array.</p> <p>New sections of native hedgerow throughout the Site would be reinstated and provide additional connection with existing hedgerows. Existing hedgerows would be reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting to help provide enclosure across the Site, whilst respecting the overall unwooded character of the area.</p> <p>New native woodland shelter belts are proposed to the south of the A1500, enclosing the Site and separating the array from the arable landscape to the north.</p> <p>New native scattered trees would be planted along existing hedgerows throughout the Site, increasing tree cover and providing greater enclosure.</p> <p>Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term meadow - Tussocky grass mix - Flower rich pollinator mix - Tall herb mix - Diverse meadow mix <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become established, starting to create valuable habitats.</p> <p>Overall, this will help to link habitats and strengthen the overall character locally and maintain a sense of place. Important opportunities to bolster the local vegetation cover, buffering and connecting existing</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>With secondary mitigation such as planting and grass seeding being taken into account at the operational stage (Year 15) the following changes to the landscape would occur and the effects are set out below:</p> <p>The new hedgerow and substantial shelterbelt planting along with the enhancement of existing hedgerows (which would be managed to a height of 5m) would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the array and associated infrastructure. These new and augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. Native woodland belts would connect with existing blocks of woodland on the Site boundaries.</p> <p>The planting of large blocks of woodland within the Site have been avoided, instead native woodland shelter belts and individual trees have been utilised to support the existing character of this area. Where visible from within the wider landscape, the new planting would reinforce the well layered landscape with a backdrop of wooded vegetation in places on the horizon. Both new and existing vegetation would have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape locally, retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>Without Secondary Mitigation having been applied throughout the scheme, the only change to the landscape following decommissioning would be the existing hedgerows which will have been allowed to grow out and will have been managed to a height of 5m. It is assumed that these will be retained.</p> <p>With Mitigation, the negative effects of the physical decommissioning will be balanced out by the long term landscape and visual effects of this mitigation.</p> <p>The now established mitigation planting would screen the decommissioning activities within the Site, limiting opportunities for adverse effects upon the wider character of the area.</p>

	<p>across the Site and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries creating a much greater level of vegetation locally and enclosure to the Site, creating many associated beneficial effects. This includes the change to the arable land use within the Site, which would be beneficial to soils and watercourses, significantly increasing biodiversity across the Site and helping to capture carbon. The field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with visual layering of vegetation across the landscape and the integration of the new panels within the landscape. Alongside the western boundary of the Site is proposed a new native woodland shelter belt providing connectivity to offside woodland blocks and enclosure of this boundary. A new woodland block is proposed within the northern extents of the Site alongside the settlement of Marton and another running east west through the northern half of the western extent of the Site.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would adversely affect the character of the 4a Unwooded Vales Character Area within the Site, and the immediate area to a minor degree. However, these effects would be, limited, temporary and short term, and accompanied by additional benefits, including the new woodland shelter belts throughout the Site.</p> <p>Overall, the Unwooded Vales Character Area 4a is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction phase with minor adverse effects to the Site itself and its immediate surroundings. Within the wider character area, there would be limited appreciation of the array, associated infrastructure or the Substation as they are constructed, with the integrity of the character area, and all features within retained and enhanced resulting in Minor Neutral and short term effects to the wider character area only.</p>	<p>fragmented vegetation, aims to create a more resilient and biodiverse landscape.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the Site is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would have begun to achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>The proposed grassland would have established and have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes. The soil quality would be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off would be reduced around the Site enhancing the water quality generally. There would be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes further across the Site and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing hedgerows locally would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape, reinforcing the character of this area. Grassland mixes would have established and would create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation. By Year 15, the Site at West Burton 3 would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature.</p> <p>Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassland reversion - A more varied landscape across the LCA - Improved management of existing vegetation - Less intensively managed land - Soil improvements - Water quality improvements - Increased visibility/definition of watercourses across the landscape. - Increased woodland/vegetation cover - Significantly improved biodiversity - Improved carbon retention/capture - Overwintering opportunities within wetland and elsewhere with Bird mitigation - Potential animal grazing - Reinstatement of historic field patterns 	
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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthened Character Area generally - Improved shelter/protection across the landscape <p>Adverse effects (mitigated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels and structures across landscape - Increased hard standing areas – water runoff management required - Potential minor pollution around substations - Visual intrusion in early years - Increased traffic in the local area <p>Following mitigation, the Site would be able to accommodate change brought about through the development without undue adverse effects. The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable beneficial effects in the increased level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the biodiversity benefits that this will bring, creating a stronger, more resilient framework across the local character area of the 4a Unwooded Vales.</p>	
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Medium Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Moderate – Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon LCA – 4a Unwooded Vales of the West Burton 3 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 1 and 2) is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p> <p>There would be the introduction of new elements and features comprising the solar panel areas and the substation within the character area. However, there would not be the removal of or changes in individual elements or features of the landscape within the character area and with the substantial landscape mitigation planting that would occur as a consequence of the development, the RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character type is able to absorb these cumulative Sites whilst maintaining the integrity of the character of this area. There is no intervisibility between the WB3 Site and the other WB Sites.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the Unwooded Vales is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquility. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The presence of the West Burton Sites would only occupy a relatively minor part of this wider character area and their development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the Unwooded Vales Character Area.</p>	<p>The Gate Burton Energy Park occupies the landscape to the north of Willingham Road, extending across Gate Burton and within the RLCT Profile: 4a: Unwooded Vales landscape character area and RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area.</p> <p>The Gate Burton Energy Park occupies a different landscape compartment to that of the West Burton 3 Site. Despite their relatively close proximity (approx. 700m) there is no intervisibility between the two developments, with the Gate Burton Energy Park being focused on the area of landscape surrounding Gate Burton and extending north into the 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area and Knaith Park. Woodland associated with Gate Burton and mature roadside woodland along the east west Willingham Road and the A1500 provides separation between the Gate Burton Energy Park and the WB3 Site, ensuring that these developments occupy separate landscape compartments and maintain spatial separation.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the Unwooded Vales is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquility. The landscape between the two developments contains a mix of urban development associated with Marton and arable farmland to the north of the A1500, forming a green wedge between the two Developments.</p> <p>The landscape surrounding the Gate Burton Energy Park and the WB3 Site has the ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The position of the West Burton 2 Site and the Gate Burton Energy Park are within two distinct and separate landscape components that are experienced independently of each other. Development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the Unwooded Vales Character Area.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character - 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley and within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character areas.

BLC's: TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands, TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands and TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands are within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton Site 3.

Character Context:

The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain to the east and southeast of Gainsborough extends as far south as Marton. This relatively elevated land is formed by local outcrops of resistant gypsum within the rock strata. There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. These are generally hawthorn, but there are also taller mixed species hedgerows and hedgerow trees, particularly adjacent to roads.

The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton. Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape.

Gainsborough, the major settlement in this area, is located at one of the few crossing points of the River Trent. A number of main roads pass through Gainsborough and are dominant features within this character area. The A156 runs north south and the A631 east west into Gainsborough. Railways also approach Gainsborough from the north and south. South of Gainsborough, the A156 passes through a string of small settlements; Knaith, Marton and Fenton. Towards the south, the A156 branches into the A1133 where it crosses the Fosdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fosdyke is a man-made canal linking the navigable river Witham with the Trent, giving access to the Midland river system from the Wash. Today it is used primarily for recreational boating and there are some limited visitor facilities at Torksey Lock.

The area has some important historic parkland landscapes at Knaith, Gate Burton and Kettlethorpe, and the remnants of a medieval deer park to the south east of Gainsborough. There are also a number of historic landmarks in addition to those in Gainsborough itself. These are the ruins of Torksey Castle and a hall and pavilion at Gate Burton, all of which are highly visible from the A156. This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including, settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the Fosdyke.

Key Features:

- Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.
- Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape.
- River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.
- Historic parklands landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle
- Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main roads, bypassing original village centers.
- Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent.

Landscape Sensitivities:

Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands. The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI."

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- The higher land to the south and east of Gainsborough, which extends as far south as Marton.
- The historic parklands of Kettlethorpe, Knaith, Gate Burton and Gainsborough, together with their associated boundary earthworks.
- Ancient woodlands, such as Thurlby Wood, Houghton Wood and Wharton Wood.
- River Trent washlands, such as the Lea Marshes.
- Village entrances which are frequently marred by linear development along adjacent main roads low-lying land along the River Trent (to the west of the A156/ A1133)
- The Fosdyke -a low lying meadow landscape with potential for recreation
- Torksey Castle, a historic landmark with an important landscape setting

Landscape Strategy:

- New development can be accommodated on the higher ridges to the south and east of Gainsborough, provided it is associated with new tree and hedgerow planting which is designed to integrate with local field patterns.
- Further linear development along the principal roads in the area would be detrimental to local landscape character.
- Entrances to settlements, abrupt road bends and junctions are particularly sensitive sites; they are the focus for local views and can easily be marred by nondescript development. New development at such locations should be designed to provide 'one-off', distinctive buildings, which reflect local building types and materials.
- Many settlements are bypassed by major roads and there is a risk that views to the village center will be obscured by peripheral development; such key views should be identified and conserved.
- New development on the periphery of settlements should always be bounded by new or existing hedgerows and native hedgerow trees so that the buildings are visually 'anchored' within the wider landscape pattern.
- Development on the low-lying land to the west of the A156/ A1133 would be prominent and cannot easily be accommodated without detracting from the gentle transition to the open, flat farmland on the banks of the River Trent.
- New development should not impinge on views of the many important designed parkland landscapes in the area.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting will ensure that these important local landscape features are conserved and enhanced; they should remain a viable landscape screen and a valuable wildlife habitat.
- Priority should be given to new woodland, shelterbelt or hedgerow planting which is designed to link existing woodlands, particularly those with semi-natural or ancient woodland status. Appropriate local species include field maple, hawthorn, ash and oak.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees should be managed to retain the existing landscape pattern, screen settlements and contribute to local identity.
- There is scope to improve the setting of the Fosdyke as a recreational landscape. For instance, tree planting might be designed to draw attention to the position of the lock and there may also be opportunities for more informal tree groups along the edge of the river corridor.
- Any schemes for the management of local water tables which allow the extension of existing areas of marshland to create relatively large-scale areas of wetland would have significant visual and nature conservation value. For instance, there may be opportunities to re-create riverine woodlands on low riverside banks (left-over belts of land).
- Roads are visually dominant in this area; their influence could be improved by a landscape strategy designed to incorporate tree planting, hedgerow management and signage. This should take account of key views and the entrances to settlements which would often benefit from distinctive planting schemes.
- The landscape setting of historic parklands and built features requires careful consideration, backed by research.

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley and within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character areas. The boundary between the two character areas runs north to south through the western half of the WB3 Site (to the west of the railway line) essentially dividing this area in two. However, the rationale for this division is unclear and appears somewhat arbitrary. Transition in the character of a landscape very rarely occurs as a direct boundary between two zones, but as a gradual transition, with the boundaries more blurred and typically more representative of subtle differences in the landscape itself.

Having undertaken field and desktop analysis on the West Burton 3 Site, the western extents of the Site are considered more representative of the open agricultural farmland identified as key characteristics of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area than the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley. However, it is clear that the elevated land to the east of the Trent is considered a valuable component of the Trent Valley corridor. The western extents of the West Burton 2 Site occupy this rising landform however is separated from the main Trent corridor by the scarp slope between the A156 and the Site's western boundary. Established vegetation along the slope between Brampton and Marton reinforce this separation and marks the transition between the open arable farmland within WB2 and the lowlying floodplain alongside the River Trent.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent Valley Character area stretches from Gainsborough and its suburbs south towards Newton on Trent, with the River Trent forming a definitive western boundary. The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain in the east and south east of Gainsborough extends as far South as Marton</p> <p>There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton.</p> <p>Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.</p> <p>This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.</p> <p>Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, Woodlands country groups, giving the landscapes on capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient Woodlands.</p> <p>The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat including a small central meadow.</p> <p>Overall, the Trent Valley character area is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, which is somewhat marred by the presence of the large scale power stations to the west of the river corridor.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough. Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape.</p> <p>River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments. Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent.</p> <p>Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices. Historic parkland landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths along the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 2 Trent Valley the value (medium) is shaped by its gently undulating and quite low lying landform which includes the washlands along the eastern edge of the River Trent. However, a band of higher relatively elevated land runs along the eastern edge of the character area extending as far south as Marton.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term.</p> <p>Views across the area are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character - 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction phase, ground and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would predominantly be screened by existing vegetation, notably existing vegetation along the A1500 and vegetation along the scarp slope to the immediate west of the Site. However, locally there would be some appreciation of construction activities within the Site, notably from the A1500, but overall visibility into the West Burton 3 Site is extremely limited.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, as the upper sections of the array is constructed including the Substation, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows, again limited to locations locally to the Site, predominantly from the A1500 and PRoW Mton/68/1 as those sections of array are constructed within the adjacent fields to the south.</p> <p>The Substation has been positioned on the lower lying landform away from the western edge of the Site to benefit from screening provided by the rising landform and woodland to the west associated with the scarp. The Substation has also been positioned alongside existing large scale transmission lines that cross the Site. Given the separation, enclosure and screening provided to the Site (and Substation) from the river corridor, short term construction activities would not affect the integrity of the wider character area.</p> <p>Within the wider area the containment provided to the landscape by the layering of field boundary vegetation, vegetation along the scarp including woodland blocks on the Site boundaries combine with the lowlying nature of the development to</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB3 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The landscape proposals include for a substantial area of new woodland along the western boundary of the Site, alongside Marton and running east west through the Site and new areas of scrub helping provide enclosure and break up views of the array and provide additional separation from the river corridor.</p> <p>New sections of native hedgerow throughout the Site would be reinstated and provide additional connection with existing hedgerows. Existing hedgerows would be reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting to help provide enclosure across the Site, whilst respecting the overall unwooded character of the area.</p> <p>New native woodland shelter belts are proposed to the south of the A1500, enclosing the Site and separating the array from the arable landscape to the north.</p> <p>New native scattered trees would be planted along existing hedgerows throughout the Site, increasing tree cover and providing greater enclosure.</p> <p>Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term meadow - Tussocky grass mix - Flower rich pollinator mix - Tall herb mix - Diverse meadow mix <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become established, starting to create valuable habitats. Overall, this will help to link habitats and strengthen the overall character locally and maintain a sense of place. Important opportunities to bolster the local vegetation cover, buffering and connecting existing fragmented vegetation, aims to create a more resilient and biodiverse landscape.</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>With secondary mitigation such as planting and grass seeding being taken into account at the operational stage (Year 15) the following changes to the landscape would occur and the effects are set out below:</p> <p>The new hedgerow and substantial shelterbelt planting along with the enhancement of existing hedgerows (which would be managed to a height of 5m) would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the array and associated infrastructure. These new and augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. Native woodland belts would connect with existing blocks of woodland on the Site boundaries.</p> <p>The planting of large blocks of woodland within the Site have been avoided, instead native woodland shelter belts and individual trees have been utilised to support the existing character of this area. Where visible from within the wider landscape, the new planting would reinforce the well layered landscape with a backdrop of wooded vegetation in places on the horizon. Both new and existing vegetation would have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape locally, retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>Without Secondary Mitigation having been applied throughout the scheme, the only change to the landscape following decommissioning would be the existing hedgerows which will have been allowed to grow out and will have been managed to a height of 5m. It is assumed that these will be retained.</p> <p>With Mitigation, the negative effects of the physical decommissioning will be balanced out by the long term landscape and visual effects of this mitigation. The now established mitigation planting would screen the decommissioning activities within the Site, limiting opportunities for adverse effects upon the wider character of the area.</p>

	<p>allow these activities to be readily absorbed into the Site itself and its immediate setting with limiting adverse effects upon the character of the wider area. The Trent corridor is lowlying and enclosed by levees and flood defenses. The rising scarp along the eastern edge reinforce the north – south nature of this character area. There would be extremely limited appreciation of the very western edge of the array where the few gaps in vegetation along the scrap allow.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks.</p> <p>As well as the construction of the array, there would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including large scale planting across the Site and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries creating a much greater level of vegetation locally and enclosure to the Site, creating many associated beneficial effects.</p> <p>This includes the change to the arable land use within the Site, which would be beneficial to soils and watercourses, significantly increasing biodiversity across the Site and helping to capture carbon. The field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with visual layering of vegetation across the landscape and the integration of the new panels within the landscape. Alongside the western boundary of the Site is proposed a new native woodland shelter belt providing connectivity to offside woodland blocks and enclosure of this boundary. A new woodland block is proposed within the northern extents of the Site alongside the settlement of Marton and another running east west through the northern half of the western extent of the Site.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would adversely affect the character of the Site itself, with some appreciation locally. However, these effects would be limited, temporary and short term, and contained to the Site itself. It would also be accompanied by additional benefits,</p>	<p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the Site is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would have begun to achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>New planting along the western boundary of the Site would amalgamate with the existing woodland along the scarp, enclosing the Site along the western boundary and separating the Site from the Trent corridor.</p> <p>The proposed grassland would have established and have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes. The soil quality would be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off would be reduced around the Site enhancing the water quality generally. There would be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes further across the Site and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally.</p> <p>Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing hedgerows locally would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape, reinforcing the character of this area.</p> <p>Grassland mixes would have established and would create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation. By Year 15, the Site at West Burton 3 would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature.</p> <p>Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassland reversion - A more varied landscape across the LCA - Improved management of existing vegetation - Less intensively managed land - Soil improvements - Water quality improvements - Increased visibility/definition of watercourses across the landscape. - Increased woodland/vegetation cover - Significantly improved biodiversity - Improved carbon retention/capture - Overwintering opportunities within wetland and elsewhere with Bird mitigation - Potential animal grazing - Reinstatement of historic field patterns - Strengthened Character Area generally 	
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	<p>including the new woodland shelter belts throughout the Site and reversion to grassland.</p> <p>Due to the separation between the Site and the Trent corridor, effects on the wider WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley character area would be extremely limited, and tempered by the presence of the large Cottam and West Burton Power Stations and numerous large scale pylon runs which already exert an industrial influence across this character area.</p> <p>Overall, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction phase with minor adverse effects to the Site itself and its immediate surroundings. Within the wider character area, there would be limited appreciation of the array, associated infrastructure or the Substation as they are constructed, with the integrity of the character area, and all features within retained and enhanced resulting in Minor Neutral and short term effects to the wider character area only.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved shelter/protection across the landscape <p>Adverse effects (mitigated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels and structures across landscape - Increased hard standing areas – water runoff management required - Potential minor pollution around substations - Visual intrusion in early years - Increased traffic in the local area <p>Following mitigation, the Site and the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley would be able to accommodate change brought about through the development without undue adverse effects. The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable beneficial effects through the increased level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the associated biodiversity benefits that this will bring. This new planting would create a stronger, more resilient framework across the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley.</p>	
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Medium Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Moderate – Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character - 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>n/a</p> <p>The WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 1 or 2 Sites.</p> <p>There would be no wider appreciation of any of the other West Burton Sites from within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area.</p>	<p>The Gate Burton Energy Park occupies the landscape to the north of Willingham Road, extending across Gate Burton and within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley landscape character areas.</p> <p>The Gate Burton Energy Park occupies a different landscape compartment to that of the West Burton 3 Site. Despite their relatively close proximity (approx. 700m) there is no intervisibility between the two developments, with the Gate Burton Energy Park being focused on the area of landscape surrounding Gate Burton and extending north into the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley landscape character areas and Knaith Park.</p> <p>Woodland associated with Gate Burton and mature roadside woodland along the east west Willingham Road and the A1500 provides separation between the Gate Burton Energy Park and the WB3 Site, ensuring that these developments occupy separate landscape compartments and maintain spatial separation.</p> <p>Overall, the character of WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is shaped by the low lying landform along the Trent corridor. The gate Burton Energy park occupies a similar set back location away from the low lying Trent corridor and there would be no opportunity for in combination visibility of the two developments from within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley landscape character area.</p> <p>The landscape between the two developments contains a mix of urban development associated with Marton and arable farmland to the north of the A1500, forming a green wedge between the two Developments.</p> <p>The landscape surrounding the Gate Burton Energy Park and the WB3 Site has the ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The position of the West Burton 3 Site and the Gate Burton Energy Park are within two distinct and separate landscape components that are experienced independently of each other.</p> <p>Development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley landscape character area.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Very low</p> <p>Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Very Low</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Very low</p> <p>Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term</p> <p>Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): n/a</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): n/a</p> <p>Decommissioning: n/a</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant</p> <p>Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley and within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character areas.

BLC's: TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands, TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands and TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands are within of the 5km Study Area for the West Burton Site 3.

Character Context:

This is an agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields and strong rural Character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominantly hawthorn; they are kept low and have few hedgerow trees. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation.

The area is crossed by three east-west. main roads; the A631 to Gainsborough in the north, the A1500 Roman road near Sturton by Stow and the A57 alongside the Fosdyke in the south. There is also an important north-south route, the B1241, which links a number of settlements, including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow. It continues northwards as a minor road, linking a further string of small, nucleated settlements, such as Upton, Springthorpe and Corringham. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting, but the sequence of views to village churches from the B1241 and other smaller lanes is particularly important. A number of windmills, some without sails, are similar landmarks in the landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features.

Some of the villages in the far north of the area, such as Pilham and Aisby, are very small, although archaeological evidence suggests they may once have been larger. By contrast, the larger villages of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow have expanded rapidly as a result of their proximity to Lincoln. There is also some warehouse and light industrial development in this southern area, between the A57 and the railway, and a major transmission line crosses the landscape. To the east, on the flatter land, there are some individual farmhouses and other large farm buildings, often with associated tree planting. Here there are some other interesting features, such as nodding donkeys at the oil well near Glentworth, and a number of above-ground reservoirs. The minor roads that lead across this flatter area to the Lincoln 'Cliff' exhibit the typical form of ancient enclosure roads; they are generally straight, with wide verges, a ditch and hedgerow.

This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Cliff' throughout the southern part of the area.

Key Features:

- Agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields.
- Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.
- Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelterbelts.
- Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.
- String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating ground along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.
- Large farm buildings and individual farmhouses on flatter land to the east.
- Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.
- Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'

Landscape Sensitivity:

This agricultural landscape is sensitive to changes in European Commission agricultural policy and its influence on farming practice. Some villages retain evidence of medieval settlement (earth works and cropmarks) and may once have been considerably larger. There is pressure for built development in villages within commuting distance of Lincoln and for the development of above-ground reservoirs within the open farmland.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- Rural roads and minor farm tracks boarded by wide verges and hedgerows.
- Edges of villages which show evidence of medieval settlement.
- The sequence of views of village churches along the B1241.
- Avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms.
- Small woodlands - their edges are vulnerable to the impact of agricultural machinery.
- Minor streams and their associated riparian vegetation

Landscape Strategy:

- Development on the fringes of villages should be accompanied by new tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with surrounding field patterns. New planting should be native species and design to frame (not screen) views from the surrounding, expansive farmland landscape.
- The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic; new development should be sited and designed to conserve this pattern by encouraging relatively dense development in villages and conserving key tracts of open farmland between villages and adjacent outlying farms.
- Linear development should be avoided particularly on the approaches to villages, as it will lead to the erosion of the landscape setting and the distinctive sequence of views from one village church to the next.
- Entrances and approaches to the villages are particularly sensitive sites, which requires special attention. There may be opportunities for new buildings in such locations, provided they are carefully designed to reflect the small scale and dense massing of traditional village buildings and provided they are associated with groups and lines of native trees.
- The introduction of protected zones between close adjacent settlements, such as Stow and Sturton by Stow, will prevent coalescence and ensure that individual landscape settings are conserved.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- The retention of buffer zones along rivers and streams will reduce the risk of fertilizer/pesticide runoff from arable land and will enhance their nature conservation value.
- There may be scope for new tree/scrub planting (goat willow, hawthorn, alder and alder buckthorn) along rivers, streams and ditches to increase their visual presence in the landscape.
- The nature conservation value of ditches may be enhanced by cutting shallow ledges into side slopes to provide habitats for aquatic plants.
- The existing small farm woodlands and shelterbelts would benefit from management, including thinning, replanting and the development of robust, well structured edges.
- The creation of buffer zones on the fringes of the woodland blocks will help to protect the existing woodland edges from damage by agricultural machinery; subsequent woodland encroachment onto farmland can be controlled by careful tree surgery and on-going woodland management. The aim should be to conserve (or in some cases create) a diverse age structure and an intact woodland edge.
- Trees and hedgerows make an important contribution to the landscape setting of villages and their management should be a priority in these areas, as well as along rural roads.
- Heavy vehicles can erode the character of rural roads, particularly where hedgerows are removed to improve sight-lines at junctions. Hedgerows should be reinstated to accommodate the new sight-lines.
- New tree planting along approaches to villages and farms could improve the identity of the local landscape. Lines of trees are characteristic in such locations. Tree planting should be confined to hedgerows (i.e. not on verges) on all historic enclosure roads.

Within West Burton 3 Site, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton 3 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley and within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character areas. The boundary between the two character areas runs north to south through the western half of the WB3 Site (to the west of the railway line) essentially dividing this area in two. However, the rationale for this division is unclear and appears somewhat arbitrary. Transition in the character of a landscape very rarely occurs as a direct boundary between two zones, but as a gradual transition, with the boundaries more blurred and typically more representative of subtle differences in the landscape itself.

Having undertaken field and desktop analysis on the West Burton 3 Site, the western extents of the Site are considered more representative of the identified characteristics of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area than the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Till Vale is located east of Gainsborough and the Trent valley and to the West of the scarp known as the Lincoln 'Cliff'. This is an agricultural landscape with large flat open fields and a strong rural character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominately hawthorn, which are kept low, with few hedgerow trees. The landform comes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west, it becomes more open with a flatter landform towards the east.</p> <p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees.</p> <p>The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible. Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, within the Till Vale there should be an aspiration to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size.</p> <p>The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape.</p> <p>This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic:</u> The Till Vale appeals to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east. This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p> <p><u>Cultural:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural:</u> The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> The Till Vale is valued for recreation which is often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of The Till Vale is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing:</u> The Till Vale provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function:</u> From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 3 The Till Vale the value (medium) is shaped by its strong rural character provided by the large, flat, open agricultural landscape that dominates this area. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line,</p>	<p><u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity:</u> Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Till Vale is conditioned by ensuring new developments are accompanied by new native tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with the surrounding tree patterns, by ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location and reinforces approaches to villages. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features. Views to village churches from local lanes are particularly important.</p>	
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction phase, ground and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would predominantly be screened by existing vegetation, notably existing vegetation along the A1500. However, locally there would be some appreciation of construction activities within the Site, notably from the A1500, but overall visibility into the West Burton 3 Site is extremely limited.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, as the upper sections of the array is constructed including the Substation, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows, but these would be limited to locations locally to the Site, again predominantly from the A1500 as those sections of array are constructed within the adjacent fields, but given separation and screening, this would not affect the integrity of the wider character area and these activities would be short term.</p> <p>Within the wider area the containment provided to the landscape by the layering of field boundary vegetation, vegetation along the railway line and woodland blocks on the Site boundaries combine with the lowlying nature of the development to allow these activities to be readily absorbed into the Site itself and its immediate setting, limiting adverse effects upon the character of the wider area.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks.</p> <p>As well as the construction of the array, there would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including large scale planting</p>	<p>At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area, associated with the operation of the WB3 Site would be similar to those experienced during construction.</p> <p>The landscape proposals include for a substantial area of new woodland along the western boundary of the Site, alongside Marton and running east west through the Site and new areas of scrub helping provide enclosure and break up views of the array.</p> <p>New sections of native hedgerow throughout the Site would be reinstated and provide additional connection with existing hedgerows. Existing hedgerows would be reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting to help provide enclosure across the Site, whilst respecting the overall unwooded character of the area.</p> <p>New native woodland shelter belts are proposed to the south of the A1500, enclosing the Site and separating the array from the arable landscape to the north.</p> <p>New native scattered trees would be planted along existing hedgerows throughout the Site, increasing tree cover and providing greater enclosure.</p> <p>Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Long term meadow - Tussocky grass mix - Flower rich pollinator mix - Tall herb mix - Diverse meadow mix <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become established, starting to create valuable habitats.</p> <p>Overall, this will help to link habitats and strengthen the overall character locally and maintain a sense of place. Important opportunities to bolster the local vegetation cover, buffering and connecting existing</p>	<p>The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15 without Mitigation equate to those effects at the beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design will apply as will the growing out of the existing hedges.</p> <p>With secondary mitigation such as planting and grass seeding being taken into account at the operational stage (Year 15) the following changes to the landscape would occur and the effects are set out below:</p> <p>The new hedgerow and substantial shelterbelt planting along with the enhancement of existing hedgerows (which would be managed to a height of 5m) would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the array and associated infrastructure. These new and augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape. Native woodland belts would connect with existing blocks of woodland on the Site boundaries.</p> <p>The planting of large blocks of woodland within the Site have been avoided, instead native woodland shelter belts and individual trees have been utilised to support the existing character of this area. Where visible from within the wider landscape, the new planting would reinforce the well layered landscape with a backdrop of wooded vegetation in places on the horizon. Both new and existing vegetation would have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape locally, retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>The proposed grassland would have established and have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. The potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p>Without Secondary Mitigation having been applied throughout the scheme, the only change to the landscape following decommissioning would be the existing hedgerows which will have been allowed to grow out and will have been managed to a height of 5m. It is assumed that these will be retained.</p> <p>With Mitigation, the negative effects of the physical decommissioning will be balanced out by the long term landscape and visual effects of this mitigation.</p> <p>The now established mitigation planting would screen the decommissioning activities within the Site, limiting opportunities for adverse effects upon the wider character of the area.</p>

	<p>across the Site and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries creating a much greater level of vegetation locally and enclosure to the Site, creating many associated beneficial effects. This includes the change to the arable land use within the Site, which would be beneficial to soils and watercourses, significantly increasing biodiversity across the Site and helping to capture carbon. The field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with visual layering of vegetation across the landscape and the integration of the new panels within the landscape. Alongside the western boundary of the Site is proposed a new native woodland shelter belt providing connectivity to offside woodland blocks and enclosure of this boundary. A new woodland block is proposed within the northern extents of the Site alongside the settlement of Marton and another running east west through the northern half of the western extent of the Site.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would adversely affect the character of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area within the Site extending across to the western Site boundary to include the area of the Site identified as being within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley, and the immediate area to a minor degree. However, these effects would be, limited, temporary and short term, and accompanied by additional benefits, including the new woodland shelter belts throughout the Site.</p> <p>Overall, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction phase with minor adverse effects to the Site itself and its immediate surroundings. Within the wider character area, there would be limited appreciation of the array, associated infrastructure or the Substation as they are constructed, with the integrity of the character area, and all features within retained and enhanced resulting in Minor Neutral and short term effects to the wider character area only.</p>	<p>fragmented vegetation, aims to create a more resilient and biodiverse landscape.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the Site is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would have begun to achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>The soil quality would be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off would be reduced around the Site enhancing the water quality generally. There would be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes further across the Site and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally. Following mitigation, at Year 15, The existing hedgerows locally would be augmented by increased vegetation cover creating both visual and ecological links across the landscape, reinforcing the character of this area.</p> <p>Grassland mixes would have established and would create valuable habitats with soil structure greatly improved through cessation of arable cultivation. By Year 15, the Site at West Burton 3 would present a 'well treed' landscape in line with the character area aims, the existing vegetation having been allowed to grow out and new trees, hedgerows and scrub having fully established and begun to mature.</p> <p>Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grassland reversion - A more varied landscape across the LCA - Improved management of existing vegetation - Less intensively managed land - Soil improvements - Water quality improvements - Increased visibility/definition of watercourses across the landscape. - Increased woodland/vegetation cover - Significantly improved biodiversity - Improved carbon retention/capture - Overwintering opportunities within wetland and elsewhere with Bird mitigation - Potential animal grazing - Reinstatement of historic field patterns - Strengthened Character Area generally - Improved shelter/protection across the landscape <p>Adverse effects (mitigated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panels and structures across landscape - Increased hard standing areas – water runoff management required - Potential minor pollution around substations - Visual intrusion in early years - Increased traffic in the local area 	
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			Following mitigation, the Site and the wider WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale, and extending across to the western Site boundary to include the area of the Site identified as being within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley would be able to accommodate change brought about through the development without undue adverse effects. The scale of the planting across the Site would lead to considerable beneficial effects in the increased level of vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement of existing natural features and the biodiversity benefits that this will bring, creating a stronger, more resilient framework across the local character area of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.	
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Medium Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Moderate – Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination effects upon WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area of the West Burton 3 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (West Burton 1 and 2) is Negligible at year 1 of operation and Negligible at year 15 with mitigation. This is due to the limited impact upon the LCA as a result of the nature of the Scheme, the segregated nature of the Sites; together with the existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Sites and Study Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.</p> <p>There would be the introduction of new elements and features comprising the solar panel areas and the substation within the character area. However, there would not be the removal of or changes in individual elements or features of the landscape within the character area and with the substantial landscape mitigation planting that would occur as a consequence of the development, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area is able to absorb these cumulative Sites whilst maintaining the integrity of the character of this area. There is no intervisibility between the WB3 Site and the other WB Sites.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquility. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The presence of the West Burton Sites would only occupy a relatively minor part of this wider character area and their development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area.</p>	<p>The Gate Burton Energy Park occupies the landscape to the north of Willingham Road, extending across Gate Burton and within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley landscape character areas.</p> <p>The Gate Burton Energy Park occupies a different landscape compartment to that of the West Burton 3 Site. Despite their relatively close proximity (approx. 700m) there is no intervisibility between the two developments, with the Gate Burton Energy Park being focused on the area of landscape surrounding Gate Burton and extending north into the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley landscape character areas and Knaith Park.</p> <p>Woodland associated with Gate Burton and mature roadside woodland along the east west Willingham Road and the A1500 provides separation between the Gate Burton Energy Park and the WB3 Site, ensuring that these developments occupy separate landscape compartments and maintain spatial separation.</p> <p>Overall, the character of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquility. The landscape between the two developments contains a mix of urban development associated with Marton and arable farmland to the north of the A1500, forming a green wedge between the two Developments.</p> <p>The landscape surrounding the Gate Burton Energy Park and the WB3 Site has the ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. The position of the West Burton 3 Site and the Gate Burton Energy Park are within two distinct and separate landscape components that are experienced independently of each other.</p> <p>Development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA 3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.3]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton and Brampton in addition to the larger settlement of Sturton by Stow. The Site is currently being used for agricultural purposes and occupies the area of elevated land to the east of the River Trent.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton and Brampton in addition to the larger settlement of Sturton by Stow. To the west of the Site the landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent.

The Site is currently being used for agricultural purposes and occupies the area of elevated land to the east of the River Trent.

The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line cuts diagonally through the middle of the Site effectively separating it into two distinct areas, one to the east, and one to the west of the railway.

The Eastern area is located between the railway line and the A1500, which runs along the majority of the northern Site boundary. Within the middle of the eastern area of the Site is Moat Farm. The western area of the Site occupies the area of elevated land to the east of the River Trent, between 10m and 15m AOD.

Located within the middle of the Site and straddling the railway line is Stow Park Farm and Marton Moor Farm, two large farmsteads with associated outbuildings and sheds that occupy the arable farmland to the south of the A1500.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Large-scale arable farmland, scattered with small settlements, isolated properties and managed native field boundary vegetation exists within the West Burton 3 Site. The agricultural land is predominantly arable and comprises a series of rectilinear field parcels managed intensively for arable. For the West Burton 3 Site, this intensively managed arable land has increased the reliance on arable, increase in field sizes has degraded the land over time.</p> <p>Overall, the land use within the West Burton 3 Site lacks native vegetation and the intensively managed farmland means the land has become degraded. However, the woodland blocks, field ditches and managed native field boundary vegetation form a component of this landscape, resulting in a medium susceptibility of change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation, small settlements and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields. The presence of the railway line, large scale power cables, and the large power stations on the western horizon detract from the rural quality of this area.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanized methods.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches across the Site, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques. Some small areas of scrub exist alongside the pylon stanchions.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes access the surrounding countryside. PRow across the Site are extremely limited. The only public access is a short section of Footpath to the east of Marton. A small number of isolated PRow footpaths in and surrounding the West Burton 3 Site experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small country lanes, isolated PRow footpaths, and flat arable farmland are the key components that define land use.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Limited number of PRow routes. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable fields.</p> <p>Overall, Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton and Brampton, in addition to the larger settlement of Sturton by Stow. To the west of the Site the landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent.</p> <p>For the West Burton 3 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the Site currently being used for agricultural purposes and occupying an area of elevated land to the east of the River Trent. The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line cuts diagonally through the middle of the Site effectively separating it into two distinct areas, one to the east, and one to the west of the railway. The Eastern area is located between the railway line and the A1500, which runs along the majority of the northern Site boundary. Within the middle of the eastern area of the Site is Moat Farm. The western area of the Site occupies the area of elevated land to the east of the River Trent, between 10m and 15m AOD.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement. Detractors include the railway, power lines and the presence of the large power stations.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Vegetated drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland within and surrounding the Site.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland is the predominant land use. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects – Land Use (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The construction activities undertaken within the Site itself would be short term and temporary. The installation of the solar array and its ecological mitigation measures would change the land use and break up a landscape that is predominantly flat arable farmland. The change would be beneficial to the soils, watercourses, and biodiversity.</p> <p>Overall, the land use within the Site is able to accommodate the changes that arise through the construction of the array without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features will be retained and enhancement at ground level through initial grassland planting will have beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>The WB3 Site is currently a series of intensively managed arable fields with some varied features but predominantly forms part of a wide and exposed arable landscape to the east of the River Trent. Field sizes and boundaries vary, and opportunities exist to reinforce the character of the landscape across the Site.</p> <p>The installation of the solar array would change land use within the Site itself. The land would no longer be managed as arable fields. This change would be small in context to the large-scale arable landscape surrounding the Site. As ecological mitigation starts to establish, the overall level of vegetation cover will increase locally.</p> <p>A greater mix of land use will also be attained through the creation of meadows, grassland and new woodland blocks, creating valuable biodiversity benefits for a large number of species.</p> <p>Belts of native trees adjacent to properties and throughout the Site would augment the tree cover locally and help to visually link areas of woodland across the landscape. New hedgerows will replace those lost to intensive agriculture whilst infilling with strengthen those existing which have been overmanaged.</p> <p>Varied grassland mixes will provide habitats for pollinator and pest regulating species with flower rich and tussock mixes around existing and proposed hedgerows and shelterbelts. Tall herb mixes adjacent to watercourses will provide an open habitat for a wide variety of species whilst further defining the riparian landscape.</p> <p>Instead of the somewhat bland and monotypic arable landscape, the development will create a series of interlinked habitats with strong field boundaries dividing the Sites with an overall much greater level of tree cover. This will enhance the local character generally and integrate development into the landscape.</p>	<p>As the ecological measures mature, woodland, hedgerows, and grassland would increase vegetation cover across an area dominated by large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p>Reversion to grassland, soil improvements, and river enhancements would create a diverse wildlife-rich land use. New and reinforced hedgerows would be managed to a height of 5m providing a series of good quality field boundaries both formally strengthening the existing and historical field pattern and creating a multi-layered landscape.</p> <p>Both new and existing vegetation will have established and begun to mature, creating a much stronger structure to the landscape, and retaining and enhancing the overall character of the area.</p> <p>The proposed grassland will have established and will have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes. The soil quality will be considerably improved through the lack of cultivation and the chemical run-off will be reduced around the Site/Sites enhancing the water quality generally. There will be considerable biodiversity gains through the establishment of the varied grassland types and regimes and a long-term increase in pollinator species and bird and other species and numbers locally.</p> <p>Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be: Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15. New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15. Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.</p> <p>New hedgerows will replace those lost to intensive agriculture whilst infilling with strengthen those existing which have been overmanaged.</p> <p>By Year 15, the proposed mitigation will have established and begun to mature. Existing vegetation will have grown out and will be enhanced with additional tree species. The overall scene will be somewhat more intimate, with tall hedges in places and trees along roads, watercourse, and field boundaries.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will, however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years.</p>

		<p>Large areas of varied grassland mixes across the Site would significantly enhance the landscape in physical terms with varied management regimes ensuring that the biodiversity potential is maximized. Potential exists for limited sheep grazing around the Site for short periods, comprising low density grazing in line with conservation methods.</p> <p>The Scheme and its associated landscape mitigation will break up the over intensified local arable landscape and significantly diversify the land-use in the local area.</p> <p>Although new vegetation will be immature, existing hedgerows will have begun to grow out at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have become established, starting to create valuable habitats.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 1, the Site is able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and will achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.</p>	<p>Historic field patterns will also have been restored where possible.</p> <p>There will be a good mix of landscape elements locally and the use of grassland wildflower mixes and some areas of low-level grazing will create a much wider mix of habitats.</p> <p>Overall, following mitigation at Year 15, the Site would be able to accommodate the proposed change without undue adverse effects and would achieve considerable beneficial effects in terms of varied land use improvements as well as improved carbon capture and significantly increased biodiversity across the Site.</p> <p>Changes to the land use would be seen as Minor beneficial in landscape terms.</p>	
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the east of West Burton 3 (within 2km). The In-combination effects of the WB3 Site with the other Cumulative Sites (WB1 and WB2) is Minor Beneficial at year 1 of operation and Minor Beneficial at year 15 with mitigation. There will be positive changes in land use such (such as those outlined above) as the creation of extensive mixed grassland habitats and enhanced field boundaries that will help reinforce the pattern of the landscape. The existing landscape character associated with the fabric of the landscape of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area is predominantly arable and the change to grassland with a significantly improved hedgerow structure and new woodlands would give rise to overall benefits to biodiversity as well as landscape character in combination with all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.3]**.

To the immediate north west of the Site is the settlement of Marton which occupies the hillside leading down from the arable plateau to the lower lying landform alongside the River Trent. The western area of the Site occupies the area of elevated land above the River Trent, lying at between 10m and 15m AOD. The landform to the west of the Site quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent. The eastern extents of the Site occupy the flatter arable plateau that is made up of gently rolling arable fields at approximately 17m AOD. Field parcels are separated by straight hedgerows and drainage ditches.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area there is large swathes of agricultural land interspersed with small villages such as Marton and the village of Brampton in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line cuts diagonally through the middle of the Site effectively separating the Site into two distinct areas, one to the east, and one to the west of the railway. The Eastern area is located between the railway line and the A1500, which runs along the majority of the northern Site boundary. The A1500, (Stow Park Road) is an old Roman Road which runs between Marton and the A15 on the ridgeline to the north of Lincoln.

To the immediate north west of the Site is the settlement of Marton which occupies the hillside leading down from the arable plateau to the lower lying landform alongside the River Trent. A small number of residential properties on Adams Way and Spafford Close are located alongside the north western corner of the Site.

The western area of the Site occupies the area of elevated land to the east of the River Trent, between 10m and 15m AOD. To the west of the Site the landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent. Embankments alongside the Trent help elevate it above of the surrounding lowland arable farmland. The eastern extents of the Site occupy the flatter arable plateau that is made up of gently rolling arable fields.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>In the WB3 Site, the land is flat-lying farmland which gently drains towards the River Trent to the west.</p> <p>Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches.</p> <p>Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography of the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the rectangular fields.</p> <p>Overall, the topography and watercourses within the West Burton 3 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation within flat farmland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Trent, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes and isolated PRow footpaths experience a flat rural landscape.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key components that define the topography.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: A limited network of PRow. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.</p> <p>Overall, The Study Area is open agricultural, predominantly flat farmland. The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by drainage ditches that feed into the River Trent.</p> <p>For the West Burton 3 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by flat agricultural field parcels that make up the Site itself and that follow the surrounding topography and water courses.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Drainage ditches and the vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland is the predominant land use. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The installation of the panels retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. Within the WB3 Site, the construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p> <p>The land within the WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.</p> <p>The land within the WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.</p> <p>The land within the WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however, benefit from the significantly enhanced planting that would create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the east of West Burton 3 (within 2km). The installation of the panels retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. The construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.3]**.

Within the Study Area, the A1500, runs along the majority of the northern Site boundary. Local rural lanes cross the surrounding arable countryside. The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line cuts diagonally through the middle of the Site. Alongside Stow Park Farm is a disused fuel depot. Two rows of overhead powerlines cross directly over the Site.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area, the A1500, runs along the majority of the northern Site boundary. The A1500, (Stow Park Road) is an old Roman Road which runs between Marton and the A15 on the ridgeline to the north of Lincoln. Local rural lanes cross the surrounding arable countryside.

The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line cuts diagonally through the middle of the Site effectively separating the Site into two distinct areas, one to the east, and one to the west of the railway. The Eastern area is located between the railway line and the A1500, which runs along the majority of the northern Site boundary.

The A1500, (Stow Park Road) is an old Roman Road which runs between Marton and the A15 on the ridgeline to the north of Lincoln. Within the middle of the eastern area of the Site is Moat Farm.

Located within the middle of the Site and straddling the railway line is Stow Park Farm and Marton Moor Farm, two large farmsteads with associated outbuildings and sheds that occupy the arable farmland to the south of the A1500. Alongside Stow Park Farm is a disused fuel depot.

Two rows of overhead powerlines cross directly over the Site.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>In the WB3 Site, large electricity power cables cross the arable farmland in an east/ west direction and link with West Burton Power Station.</p> <p>The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line cuts across the countryside and through the Site in a north/south direction.</p> <p>There is sparse, scattered settlement across the area, and as a result, not much infrastructure within the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Communications and Infrastructure for the WB3 Site is conditioned by the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor tracks, lanes and farm roads that are bordered by wide verges. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scope to protect the character and diversity of the road networks through conservation and enhancement of the local lanes and recognition of the value that the strategic routes provide in connections across the region.</p> <p>The communications and infrastructure within the West Burton 3 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Two large electricity power cables cross the Site. A railway line crosses the Site and the landscape.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The large electricity power cables that crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association. The Bishops Palace is located to the south of the A1500, although roadside hedgerows and woodland on the site limit appreciation and understanding of this asset.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. The large electricity infrastructure that crosses the landscape does not interfere with this green infrastructure. Vegetation along the railway line creates a green corridor which is not natural but is biodiversity rich.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes and users of the PRoW experience a flat rural landscape, small roads and views of a railway line and large electricity infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Large power and communication infrastructure crosses the landscape and links with the large power stations. This contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Power and communication infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland slightly detracts from the enjoyment of the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The alignment of the railway line through the WB3 Site in a north/south direction, splits the land into two.</p> <p>Overall, within the Study Area and the Site, the countryside is crossed by the railway line across the countryside in a north/south direction, and the large electricity power cables in an east/west direction. For the West Burton 3 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by or presence of railway line crossing the Site and the surrounding countryside and the network of power infrastructure. The strategic major road network is defined by important historic routes and in contrast, the east west minor road network links several historic and distinctive smaller string of settlements across the area. Overall, the prevailing road network is formed by narrow lanes that are often tranquil and hedged to both sides with wide grassed verges. Local lanes are bordered by isolated farmsteads and residential dwellings, often with very narrow grass verges and high hedgerows that add elements of intimacy to the routes. The sense of natural enjoyment adds to the value, which stems from the local lanes, small villages, arable fields, and the peacefulness of the landscape.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat farmland and power infrastructure linking with power stations. This is defined by A1500 Roman road near Sturton on Stow that is an important historic route which links several settlements including Marton and Sturton by Stow.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat farmland and electricity infrastructure. The east west travel direction between the north-south routes links the older settlements moving in a more random pattern, and which adds interest to the landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: There is a network of large electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale farmland that dominates the land. The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland, and electricity infrastructure is part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation. Main roads are significant features in the landscape with recent development concentrated along these main roads.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the Site as they facilitate construction traffic, enabling works, access etc. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the WB3 Site to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Sites and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects. The integrity and tranquillity of these routes, often used for informal recreation, would be affected to some degree by increased traffic during the construction phase but this will be short term and field specific at any one time to the WB 3 Site.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the WB3 Site and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the WB3 Site and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the Site as they facilitate construction traffic, etc associated with the decommissioning of the array. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the WB3 Site to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would have benefitted from the enhanced planting and a more robust landscape which retains the overall character of the landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the east of West Burton 3 (within 2km). There will be positive changes in the communications and infrastructure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local road network. The existing character associated with these roads and local lanes of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area are predominantly grass verges, with roadside hedgerows or trees providing enclosure. Significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character and views along these road networks in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.3]**.

The Site is located between the settlements of Marton and Brampton in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire.

Key Features:

The Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure network is broadly defined to the north-west by the large settlement of Gainsborough (approximately 7km) which is Britain's most inland port and one of the main cities within the area along with Newark-on-Trent, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Grantham.

To the southeast (approximately 13km), the city of Lincoln is a prominent landmark with the Cathedral that captures the skyline in views across the area. The settlement of Saxilby is immediately to the south of the Site. Otherwise, larger settlements are sparse to the surrounding area.

To the east, the landscape is defined by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads with the A15 (Ermine Street), which is also a Roman road, following a distinctive straight alignment along the limestone capped scarp slope. Ermine Street connects the city of Lincoln from the south as far as the Humber Estuary in the north. The B1398 (Middle Street) also passes along the scarp slope following an almost parallel alignment with Ermine Street and this historic route supports a string of smaller settlements including Burton, South Carlton, North Carlton and Scampton.

Finally, to the west, there is the River Trent and the immense coal-fired power stations that exert a visual influence over a wide area, particularly the cooling towers that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

To the west, the A156 (Gainsborough Road) is almost true to the River Trent and passes through the settlements of Torksey, Marton, Gate Burton before reaching the large settlement of Gainsborough.

The B1241 runs north from the A57 through Saxilby and the smaller settlements of Ingleby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.

The A1500 connects the A156 in the west with the A15 on the scarp slope.

With the exception of the villages/hamlets mentioned above, the area is relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. Smaller settlements and hamlets are pocketed through the rural countryside surrounding the Sites including Broxholme, Bransby and Brampton.

The Site is located between Marton and the village of Brampton in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. Within the Study Area, the Site is approximately 2km north west of the West Burton 2 Site (Ingleby), and 2.5km east of the village of Sturton by Stow. The Site is located to the south of the A1500.

The Lincoln Golf Club is located to the south west of the Site, surrounding the small hamlet of Brampton. A small number of residential properties on the eastern edge of the settlement are located adjacent to the south western corner of the Site. Located within the middle of the Site and straddling the railway line are Stow Park Farm and Marton Moor Farm, two large farmsteads with associated outbuildings and sheds that occupy the arable farmland to the south of the A1500.

To the immediate north west of the Site is the settlement of Marton which occupies the hillside leading down from the arable plateau to the lower lying landform alongside the River Trent. A small number of residential properties on Adams Way and Spafford Close are located alongside the north western corner of the Site.

The Site crosses the parishes of Marton, Brampton and Stow in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The economic driver for the settlements north of Saxilby is arable farming. This is illustrated by the large-scale, flat, rectangular parcels of arable land, isolated farmsteads, and a network of farm tracks.</p> <p>For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other industry and commerce and a limited amount of leisure. Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.</p> <p>This landscape has some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor farm tracks. The edges of the villages, the sequence of views to the churches and the avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms are also sensitive features. The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic.</p> <p>Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.</p> <p>Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the West Burton 3 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small, narrow country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The small narrow country lanes provide a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, The Site is located between the Settlements of Marton and Brampton in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. Within the Study Area, the Site is approximately 2km north west of the West Burton 2 Site (Ingleby), and 2.5km east of the village of Sturton by Stow. The Site is located to the south of the A1500.</p> <p>The Lincoln Golf Club is located to the south west of the Site, surrounding the small hamlet of Brampton. A small number of residential properties on the eastern edge of the settlement are located adjacent to the south western corner of the Site. Located within the middle of the Site and straddling the railway line are Stow Park Farm and Marton Moor Farm, two large farmsteads with associated outbuildings and sheds that occupy the arable farmland to the south of the A1500. To the immediate north west of the Site is the settlement of Marton which occupies the hillside leading down from the arable plateau to the lower lying landform alongside the River Trent.</p> <p>For the West Burton 3 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the area, outside of the settlement of Marton to the north west being relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted throughout the surrounding countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The landscape is influenced by the sparsely populated flat arable farmland. The string of small, nucleated settlements on the limestone capped scarp slope add to the sequence of views and help define the settled character of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable and scattered sparsely populated settlement. There is little commerce or economic activity other than agriculture. The farmsteads and dwellings add a positive character to the local network where there are associated heritage features.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland prevalent in the landscape, and a sparsely populated scattered settlement, contribute to the value of the countryside within the site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The sparsely populated, flat large-scale arable farmland forms part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At the early stages of the construction stage, ground, and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would be predominantly screened by existing vegetation.</p> <p>During the latter part of the construction stage, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows may be possible, but this would be short term.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks. There would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including planting and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries of the Site/Sites.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would not affect any of the settlements or other commercial/industrial areas in this area. There would be a change to the arable land use, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels. Development would not have any adverse effects on the integrity of the local settlements.</p>	<p>The proposed development will have little effect on local industry and commerce although the introduction of the solar farm will provide some additional traffic to the roads and lanes locally. Mitigation will be in the form of tree, hedge, and shelterbelt planting as well as shrub and grassland areas which will both screen views of the additional traffic and provide benefits in terms of reducing noise and carbon impacts.</p> <p>The overall increase in vegetative cover and the reduction of over intensively farmed arable land will have benefits locally both in landscape character and visual terms and with regard to a considerable increase in the biodiversity around settlements/isolated dwellings across the area.</p> <p>The development will have no adverse effects on the larger settlements such Gainsborough, Saxilby and Lincoln.</p> <p>There will be no industrial development associated with the use of the WB3 Site, and other built infrastructure associated with the solar farm will be limited to temporary (but long term) buildings with the overall development having an anticipated life span of 40 years.</p>	<p>Over time, the proposals would be perceived as part of the economic activities within the predominantly arable farming landscape.</p> <p>The local settlement and commercial/industrial facilities are able to accommodate the Scheme without undue adverse effects. The proposed Scheme will have no adverse effects in the physical integrity of the settlements adjacent to the Site and there will be beneficial effects in terms of local tree/hedge cover and biodiversity net gains enhancing the local character and the setting of these settlements.</p> <p>The solar panels within the WB2 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has matured to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining, and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years. Bird mitigation fields and wetland grazing marshes are likely to be retained and the potential may exist to retain grass margins to maintain some varied land use and a high level of biodiversity in the local area.</p>

5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the east of West Burton 3 (within 2km).</p> <p>There will be positive changes to the settlements, industry, commerce and leisure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local settlements and their approaches, and particularly in the context of the church spires. The existing landscape character associated with the outer edges of these settlements of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area is predominantly woodland and tree cover around the margins and the change to grassland with scattered trees and a significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.3]**.

One PRow crosses the Site, Public Footpath Mton/68/1, in the north west corner, running from High Street to Stow Park Road. There are no other PRows that cross the Site, however there are a number of PRows within the 2km Study Area.

Key Features:

The PRow network is mainly restricted to routes that generally follow the pattern of watercourses, tracks, and woodlands across the area. The PRow network is mainly aligned along field boundaries connecting with the local road network and to nearby settlements and farmsteads across the area. The network is generally intermittent because there are few landscape features to help form continuous links. The footpath network is particularly sporadic in the landscape due to these inconsistent links, the local lanes are used to supplement for recreation and the lack of connectivity. The routes mainly follow an east-west and north-south direction to reflect the prevailing landscape pattern and to connect the local lanes with nearby settlements.

One PRow crosses the Site, Public Footpath Mton/68/1, in the north west corner, running from High Street to Stow Park Road. There are no other PRow that cross the Site, however there are a number of PRow within 2km of the Site.

To the north, just outside of Marton, lies Public Footpath Mton/69/1, and to the east Public Footpaths Stow/71/2, Stow/71/4, Stow/74/2, Stur/75/1 and Stur/75/2 which connect Stow with Sturton by Stow and the surrounding landscape.

To the south there are no PRow other than at the south west corner of the Site where Public Footpaths Tork/957/1, Tork/779/1 and Tork/96/1 are located between Brampton and Torksey.

To the west lies Public Footpaths Bram/99/1, Mton/66/4, Mton/66/1 and the long distance trail of the Trent Valley Way.

Assessment of Sensitivity - PRoW Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>One PRoW crosses the Site, Public Footpath Mton/68/1, in the north west corner, running from High Street to Stow Park Road. The wider PRoW network travels through the countryside.</p> <p>A limited PRoW network surrounding the Site provides access the wider landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the PRoW network in the West Burton 3 Site has a high susceptibility to change. The susceptibility of the Public Rights of Way and Access for the Site is conditioned by the limited network of footpaths and bridleways and the availability of the rural roads and minor tracks for extended access. The relevant characteristics therefore have some scope to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. There is however scope to increase recreation opportunities including where there are natural features and historical elements to draw interest from residents and tourists.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Views of flat, large-scale arable landscape. The large scale power stations can be seen on the western horizon alongside the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the properties and railway infrastructure. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Only one PRoW footpath in the Site (Public Footpath Mton/68/1), and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, One short section of Public Footpath crosses the Site, Public Footpath Mton/68/1, in the north west corner, running from High Street to Stow Park Road. However, this route does not connect with the wider PRoW network, terminating at the A1500 and limiting opportunities to explore and enjoy the wider landscape to the north.</p> <p>For the West burton 3 Site, the judgement on value (Medium) is shaped by the lack of public access across this area of countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. There are isolated PRoW's in the Site, and limited PRoWs within the surrounding countryside.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area. Some of the villages have a broad landscape setting where the minor roads lead across this area as access for recreation, particularly as a landscape with long views and this is a substitute for the sparse network of PRoW.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. The landscape surrounding the Site has limited public access. There is scope for development and mitigation. Some views from the footpaths also offer westward views to the power stations on the Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of Lincoln 'Cliff'.</p>
High	Medium	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construction activities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site.</p> <p>At the early stages of the construction stage, ground, and lower-level activities such as the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure and inverters would be predominantly screened by existing vegetation. During the latter part of the construction stage, views would become available of the elevated activities above the hedgerows, but this would be short term.</p> <p>Other works would be undertaken in connection with the construction including fencing, gates, boundary treatment and other means of enclosure and works for the provision of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the laying down of internal tracks. There would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including planting and the improvement of existing hedgerows to all boundaries of the Site/Sites.</p> <p>These short-lived construction activities would not affect landscape receptors in this area. There would be a change to the arable land use within the Sites, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels.</p> <p>Although there would be an alteration to the views and setting of surrounding PRoW in terms of these features as a landscape receptor, their overall quality would be enhanced in the medium to long term and construction generally would have no adverse effects on the integrity of the landscape character of these routes.</p> <p>Within the WB3 Site, the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the Site.</p>	<p>Within the WB3 Site, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the Site.</p> <p>As well as the enhancement and retention of native hedgerows, other mitigation includes native shelter belts and woodland planting within the wider WB3 Site.</p> <p>A new native woodland has been proposed to the north of the Substation, helping break up the wider array and screen the Substation infrastructure.</p> <p>These mitigation measures would help improve the landscape fabric of the existing landscape. Newly planted trees and joined-up and intact hedgerows in the landscape would help break up the flat arable fields.</p>	<p>Within the WB3 Site, the long term operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the Site.</p> <p>Over time, as the mitigation planting establishes, views of the solar array would be screened. The short section of route immediate west of the A1500 would become enclosed by woodland and scrub, replicating the character of the section of footpath to the rear of the residential properties to the west.</p> <p>This would form an attractive route, but would be enclosed by vegetation, losing the wider ranging views that currently exist. However, across the wider array additional tree cover reinforces existing hedgerows combining with new native hedgerow and shelter belts to provide greater enclosure across the WB3 Site and screening views of the wider array whilst reinforcing the character of the area.</p>	<p>Within the WB3 Site, the decommissioning of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the Site.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – PRoW Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><i>In combination</i> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the south east of West Burton 3. There will be some positive changes to the PRoW due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character, however the presence of the array and associated infrastructure would detract somewhat, leading to an overall position of neutral. The existing landscape character associated with these PRoW of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area would predominantly provide tree cover along their margins with a change to grassland with scattered trees and a significantly improved hedgerow networks, which would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites. Overall, the character of the landscape and the Public Rights of Way and Access is shaped by the villages and isolated settlement that have a broad landscape setting where the minor roads lead across this area as access for recreation, particularly as a landscape with long views. The PRoW network is often confined to the settlement edges where the woodland and tree cover closes down views of this broad landscape setting. These relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.3]**.

West Lindsey District contains a local landscape designation, the West Lindsey Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) which comprises different and disparate parts. These different parts are not named, therefore for clarity, in the descriptions below the areas are named as follows (and shown on **Figure 8.6 Landscape Receptors**):

- AGLV1 – The Ridge
- AGLV2 – Gainsborough
- AGLV3 – Laughton Wood

Key Features:

The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV. Located approximately 350m to the north east of the Site is AGLV3 (Laughton Wood) but separated from it by the new residential development to the north of the A1500, existing properties on Mount Pleasant Close and Willingham Road.

AGLV3 extends across the countryside to the north of the A1500 across Gate Burton and Knaith.

Assessment of Sensitivity - National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Site does not have any nationally designated landscapes or AGLV. Large-scale arable farmland, scattered with small settlements, isolated properties and managed native field boundary vegetation exists within the West Burton 3 Site.</p> <p>Located approximately 350m to the north east of the Site is AGLV3.</p> <p>This area extends across the countryside to the north of the A1500 across Gate Burton and Knaith.</p> <p>Overall, the National and Locally Designated Landscapes network in the West Burton 3 Site has a high susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation, small settlements and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields. The presence of the railway line, large scale power cables, and the large power stations on the western horizon detract from the rural quality of this area.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanized methods.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches across the Site, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques. Some small areas of scrub exist alongside the pylon stanchions.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes access the surrounding countryside. PRow across the Site are extremely limited. The only public access is a short section of Footpath to the east of Marton.</p> <p>A small number of isolated PRow footpaths in and surrounding the West Burton 3 Site experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small country lanes, isolated PRow footpaths, and flat arable farmland are the key components that define land use.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Limited number of PRow routes. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable fields.</p> <p>Overall, the Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV. Located approximately 350m to the north-east of the Site is AGLV3 (Laughton Wood) but separated from it by the new residential development to the north of the A1500 and existing properties on Mount Pleasant Close. AGLV3 extends across the countryside to the north of the A1500 across Gate Burton and Knaith.</p> <p>For the West Burton 3 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of any designation across the Site itself, but in recognition of the proximity to AGLV3 to the north-west.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
High	Medium	Medium to High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the WB3 Site, the construction and installation of the solar panels would be approximately 350m to the south-east of the AGLV3 designated area and separated from it by the new residential development to the north of the A1500, existing properties on Mount Pleasant Close, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p> <p>There would be a change to the arable land use within the Site, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels. There would not be a fundamental change to the surroundings or to the views and settings of the AGLV.</p>	<p>For the WB3 Site, the operation of the solar panels would be approximately 350m to the south-east of the AGLV3 designated area.</p> <p>In terms of mitigation for the AGLV associated with the WB3 Site, due to distance and varied relationship with the immediate landscape to their boundaries, it is anticipated that the overall scheme of mitigation will reinforce the landscape character where this has been lost or eroded in the last century to intensive arable farming.</p> <p>Proposals include for a new native woodland block within the north western corner of the Site alongside the A1500 at the closest point with the AGLV3. There will be a much greater level of tree and hedgerow cover over the WB3 Site although this will be immature at this point. Considerable biodiversity gains will be brought forward by the increase in tree and hedge cover as well as having the benefit of capturing carbon in the longer term.</p> <p>The reversion of arable land to grassland will have considerable ecological benefits, widely increasing the biodiversity, resilience, and sustainability of the area generally and starting to improve soil structure and water quality. Varied grassland mixes and flower rich pollinator mixes will build in more diversity and begin to create visual interest across the landscape. Enhancements to the overall level of tree cover, although immature at this stage will have a very minor but beneficial effect on the setting of the local villages and will enhance the wider character generally in the context of the AGLV.</p>	<p>For the WB3 Site, the long-term operation of the solar panels would be approximately 350m to the south-east of the AGLV3 designated area.</p> <p>There will be a much greater level of tree cover over the WB3 Site. This tree cover will have matured to integrate into the existing field boundary and woodland vegetation both locally and across the wider landscape setting of the AGLV.</p> <p>The reversion of arable land to grassland will have established to achieve a rich tapestry of habitats where grassland mixes have integrated into their natural environment and established their natural composition with the help of some appropriate management. Soil structure will be much improved through the lack of cultivation and water quality improvement will be seen.</p> <p>By Year 15, new tree cover in the form of scattered native tree belts and shelterbelts/woodlands will have established and begun to mature, reaching a height of some 7.5m. These elements will sit within the landscape and will begin to better define field boundaries and roadsides, with watercourses better presented by riparian species along their winding routes. Hedgerows will have established and outgrown, being managed to a height of 5m creating a layered vegetated scene across the landscape from the higher land and a more intimate environment from the lower levels. Strong lines of tree lined hedges will run across and down the landscape forming a rich pattern of colour and form.</p> <p>The AGLV is able to accommodate the proposed development within the wider landscape without undue adverse effects with long term physical and visual benefits over the Site as a whole.</p>	<p>For the WB3 Site, the long-term operation of the solar panels would be approximately 350m to the south-east of the AGLV3 designated area.</p> <p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has begun to mature to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years.</p>

5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a	<p><u>In combination</u></p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The Gate Burton Energy Park is located within the landscape to the north of Willingham Road, and partly within the AGLV3. As such, it is considered that the Gate Burton Scheme is likely to have more direct effects upon the AGLV than the WB3 Site, however, given the proximity of the WB3 Site to the AGLV, it requires consideration.</p> <p>The A1500, Willingham Road and the settlement of Marton all provide separation between WB3 and the AGLV3. The landscape proposals include for new native woodland shelter belts along the A1500 and a new native woodland block alongside Marton. These landscape elements would further the separation and reinforce the location of these two schemes within different landscape parcels.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.3]**.

There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site itself however, the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park, Stow Park (List Entry Number: 1019229), is located adjacent to the Site. The designations themselves are however wholly outside of the Scheme area. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within a Conservation Area or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

Key Features:

There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site itself however, the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park, Stow Park (List Entry Number: 1019229), is located immediately adjacent to the Site. The designations are however wholly outside of the proposed development area but enclosed by it.

There are also a number of Scheduled Monuments within 2km of the Site including: Roman fort, south of Littleborough Lane (List Entry Number: 1004935) approximately 1.7km northwest of the Site and Torksey Castle (List Entry Number: 1005056) and the Site of medieval town (List Entry Number: 1004991) approximately 1.4km southwest of the Site, in Torksey hamlet. (Refer to **Figure 8.6: Landscape Receptors**).

Listed Buildings: There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. In closest proximity to the Site are Grade II Signal Box at Stow Park (List Entry Number: 1146606) and Stow Park Station (List Entry Number: 1064058) located 50m north of the Site. Grade II Manor Farmhouse (List Entry Number: 1064084), Priory Cottage (List Entry Number: 1064082), Richards-Havecross Cottages (List Entry Number: 1064081), the Beeches (List Entry Number: 1064080), and The Hermitage (List Entry Number: 1064080) are all approximately 50m southwest of the Site.

There are approximately 30 more Listed Buildings within 2km of the Site, most of them Grade II, however, the most relevant Listed Buildings are: Grade II* Torksey Viaduct over River Trent (List Entry Number: 1359456), and the Church of St Peter (List Entry Number: 1064078) southwest of the Site in Torksey hamlet, and The Gate Burton Hall (List Entry Number: 1359458) located 1.5km north of the Site. (Refer to **Figure 8.6: Landscape Receptors**).

The Site is not located within a Conservation Area or within 2km of a Conservation Area.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site or within 2km of the Site. Doddington Hall (Listed Number 1000975) is the closest located approximately 9km south of the Site and outside of the Study Area.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site itself however, but the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park is located in the adjacent Stow Park. There are a number of Scheduled Monuments within the area.</p> <p>There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. There are a number of Listed Buildings surrounding the Site. The Site is not located within or near Conservation Area or Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the West Burton 3 Site have a high susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park is located in the adjacent Stow Park.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: There are a limited number of PRow's into the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Limited PRow's in the surrounding area provides limited access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape. The railway line, fuel depot and largescale pylons within the Site all detract from the rural character of this area.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site itself however, the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park, Stow Park (List Entry Number: 1019229), is located immediately adjacent to the Site. The designations are however wholly outside of the proposed development area but enclosed by it. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within a Conservation Area or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>For the West Burton 3 Site, the judgement on value (high) is shaped by the immediate proximity to the Scheduled Monuments.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in this landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside, and the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the area have not become degraded.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside has little man-made interference, however the railway line, fuel depot and largescale pylons within the Site all detract from the rural character of this area. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
High	High	High

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Within the WB3 Site, the construction and installation of the solar panels would not directly interfere with the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens surrounding the Site. There would be a change to the arable land use, but the field boundaries and the associated tree cover would remain intact and help with layering and the integration of the new panels. There would not be a fundamental change to the surroundings to the views and settings of the landscape receptors.</p> <p>The presence of the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park has been recognized within the Site layout and generous offset of panels and infrastructure has been provided as well as extensive landscaping to provide separation from the array and maintain its isolated location within the landscape to the south of the A1500.</p>	<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree and hedgerow cover across the Site would help to reinforce the structure and character of the landscape within and surrounding the Site helping reinforce the wider character of the landscape in which heritage assets are appreciated.</p> <p>The presence of the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park has been recognized within the Site layout and generous offset of panels and infrastructure has been provided as well as extensive landscaping to provide separation from the array and maintain its isolated location within the landscape to the south of the A1500.</p>	<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Enhancements to the overall level of tree and hedgerow cover across the Site would help to reinforce the structure and character of the landscape within and surrounding the Site helping reinforce the wider character of the landscape in which heritage assets are appreciated.</p> <p>New woodland blocks and shelterbelts are now established providing containment to the array.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of construction stage, but with the Scheme being no longer operational. This is an assessment of the Site in winter but assumes retention of existing vegetation and builds upon the proposed primary and secondary mitigation that had been established as the future baseline. Effects are those arising from activities for the duration of the decommissioning to include site traffic, noise and vibration from decommissioning activities, dust generation and site runoff.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however benefit from the significantly enhanced tree and hedgerow planting that has been carried out and has begun to mature to create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character and providing considerable biodiversity benefits over the years.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 2 Site to the east of West Burton 3 (within 2km). Enhancements to the overall level of tree and hedgerow cover across the Site would help to reinforce the structure and character of the landscape within and surrounding the Site helping reinforce the wider character of the landscape in which heritage assets are appreciated.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Low</p>	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor-moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor-moderate Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor-moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor-moderate Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Low</p>	<p>Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor-moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor-moderate Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor-moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor-moderate Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton 3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.3]**.

Natural Designations include National Parks and AONBs. In addition to these there are further national and international statutory environmental designations which contribute to England's natural environment and make a major contribution to national and regional character. These include the following:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Ramsar Sites
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

There is no ancient woodland on the Site. The nearest Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton.</p> <p>Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations have a medium susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site. There is no ancient woodland on the Site. The nearest, Burton Wood, is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton.</p> <p>For the West Burton 3 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of designations across the Site or locally</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in this landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside has little man-made interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 3 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.3 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.3].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

Substantial area of native woodland planting within the central area of the western section of the Site to the north of the Substation.

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

New native woodland shelter belts throughout the Site

New native scattered trees throughout the Site

Large area of new successional scrub

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton and separated from the Site by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>	<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton and separated from the Site by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>	<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton and separated from the Site by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>	<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton and separated from the Site by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 3 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 1km). There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site. The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton and separated from the Site by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes The Gate Burton Energy Park Site is located to the north of Willingham Road. The area of Ancient Woodland at Gate Burton is located within this scheme. The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton and separated from the Site by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

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- 8.2.4.4 Individual Topography and Watercourses Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
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- 8.2.4.9 Individual Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.4.10 Individual Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]

Yellow highlight indicates potential significant effects may be identified during final assessment process on landscape receptor.	
National Character Area (NCA) / Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT) Scoping Table	Cable Route Corridor WB1 to WB2 500m Study Area
NCA Profile: 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales (NE429)	/
A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains. The mature, powerful River Trent flows north through the full length of the area, meandering across its broad flood plain and continuing to influence the physical and human geography of the area as it has done for thousands of years.	/
The bedrock geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.	
Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops. While much pasture has been converted to arable use over the years, grazing is still significant in places, such as along the Trent and around settlements.	/
A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.	/
Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.	/
Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent flood plain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.	
Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.	
A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.	/
Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert a visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them. The same applies to the gas-fired power station and sugar beet factory near Newark, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.	
NCA Profile: 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (NE554)	
Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.	
Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.	
Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.	
Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber, and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.	
Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.	
Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.	
Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.	
Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.	
Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street; sparse on higher land, with springline villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.	
Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.	
Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-coloured limestone with dark brown pantiles.	
Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.	
RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys (East Midlands)	
Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;	
River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;	
Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;	
Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;	
Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;	
Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;	
Limited settlement and development in rural areas;	
Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;	
Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and	
Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.	
RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales (East Midlands)	/
Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.	/
Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.	/
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.	/
Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.	/
Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result.	/
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.	/
Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fieldscapes evident in areas of arable reversion.	/
Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.	/
RLCT Profile: 4b Wooded Vales	
Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type.	
Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover.	
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment.	
Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat.	
Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations.	
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping.	
Irregular shaped assorted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas.	
Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.	
RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes	
Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope.	
Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology.	
Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries.	
Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland.	
Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.	

LLCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley (West Lindsey)	
Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.	
Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape.	
River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.	
Historic parkland landscape including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle.	
Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main road, bypassing original village centres.	
Views towards the west are dominated by the power stations along the River Trent.	
LLCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale (West Lindsey)	/
Agricultural landscape with large, flat open fields.	/
Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.	/
Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelter belts	/
Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.	/
String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating grounds along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.	/
Large farm buildings and individual farmhouse on flatter land to the east.	/
Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.	/
Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'.	/
LLCA Profile: 4 The Cliff (West Lindsey)	
Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.	
Springline villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.	
Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.	
Pond and lakes along the springline.	
BLCA Policy Zones MNPZ 05 Leverton	
Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.	
A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.	
Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.	
Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.	
Isolated farmsteads.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands	
A predominantly large scale arable landscape	
Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham	
Views dominated by power stations and pylons	
Well trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees	
Less well maintained road side hedges, with trees	
Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.	
Limited small woodlands	
Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south	
Views are dominated by Cottam power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands	
This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD	
Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South	
Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties	
Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees	
Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy	
Watercourses are present throughout the PZ	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south	
Views are dominated by West Burton power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views to the north and south , views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough , characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
Flat topography	
A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent	
Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses	
Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees	
Grass flood bank	

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

NCA Profile 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is broadly characterised by a ridge of Jurassic limestone running north from Lincoln to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises prominently from adjacent low-lying land, forming the Edge or Cliff, and giving panoramic views out, in particular to the west. In the north is a second, lower scarp of ironstone. In the vicinity of Scunthorpe are the Coversands, post-glacial wind-blown sands which have given rise to mosaics of heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodland, supporting rare plant and animal communities akin to the Brecklands. At the northern boundary the limestone drops below the River Humber.

Ermine Street, a key Roman route from Lincoln to a crossing point on the Humber, follows the higher, drier land of the limestone plateau. Built in Norman times, the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral occupies a commanding position on top of the Edge and is visible from far around.

Key Features:

Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.

Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.

Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.

Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.

Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.

Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.

Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.

Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.

Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street, sparse on higher land, with spring line villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.

Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.

Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-colored limestone with dark brown pantiles.

Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Edge, an escarpment formed of Jurassic limestones combined with an escarpment of Lower Jurassic mudstones, rises prominently from the low-lying farmland in the Humberhead Levels and Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Areas (NCAs) to the west, giving rise to impressive long-distance views. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River. The outcrop of limestone forming the Edge extends south into the Southern Lincolnshire Edge NCA, bisected by the River Witham at Lincoln, and giving rise to a similar landscape of good-quality agricultural land. Lincoln Cathedral, built on top of the Edge above the Witham Gap, is a prominent landmark from miles around.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area, from Whitton on the Humber Estuary in the north to Lincoln in the south. To the east of Scunthorpe a second scarp of calcareous mudstones and siltstones, including ironstone, forms the western margin of the north part of the NCA. These slopes rise prominently from the flat cultivated lands of the Humberhead Levels and the Trent and Belvoir Vales, forming a distinct wooded edge to these areas. From the top of the Cliff there are impressive panoramic views out over the Humber Estuary, the Levels and the Vales.</p> <p>This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. Fields are typically large and rectilinear with gappy clipped hedgerows, or rubble limestone in places. Field sizes tend to be smaller around the villages. The dispersed farmsteads are typically large, with courtyard arrangements of barns and sheds that have developed over time, often overshadowing the original stone farmhouse. Copses of mixed-species trees provide some shelter. In places the limestone comes close to the surface, giving rise to small areas of calcareous grassland, which can also be found in a number of disused limestone quarries.</p> <p>The area is punctuated by a number of prominent features, from the massive steelworks at Scunthorpe and the hangars of military airfields along the top of the Edge, to the distinctive and prominent cathedral in Lincoln, standing high up on the Edge overlooking the Witham Gap, where the river cuts through the limestone. On the plateau top, some airfields have been put to new uses, and large buildings constructed for grain storage, light industry, warehousing and retail and communications masts are often very prominent out on the flat open land of the limestone plateau. Several farms now have large rectilinear reservoirs to provide for irrigation of crops on the light soils of the plateau.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p><u>Scenic:</u> The Lincolnshire Edge is a long, prominent ridge, running from Grantham to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises sharply from low-lying land to the west, while the dip slope drops gently to the Ancholme Valley in the east. In the northern part of the NCA this forms a very distinct secondary scarp, overlooking the River Trent as it draws close below Alkborough.</p> <p><u>Cultural:</u> There is widespread evidence of early settlement along the Edge, including prehistoric burial mounds and linear boundary features. The legacy of the Romans is more visible, particularly the roads that converge on the fort and later colonia at Lincoln. Ermine Street runs north-south along the full length of the NCA. The historic evidence that is most visible is that of the Roman period, with the network of long, straight roads, in particular Ermine Street which links the settlement of Lincoln with the crossing point of the Humber. Other features include the cathedral in Lincoln built by the Normans, deserted medieval villages and, more recently, military airfields and the steelworks that tower above Scunthorpe. There is scope for protecting these features and providing interpretation to bring them to the attention of a wider audience.</p> <p><u>Natural:</u> The Coversands support important mosaics of heathland, akin to those of Breckland, as well as dry acid grassland and oak/birch woodland.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited, and there is scope for improving access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, especially providing links between urban areas and the countryside.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> While a predominantly arable landscape, it has many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff), the varied habitats of the Coversands, the prominent steelworks at Scunthorpe, historic villages, the airfields and inspirational long-distance views, especially out to the west. In the south is the city of Lincoln with its rich history and inspirational views to and from the cathedral. There is scope for strengthening the fabric of the landscape and for managing further development.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing:</u> The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function:</u> The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area. This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is shaped by the predominantly arable landscape, with many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff) and the varied habitats of the Coversands.</p>	<p><u>Character:</u> There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality:</u> Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p><u>Value:</u> The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p><u>Capacity:</u> There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover, the NCA offers long, open views. Newark-on-Trent (generally referred to as Newark) lies at the centre with Grantham, Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough on the peripheries. The area's generally fertile soils and good quality agricultural land have supported a diversity of farming over a long period but, because of this, little semi-natural habitat remains. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain provide a strong feature running through the landscape. It is the greatest biodiversity resource, being a major corridor for wildlife moving through the area and supporting a variety of wetland habitats. It also provides flood storage as well as large amounts of cooling water for local power stations.

Key Features:

A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains.

The bedrock of geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.

Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops.

A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.

Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.

Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent floodplain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.

Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.

A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.

Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent and Belvoir Vales offer a gently undulating and low-lying landform with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys and flood plains. The landscape follows a strong north-south pattern due to the orientation of the underlying Triassic and Jurassic geology. Woodland cover is low. On the higher ground west of the Trent, small broadleaved, ancient semi-natural woodlands of oak and ash are frequently found, often as narrow strips alongside incised watercourses.</p> <p>Most of the area contains productive farmland, the majority of which is used for commercial arable production while grazing land for sheep, cattle and horses is locally significant in places. The sandy soils west of Lincoln have low natural fertility, but with fertiliser inputs these also provide very useful farmland, particularly for root crop production. Because of the value of the land for agriculture, the area has retained little semi-natural habitat. What remnants survive include flood plain grazing marsh such as The Holmes near Sutton on Trent, lowland meadows and some small areas of heathland, for example on the windblown sand deposits north of Collingham. Throughout the area, broadleaved woodlands, copses and the networks of hedgerows provide important habitats for farmland species.</p> <p>The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Throughout, hedgerow trees are few and limited to oak and ash, with willow along watercourses. In the east, hedgerows become fewer and the division of fields by dykes becomes more common, giving the landscape a fen-like character.</p> <p>The flood plains are distinctive features, especially that of the Trent; however, the rivers themselves are not visually prominent in the wider landscape and are often completely hidden from view by levees. They flow largely unnoticed, marked only by a fringe of scattered trees and riparian vegetation. The Trent is in its mature form as it meanders slowly but powerfully through the area. For ease of navigation and flood prevention, the channel has been deepened and, particularly in its lower reaches, tightly confined by levees. The Trent and its flood plain act as a major corridor for wildlife through the area and provide a variety of wetland habitats.</p> <p>The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them. Building styles vary but are unified in rural areas by red brick and pantiles.</p> <p>Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power</p>	<p><u>Scenic:</u> The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.</p> <p><u>Cultural:</u> The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact. Medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation features can still be seen on land uncultivated since. At Laxton the medieval open field system of farming has been retained to the present day. Enclosure and reorganisation of the landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries is seen in the regular shaped fields bounded by hawthorn hedgerows and the red brick and pantile building style of farmsteads and villages. Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires are prominent historical landmarks in the landscape.</p> <p><u>Natural:</u> A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46. The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Ancient hedgerows are still evident in many places, often as sinuous belts of trees and shrubs, occasionally defining ancient parish boundaries. The Vale of Belvoir has seen a steady decline in permanent pasture and conversion to arable uses. Increases in horse ownership across the NCA have led to some permanent pasture being used as horse paddocks. There has been pig and poultry unit expansion and upgrade across the NCA.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> Recreation is provided by numerous small country lanes and public rights of way, especially along the Trent corridor, including the Trent Valley Way. It is also provided by country parks such as Cotgrave and Hartsholme. The restoration of the numerous disused sand and gravel extraction sites to wetlands, along with the River Trent and the Fossdyke Navigation, provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for boating, water sports, fishing, walking and experiencing wildlife.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> Higher ground defines the edges of the NCA from where there are extensive views across the vales. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain is a major feature running through the landscape. Villages are unified by the dominant rural vernacular style of red brick and pantile. The main settlements have strong associations with the area. Distinctive landmarks include Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires and the power stations on the Trent.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing:</u> PRow are often limited and lacking wider connectivity, with a reliance on the local rural road network. Greater access is provided alongside the River Trent. The Trent is the main river of this NCA, providing a functional, recreational and environmental link with the NCAs upstream and downstream through which it flows.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function:</u> The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland</p>	<p><u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.</p> <p><u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.</p> <p><u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, small hamlets and larger Market Towns. The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact.</p> <p><u>Capacity:</u> Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

<p>lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works and active sand and gravel extraction sites.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA48: Trent and Belvoir Vales is shaped by the strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland centred on the River Trent.</p>	
<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales.

The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Floodplain Valleys Landscape Character Type is found throughout the region, along the broad valleys of the Trent, Nene, Welland, Wreake, Soar and Dove, and short stretches of the Derwent and Witham. Despite occupying different parts of the region, and therefore contrasting bedrock geologies, the broad flat belts of alluvium and gravel terrace deposits flanking the river channels are a strong unifying characteristic. Historically, the floodplains would have shared common land use characteristics with a predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows and arable fields on drier gravel terraces. Whilst many stretches of permanent pasture and riverside meadows remain, increasing arable and silage production, and the influence of large urban areas and sand and gravel extraction creates significant contrasts in local landscape character. Whilst the floodplains themselves are generally devoid of settlement, the rivers and neighboring gravel terraces have been a focus for settlement for several thousands of years. As such, many areas are noted for their rich and varied archaeological deposits. The majority of the region's major towns are located adjacent to the floodplains and exert a strong but localized influence on their character. Elsewhere, the floodplains constitute some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas in the East Midlands.

Key Features:

- Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;
- River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;
- Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;
- Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;
- Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;
- Limited settlement and development in rural areas;
- Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;
- Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and
- Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Development on settlement margins is damaging the character of the landscape, creating visual intrusion and extending the urban edge into the Floodplain Valleys. In particular the edges of Leicester, Nottingham and Derby, and also Northampton and Wellingborough in the Nene Valley, need to be carefully considered as these are identified Growth Points that will receive significant levels of new mixed use development in the short and longer term. Large-scale industrial developments, such as sewage treatment works and power stations are particularly prominent in this otherwise flat and open landscape.</p> <p>In response to flood risk, engineered solutions, such as concrete flood walls and embankments, have been installed in many locations along the river channels. This has resulted in the canalisation of rivers and loss of riverside vegetation, meadows and pastures, changing the natural character of the</p> <p>Floodplain Valleys, although historic structures can contribute to the character of the river. In some instances, the height of the defences screens the river from view, reducing the sense of openness and sense of place. There is marked evidence of agricultural intensification, accompanied by a move from pastoral towards arable farming. This has resulted in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including riverside meadows, which would have traditionally defined the river channels and distinguished them from the surrounding farmland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Floodplain Valleys aims to protect the open and unsettled character of the landscape from inappropriate development and that tree planting around settlement fringes can help with integration and help contribute to the overall perception of a well treed landscape. The changes from flood risk and engineered solutions are also changing the landscape, but there is potential for landscape restoration projects to assist with mitigation of this change. The potential for river landscape to change is also a key consideration, but there is potential to introduce positive landscape interventions such as biodiversity and nature conservation initiatives.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Floodplain Valleys is conditioned by a number of key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the impact of settlement on the edges of the river floodplain, the interventions associated with flood risk, the shifting of river channels, sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure. There are however also significant benefits to be gained from a range of landscape and biodiversity interventions such as restoration projects. The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Floodplain Valleys appeal to the visual senses in that vast stretches of the floodplain retain an intact and traditional character, despite the intrusion from sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths such as the Trent Valley Way Recreational Route.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys the value (medium) is shaped by the general absence of built development which enhances the quiet, rural character of the landscape, which across the wider area is only occasionally interrupted by roads crossing the river, or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Locally, however this is disrupted by the presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations. Hedgerows and rising landform fringing the floodplain enclose views and create an intimate, human scale landscape fringing the more open floodplain.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The sparsely settled Wooded Vales Landscape Character Type generally occurs in north Lincolnshire and lies within the much broader and extensive Unwooded Vales. Whilst various underlying bedrock geologies can be identified, extensive superficial deposits of till and cover sand create a softly undulating landscape. The Wooded Vales generally has a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. High levels of woodland cover are in evidence when compared to the Unwooded Vales and add to local distinctiveness and provide a coherent and recognizable character and strong identity. Woodlands and localised variations in landform also foreshorten views and obstruct wide panoramas to create a more intimate scale landscape than is experienced in the Unwooded Vales. However, uninterrupted panoramic views across farmland are possible, albeit with woodlands often forming a dark backdrop or feature on the horizon.

The Wooded Vales landscape is generally characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows, sometimes marking ancient asserts. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands. Sizable areas of sandy heathland are also evident on areas of cover sand, although some have been extensively forested with conifers. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their course can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat, wet woodland and riverside trees. The vast majority of the Wooded Vales retains a historic, deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland and linked by narrow winding lanes and roads.

Key Features:

- Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type;
- Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover;
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment;
- Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat;
- Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping;
- Irregular shaped assorted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas;
- Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The sparsely settled landscape of the Wooded Vales has seen relatively little urban growth, although some expansion and in-fill development is noted in larger settlements, such as Market Rasen, Horncastle and Wragby. This can erode architectural and historic character, whilst creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. Agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation are resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. This contributes to a more homogenous landscape, and the effect is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages.</p> <p>Woodland is a significant component of this landscape, and new woodland planting would be generally appropriate, increasing the overall woodland coverage in the region. However, the landform of the Wooded Vales is typically low and extensive panoramas are possible, often framed by larger areas of woodland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Wooded Vales aims to promote new woodland planting as this is a significant component of the landscape. The aim should be to also protect the distinctive character of the settlements and consider the visual impact of any new development. The restoration of hedgerows should also be given priority to strengthen the field pattern and enhance linkages between woodlands. The impact on the setting of village churches is also particularly important as these are distinctive local landmarks. There are regular patterns of enclosure and modern arable fields where hedgerows have been removed, but due to the abundance of large woodland blocks this helps reinforce a sense of enclosure.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Wooded Vales is conditioned by several key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation that is resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. The loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages that is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Wooded Vales appeal to the visual senses with extensive access to a variety of footpaths often framed by these large areas of woodland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of small villages, hamlets, and farms but they are scarcely distributed within the landscape. This includes settlement of Knaith Park which falls within the Area of Greater Landscape Value (AGLV).</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: to the north of Gainsborough and towards the villages of Blyton and Laughton, there are large areas of ancient and species-rich native woodland juxtaposed with regular blocks of coniferous plantations. Sizable areas of water bodies are also notable within the wider character area with wet woodland sites characterised by native broadleaved species and affording SSSI status.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' endorsed by the strong woodland character, with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness, notably within the central wooded parts.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Wooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRow within the wider landscape, but this is more than compensated for within Laughton Woods, which is the main focus for recreation.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landscape benefits from the woodland areas that occupy the northern part of the area, but also extend south towards Gainsborough and East Stockwith and include Owlet Plantation.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4b: Wooded Vales the value (high) is shaped by the sparsely settled landscape that has seen relatively little urban growth. The landscape is characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Areas have a positive character, but the loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Mature vegetation is characteristic that occupies the northern part of the area with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There would be a lower landscape tolerance and scope for landscape change due to the presence of extensive woodland that has seen relatively little settlement intervention.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes (Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes Landscape Character Type is part of the Jurassic limestone belt that runs from Dorset to the Humber. It is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, both in its physical structure, large scale arable land uses and the character of many of the stone built villages along the lower scarp slopes. However, in contrast to elsewhere with areas of similar geology, locally occurring heathland on thinning limestone created a unique character up until agricultural improvement in the 19th century.

The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale. To the east of the scarp extends a gently undulating and tilted limestone dip slope that merges with the adjacent fenland and marshland fringes of eastern Lincolnshire. It is thought that the landscape has remained largely devoid of trees since the prehistoric period. Whilst it is assumed that the landscape was farmed from at least the Neolithic, place names and occasional indicator species provide clues to the marginal and heathy character of the landscape prior to agricultural improvement.

The consistent alignment of the edge has created a strong sense of linearity, further emphasized by ancient transportation routes. Ermine Street was created in Roman times to link London to York and possibly consolidated much more ancient trackways running along the top of the edge. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that adds to the geometric character of the dip slope landscape.

Despite evidence of long established settlement and exploitation, the dip slope retains a modern and sometimes declining character, largely as a result of intensive arable production and poor boundary maintenance. However, the edge and scarp villages continue to retain a more intricate and intact historic character.

Key Features:

- Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment;
- Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope;
- Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology;
- Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries;
- Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland; and
- Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosure roads are distinctive landscape features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes; however, these are under threat from lack of management and inappropriate planting.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes is conditioned by the escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, that rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes appeal to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Scarps and Dipslopes are valued for recreation which often focuses on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes the value (high) is shaped by the Jurassic limestone belt that is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, particularly in terms of the large-scale arable land uses. The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighbouring vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 2: Trent Valley (Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain to the east and southeast of Gainsborough extends as far south as Marton. This relatively elevated land is formed by local outcrops of resistant gypsum within the rock strata. There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. These are generally hawthorn, but there are also taller mixed species hedgerows and hedgerow trees, particularly adjacent to roads.

The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton. Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape.

Gainsborough, the major settlement in this area, is located at one of the few crossing points of the River Trent. A number of main roads pass through Gainsborough and are dominant features within this character area. The A156 runs north south and the A631 east west into Gainsborough. Railways also approach Gainsborough from the north and south. South of Gainsborough, the A156 passes through a string of small settlements; Knaith, Marton and Fenton. Towards the south, the A156 branches into the A1133 where it crosses the Fosdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fosdyke is a man-made canal linking the navigable river Witham with the Trent, giving access to the Midland river system from the Wash. Today it is used primarily for recreational boating and there are some limited visitor facilities at Torksey Lock.

The area has some important historic parkland landscapes at Knaith, Gate Burton and Kettlethorpe, and the remnants of a medieval deer park to the south east of Gainsborough. There are also a number of historic landmarks in addition to those in Gainsborough itself. These are the ruins of Torksey Castle and a hall and pavilion at Gate Burton, all of which are highly visible from the A156. This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including, settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the Fosdyke.

Key Features:

- Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.
- Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape."
- River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.
- Historic parklands landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle
- Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main roads, bypassing original village centers.
- Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent."

Landscape Sensitivities:

Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands. The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI."

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- The higher land to the south and east of Gainsborough, which extends as far south as Marton.

- The historic parklands of Kettlethorpe, Knaith, Gate Burton and Gainsborough, together with their associated boundary earthworks.
- Ancient woodlands, such as Thurlby Wood, Houghton Wood and Wharton Wood.
- River Trent washlands, such as the Lea Marshes.
- Village entrances which are frequently marred by linear development along adjacent main roads low-lying land along the River Trent (to the west of the A156/ A1133)
- The Fosdyke -a low lying meadow landscape with potential for recreation
- Torksey Castle, a historic landmark with an important landscape setting

Landscape Strategy:

- New development can be accommodated on the higher ridges to the south and east of Gainsborough, provided it is associated with new tree and hedgerow planting which is designed to integrate with local field patterns.
- Further linear development along the principal roads in the area would be detrimental to local landscape character.
- Entrances to settlements, abrupt road bends and junctions are particularly sensitive sites; they are the focus for local views and can easily be marred by nondescript development. New development at such locations should be designed to provide 'one-off', distinctive buildings, which reflect local building types and materials.
- Many settlements are bypassed by major roads and there is a risk that views to the village center will be obscured by peripheral development; such key views should be identified and conserved.
- New development on the periphery of settlements should always be bounded by new or existing hedgerows and native hedgerow trees so that the buildings are visually 'anchored' within the wider landscape pattern.
- Development on the low-lying land to the west of the A156/ A1133 would be prominent and cannot easily be accommodated without detracting from the gentle transition to the open, flat farmland on the banks of the River Trent.
- New development should not impinge on views of the many important designed parkland landscapes in the area.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting will ensure that these important local landscape features are conserved and enhanced; they should remain a viable landscape screen and a valuable wildlife habitat.
- Priority should be given to new woodland, shelterbelt or hedgerow planting which is designed to link existing woodlands, particularly those with semi-natural or ancient woodland status. Appropriate local species include field maple, hawthorn, ash and oak.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees should be managed to retain the existing landscape pattern, screen settlements and contribute to local identity.
- There is scope to improve the setting of the Fosdyke as a recreational landscape. For instance, tree planting might be designed to draw attention to the position of the lock and there may also be opportunities for more informal tree groups along the edge of the river corridor.
- Any schemes for the management of local water tables which allow the extension of existing areas of marshland to create relatively large-scale areas of wetland would have significant visual and nature conservation value. For instance, there may be opportunities to re-create riverine woodlands on low riverside banks (left-over belts of land).
- Roads are visually dominant in this area; their influence could be improved by a landscape strategy designed to incorporate tree planting, hedgerow management and signage. This should take account of key views and the entrances to settlements which would often benefit from distinctive planting schemes.
- The landscape setting of historic parklands and built features requires careful consideration, backed by research.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent Valley Character area stretches from Gainsborough and its suburbs south towards Newton on Trent, with the River Trent forming a definitive western boundary. The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain in the east and south east of Gainsborough extends as far South as Marton</p> <p>There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton.</p> <p>Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.</p> <p>This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.</p> <p>Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, Woodlands country groups, giving the landscapes on capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient Woodlands.</p> <p>The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat including a small central meadow.</p> <p>Overall, the Trent Valley character area is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, which is somewhat marred by the presence of the large scape power stations to the west of the river corridor.</p>	<p>Scenic: Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough. Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape. River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments. Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent. Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands.</p> <p>Cultural: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices. Historic parkland landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle</p> <p>Natural: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths along the River Trent.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 2 Trent Valley the value (medium) is shaped by its gently undulating and quite low lying landform which includes the washlands along the eastern edge of the River Trent. However, a band of higher relatively elevated land runs along the eastern edge of the character area extending as far south as Marton.</p>	<p>Character: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p>Quality: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p>Value: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p>Capacity: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term. Views across the area are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Lincoln Cliff is a straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the center of the district. It is the narrowest part of an extensive band of resistant limestone which stretches from the Humber to the South Kesteven Uplands. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. Isolated storm-damaged ash trees, which often have grotesque shapes, are characteristic features of the scarp slope.

There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton.

The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.

The villages are small and compact. Limestone is the favored building material, with brick detailing and pantile roofs. Boundary walls are generally also constructed from the local limestone. The village of Ingham has grown larger than the others, with the introduction of newer brick houses, many of which are bungalows. Despite this, the center has retained its integrity and identity, with buildings placed around an attractive village green. There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline.

Key Features:

- Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.
- Diverse pattern of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.
- Spring line villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.
- Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.
- Ponds and lakes along the spring line.

Landscape Sensitivity:

A relatively small, but distinctive limestone scarp with a diverse landscape pattern; there is a transition from trees and woodlands enclosing a string of historic springline villages at the foot of the slope to a mix of pastures and arable fields on the steep slopes. The scarp is visible from much of the Till Vale and there are long views from the ridge-top road. The villages have a range of important historic and archaeological sites and many are associated with wooded parkland landscapes.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- diverse landscape pattern on scarp slope;
- wetlands - ponds and lakes at the springline;
- trees and woodlands - at the foot of the escarpment;

- village entrances - narrow, secluded contrast to the ridge-top road along the skyline (Middle Street);
- historic buildings and parkland eg. Glentworth,
- village greens, mature trees, limestone walls and churches.
- pastures on western fringes of villages - provide contrast to surrounding arable land.

Landscape Strategy:

- There is relatively little scope for new development in these historic and sensitive villages; only small-scale development of individual sites and the conversion of existing buildings will be appropriate.
- The 'Cliff' villages have a secluded landscape setting, surrounded by pasture and trees; new development should not encroach on the existing small pastures on the fringes of the village and should be associated with new tree planting designed to complement the existing diverse pattern of trees.
- New development and tree planting should be carefully sited and designed to avoid compromising the views associated with the designed historic parkland landscapes which are characteristic of many of these villages.
- There is a risk that further development on the 'Cliff' villages may lead to coalescence and loss of identity.
- Entrances to the villages are particularly vulnerable to change; there may be scope for development which can enhance the existing approach, but it should be carefully sited and designed to complement the existing buildings and form a clear entrance statement.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Woodland management - including thinning, possibly coppicing, replanting and tree surgery to mature trees - to ensure these valuable landscape features are retained.
- The management of hedgerows (and hedgerow trees) on the margins of villages and particularly at their entrances will help to retain the characteristic sense of enclosure.
- There may be scope for new hedgerow planting on the western edges of villages to reinforce the contrast in character between the 'Cliff' landscape and that of the open arable farmland to the west. Any new planting should be designed to frame rather than obscure views to village churches and other buildings. Appropriate local tree species include field maple, beech, ash, oak and elm; hedgerow species include hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, blackthorn, and privet.
- This narrow landscape band has a wealth of archaeological and historical interest. All proposals to alter land uses and/or the landscape pattern should take account of the findings of historical research. Tree planting or other landscape management schemes may be designed to frame key views and enhance the setting of landscape features with historic interest.
- Wherever possible, the reversion of arable land to grazing pastures should be encouraged to conserve the diverse landscape pattern on the scarp and the striking contrast with the surrounding arable farmland. Priority should be given to the retention of existing permanent pasture.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are a number of small, quiet and secluded spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings.</p> <p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosed roads leading to the small scarp villages are distinctive landscape features of the Cliff.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Cliff. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Cliff is formed through its prominence as a unique landscape feature that rises up to the east above the Trent Vale forming a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: There is a diverse landscape pattern along the scarp slope. There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.</p> <p>The Cliff appeals to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline. The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Cliff provides recreation opportunities often focused on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Cliff provides a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 4 The Cliff the value (high) is shaped by the prominence and contrast of The Lincoln Cliff with the surrounding flat landscape. A straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the centre of the district. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 Site is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone MNPZ 5: Leverton is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Located within the Policy Zone are Sturton le Steeple, North Leverton with Hablesthorpe and South Wheatley. It wraps around but excludes West Burton Power Station in the east. A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively.

Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.

The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub. The Policy Zone also encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck.

Key Features:

- Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.
- A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.
- Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.
- Isolated farmsteads.

Landscape Analysis:

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone there is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features comprising the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines, high voltage power lines and pylons and a sewage works. This gives a visually unified area overall. The field pattern is partially intact, rationalization is more notable at the center where the land is under intensive arable use. A network of becks extends across the area, the water channels are flanked by vegetation which connects into hedgerow field boundaries. Most hedgerows are well maintained, where gaps occur, they have been in-filled with fencing or left. Trees are apparent in the hedgerows though some are over mature and not being replaced. Smaller areas of pasture and rough grazing surround the becks and villages, an area of parkland style pasture with individual trees is located north of South Leverton.

Settlement within the Policy Zone is predominantly traditional although both North Leverton and South Wheatley comprise a mix of vernacular buildings with both modern and older non-vernacular development, newer buildings tend to be at the village edges. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed. The overall cultural integrity is variable. Two SINCs lie within the Policy Zone and comprise areas of grassland. Tree cover is relatively low and is concentrated along watercourses and the railway embankments [younger scrub], small deciduous clumps lie near to settlement areas. Oak and ash are dominant with some willow along the watercourses. There are no significant blocks of woodland within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is assessed as moderate which gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity result in a good landscape condition overall.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility results in high landscape sensitivity overall.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve historic field pattern, maintaining existing watercourses/hedgerows including ancient hedgerows, restoring and reinforcing where necessary, create new hedgerows to replace infill fencing.
- Conserve hedgerow trees and replace where necessary.
- Conserve permanent pasture and parkland area near to South Leverton, seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Conserve tree cover and landscape planting, enhance and reinforce where appropriate to increase the green infrastructure and wildlife habitats across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve areas of improved and unimproved pasture and grassland and areas of ridge and furrow.
- Conserve the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both the existing settlements and new development.
- Conserve the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Sturton-le-Steeple, North Leverton, Hablesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too.</p> <p>Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of MNPZ 5: Leverton stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of elements, with few detracting elements. However, despite being of limited quantity, the presence of the railway lines and the West Burton Power Station form significant detractors.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Policy Zone encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east</p> <p>Overall, with MNPZ 05 Leverton the value (medium) is shaped by the mix of arable and pastoral farmland. Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east. A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity results in a good landscape condition overall.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: A flat, intensively farmed arable landscape skirting the West Burton Power Station. Crossed by large scale transmission lines and railway. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. The major agricultural land use is cereal and oil seed rape production. There are several camping and caravan parks within the LCP.

There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, northeast of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the southeast to the northwest past Cottam Power Station. There are mature trees in association with the historic village cores. There are mixed species road side hedges including Hawthorn, Rose, Elder with mature trees predominantly Ash, but also Willow and Oak. These hedgerows vary in their standard of maintenance. Field boundaries are trimmed, mixed species Hedgerows, predominantly Hawthorn with mature trees -mostly Ash, but also Willow and Oak.

There are various small ponds, water courses and ditches dotted throughout the area with associated riparian vegetation Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- A predominantly large-scale arable landscape.
- Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons.
- Well-trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees.
- Less well-maintained roadside hedges, with trees.
- Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.
- Limited small woodlands.
- Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape Condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ , the detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam. Outside the villages some of the field boundaries shown on Sanderson's plan of 1835 are intact but intervening boundaries have been removed. The overall cultural integrity is described as variable.

There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands. There are two SINC's in the PZ designated for aquatic and bankside vegetation and neutral grassland. The ecological network is defined as moderate which combined with as variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape Sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to low landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve the traditional pattern of hedges, fields and pasture around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly along roadsides.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity of ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve mature hedge lines along tracks and promote measures for increasing existing tree cover.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, north east of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the south east to the north west past Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the north west of the Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within this area itself. However, large scale pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.

The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks; species include Willow, Ash and Hawthorn. Internal field hedges are well trimmed in the pasture areas but some hedges are fragmented between arable fields; species are predominantly Hawthorn with Rose, Elder and Ash.

There are two SINCS within this area designated for their aquatic communities: Cottam Wetlands, mentioned above, made up of marshy grassland, swamp and a mosaic of wetlands, and Coates Wetland which is a group of pools with rough grazing. There are two MLAs within the LCP Littleborough (125) and Laneham / Cottam (124). A small portion of the Dunham Laneham (123) MLA is also contained within the south of the area. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south.
- Views are dominated by Cottam power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.
- There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is defined as variable. There is moderate tree cover which consists mainly of bands of riverside vegetation. There are 2 SINC sites within the PZ designated for their aquatic interest. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as moderate, which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife / functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, and long views to the north and south contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

The landform is insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture close to the River Trent.
- Conserve mature trees to the rivers edge.
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly around arable fields.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Cottam.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p>Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks.</p> <p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the river banks.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: PROW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the flat landscape of this area within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 meters AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, species include Elder, Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, and Rose. These also contain mature trees; species include Ash and Willow. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained, species include Hawthorn predominantly, also Elder, Hazel, Rose and Holly.

There are no MLAs within the area and 1 SINC. Small water courses are present throughout the area; some of these contain aquatic vegetation. There is very limited settlement within the area, and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular styles. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD.
- Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South.
- Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties.
- Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees.
- Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.
- Watercourses are present throughout the PZ.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is variable. The tree cover is poor, the integrity of the ecological network is weak which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall. A strongly visually unified area with a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness is characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam Power Station to the South and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover which leads to a moderate visibility both in and out of the PZ.

A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to road edges and field boundaries.
- Conserve mature hedgerows to field access tracks.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Seek opportunities to create small woodlands to reduce visual impact of power stations.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p>Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ.</p> <p>The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non vernacular styles.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, these also contain mature trees. However, Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south east of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. There is very limited settlement within the area. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area which also contain mature trees. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained. There are no large areas of woodland.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. The only woodland area is a narrow strip to the west of Littleborough. There are mature trees, species include Ash, Beech Oak, and Willow, and mature hedge lines including Holly within the settlement of Littleborough. Out Ings SINC contains some scrubby woodland. Mature trees are present in the riverside vegetation, species include Ash, Oak Sycamore, and Willow. Field boundary hedgerows are weak and gappy. The hedgerow species is predominantly Hawthorn; trees include Oak and Sycamore. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows, species include Elder, Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn and Rose with mature trees including Ash.

There are 4 SINCS within the area - including Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings, both designated for their aquatic communities. The Ferries MLA (18) forms the northern end of the LCP. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this. The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south.
- Views are dominated by West Burton power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views to the north and south, views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterized by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall this gives a strongly visually unified area. The overall cultural integrity is good due largely to the maturity of vegetation and time depth of the ancient settlement of Littleborough.

Tree cover is low, there are 4 SINCS in the area mostly designated for their aquatic communities, the integrity of the ecological network is moderate which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall.

A strongly visually unified area with a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/ time depth is described as historic (post 1600)' although the settlement of Littleborough is ancient, which gives a moderate sense of place.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover/ sense of enclosure which leads to moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate Sensitivity

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the River Trent and change arable land to permanent pasture where appropriate.
- Conserve mature trees to river edge, and within the village of Littleborough.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to field boundaries.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Littleborough.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.</p> <p>There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP.</p> <p>The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks. PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape at less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. There are mature trees, and mature hedgelines which are often weak and gappy. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD alongside the River Trent. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties and Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.

The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.

The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.

The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.

Key Features:

- Flat topography.
- A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent.
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses.
- Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees.
- Grass flood bank.

Landscape Analysis:

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as very good. The pattern of landscape elements is unified. The area has few detracting features. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area. The historic field pattern is still evident therefore the cultural integrity is good. Although the area has no SINC designations the trees, improved and unimproved pasture, and riparian vegetation provides a moderate network of wildlife habitats.

A moderate network for wildlife and a good cultural integrity leads to a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is strongly visually unified with a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife has a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is historic (post 1600). The area has a moderate sense of place.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The landform is apparent and has intermittent tree cover which leads to moderate visibility of the area from outside the PZ. A moderate sense of place with a moderate degree of visibility leads to a moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- Conserve pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- Seek opportunities to re-create historic field boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p>The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, dominating views south along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station dominates views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The historic field pattern is still evident.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales.

Character Context:

The rural Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type within a central area of the region on a broadly north south axis, and whilst various underlying bedrock geologies exert a local influence, superficial deposits create a softly undulating landscape and consistent and recognizable character. The Vales generally have a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. Within the vales, low hills and ridges are also important, foreshortening views and creating subtle relief features.

The vale landscape is generally characterized by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of low, well-maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture, often grazed by dairy herds. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their courses can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat and riverside trees.

The vast majority of the Vales retain a deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland, linked by narrow winding lanes and roads. Despite low levels of woodland cover, local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts create visual containment and give the Vales landscape an intimate character. By contrast, panoramic views are possible from elevated locations albeit contained by rising land at the edges of the Vales.

Key Features:

- Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.
- Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.
- Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.
- Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.
- Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well-maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fields capes evident in areas of arable reversion; and
- Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes."

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible.</p> <p>Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Unwooded Vales aims to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Many of the rural villages have not seen widespread expansion but development pressures continue with the demand for housing, commerce and industry creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. For development associated with the rural villages, specific mechanisms include Village Design Statements, and tree planting around settlement fringes to help integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Unwooded Vales is conditioned by managing growth, ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Unwooded Vales appeal to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Unwooded Vales are valued for recreation which often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of the Unwooded Vales is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRow are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Unwooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRow leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRow often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales the value (medium) is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquillity. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required. In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 1 to West Burton 2) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area.

Character Context:

This is an agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields and strong rural Character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominantly hawthorn; they are kept low and have few hedgerow trees. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation.

The area is crossed by three east-west main roads; the A631 to Gainsborough in the north, the A1500 Roman road near Sturton by Stow and the A57 alongside the Fosdyke in the south. There is also an important north-south route, the B1241, which links a number of settlements, including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow. It continues northwards as a minor road, linking a further string of small, nucleated settlements, such as Upton, Springthorpe and Corringham. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting, but the sequence of views to village churches from the B1241 and other smaller lanes is particularly important. A number of windmills, some without sails, are similar landmarks in the landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features.

Some of the villages in the far north of the area, such as Pilham and Aisby, are very small, although archaeological evidence suggests they may once have been larger. By contrast, the larger villages of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow have expanded rapidly as a result of their proximity to Lincoln. There is also some warehouse and light industrial development in this southern area, between the A57 and the railway, and a major transmission line crosses the landscape. To the east, on the flatter land, there are some individual farmhouses and other large farm buildings, often with associated tree planting. Here there are some other interesting features, such as nodding donkeys at the oil well near Glentworth, and a number of above-ground reservoirs. The minor roads that lead across this flatter area to the Lincoln 'Cliff' exhibit the typical form of ancient enclosure roads; they are generally straight, with wide verges, a ditch and hedgerow.

This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Cliff' throughout the southern part of the area.

Key Features:

- Agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields.
- Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.
- Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelterbelts.
- Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.
- String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating ground along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.
- Large farm buildings and individual farmhouses on flatter land to the east.
- Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.
- Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'

Landscape Sensitivity:

This agricultural landscape is sensitive to changes in European Commission agricultural policy and its influence on farming practice. Some villages retain evidence of medieval settlement (earth works and cropmarks) and may once have been considerably larger. There is pressure for built development in villages within commuting distance of Lincoln and for the development of above-ground reservoirs within the open farmland.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- Rural roads and minor farm tracks boarded by wide verges and hedgerows.
- Edges of villages which show evidence of medieval settlement.
- The sequence of views of village churches along the B1241.
- Avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms.
- Small woodlands - their edges are vulnerable to the impact of agricultural machinery.
- Minor streams and their associated riparian vegetation

Landscape Strategy:

- Development on the fringes of villages should be accompanied by new tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with surrounding field patterns. New planting should be native species and design to frame (not screen) views from the surrounding, expansive farmland landscape.
- The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic; new development should be sited and designed to conserve this pattern by encouraging relatively dense development in villages and conserving key tracts of open farmland between villages and adjacent outlying farms.
- Linear development should be avoided particularly on the approaches to villages, as it will lead to the erosion of the landscape setting and the distinctive sequence of views from one village church to the next.
- Entrances and approaches to the villages are particularly sensitive sites, which requires special attention. There may be opportunities for new buildings in such locations, provided they are carefully designed to reflect the small scale and dense massing of traditional village buildings and provided they are associated with groups and lines of native trees.
- The introduction of protected zones between close adjacent settlements, such as Stow and Sturton by Stow, will prevent coalescence and ensure that individual landscape settings are conserved.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- The retention of buffer zones along rivers and streams will reduce the risk of fertilizer/pesticide runoff from arable land and will enhance their nature conservation value.
- There may be scope for new tree/scrub planting (goat willow, hawthorn, alder and alder buckthorn) along rivers, streams and ditches to increase their visual presence in the landscape.
- The nature conservation value of ditches may be enhanced by cutting shallow ledges into side slopes to provide habitats for aquatic plants.
- The existing small farm woodlands and shelterbelts would benefit from management, including thinning, replanting and the development of robust, well structured edges.
- The creation of buffer zones on the fringes of the woodland blocks will help to protect the existing woodland edges from damage by agricultural machinery; subsequent woodland encroachment onto farmland can be controlled by careful tree surgery and on-going woodland management. The aim should be to conserve (or in some cases create) a diverse age structure and an intact woodland edge.
- Trees and hedgerows make an important contribution to the landscape setting of villages and their management should be a priority in these areas, as well as along rural roads.
- Heavy vehicles can erode the character of rural roads, particularly where hedgerows are removed to improve sight-lines at junctions. Hedgerows should be reinstated to accommodate the new sight-lines.
- New tree planting along approaches to villages and farms could improve the identity of the local landscape. Lines of trees are characteristic in such locations. Tree planting should be confined to hedgerows (i.e. not on verges) on all historic enclosure roads.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Till Vale is located east of Gainsborough and the Trent valley and to the West of the scarp known as the Lincoln 'Cliff'. This is an agricultural landscape with large flat open fields and a strong rural character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominately hawthorn, which are kept low, with few hedgerow trees. The landform comes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west, it becomes more open with a flatter landform towards the east.</p> <p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees.</p> <p>The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible.</p> <p>Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, within the Till Vale there should be an aspiration to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size.</p> <p>The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape.</p> <p>This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic:</u> The Till Vale appeals to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east. This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p> <p><u>Cultural:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural:</u> The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> The Till Vale is valued for recreation which is often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of The Till Vale is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRow are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing:</u> The Till Vale provide a very limited network of PRow leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRow often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function:</u> From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 3 The Till Vale the value (medium) is shaped by its strong rural character provided by the large, flat, open agricultural landscape that dominates this area. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features. Views to village churches from local lanes are particularly important.</p>	<p><u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity:</u> Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Till Vale is conditioned by ensuring new developments are accompanied by new native tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with the surrounding tree patterns, by ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location and reinforces approaches to villages. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>		
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation
<p>Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:</p> <p>Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.</p> <p>Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.</p> <p>Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.</p> <p>Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.</p> <p>The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.</p> <p>The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.</p>

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required. In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 1 to West Burton 2) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**

Within the Study Area, is open agricultural land with field boundary hedgerows and some small woodlands. Occasional isolated residential properties and farmsteads are dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. The Cable Route Corridor comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by hedgerows with trees, and drainage ditches that feed into the River Till.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is open agricultural land, within which is the small village of Broxholme located to the south of the Cable Route Corridor. Existing tree belts and mature vegetation wrap around the settlement, providing enclosure from the surrounding arable farmland and the Site. Occasional isolated residential properties and farmsteads are dotted throughout the surrounding countryside.

The Cable Route Corridor comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns and hedgerows.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Large-scale arable farmland and managed native field boundary vegetation exist within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site.</p> <p>The agricultural land is predominantly arable and comprises a series of intensively managed arable field parcels. For the Cable Route Corridor WB 1- WB2 Site, this intensively managed land has increased the field sizes, and has degraded the quality of the land over time.</p> <p>Overall, the land use within the WB1 - WB2 Cable Route Corridor lacks native vegetation and the intensively managed farmland means the land has become degraded. However, the field ditches and a network of managed native field boundary vegetation form a component of this landscape.</p> <p>On balance, land use in the Cable Route Corridor WB1-WB2 has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation, large power cables, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanized methods.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes access the surrounding countryside. A small number of isolated PRoW footpaths surrounding the West Burton 1 Site experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparse settlement and flat arable farmland are the key components that define the land use.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the large arable fields.</p> <p>Overall, Within the Cable Route Corridor is open agricultural, predominantly regular rectilinear farmland with field boundary hedgerows. Occasional isolated residential properties and farmsteads are dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. The Cable Route Corridor comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by hedgerows with trees, and drainage ditches that feed into the River Till.</p> <p>For the WB1 to WB2 Cable Route Corridor, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the large scale, flat and open agricultural field parcels that make up the Cable Route Corridor itself and that follow the surrounding field patterns and hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Vegetated drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland within and surrounding the Site.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland dominates this landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The installation of the solar array and its ecological mitigation measures would change the land use and break up a landscape that is predominantly flat arable farmland. The change would be beneficial to the soils, watercourses, and biodiversity.</p> <p>Activities during the construction phase within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site, such as construction access and storage, would no longer be managed as arable farmland. The construction activities would be temporary and barely noticeable.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 Sites.</p> <p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route WB1 - WB2 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

Within the Study Area the countryside is made up of flat, predominantly open agricultural land and is sited at approximately 5m AOD. A notable topographical feature lies to the east where the landform rises to create a distinctive sloping ridge forming a prominent landform.

The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels divided into two separate areas by Broxholme Lane, which crosses the north western corner of the Site. The smaller, northern parcel is bounded on the northern edge by an agricultural drainage ditch that feeds into the River Till approximately 400m west of the Site. The parcel to the south of Broxholme Lane is larger and comprises flat, open arable fields, again separated by straight hedgerows and drainage ditches.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area the countryside is made up of flat, predominantly open agricultural land and is sited at approximately 5m AOD. A notable topographical feature lies to the east where the landform rises to create a distinctive sloping ridge forming a prominent landform. Along this landform lie a linear line of small villages.

The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns and hedgerows and is divided into two separate areas by Broxholme Lane, which crosses the north western corner of the Site.

The Cable Route Corridor comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns and hedgerows.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>In the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site, the land is flat-lying farmland which gently drains towards the River Till to the west. Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches. Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography of the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the rectangular fields.</p> <p>Overall, the topography and watercourses within the West Burton 1 Site has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation within flat farmland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes and a small number of isolated PRoW footpaths experience a flat rural landscape.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key components that define the topography.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.</p> <p>Overall, The Study Area is open agricultural, predominantly flat farmland. The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by drainage ditches that feed into the River Till.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by flat agricultural field parcels that make up the Site itself and that follow the surrounding topography and water courses.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat farmland, vegetation and settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable dominates the landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The installation of the solar array retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p> <p>The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.</p> <p>The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.</p> <p>The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however, benefit from the significantly enhanced planting that would create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 Sites. The installation of the panels retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. The construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

Within the Study Area, the A1500 (a linear road) passes on a northwest to southeast alignment diagonally across the landscape to the north of the Site. Broxholme Lane, a narrow rural lane, runs south from the A1500, through the middle of the Site and continues south through Broxholme. The Site has overhead powerlines which run across the southern portion in a northwest to southeast alignment.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area, the A1500 (a linear road) passes on a northwest to southeast alignment diagonally across the landscape to the north of the Site. Local roads lead away from the A1500 across the countryside surrounding the Site providing access to the small settlements dotted within this landscape.

Broxholme Lane, a narrow rural lane, runs south from the A1500, through the middle of the Site and continues south through Broxholme. The small settlement of Broxholme is located to the west of the Site.

Existing tree belts and mature vegetation wrap around the settlement, providing enclosure from the surrounding arable farmland and the Site.

The Site has overhead powerlines which run across the southern portion in a northwest to southeast alignment defining the largest vertical elements on the Site and in the surrounding landscape.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>In the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, large electricity power cables cross the arable farmland in an east/ west direction.</p> <p>There is sparse, scattered settlement across the area, and as a result, limited infrastructure within the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Communications and Infrastructure for the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 is conditioned by the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor tracks, lanes and farm roads that are bordered by wide verges.</p> <p>The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scope to protect the character and diversity of the road networks through conservation and enhancement of the local lanes and recognition of the value that the strategic routes provide in connections across the region.</p> <p>The communications and infrastructure within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Large electricity power cables cross an open agricultural landscape.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The large electricity power cables that crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. The large electricity infrastructure that crosses the landscape does not interfere with this green infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes and a small number of isolated PRow footpaths experience a flat rural landscape and large electricity infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Large electricity infrastructure crosses the landscape and links with the large power stations (e.g. West Burton Power Station). This is a typical view within this flat arable landscape and the electricity infrastructure contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland slightly detracts from the rural characteristics of the area. There is however, no large transport infrastructure within the area.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Large power infrastructure cuts through the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site. No large transport infrastructure within the area.</p> <p>Overall, The Study Area is open flat farmland with large electricity power cables in the area. Large power infrastructure crosses the Site and links in an east/west direction linking with West Burton Power Station. The area has a number of power stations on this flat farmland, including Cottam Power Station and West Burton Power Station. The large electricity power cables link with these power stations, and the farmland and electricity power cables within the Site is a continuation of this surrounding energy infrastructure.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by flat agricultural field parcels with large power infrastructure that links with West Burton Power Station in the west.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat farmland and power infrastructure linking with power stations. This is defined by A1500 Roman road near Sturton on Stow that is an important historic route and the B1241 is a strategic north-south minor route which links several settlements including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat farmland and electricity infrastructure. The east west travel direction between the north-south routes links the older settlements moving in a more random pattern, and which adds interest to the landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: There is a network of large electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale farmland that dominates the land. The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland, and electricity infrastructure is part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation. Main roads are significant features in the landscape with recent development concentrated along these main roads.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the cable route corridor as they facilitate construction traffic, enabling works, access etc. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Sites and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects. The integrity and tranquillity of these routes, often used for informal recreation, would be affected to some degree by increased traffic during the construction phase but this will be short term and field specific at any one time to the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the Site as they facilitate construction traffic, etc associated with the decommissioning of the array. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would have benefitted from the enhanced planting and a more robust landscape which retains the overall character of the landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 1 and 2 There will be positive changes in the communications and infrastructure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local road network. The existing character associated with these roads and local lanes of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area are predominantly grass verges, with roadside hedgerows or trees providing enclosure. Significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character and views along these road networks in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

The nearest settlement is the small village of Broxholme located immediately to the south west of the Scheme.

Key Features:

The Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure network is broadly defined to the north-west by the large settlement of Gainsborough (approximately 7km) which is Britain's most inland port and one of the main cities within the area along with Newark-on-Trent, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Grantham.

To the southeast (approximately 13km), the city of Lincoln is a prominent landmark with the Cathedral that captures the skyline in views across the area. The settlement of Saxilby is immediately to the south of the Site. Otherwise, larger settlements are sparse to the surrounding area.

To the east, the landscape is defined by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads with the A15 (Ermine Street), which is also a Roman road, following a distinctive straight alignment along the limestone capped scarp slope. Ermine Street connects the city of Lincoln from the south as far as the Humber Estuary in the north. The B1398 (Middle Street) also passes along the scarp slope following an almost parallel alignment with Ermine Street and this historic route supports a string of smaller settlements including Burton, South Carlton, North Carlton and Scampton.

Finally, to the west, there is the River Trent and the immense coal-fired power stations that exert a visual influence over a wide area, particularly the cooling towers that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

To the west, the A156 (Gainsborough Road) is almost true to the River Trent and passes through the settlements of Torksey, Marton, Gate Burton before reaching the large settlement of Gainsborough.

The B1241 runs north from the A57 through Saxilby and the smaller settlements of Ingleby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.

The A1500 connects the A156 in the west with the A15 on the scarp slope.

With the exception of the villages/hamlets mentioned above, the area is relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. Smaller settlements and hamlets are pocketed through the rural countryside surrounding the Sites including Broxholme, Bransby and Brampton.

Within the Study Area, the nearest settlement is the small village of Broxholme located immediately to the south west of the Scheme. Around 2.5km to the north west of the Site lies the settlement of Sturton by Stow and the larger village of Saxilby is located approximately 2.5km to the south west of the Site. To the west lie the hamlets of Bransby (approximately 1km) and Ingleby (approximately 2km), and to the east lies the village of North Carlton (approximately 2.0km).

With the exception of the villages/hamlets mentioned above, the area is relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside.

The WB1 Site lies within the parish of Broxholme.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The economic driver for the settlements north of Saxilby is arable farming, and this is illustrated by the large-scale, flat, rectangular parcels of arable land, isolated farmsteads, and a network of farm tracks.</p> <p>For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other industry and commerce and a limited amount of leisure. Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.</p> <p>This landscape has some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor farm tracks. The edges of the villages, the sequence of views to the churches and the avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms are also sensitive features. The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic.</p> <p>Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. A number of a listed buildings are dotted across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small, narrow country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The small narrow country lanes provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the value of Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure for the Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 Site is shaped by the nature of the predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes, contrasting with the busy city of Lincoln and town of Gainsborough. The villages have a broad landscape setting and the sequence of views towards churches is an important feature along with the other long views across the landscape.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the area being relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The landscape is influenced by the sparsely populated flat arable farmland. The string of small, nucleated settlements on the limestone capped scarp slope add to the sequence of views and help define the settled character of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable and scattered sparsely populated settlement. There is little commerce or economic activity other than agriculture. The farmsteads and dwellings add a positive character to the local network where there are associated heritage features.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland prevalent in the landscape, and a sparsely populated scattered settlement, contribute to the value of the countryside within the site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The sparsely populated, flat large-scale arable farmland forms part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There would be some short term disruption to within and alongside the cable route corridor to facilitate construction traffic, enabling works, access etc. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site, the construction and installation of the solar array would bring an alternative to the arable farmland which is prevalent in the area.</p> <p>The solar array within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would have benefitted from the enhanced planting and a more robust landscape which retains the overall character of the landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton 1 and 2 Site. There will be positive changes to the settlements, industry, commerce and leisure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local settlements and their approaches, and particularly in the context of the church spires. The existing landscape character associated with the outer edges of these settlements of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area is predominantly woodland and tree cover around the margins and the change to grassland with scattered trees and a significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

The Cable Route Corridor WB1 to WB2 crosses PRow Brox/196/1. There are numerous PRow that run within 2km of the WB1 Site.

Key Features:

The PRow network is mainly restricted to routes that generally follow the pattern of watercourses, tracks, and woodlands across the area. The PRow network is mainly aligned along field boundaries connecting with the local road network and to nearby settlements and farmsteads across the area. The network is generally intermittent because there are few landscape features to help form continuous links. The footpath network is particularly sporadic in the landscape due to these inconsistent links, the local lanes are used to supplement for recreation and the lack of connectivity. The routes mainly follow an east-west and north-south direction to reflect the prevailing landscape pattern and to connect the local lanes with nearby settlements.

Public Footpath Brox/198/1 is located to the south west corner of the WB1 Site and runs from Broxholme Lane to Carlton Lane. Public Footpaths Brox/196/1 and Scmp/196/1 lie to the west and north west of the Site, connecting Broxholme Lane with the outskirts of Thorpe in the Fallows.

Further PRow are located within Bransby to the north west and North Carlton to the south east.

Assessment of Sensitivity - PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The wider PRow network travels through the countryside.</p> <p>A number of PRow's surrounds the Site and provides access to the wider landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the PRow network in the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape and countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A number of PRow in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRow in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRow footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are limited Public Rights of Way (PRow) that cross the Site. The PRow network surrounding the Site and crossing the countryside to the east of Broxholme often do not connect with the wider PRow network, limiting opportunities to explore and enjoy the wider landscape.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the judgement on value (high) is shaped by the presence of some footpaths that offer long eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'. The landscape has a strong rural character, but the public right of way (PRow) network is disconnected.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. There are isolated PRow footpaths that surround the Site.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. The landscape surrounding the Site has isolated public access. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	High	Low to Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>During construction, underground power cables linking the WB1 Site and the WB2 Site would require the excavation of earthworks. Views of temporary safety fencing and heavy machinery would be prominent for users of this PRow. For the short period of time whilst the Cable Route Corridor was under construction users would experience views of adjacent construction activities.</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRow access.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape, and views of the countryside would be retained.</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>	<p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the long-term operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>	<p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the decommissioning of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 Sites.</p> <p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

West Lindsey District contains a local landscape designation, the West Lindsey Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) which comprises different and disparate parts. These different parts are not named, therefore for clarity, in the descriptions below the areas are named as follows (and shown on **Figure 8.6 Landscape Receptors**):

- AGLV1 – The Ridge
- AGLV2 – Gainsborough
- AGLV3 – Laughton Wood

The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.

The Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) 1 is located approximately 2.3km east of the Site.

Key Features:

AGLV1 The Ridge: This is centered on the landscape associated with the distinct landform ridge extending north from South Carlton to the east of the Site.

The adjoining escarpment of the Lincolnshire Edge defines this low-lying landscape to the east, and this is an important landscape feature in the landscape to the east of the Site.

The landscape mainly comprises of open arable and pastoral farmland with good hedgerow boundaries.

The scarp slope then supports woodlands that appear as a distinctive feature and help define landscape pattern.

There are also further woodlands lining the scarp slopes and surrounding the small settlements that. The landscape is crossed by minor roads and those that descend from the ridge-top route of the B1398 as steep lanes where valuable views can be experienced over the Till Vale.

Views west from the top of the scarp slope across the low lying landscape towards the River Trent are a key feature and views from the junction with the A1500 Roman road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. The views from this location show the transition within the landscape from the trees and woodlands enclosing the string of historic springline villages at the foot of the slope. Village entrances are secluded and narrow at the top of the scarp slope.

The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.

AGLV1 is located approximately 2.3km east of the Site. AGLV1 forms a 20km fringe running north to south from Grayingham village at B1205 in the north to South Carton.

AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.

Assessment of Sensitivity - National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.</p> <p>AGLV1 is located approximately 2.3km east of the WB1 Site. AGLV1 forms a 20km fringe running north to south from Grayingham village at B1205 in the north to South Carton.</p> <p>AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the National and Local Designations for the WB1 Site is conditioned by the striking differences across the varying elements of the AGLV and how these can be appreciated across the landscape. There is an opportunity to use landscape mitigation to build upon these differences and bolster this landscape diversity. The AGLV therefore have a limited susceptibility to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. There is, however, robust hedgerows with smaller fields and many trees in these locations that assist with mitigation.</p> <p>Overall, the National and Locally Designated Landscapes network in the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms expansive countryside views. There are striking variations in character and scenic appeal across the differing AGLV, and this diversity is a key element of value. The main feature is how the narrow landscape band of the ridge landscape contrasts with the wider Till Vale and the wide-ranging panoramic views available from within it of the wider flat arable landscape to the west.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The AGLV provides a culture of 'soft tourism', in the form of walking, cycling, and boating and short breaks and this is a key aspect of this strategy. The villages at the foot of the scarp slope benefit from attractive settings due to the presence of woodland cover associated with the historic halls and associated parklands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside. There is little direct linkage between the settlements to the east at the lower level of the scarp, and so the B1398 as the ridge-top road provides the key linkage and dips down to the bottom of the scarp in this location linking villages</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. There is a strong relationship between landscape character and settlement where many villages derive their sense of place from distinctive views, local landmarks, and features around their edges.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside. The district has relatively few tourist 'attractions' and many visitors just simply enjoy the scenic drives, including the historic churches, the Till Vale, and the Lincolnshire Cliff.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV. The Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) 1 is located approximately 2.3km east of the Site. AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of any designation across the Site itself, but in recognition of the elevated nature and intervisibility with the Ridge AGLV to the east.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The scarp and cliff form a notable element in the landscape to the east.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages within AGLV1 and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change. The countryside is open flat arable farmland. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	During construction, underground power cables linking the WB1 Site and the WB2 Site would require the excavation of earthworks. For the short period of time whilst the Cable Route Corridor was under construction there may be some very minor appreciation of these activities from locations on the Ridge. However, if possible, these would be minor and not impact on the setting or character of the AGLV.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape, and views of the countryside would be retained maintaining the setting of the AGLV.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape, and views of the countryside would be retained maintaining the setting of the AGLV.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape, and views of the countryside would be retained maintaining the setting of the AGLV.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 Sites.</p> <p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Site.

Key Features:

There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Cable Route Corridor.

The closest Scheduled Monument is Broxholme medieval settlement and cultivation remains (List Entry Number: 1016797), located immediately adjacent to the southwest of the WB1 Site.

The Deserted Village of North Ingleby (List Entry Number: 1003570) is approximately 2km west of the WB1 Site.

The Thorpe medieval settlement (List Entry Number: 1016978) in Thorpe in the Fallows hamlet is approximately 1.5km north.

There are no Listed Buildings on the Cable Route Corridor.

The closest listed buildings in proximity to the WB1 Site are located to the south west within Broxholme village. These are: Church of All Saints (List Entry Number: 1064095) Grade II (approximately 80m west of the Site); the Old Rectory (List Entry Number: 1147028) Grade II (approximately 45m west of the Site); the Boontown Cottage (List Entry Number: 1147027) Grade II (approximately 100m south west of the Site); the Farm Building at Manor Farm (List Entry Number: 1147032) Grade II (approximately 335m south west of the Site).

The Cable Route Corridor is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the WB1 Site.

Riseholme Hall (Listed Number 1000989) is the closest to the Site at 6.5km and outside of the Study Area.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings on the Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>There is a Scheduled Monument near Broxholme, and a number of monuments and listed buildings in the area.</p> <p>The Cable Route Corridor is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area or Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site have a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Medieval settlement and cultivation remains (List Entry Number: 1016797), located immediately adjacent to the southwest of the Site.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Cable Route Corridor, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Scheduled Monuments on the Cable Route Corridor. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the absence of assets across the Site itself and the proximity to Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monument at Broxholme.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Cable Route Corridor and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in this landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside, and the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the area have not become degraded.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside has little man-made interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

West Burton 1 Landscape Proposals – As shown in detail on Landscape and Ecology Mitigation & Enhancement Plan Figure 8.18.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.18.1].

Site specific landscape proposals include:

New sections of native hedgerow

Existing hedgerows reinforced with irregularly spaced native tree planting

Miscanthus, successional scrub and native woodland shelter belt planting alongside Broxholme

New native woodland shelter belt along southern site boundary

New native scattered trees along eastern boundary

New native woodland shelter belt alongside tributary to Till.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site including areas of:

- Long term meadow
- Tussocky grass mix
- Flower rich pollinator mix
- Tall herb mix
- Diverse meadow mix

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	During construction, underground power cables linking the WB1 Site and the WB2 Site would require the excavation of earthworks. For the short period of time whilst the Cable Route Corridor was under construction there maybe some very minor appreciation of these activities locally but would not directly interfere with the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens surrounding the Site.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 Sites.</p> <p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.1]**.

Natural Designations include National Parks and AONBs. In addition to these there are further national and international statutory environmental designations which contribute to England's natural environment and make a major contribution to national and regional character. These include the following:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Ramsar Sites
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site have a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site. There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of designations across the Site or locally.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in this landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 Sites.</p> <p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

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- 8.2.5.2 LCA Overview [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.5.3 Individual Land Use Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.5.4 Individual Topography and Watercourses Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.5.5 Individual Communications and Infrastructure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.5.6 Individual Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.5.7 Individual Public Rights of Way and Access Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
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- 8.2.5.10 Individual Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]

Yellow highlight indicates potential significant effects may be identified during final assessment process on landscape receptor.	
National Character Area (NCA) / Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT) Scoping Table	Cable Route Corridor WB2 to WB3 500m Study Area
NCA Profile: 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales (NE429)	/
A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains. The mature, powerful River Trent flows north through the full length of the area, meandering across its broad flood plain and continuing to influence the physical and human geography of the area as it has done for thousands of years.	/
The bedrock geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.	
Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops. While much pasture has been converted to arable use over the years, grazing is still significant in places, such as along the Trent and around settlements.	/
A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.	/
Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.	/
Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent flood plain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.	
Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.	
A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.	/
Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert a visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them. The same applies to the gas-fired power station and sugar beet factory near Newark, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.	
NCA Profile: 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (NE554)	
Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.	
Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.	
Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.	
Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber, and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.	
Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.	
Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.	
Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.	
Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.	
Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street; sparse on higher land, with springline villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.	
Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.	
Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-coloured limestone with dark brown pantiles.	
Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.	
RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys (East Midlands)	
Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;	
River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;	
Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;	
Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;	
Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;	
Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;	
Limited settlement and development in rural areas;	
Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;	
Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and	
Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.	
RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales (East Midlands)	/
Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.	/
Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.	/
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.	/
Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.	/
Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result.	/
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.	/
Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fieldscapes evident in areas of arable reversion.	/
Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.	/
RLCT Profile: 4b Wooded Vales	
Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type.	
Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover.	
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment.	
Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat.	
Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations.	
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping.	
Irregular shaped assorted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas.	
Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.	
RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes	
Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope.	
Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology.	
Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries.	
Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland.	
Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.	

LLCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley (West Lindsey)	
Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.	
Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape.	
River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.	
Historic parkland landscape including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle.	
Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main road, bypassing original village centres.	
Views towards the west are dominated by the power stations along the River Trent.	
LLCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale (West Lindsey)	/
Agricultural landscape with large, flat open fields.	/
Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.	/
Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelter belts	/
Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.	/
String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating grounds along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.	/
Large farm buildings and individual farmhouse on flatter land to the east.	/
Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.	/
Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'.	/
LLCA Profile: 4 The Cliff (West Lindsey)	
Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.	
Springline villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.	
Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.	
Pond and lakes along the springline.	
BLCA Policy Zones MNPZ 05 Leverton	
Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.	
A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.	
Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.	
Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.	
Isolated farmsteads.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands	
A predominantly large scale arable landscape	
Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham	
Views dominated by power stations and pylons	
Well trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees	
Less well maintained road side hedges, with trees	
Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.	
Limited small woodlands	
Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south	
Views are dominated by Cottam power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands	
This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD	
Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South	
Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks	
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties	
Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees	
Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy	
Watercourses are present throughout the PZ	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south	
Views are dominated by West Burton power station	
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village	
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	
There are long distance views to the north and south , views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east	
The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough , characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands	
Flat topography	
A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent	
Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses	
Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees	
Grass flood bank	

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (West Burton 1)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

NCA Profile 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is broadly characterised by a ridge of Jurassic limestone running north from Lincoln to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises prominently from adjacent low-lying land, forming the Edge or Cliff, and giving panoramic views out, in particular to the west. In the north is a second, lower scarp of ironstone. In the vicinity of Scunthorpe are the Coversands, post-glacial wind-blown sands which have given rise to mosaics of heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodland, supporting rare plant and animal communities akin to the Brecklands. At the northern boundary the limestone drops below the River Humber.

Ermine Street, a key Roman route from Lincoln to a crossing point on the Humber, follows the higher, drier land of the limestone plateau. Built in Norman times, the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral occupies a commanding position on top of the Edge and is visible from far around.

Key Features:

Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.

Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.

Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.

Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.

Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.

Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.

Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.

Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.

Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street, sparse on higher land, with spring line villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.

Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.

Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-colored limestone with dark brown pantiles.

Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Edge, an escarpment formed of Jurassic limestones combined with an escarpment of Lower Jurassic mudstones, rises prominently from the low-lying farmland in the Humberhead Levels and Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Areas (NCAs) to the west, giving rise to impressive long-distance views. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River. The outcrop of limestone forming the Edge extends south into the Southern Lincolnshire Edge NCA, bisected by the River Witham at Lincoln, and giving rise to a similar landscape of good-quality agricultural land. Lincoln Cathedral, built on top of the Edge above the Witham Gap, is a prominent landmark from miles around.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area, from Whitton on the Humber Estuary in the north to Lincoln in the south. To the east of Scunthorpe a second scarp of calcareous mudstones and siltstones, including ironstone, forms the western margin of the north part of the NCA. These slopes rise prominently from the flat cultivated lands of the Humberhead Levels and the Trent and Belvoir Vales, forming a distinct wooded edge to these areas. From the top of the Cliff there are impressive panoramic views out over the Humber Estuary, the Levels and the Vales.</p> <p>This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. Fields are typically large and rectilinear with gappy clipped hedgerows, or rubble limestone in places. Field sizes tend to be smaller around the villages. The dispersed farmsteads are typically large, with courtyard arrangements of barns and sheds that have developed over time, often overshadowing the original stone farmhouse. Copses of mixed-species trees provide some shelter. In places the limestone comes close to the surface, giving rise to small areas of calcareous grassland, which can also be found in a number of disused limestone quarries.</p> <p>The area is punctuated by a number of prominent features, from the massive steelworks at Scunthorpe and the hangars of military airfields along the top of the Edge, to the distinctive and prominent cathedral in Lincoln, standing high up on the Edge overlooking the Witham Gap, where the river cuts through the limestone. On the plateau top, some airfields have been put to new uses, and large buildings constructed for grain storage, light industry, warehousing and retail and communications masts are often very prominent out on the flat open land of the limestone plateau. Several farms now have large rectilinear reservoirs to provide for irrigation of crops on the light soils of the plateau.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Lincolnshire Edge is a long, prominent ridge, running from Grantham to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises sharply from low-lying land to the west, while the dip slope drops gently to the Ancholme Valley in the east. In the northern part of the NCA this forms a very distinct secondary scarp, overlooking the River Trent as it draws close below Alkborough.</p> <p>Cultural: There is widespread evidence of early settlement along the Edge, including prehistoric burial mounds and linear boundary features. The legacy of the Romans is more visible, particularly the roads that converge on the fort and later colonia at Lincoln. Ermine Street runs north-south along the full length of the NCA. The historic evidence that is most visible is that of the Roman period, with the network of long, straight roads, in particular Ermine Street which links the settlement of Lincoln with the crossing point of the Humber. Other features include the cathedral in Lincoln built by the Normans, deserted medieval villages and, more recently, military airfields and the steelworks that tower above Scunthorpe. There is scope for protecting these features and providing interpretation to bring them to the attention of a wider audience.</p> <p>Natural: The Coversands support important mosaics of heathland, akin to those of Breckland, as well as dry acid grassland and oak/birch woodland.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited, and there is scope for improving access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, especially providing links between urban areas and the countryside.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: While a predominantly arable landscape, it has many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff), the varied habitats of the Coversands, the prominent steelworks at Scunthorpe, historic villages, the airfields and inspirational long-distance views, especially out to the west. In the south is the city of Lincoln with its rich history and inspirational views to and from the cathedral. There is scope for strengthening the fabric of the landscape and for managing further development.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area. This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is shaped by the predominantly arable landscape, with many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff) and the varied habitats of the Coversands.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover, the NCA offers long, open views. Newark-on-Trent (generally referred to as Newark) lies at the centre with Grantham, Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough on the peripheries. The area's generally fertile soils and good quality agricultural land have supported a diversity of farming over a long period but, because of this, little semi-natural habitat remains. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain provide a strong feature running through the landscape. It is the greatest biodiversity resource, being a major corridor for wildlife moving through the area and supporting a variety of wetland habitats. It also provides flood storage as well as large amounts of cooling water for local power stations.

Key Features:

A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains.

The bedrock of geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.

Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops.

A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.

Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.

Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent floodplain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.

Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.

A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.

Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent and Belvoir Vales offer a gently undulating and low-lying landform with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys and flood plains. The landscape follows a strong north-south pattern due to the orientation of the underlying Triassic and Jurassic geology. Woodland cover is low. On the higher ground west of the Trent, small broadleaved, ancient semi-natural woodlands of oak and ash are frequently found, often as narrow strips alongside incised watercourses.</p> <p>Most of the area contains productive farmland, the majority of which is used for commercial arable production while grazing land for sheep, cattle and horses is locally significant in places. The sandy soils west of Lincoln have low natural fertility, but with fertiliser inputs these also provide very useful farmland, particularly for root crop production. Because of the value of the land for agriculture, the area has retained little semi-natural habitat. What remnants survive include flood plain grazing marsh such as The Holmes near Sutton on Trent, lowland meadows and some small areas of heathland, for example on the windblown sand deposits north of Collingham. Throughout the area, broadleaved woodlands, copses and the networks of hedgerows provide important habitats for farmland species.</p> <p>The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Throughout, hedgerow trees are few and limited to oak and ash, with willow along watercourses. In the east, hedgerows become fewer and the division of fields by dykes becomes more common, giving the landscape a fen-like character.</p> <p>The flood plains are distinctive features, especially that of the Trent; however, the rivers themselves are not visually prominent in the wider landscape and are often completely hidden from view by levees. They flow largely unnoticed, marked only by a fringe of scattered trees and riparian vegetation. The Trent is in its mature form as it meanders slowly but powerfully through the area. For ease of navigation and flood prevention, the channel has been deepened and, particularly in its lower reaches, tightly confined by levees. The Trent and its flood plain act as a major corridor for wildlife through the area and provide a variety of wetland habitats.</p> <p>The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them. Building styles vary but are unified in rural areas by red brick and pantiles.</p> <p>Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power</p>	<p><u>Scenic:</u> The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.</p> <p><u>Cultural:</u> The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact. Medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation features can still be seen on land uncultivated since. At Laxton the medieval open field system of farming has been retained to the present day. Enclosure and reorganisation of the landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries is seen in the regular shaped fields bounded by hawthorn hedgerows and the red brick and pantile building style of farmsteads and villages. Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires are prominent historical landmarks in the landscape.</p> <p><u>Natural:</u> A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46. The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Ancient hedgerows are still evident in many places, often as sinuous belts of trees and shrubs, occasionally defining ancient parish boundaries. The Vale of Belvoir has seen a steady decline in permanent pasture and conversion to arable uses. Increases in horse ownership across the NCA have led to some permanent pasture being used as horse paddocks. There has been pig and poultry unit expansion and upgrade across the NCA.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> Recreation is provided by numerous small country lanes and public rights of way, especially along the Trent corridor, including the Trent Valley Way. It is also provided by country parks such as Cotgrave and Hartsholme. The restoration of the numerous disused sand and gravel extraction sites to wetlands, along with the River Trent and the Fossdyke Navigation, provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for boating, water sports, fishing, walking and experiencing wildlife.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> Higher ground defines the edges of the NCA from where there are extensive views across the vales. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain is a major feature running through the landscape. Villages are unified by the dominant rural vernacular style of red brick and pantile. The main settlements have strong associations with the area. Distinctive landmarks include Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires and the power stations on the Trent.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing:</u> PRow are often limited and lacking wider connectivity, with a reliance on the local rural road network. Greater access is provided alongside the River Trent. The Trent is the main river of this NCA, providing a functional, recreational and environmental link with the NCAs upstream and downstream through which it flows.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function:</u> The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland</p>	<p><u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.</p> <p><u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.</p> <p><u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, small hamlets and larger Market Towns. The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact.</p> <p><u>Capacity:</u> Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

<p>lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works and active sand and gravel extraction sites.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA48: Trent and Belvoir Vales is shaped by the strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland centred on the River Trent.</p>	
<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales.

The RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out

Character Context:

The Floodplain Valleys Landscape Character Type is found throughout the region, along the broad valleys of the Trent, Nene, Welland, Wreake, Soar and Dove, and short stretches of the Derwent and Witham. Despite occupying different parts of the region, and therefore contrasting bedrock geologies, the broad flat belts of alluvium and gravel terrace deposits flanking the river channels are a strong unifying characteristic. Historically, the floodplains would have shared common land use characteristics with a predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows and arable fields on drier gravel terraces. Whilst many stretches of permanent pasture and riverside meadows remain, increasing arable and silage production, and the influence of large urban areas and sand and gravel extraction creates significant contrasts in local landscape character. Whilst the floodplains themselves are generally devoid of settlement, the rivers and neighboring gravel terraces have been a focus for settlement for several thousands of years. As such, many areas are noted for their rich and varied archaeological deposits. The majority of the region's major towns are located adjacent to the floodplains and exert a strong but localized influence on their character. Elsewhere, the floodplains constitute some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas in the East Midlands.

Key Features:

- Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;
- River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;
- Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;
- Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;
- Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;
- Limited settlement and development in rural areas;
- Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;
- Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and
- Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Development on settlement margins is damaging the character of the landscape, creating visual intrusion and extending the urban edge into the Floodplain Valleys. In particular the edges of Leicester, Nottingham and Derby, and also Northampton and Wellingborough in the Nene Valley, need to be carefully considered as these are identified Growth Points that will receive significant levels of new mixed use development in the short and longer term. Large-scale industrial developments, such as sewage treatment works and power stations are particularly prominent in this otherwise flat and open landscape.</p> <p>In response to flood risk, engineered solutions, such as concrete flood walls and embankments, have been installed in many locations along the river channels. This has resulted in the canalisation of rivers and loss of riverside vegetation, meadows and pastures, changing the natural character of the</p> <p>Floodplain Valleys, although historic structures can contribute to the character of the river. In some instances, the height of the defences screens the river from view, reducing the sense of openness and sense of place. There is marked evidence of agricultural intensification, accompanied by a move from pastoral towards arable farming. This has resulted in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including riverside meadows, which would have traditionally defined the river channels and distinguished them from the surrounding farmland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Floodplain Valleys aims to protect the open and unsettled character of the landscape from inappropriate development and that tree planting around settlement fringes can help with integration and help contribute to the overall perception of a well treed landscape. The changes from flood risk and engineered solutions are also changing the landscape, but there is potential for landscape restoration projects to assist with mitigation of this change. The potential for river landscape to change is also a key consideration, but there is potential to introduce positive landscape interventions such as biodiversity and nature conservation initiatives.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Floodplain Valleys is conditioned by a number of key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the impact of settlement on the edges of the river floodplain, the interventions associated with flood risk, the shifting of river channels, sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure. There are however also significant benefits to be gained from a range of landscape and biodiversity interventions such as restoration projects. The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Floodplain Valleys appeal to the visual senses in that vast stretches of the floodplain retain an intact and traditional character, despite the intrusion from sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such as Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths such as the Trent Valley Way Recreational Route.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys the value (medium) is shaped by the general absence of built development which enhances the quiet, rural character of the landscape, which across the wider area is only occasionally interrupted by roads crossing the river, or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Locally, however this is disrupted by the presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations. Hedgerows and rising landform fringing the floodplain enclose views and create an intimate, human scale landscape fringing the more open floodplain.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The sparsely settled Wooded Vales Landscape Character Type generally occurs in north Lincolnshire and lies within the much broader and extensive Unwooded Vales. Whilst various underlying bedrock geologies can be identified, extensive superficial deposits of till and cover sand create a softly undulating landscape. The Wooded Vales generally has a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. High levels of woodland cover are in evidence when compared to the Unwooded Vales and add to local distinctiveness and provide a coherent and recognizable character and strong identity. Woodlands and localized variations in landform also foreshorten views and obstruct wide panoramas to create a more intimate scale landscape than is experienced in the Unwooded Vales. However, uninterrupted panoramic views across farmland are possible, albeit with woodlands often forming a dark backdrop or feature on the horizon.

The Wooded Vales landscape is generally characterized by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows, sometimes marking ancient asserts. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands. Sizable areas of sandy heathland are also evident on areas of cover sand, although some have been extensively forested with conifers. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their course can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat, wet woodland and riverside trees. The vast majority of the Wooded Vales retains a historic, deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland and linked by narrow winding lanes and roads.

Key Features:

- Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type;
- Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover;
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment;
- Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat;
- Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping;
- Irregular shaped assarted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas;
- Open, modern fields capes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The sparsely settled landscape of the Wooded Vales has seen relatively little urban growth, although some expansion and in-fill development is noted in larger settlements, such as Market Rasen, Horncastle and Wragby. This can erode architectural and historic character, whilst creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. Agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation are resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. This contributes to a more homogenous landscape, and the effect is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages.</p> <p>Woodland is a significant component of this landscape, and new woodland planting would be generally appropriate, increasing the overall woodland coverage in the region. However, the landform of the Wooded Vales is typically low and extensive panoramas are possible, often framed by larger areas of woodland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Wooded Vales aims to promote new woodland planting as this is a significant component of the landscape. The aim should be to also protect the distinctive character of the settlements and consider the visual impact of any new development. The restoration of hedgerows should also be given priority to strengthen the field pattern and enhance linkages between woodlands. The impact on the setting of village churches is also particularly important as these are distinctive local landmarks. There are regular patterns of enclosure and modern arable fields where hedgerows have been removed, but due to the abundance of large woodland blocks this helps reinforce a sense of enclosure.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Wooded Vales is conditioned by several key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation that is resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. The loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages that is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Wooded Vales appeal to the visual senses with extensive access to a variety of footpaths often framed by these large areas of woodland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of small villages, hamlets, and farms but they are scarcely distributed within the landscape. This includes settlement of Knaith Park which falls within the Area of Greater Landscape Value (AGLV).</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: to the north of Gainsborough and towards the villages of Blyton and Laughton, there are large areas of ancient and species-rich native woodland juxtaposed with regular blocks of coniferous plantations. Sizable areas of water bodies are also notable within the wider character area with wet woodland sites characterised by native broadleaved species and affording SSSI status.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' endorsed by the strong woodland character, with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness, notably within the central wooded parts.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Wooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRow within the wider landscape, but this is more than compensated for within Laughton Woods, which is the main focus for recreation.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landscape benefits from the woodland areas that occupy the northern part of the area, but also extend south towards Gainsborough and East Stockwith and include Owlet Plantation.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4b: Wooded Vales the value (high) is shaped by the sparsely settled landscape that has seen relatively little urban growth. The landscape is characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Areas have a positive character, but the loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Mature vegetation is characteristic that occupies the northern part of the area with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There would be a lower landscape tolerance and scope for landscape change due to the presence of extensive woodland that has seen relatively little settlement intervention.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes (Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes Landscape Character Type is part of the Jurassic limestone belt that runs from Dorset to the Humber. It is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, both in its physical structure, large scale arable land uses and the character of many of the stone built villages along the lower scarp slopes. However, in contrast to elsewhere with areas of similar geology, locally occurring heathland on thinning limestone created a unique character up until agricultural improvement in the 19th century.

The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale. To the east of the scarp extends a gently undulating and tilted limestone dip slope that merges with the adjacent fenland and marshland fringes of eastern Lincolnshire. It is thought that the landscape has remained largely devoid of trees since the prehistoric period. Whilst it is assumed that the landscape was farmed from at least the Neolithic, place names and occasional indicator species provide clues to the marginal and heathy character of the landscape prior to agricultural improvement.

The consistent alignment of the edge has created a strong sense of linearity, further emphasized by ancient transportation routes. Ermine Street was created in Roman times to link London to York and possibly consolidated much more ancient trackways running along the top of the edge. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that adds to the geometric character of the dip slope landscape.

Despite evidence of long established settlement and exploitation, the dip slope retains a modern and sometimes declining character, largely as a result of intensive arable production and poor boundary maintenance.

However, the edge and scarp villages continue to retain a more intricate and intact historic character.

Key Features:

- Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment;
- Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope;
- Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology;
- Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries;
- Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland; and
- Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosure roads are distinctive landscape features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes; however, these are under threat from lack of management and inappropriate planting.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes is conditioned by the escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, that rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes appeal to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Scarps and Dipslopes are valued for recreation which often focuses on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes the value (high) is shaped by the Jurassic limestone belt that is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, particularly in terms of the large-scale arable land uses. The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighbouring vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 2: Trent Valley (Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain to the east and southeast of Gainsborough extends as far south as Marton. This relatively elevated land is formed by local outcrops of resistant gypsum within the rock strata. There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. These are generally hawthorn, but there are also taller mixed species hedgerows and hedgerow trees, particularly adjacent to roads.

The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton. Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape.

Gainsborough, the major settlement in this area, is located at one of the few crossing points of the River Trent. A number of main roads pass through Gainsborough and are dominant features within this character area. The A156 runs north south and the A631 east west into Gainsborough. Railways also approach Gainsborough from the north and south. South of Gainsborough, the A156 passes through a string of small settlements; Knaith, Marton and Fenton. Towards the south, the A156 branches into the A1133 where it crosses the Fosdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fosdyke is a man-made canal linking the navigable river Witham with the Trent, giving access to the Midland river system from the Wash. Today it is used primarily for recreational boating and there are some limited visitor facilities at Torksey Lock.

The area has some important historic parkland landscapes at Knaith, Gate Burton and Kettlethorpe, and the remnants of a medieval deer park to the south east of Gainsborough. There are also a number of historic landmarks in addition to those in Gainsborough itself. These are the ruins of Torksey Castle and a hall and pavilion at Gate Burton, all of which are highly visible from the A156. This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including, settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the Fosdyke.

Key Features:

- Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.
- Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape."
- River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.
- Historic parklands landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle
- Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main roads, bypassing original village centers.
- Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent."

Landscape Sensitivities:

Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands. The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI."

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- The higher land to the south and east of Gainsborough, which extends as far south as Marton.

- The historic parklands of Kettlethorpe, Knaith, Gate Burton and Gainsborough, together with their associated boundary earthworks.
- Ancient woodlands, such as Thurlby Wood, Houghton Wood and Wharton Wood.
- River Trent washlands, such as the Lea Marshes.
- Village entrances which are frequently marred by linear development along adjacent main roads low-lying land along the River Trent (to the west of the A156/ A1133)
- The Fosdyke -a low lying meadow landscape with potential for recreation
- Torksey Castle, a historic landmark with an important landscape setting

Landscape Strategy:

- New development can be accommodated on the higher ridges to the south and east of Gainsborough, provided it is associated with new tree and hedgerow planting which is designed to integrate with local field patterns.
- Further linear development along the principal roads in the area would be detrimental to local landscape character.
- Entrances to settlements, abrupt road bends and junctions are particularly sensitive sites; they are the focus for local views and can easily be marred by nondescript development. New development at such locations should be designed to provide 'one-off', distinctive buildings, which reflect local building types and materials.
- Many settlements are bypassed by major roads and there is a risk that views to the village center will be obscured by peripheral development; such key views should be identified and conserved.
- New development on the periphery of settlements should always be bounded by new or existing hedgerows and native hedgerow trees so that the buildings are visually 'anchored' within the wider landscape pattern.
- Development on the low-lying land to the west of the A156/ A1133 would be prominent and cannot easily be accommodated without detracting from the gentle transition to the open, flat farmland on the banks of the River Trent.
- New development should not impinge on views of the many important designed parkland landscapes in the area.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting will ensure that these important local landscape features are conserved and enhanced; they should remain a viable landscape screen and a valuable wildlife habitat.
- Priority should be given to new woodland, shelterbelt or hedgerow planting which is designed to link existing woodlands, particularly those with semi-natural or ancient woodland status. Appropriate local species include field maple, hawthorn, ash and oak.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees should be managed to retain the existing landscape pattern, screen settlements and contribute to local identity.
- There is scope to improve the setting of the Fosdyke as a recreational landscape. For instance, tree planting might be designed to draw attention to the position of the lock and there may also be opportunities for more informal tree groups along the edge of the river corridor.
- Any schemes for the management of local water tables which allow the extension of existing areas of marshland to create relatively large-scale areas of wetland would have significant visual and nature conservation value. For instance, there may be opportunities to re-create riverine woodlands on low riverside banks (left-over belts of land).
- Roads are visually dominant in this area; their influence could be improved by a landscape strategy designed to incorporate tree planting, hedgerow management and signage. This should take account of key views and the entrances to settlements which would often benefit from distinctive planting schemes.
- The landscape setting of historic parklands and built features requires careful consideration, backed by research.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent Valley Character area stretches from Gainsborough and its suburbs south towards Newton on Trent, with the River Trent forming a definitive western boundary. The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain in the east and south east of Gainsborough extends as far South as Marton</p> <p>There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton.</p> <p>Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.</p> <p>This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.</p> <p>Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, Woodlands country groups, giving the landscapes on capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient Woodlands.</p> <p>The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat including a small central meadow.</p> <p>Overall, the Trent Valley character area is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, which is somewhat marred by the presence of the large scale power stations to the west of the river corridor.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough. Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape. River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments. Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent. Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices. Historic parkland landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths along the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 2 Trent Valley the value (medium) is shaped by its gently undulating and quite low lying landform which includes the washlands along the eastern edge of the River Trent. However, a band of higher relatively elevated land runs along the eastern edge of the character area extending as far south as Marton.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term. Views across the area are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley. The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Lincoln Cliff is a straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the center of the district. It is the narrowest part of an extensive band of resistant limestone which stretches from the Humber to the South Kesteven Uplands. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. Isolated storm-damaged ash trees, which often have grotesque shapes, are characteristic features of the scarp slope.

There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton.

The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.

The villages are small and compact. Limestone is the favored building material, with brick detailing and pantile roofs. Boundary walls are generally also constructed from the local limestone. The village of Ingham has grown larger than the others, with the introduction of newer brick houses, many of which are bungalows. Despite this, the center has retained its integrity and identity, with buildings placed around an attractive village green. There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline.

Key Features:

- Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.
- Diverse pattern of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.
- Spring line villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.
- Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.
- Ponds and lakes along the spring line.

Landscape Sensitivity:

A relatively small, but distinctive limestone scarp with a diverse landscape pattern; there is a transition from trees and woodlands enclosing a string of historic springline villages at the foot of the slope to a mix of pastures and arable fields on the steep slopes. The scarp is visible from much of the Till Vale and there are long views from the ridge-top road. The villages have a range of important historic and archaeological sites and many are associated with wooded parkland landscapes.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- diverse landscape pattern on scarp slope;

- wetlands - ponds and lakes at the springline;
- trees and woodlands - at the foot of the escarpment;
- village entrances - narrow, secluded contrast to the ridge-top road along the skyline (Middle Street);
- historic buildings and parkland eg. Glentworth,
- village greens, mature trees, limestone walls and churches.
- pastures on western fringes of villages - provide contrast to surrounding arable land.

Landscape Strategy:

- There is relatively little scope for new development in these historic and sensitive villages; only small-scale development of individual sites and the conversion of existing buildings will be appropriate.
- The 'Cliff' villages have a secluded landscape setting, surrounded by pasture and trees; new development should not encroach on the existing small pastures on the fringes of the village and should be associated with new tree planting designed to complement the existing diverse pattern of trees.
- New development and tree planting should be carefully sited and designed to avoid compromising the views associated with the designed historic parkland landscapes which are characteristic of many of these villages.
- There is a risk that further development on the 'Cliff' villages may lead to coalescence and loss of identity.
- Entrances to the villages are particularly vulnerable to change; there may be scope for development which can enhance the existing approach, but it should be carefully sited and designed to complement the existing buildings and form a clear entrance statement.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Woodland management - including thinning, possibly coppicing, replanting and tree surgery to mature trees - to ensure these valuable landscape features are retained.
- The management of hedgerows (and hedgerow trees) on the margins of villages and particularly at their entrances will help to retain the characteristic sense of enclosure.
- There may be scope for new hedgerow planting on the western edges of villages to reinforce the contrast in character between the 'Cliff' landscape and that of the open arable farmland to the west. Any new planting should be designed to frame rather than obscure views to village churches and other buildings. Appropriate local tree species include field maple, beech, ash, oak and elm; hedgerow species include hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, blackthorn, and privet.
- This narrow landscape band has a wealth of archaeological and historical interest. All proposals to alter land uses and/or the landscape pattern should take account of the findings of historical research. Tree planting or other landscape management schemes may be designed to frame key views and enhance the setting of landscape features with historic interest.
- Wherever possible, the reversion of arable land to grazing pastures should be encouraged to conserve the diverse landscape pattern on the scarp and the striking contrast with the surrounding arable farmland. Priority should be given to the retention of existing permanent pasture.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are a number of small, quiet and secluded spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings.</p> <p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosed roads leading to the small scarp villages are distinctive landscape features of the Cliff.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Cliff. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Cliff is formed through its prominence as a unique landscape feature that rises up to the east above the Trent Vale forming a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: There is a diverse landscape pattern along the scarp slope. There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.</p> <p>The Cliff appeals to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline. The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Cliff provides recreation opportunities often focused on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Cliff provides a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 4 The Cliff the value (high) is shaped by the prominence and contrast of The Lincoln Cliff with the surrounding flat landscape. A straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the centre of the district. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone MNPZ 5: Leverton is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Located within the Policy Zone are Sturton le Steeple, North Leverton with Hablesthorpe and South Wheatley. It wraps around but excludes West Burton Power Station in the east. A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively.

Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.

The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub. The Policy Zone also encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck.

Key Features:

- Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.
- A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.
- Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.
- Isolated farmsteads.

Landscape Analysis:

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone there is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features comprising the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines, high voltage power lines and pylons and a sewage works. This gives a visually unified area overall. The field pattern is partially intact, rationalization is more notable at the center where the land is under intensive arable use. A network of becks extends across the area, the water channels are flanked by vegetation which connects into hedgerow field boundaries. Most hedgerows are well maintained, where gaps occur, they have been in-filled with fencing or left. Trees are apparent in the hedgerows though some are over mature and not being replaced. Smaller areas of pasture and rough grazing surround the becks and villages, an area of parkland style pasture with individual trees is located north of South Leverton.

Settlement within the Policy Zone is predominantly traditional although both North Leverton and South Wheatley comprise a mix of vernacular buildings with both modern and older non-vernacular development, newer buildings tend to be at the village edges. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed. The overall cultural integrity is variable. Two SINCs lie within the Policy Zone and comprise areas of grassland. Tree cover is relatively low and is concentrated along watercourses and the railway embankments [younger scrub], small deciduous clumps lie near to settlement areas. Oak and ash are dominant with some willow along the watercourses. There are no significant blocks of woodland within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is assessed as moderate which gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity result in a good landscape condition overall.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility results in high landscape sensitivity overall.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve historic field pattern, maintaining existing watercourses/hedgerows including ancient hedgerows, restoring and reinforcing where necessary, create new hedgerows to replace infill fencing.
- Conserve hedgerow trees and replace where necessary.
- Conserve permanent pasture and parkland area near to South Leverton, seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Conserve tree cover and landscape planting, enhance and reinforce where appropriate to increase the green infrastructure and wildlife habitats across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve areas of improved and unimproved pasture and grassland and areas of ridge and furrow.
- Conserve the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINCs, seek to enhance where appropriate.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both the existing settlements and new development.
- Conserve the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Sturton-le-Steeple, North Leverton, Hablesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too.</p> <p>Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of MNPZ 5: Leverton stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of elements, with few detracting elements. However, despite being of limited quantity, the presence of the railway lines and the West Burton Power Station form significant detractors.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Policy Zone encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east</p> <p>Overall, with MNPZ 05 Leverton the value (medium) is shaped by the mix of arable and pastoral farmland. Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east. A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity results in a good landscape condition overall.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: A flat, intensively farmed arable landscape skirting the West Burton Power Station. Crossed by large scale transmission lines and railway. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. The major agricultural land use is cereal and oil seed rape production. There are several camping and caravan parks within the LCP.

There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, northeast of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the southeast to the northwest past Cottam Power Station. There are mature trees in association with the historic village cores. There are mixed species road side hedges including Hawthorn, Rose, Elder with mature trees predominantly Ash, but also Willow and Oak. These hedgerows vary in their standard of maintenance. Field boundaries are trimmed, mixed species Hedgerows, predominantly Hawthorn with mature trees -mostly Ash, but also Willow and Oak.

There are various small ponds, water courses and ditches dotted throughout the area with associated riparian vegetation Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- A predominantly large-scale arable landscape.
- Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons.
- Well-trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees.
- Less well-maintained roadside hedges, with trees.
- Nucleated villages characterized by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.
- Limited small woodlands.
- Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape Condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ , the detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam. Outside the villages some of the field boundaries shown on Sanderson's plan of 1835 are intact but intervening boundaries have been removed. The overall cultural integrity is described as variable.

There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands. There are two SINC's in the PZ designated for aquatic and bankside vegetation and neutral grassland. The ecological network is defined as moderate which combined with as variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape Sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to low landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve the traditional pattern of hedges, fields and pasture around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly along roadsides.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity of ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve mature hedge lines along tracks and promote measures for increasing existing tree cover.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, north east of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the south east to the north west past Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the north west of the Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within this area itself. However, large scale pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **F Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.

The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks; species include Willow, Ash and Hawthorn. Internal field hedges are well trimmed in the pasture areas but some hedges are fragmented between arable fields; species are predominantly Hawthorn with Rose, Elder and Ash.

There are two SINCS within this area designated for their aquatic communities: Cottam Wetlands, mentioned above, made up of marshy grassland, swamp and a mosaic of wetlands, and Coates Wetland which is a group of pools with rough grazing. There are two MLAs within the LCP Littleborough (125) and Laneham / Cottam (124). A small portion of the Dunham Laneham (123) MLA is also contained within the south of the area. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south.
- Views are dominated by Cottam power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.
- There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is defined as variable. There is moderate tree cover which consists mainly of bands of riverside vegetation. There are 2 SINC sites within the PZ designated for their aquatic interest. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as moderate, which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife / functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, and long views to the north and south contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

The landform is insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture close to the River Trent.
- Conserve mature trees to the rivers edge.
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly around arable fields.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Cottam.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p>Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks.</p> <p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the river banks.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: PROW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the flat landscape of this area within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 meters AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, species include Elder, Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, and Rose. These also contain mature trees; species include Ash and Willow. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained, species include Hawthorn predominantly, also Elder, Hazel, Rose and Holly.

There are no MLAs within the area and 1 SINC. Small water courses are present throughout the area; some of these contain aquatic vegetation. There is very limited settlement within the area, and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non-vernacular styles. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD.
- Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South.
- Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties.
- Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees.
- Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.
- Watercourses are present throughout the PZ.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is variable. The tree cover is poor, the integrity of the ecological network is weak which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall. A strongly visually unified area with a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness is characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam Power Station to the South and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover which leads to a moderate visibility both in and out of the PZ.

A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to road edges and field boundaries.
- Conserve mature hedgerows to field access tracks.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Seek opportunities to create small woodlands to reduce visual impact of power stations.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p>Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ.</p> <p>The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non vernacular styles.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, these also contain mature trees. However, Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south east of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. There is very limited settlement within the area. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area which also contain mature trees. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained. There are no large areas of woodland.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape less than 5 meters AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. The only woodland area is a narrow strip to the west of Littleborough. There are mature trees, species include Ash, Beech Oak, and Willow, and mature hedge lines including Holly within the settlement of Littleborough. Out Ings SINC contains some scrubby woodland. Mature trees are present in the riverside vegetation, species include Ash, Oak Sycamore, and Willow. Field boundary hedgerows are weak and gappy. The hedgerow species is predominantly Hawthorn; trees include Oak and Sycamore. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows, species include Elder, Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn and Rose with mature trees including Ash.

There are 4 SINCs within the area - including Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings, both designated for their aquatic communities. The Ferries MLA (18) forms the northern end of the LCP. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this. The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south.
- Views are dominated by West Burton power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views to the north and south, views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterized by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall this gives a strongly visually unified area. The overall cultural integrity is good due largely to the maturity of vegetation and time depth of the ancient settlement of Littleborough.

Tree cover is low, there are 4 SINCs in the area mostly designated for their aquatic communities, the integrity of the ecological network is moderate which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall.

A strongly visually unified area with a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/ time depth is described as historic (post 1600)' although the settlement of Littleborough is ancient, which gives a moderate sense of place.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover/ sense of enclosure which leads to moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate Sensitivity

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the River Trent and change arable land to permanent pasture where appropriate.
- Conserve mature trees to river edge, and within the village of Littleborough.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to field boundaries.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Littleborough.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.</p> <p>There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP.</p> <p>The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks. PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape at less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. There are mature trees, and mature hedgelines which are often weak and gappy. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD alongside the River Trent. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties and Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale.

The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river.

The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.

The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.

The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.

Key Features:

- Flat topography.
- A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent.
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses.
- Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees.
- Grass flood bank.

Landscape Analysis:

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as very good. The pattern of landscape elements is unified. The area has few detracting features. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area. The historic field pattern is still evident therefore the cultural integrity is good. Although the area has no SINC designations the trees, improved and unimproved pasture, and riparian vegetation provides a moderate network of wildlife habitats.

A moderate network for wildlife and a good cultural integrity leads to a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is strongly visually unified with a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife has a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness is characteristic of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is historic (post 1600). The area has a moderate sense of place.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The landform is apparent and has intermittent tree cover which leads to moderate visibility of the area from outside the PZ. A moderate sense of place with a moderate degree of visibility leads to a moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- Conserve pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- Seek opportunities to re-create historic field boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p>The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, dominating views south along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station dominates views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The historic field pattern is still evident.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales.

Character Context:

The rural Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type within a central area of the region on a broadly north south axis, and whilst various underlying bedrock geologies exert a local influence, superficial deposits create a softly undulating landscape and consistent and recognizable character. The Vales generally have a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. Within the vales, low hills and ridges are also important, foreshortening views and creating subtle relief features.

The vale landscape is generally characterized by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of low, well-maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture, often grazed by dairy herds. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their courses can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat and riverside trees.

The vast majority of the Vales retain a deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland, linked by narrow winding lanes and roads. Despite low levels of woodland cover, local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts create visual containment and give the Vales landscape an intimate character. By contrast, panoramic views are possible from elevated locations albeit contained by rising land at the edges of the Vales.

Key Features:

- Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.
- Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.
- Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.
- Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.
- Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well-maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fields capes evident in areas of arable reversion; and
- Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes."

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible. Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Unwooded Vales aims to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Many of the rural villages have not seen widespread expansion but development pressures continue with the demand for housing, commerce and industry creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. For development associated with the rural villages, specific mechanisms include Village Design Statements, and tree planting around settlement fringes to help integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Unwooded Vales is conditioned by managing growth, ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Unwooded Vales appeal to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Unwooded Vales are valued for recreation which often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of the Unwooded Vales is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Unwooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales the value (medium) is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquillity. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 2 to West Burton 3) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use, and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3 is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area.

Character Context:

This is an agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields and strong rural Character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominantly hawthorn; they are kept low and have few hedgerow trees. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fossdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation.

The area is crossed by three east-west main roads; the A631 to Gainsborough in the north, the A1500 Roman road near Sturton by Stow and the A57 alongside the Fossdyke in the south. There is also an important north-south route, the B1241, which links a number of settlements, including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow. It continues northwards as a minor road, linking a further string of small, nucleated settlements, such as Upton, Springthorpe and Corringham. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting, but the sequence of views to village churches from the B1241 and other smaller lanes is particularly important. A number of windmills, some without sails, are similar landmarks in the landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features.

Some of the villages in the far north of the area, such as Pilham and Aisby, are very small, although archaeological evidence suggests they may once have been larger. By contrast, the larger villages of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow have expanded rapidly as a result of their proximity to Lincoln. There is also some warehouse and light industrial development in this southern area, between the A57 and the railway, and a major transmission line crosses the landscape. To the east, on the flatter land, there are some individual farmhouses and other large farm buildings, often with associated tree planting. Here there are some other interesting features, such as nodding donkeys at the oil well near Glentworth, and a number of above-ground reservoirs. The minor roads that lead across this flatter area to the Lincoln 'Cliff' exhibit the typical form of ancient enclosure roads; they are generally straight, with wide verges, a ditch and hedgerow.

This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.

Key Features:

- Agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields.
- Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.
- Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelterbelts.
- Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.
- String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating ground along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.
- Large farm buildings and individual farmhouses on flatter land to the east.
- Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.
- Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'

Landscape Sensitivity:

This agricultural landscape is sensitive to changes in European Commission agricultural policy and its influence on farming practice. Some villages retain evidence of medieval settlement (earth works and cropmarks) and may once have been considerably larger. There is pressure for built development in villages within commuting distance of Lincoln and for the development of above-ground reservoirs within the open farmland.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- Rural roads and minor farm tracks boarded by wide verges and hedgerows.
- Edges of villages which show evidence of medieval settlement.
- The sequence of views of village churches along the B1241.
- Avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms.
- Small woodlands - their edges are vulnerable to the impact of agricultural machinery.
- Minor streams and their associated riparian vegetation

Landscape Strategy:

- Development on the fringes of villages should be accompanied by new tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with surrounding field patterns. New planting should be native species and design to frame (not screen) views from the surrounding, expansive farmland landscape.
- The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic; new development should be sited and designed to conserve this pattern by encouraging relatively dense development in villages and conserving key tracts of open farmland between villages and adjacent outlying farms.
- Linear development should be avoided particularly on the approaches to villages, as it will lead to the erosion of the landscape setting and the distinctive sequence of views from one village church to the next.
- Entrances and approaches to the villages are particularly sensitive sites, which requires special attention. There may be opportunities for new buildings in such locations, provided they are carefully designed to reflect the small scale and dense massing of traditional village buildings and provided they are associated with groups and lines of native trees.
- The introduction of protected zones between close adjacent settlements, such as Stow and Sturton by Stow, will prevent coalescence and ensure that individual landscape settings are conserved.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- The retention of buffer zones along rivers and streams will reduce the risk of fertiliser/pesticide runoff from arable land and will enhance their nature conservation value.
- There may be scope for new tree/scrub planting (goat willow, hawthorn, alder and alder buckthorn) along rivers, streams and ditches to increase their visual presence in the landscape.
- The nature conservation value of ditches may be enhanced by cutting shallow ledges into side slopes to provide habitats for aquatic plants.
- The existing small farm woodlands and shelterbelts would benefit from management, including thinning, replanting and the development of robust, well structured edges.
- The creation of buffer zones on the fringes of the woodland blocks will help to protect the existing woodland edges from damage by agricultural machinery; subsequent woodland encroachment onto farmland can be controlled by careful tree surgery and on-going woodland management. The aim should be to conserve (or in some cases create) a diverse age structure and an intact woodland edge.
- Trees and hedgerows make an important contribution to the landscape setting of villages and their management should be a priority in these areas, as well as along rural roads.
- Heavy vehicles can erode the character of rural roads, particularly where hedgerows are removed to improve sight-lines at junctions. Hedgerows should be reinstated to accommodate the new sight-lines.
- New tree planting along approaches to villages and farms could improve the identity of the local landscape. Lines of trees are characteristic in such locations. Tree planting should be confined to hedgerows (i.e. not on verges) on all historic enclosure roads.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Till Vale is located east of Gainsborough and the Trent valley and to the West of the scarp known as the Lincoln 'Cliff'. This is an agricultural landscape with large flat open fields and a strong rural character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominately hawthorn, which are kept low, with few hedgerow trees. The landform comes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west, it becomes more open with a flatter landform towards the east.</p> <p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees.</p> <p>The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible. Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, within the Till Vale there should be an aspiration to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size.</p> <p>The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape.</p> <p>This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic:</u> The Till Vale appeals to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east. This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p> <p><u>Cultural:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural:</u> The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> The Till Vale is valued for recreation which is often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of The Till Vale is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing:</u> The Till Vale provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function:</u> From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity:</u> Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Till Vale is conditioned by ensuring new developments are accompanied by new native tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with the surrounding tree patterns, by ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location and reinforces approaches to villages. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 3 The Till Vale the value (medium) is shaped by its strong rural character provided by the large, flat, open agricultural landscape that dominates this area. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features. Views to village churches from local lanes are particularly important.</p>	
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation
<p>Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:</p> <p>Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.</p> <p>Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.</p> <p>Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.</p> <p>Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.</p> <p>The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.</p> <p>The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.</p>

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 2 to West Burton 3) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farms and villages, in addition to the larger settlements of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farms and villages, alongside the larger settlements of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow. The landform is relatively flat with a gentle slope to the east towards the River Till.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Large-scale arable farmland, isolated properties, and managed native field boundary vegetation exist within the Cable Route Corridor WB2-WB3 Site.</p> <p>The land comprises a series of field parcels which are managed intensively for arable production.</p> <p>Overall, the land use within the WB2 – WB3 Cable Route Corridor lacks native vegetation and the intensively managed farmland means the land has become degraded.</p> <p>However, the field ditches and a network of managed native field boundary vegetation form a component of this landscape.</p> <p>On balance, land use in the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation, small settlements, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanized methods.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural. PRow are extremely limited.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small country lanes and flat arable farmland are the key components that define the land use.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Absence of PRow network.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable fields.</p> <p>Overall, Within the Cable Route Corridor is agricultural farmland interspersed with farms and villages, in addition to the larger settlements of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the land being used for large scale agricultural purposes. The landform is relatively flat with a gentle slope to the east towards the River Till and the flat alluvial farmland alongside. To the west, the landform remains more elevated but is more undulating. Here, the Site falls towards the railway line at approximately 10m AOD.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Vegetated drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland within and surrounding the Site.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland dominates this landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The installation of the solar array and its ecological mitigation measures would change the land use and break up a landscape that is predominantly flat arable farmland. The change would be beneficial to the soils, watercourses, and biodiversity.</p> <p>Activities during the construction phase within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site, such as construction access and storage, would no longer be managed as arable farmland. The construction activities would be temporary and barely noticeable.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3 Site, crosses the landscape between the WB2 and WB3 Sites. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

Within the Study Area the landform is relatively flat with a gentle slope to the east towards the River Till which meanders along the eastern edge of the Site. The Site is divided into three separate areas, with Sturton Road cutting through the centre of the Site in a north south direction. The Site to the east of Sturton Road falls east down towards the River Till and the flat alluvial farmland alongside it. Broxholme Road crosses the southern area of this part of the Site. To the west, the landform remains more elevated but is more undulating. Here, the Site falls towards the railway line at approximately 10m AOD. Ingleby and Sturton Road are located on an elevated landform and sit at approximately 15m AOD.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area there is a network of agricultural land interspersed with farms and villages, in addition to the larger settlements of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow. The landform is relatively flat with a gentle slope to the east towards the River Till which meanders along the eastern edge of the Site.

The Site is divided into three separate areas, with Sturton Road cutting through the centre of the Site in a north south direction. The Site to the east of Sturton Road falls east down towards the River Till and the flat alluvial farmland alongside. Broxholme Road crosses the southern area of this part of the Site. To the west, the landform remains more elevated but is more undulating. Here, the Site falls towards the railway line at approximately 10m AOD. Ingleby and Sturton Road are located on an elevated landform and sit at approximately 15m AOD.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3 is made up of flat-lying farmland which gently drains towards the River Till to the east. Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches. Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography of the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the rectangular fields.</p> <p>Overall, the topography and watercourses within the West Burton 2 Site has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation within flat farmland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes experience a flat rural landscape.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key components that define the topography.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: A limited network of PRow. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.</p> <p>Overall, The Study Area is open agricultural, predominantly flat farmland. The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by drainage ditches that feed into the River Till.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by flat agricultural field parcels that make up the Site itself and that follow the surrounding topography and water courses.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Drainage ditches and the vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable dominates the landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The installation of the solar array retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, the construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p> <p>The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.</p> <p>The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB2-WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.</p> <p>The land within the Cable route Corridor WB2-WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however, benefit from the significantly enhanced planting that would create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 crosses the landscape between the WB2 and WB3 Sites. The installation of the panels retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. The construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

The medieval village of Ingleby is located towards the centre of the Site to the east of Sturton Road. Ingleby Hall and Ingleby Grange now occupy the land the village once sat upon. The Site is divided by Sturton Road which cuts through the centre of the Site in a north south direction. Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north of centre and Ingleby Grange to the south of centre.

Key Features:

Within the Study Area, the countryside is crossed by local rural lanes, with Sturton Road being the most prominent locally.

The Sheffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line across the countryside to the west of the Site. The medieval village of Ingleby is located towards the centre of the Site to the east of Sturton Road. Ingleby Hall and Ingleby Grange now occupy the land the village once sat upon.

The Site is divided by Sturton Road which cuts through the centre of the Site in a north south direction. Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north of centre and Ingleby Grange to the south of centre.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>In the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, the B1241 crosses the flat farmland and travels through the Site in a north/west direction. Large power cables cross the farmland near to the Site and links with West Burton Power Station.</p> <p>There is sparse, scattered settlement across the area, and as a result, limited infrastructure within the landscape. The susceptibility of the Communications and Infrastructure for the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site is conditioned by the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor tracks, lanes and farm roads that are bordered by wide verges. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scope to protect the character and diversity of the road networks through conservation and enhancement of the local lanes and recognition of the value that the strategic routes provide in connections across the region.</p> <p>Overall, the communications and infrastructure within Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Small wires, small roads and narrow country lanes cross the Site in an agricultural landscape with large energy infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The power and communication infrastructure that crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. The large electricity infrastructure that crosses the landscape does not interfere with this green infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes experience a flat rural landscape, country roads, and views of large electricity infrastructure,</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Large electricity infrastructure crosses the landscape and links with the large power station. This is typical of this flat arable landscape and the electricity infrastructure contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland, and the small roads, slightly detracts from the rural characteristics of the area.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Network of power infrastructure divides up the arable farmland.</p> <p>Overall, Within the Study Area, the countryside is crossed by local rural lanes, with Sturton Road being the most prominent locally.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by a lack of communication routes or presence of major roads crossing the Site or the surrounding countryside. The Site is divided by Sturton Road.</p> <p>Local lanes are bordered by isolated farmsteads and residential dwellings, often with very narrow grass verges and high hedgerows that add elements of intimacy to the routes. The sense of natural enjoyment adds to the value, which stems from the local lanes, small villages, arable fields, and the peacefulness of the landscape</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat farmland and power infrastructure linking with power stations. The B1241 is a strategic north-south minor route which links several settlements including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat farmland and electricity infrastructure. The east west travel direction between the north-south routes links the older settlements moving in a more random pattern, and which adds interest to the landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: There is a network of large electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale farmland that is prevalent in the land. Small country lanes connect the scattering settlement across the landscape. The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland, and electricity infrastructure is part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation. Main roads are significant features in the landscape with recent development concentrated along these main roads.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the cable route corridor as they facilitate construction traffic, enabling works, access etc. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Sites and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects. The integrity and tranquillity of these routes, often used for informal recreation, would be affected to some degree by increased traffic during the construction phase but this will be short term and field specific at any one time to the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the Site as they facilitate construction traffic, etc associated with the decommissioning of the array. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would have benefitted from the enhanced planting and a more robust landscape which retains the overall character of the landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 crosses the landscape between the WB2 and WB3 Sites. There will be positive changes in the communications and infrastructure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local road network. The existing character associated with these roads and local lanes of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area are predominantly grass verges, with roadside hedgerows or trees providing enclosure. Significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character and views along these road networks in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

The Site is located alongside the hamlet of Ingleby in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The hamlet is situated less than 1.5 km north of the village of Saxilby and approximately 1.5km south of the village of Sturton by Stow.

Key Features:

The Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure network is broadly defined to the north-west by the large settlement of Gainsborough (approximately 11.5km) which is Britain's most inland port and one of the main cities within the area along with Newark-on-Trent, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Grantham.

To the southeast (approximately 8km), the city of Lincoln is a prominent landmark with the Cathedral that captures the skyline in views across the area. The settlement of Saxilby is immediately to the south of the Site.

Otherwise, larger settlements are sparse to the surrounding area.

To the east, the landscape is defined by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads with the A15 (Ermine Street), which is also a Roman road, following a distinctive straight alignment along the limestone capped scarp slope. Ermine Street connects the city of Lincoln from the south as far as the Humber Estuary in the north. The B1398 (Middle Street) also passes along the scarp slope following an almost parallel alignment with Ermine Street and this historic route supports a string of smaller settlements including Burton, South Carlton, North Carlton and Scampton.

Finally, to the west, there are immense coal-fired power stations that exert a visual influence over a wide area, particularly the cooling towers that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

To the west, the A156 (Gainsborough Road) is almost true to the River Trent and passes through the settlements of Torksey, Marton, Gate Burton before reaching the large settlement of Gainsborough.

The B1241 runs north from the A57 through Saxilby and the smaller settlements of Ingleby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.

The A1500 connects the A156 in the west with the A15 on the scarp slope.

With the exception of the villages/hamlets mentioned above, the area is relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. Smaller settlements and hamlets are pocketed through the rural countryside surrounding the Sites including Broxholme, Bransby and Brampton.

The Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is located alongside, but outside of the hamlet of Ingleby in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The hamlet is situated less than 1.5 km north of the village of Saxilby and approximately 1.5km south of the village of Sturton by Stow. Sturton Road / Saxilby Road connects the settlements. The Site is located approximately 500m east of the West Burton 1 Site (Broxholme). Ingleby and Sturton Road are located on an elevated landform and sits at approximately 15m AOD.

Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north and Ingleby Grange to the south.

With the exception of the villages/hamlets mentioned above, the area is relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside.

The Site lies within the parish of Saxilby with Ingleby. Ingleby is comprised of three areas, North Ingleby, South Ingleby and Low Ingleby.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The economic driver for the settlements north of Saxilby is arable farming, and this is illustrated by the large-scale, flat, rectangular parcels of arable land, isolated farmsteads, and a network of farm tracks.</p> <p>For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other industry and commerce and a limited amount of leisure. Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.</p> <p>This landscape has some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor farm tracks. The edges of the villages, the sequence of views to the churches and the avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms are also sensitive features. The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic.</p> <p>Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small, narrow country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The small narrow country lanes provide a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall. The Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is located alongside, but outside of the hamlet of Ingleby in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The hamlet is situated less than 1.5 km north of the village of Saxilby and approximately 1.5km south of the village of Sturton by Stow. Sturton Road / Saxilby Road connects the settlements. Ingleby and Sturton Road are located on an elevated landform and sits at approximately 15m AOD.</p> <p>Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby. Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north and Ingleby Grange to the south.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the area, outside of the settlement of Saxilby to the south, being relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The landscape is influenced by the sparsely populated flat arable farmland. The string of small, nucleated settlements on the limestone capped scarp slope add to the sequence of views and help define the settled character of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable and scattered sparsely populated settlement. There is little commerce or economic activity other than agriculture. The farmsteads and dwellings add a positive character to the local network where there are associated heritage features.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland prevalent in the landscape, and a sparsely populated scattered settlement, contribute to the value of the countryside within the site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The sparsely populated, flat large-scale arable farmland forms part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There would be some short term disruption to within and alongside the cable route corridor to facilitate construction traffic, enabling works, access etc. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site, the construction and installation of the solar array would bring an alternative to the arable farmland which is prevalent in the area.</p> <p>The solar array within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would have benefitted from the enhanced planting and a more robust landscape which retains the overall character of the landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 crosses the landscape between the WB2 and WB3 Sites.</p> <p>There will be positive changes to the settlements, industry, commerce and leisure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local settlements and their approaches, and particularly in the context of the church spires. The existing landscape character associated with the outer edges of these settlements of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area is predominantly woodland and tree cover around the margins and the change to grassland with scattered trees and a significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

There are no PRow across the Site.

Key Features:

The PRow network is mainly restricted to routes that generally follow the pattern of watercourses, tracks, and woodlands across the area. The PRow network is mainly aligned along field boundaries connecting with the local road network and to nearby settlements and farmsteads across the area. The network is generally intermittent because there are few landscape features to help form continuous links. The footpath network is particularly sporadic in the landscape due to these inconsistent links, the local lanes are used to supplement for recreation and the lack of connectivity. The routes mainly follow an east-west and north-south direction to reflect the prevailing landscape pattern and to connect the local lanes with nearby settlements.

In closest proximity are the Public Footpaths Brox/198/1 and Brox/197/1, located about 700m east of the Site.
Public Footpaths Saxi/203/1, Saxi/207/1 and Saxi/208/1, are all located approximately 700m to the south of the Site.

Assessment of Sensitivity - PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>No Public Rights of Way (PRoW) cross the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site, and there is limited PRoW through the immediate countryside surroundings.</p> <p>The wider PRoW network surrounding the Site provides access to the wider countryside.</p> <p>Overall, the PRoW network in the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site has a low susceptibility to change. The susceptibility of the Public Rights of Way and Access for the Site is conditioned by the limited network of footpaths and bridleways and the availability of the rural roads and minor tracks for extended access. The relevant characteristics therefore have some scope to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. There is however scope to increase recreation opportunities including where there are natural features and historical elements to draw interest from residents and tourists.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Views of flat, large-scale arable landscape and settlement.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW cross the Cable Route Corridor, and a limited number in the surrounding area. A network of small country lanes connects the sparse settlement within the surrounding area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: No PRoW in the surrounding area provides poor access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: A sparse and scattered settled landscape with a poor PRoW network creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no PRoW across the Cable Route Corridor and the surrounding area is lacking routes or connections limiting public access. However, where the minor roads and tracks have legitimate access for recreation there is scope for providing improvements.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site, the judgement on value (Medium) is shaped by the lack of public access across this area of countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the surrounding area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and space and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. There are no PRoW footpaths within or surrounding the Site.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The countryside within and surrounding the Site has poor public access other than small narrow country lanes.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. The Site has poor public access. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There is no PRow within or crossing the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>	<p>There is no PRow within or crossing the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>	<p>There is no PRow within or crossing the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>	<p>There is no PRow within or crossing the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3, crosses the landscape between the WB2 and WB3 Sites. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

West Lindsey District contains a local landscape designation, the West Lindsey Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) which comprises different and disparate parts. These different parts are not named, therefore for clarity, in the descriptions below the areas are named as follows (and shown on **Figure 8.6 Landscape Receptors**):

- AGLV1 – The Ridge
- AGLV2 – Gainsborough
- AGLV3 – Laughton Wood

The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV. The Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) 1 in West Lindsey District is located approximately 3.6km east of the Site.

Key Features:

AGLV1 The Ridge: This is centered on the landscape associated with the distinct landform ridge extending north from South Carlton to the east of the Site.

The adjoining escarpment of the Lincolnshire Edge defines this low-lying landscape to the east, and this is an important landscape feature in the landscape to the east of the Site.

The landscape mainly comprises of open arable and pastoral farmland with good hedgerow boundaries.

The scarp slope then supports woodlands that appear as a distinctive feature and help define landscape pattern.

There are also further woodlands lining the scarp slopes and surrounding the small settlements that. The landscape is crossed by minor roads and those that descend from the ridge-top route of the B1398 as steep lanes where valuable views can be experienced over the Till Vale.

Views west from the top of the scarp slope across the low lying landscape towards the River Trent are a key feature and views from the junction with the A1500 Roman road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. The views from this location show the transition within the landscape from the trees and woodlands enclosing the string of historic springline villages at the foot of the slope. Village entrances are secluded and narrow at the top of the scarp slope.

The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.

AGLV1 in West Lindsey District is located approximately 3.6km east of the Site.

AGLV1 forms a 20km fringe running north to south from Grayingham village at B1205 in the north and ends in South Carton.

AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.

Assessment of Sensitivity - National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.</p> <p>AGLV1 is located approximately 3.6km east of the Site. AGLV1 forms a 20km fringe running north to south from Grayingham village at B1205 in the north to South Carton.</p> <p>AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.</p> <p>The susceptibility of the National and Local Designations for the WB1 Site is conditioned by the striking differences across the varying elements of the AGLV and how these can be appreciated across the landscape. There is an opportunity to use landscape mitigation to build upon these differences and bolster this landscape diversity. The AGLV therefore have a limited susceptibility to accommodate change without undue adverse effects. There is, however, robust hedgerows with smaller fields and many trees in these locations that assist with mitigation.</p> <p>Overall, the National and Locally Designated Landscapes network in the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms expansive countryside views. There are striking variations in character and scenic appeal across the differing AGLV, and this diversity is a key element of value. The main feature is how the narrow landscape band of the ridge landscape contrasts with the wider Till Vale and the wide-ranging panoramic views available from within it of the wider flat arable landscape to the west.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The AGLV provides a culture of 'soft tourism', in the form of walking, cycling, and boating and short breaks and this is a key aspect of this strategy. The villages at the foot of the scarp slope benefit from attractive settings due to the presence of woodland cover associated with the historic halls and associated parklands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside. There is little direct linkage between the settlements to the east at the lower level of the scarp, and so the B1398 as the ridge-top road provides the key linkage and dips down to the bottom of the scarp in this location linking villages</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. There is a strong relationship between landscape character and settlement where many villages derive their sense of place from distinctive views, local landmarks, and features around their edges.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside. The district has relatively few tourist 'attractions' and many visitors just simply enjoy the scenic drives, including the historic churches, the Till Vale, and the Lincolnshire Cliff.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV. The Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) 1 in West Lindsey District is located approximately 3.6km east of the Site. AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln. For the West Burton 2 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of any designation across the Site itself, but in recognition of the elevated nature and intervisibility with the Ridge AGLV to the east.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The scarp and cliff form a notable element in the landscape to the east.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages within AGLV1 and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change. The countryside is open flat arable farmland. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	During construction, underground power cables linking the WB2 Site and the WB3 Site would require the excavation of earthworks. For the short period of time whilst the Cable Route Corridor was under construction there may be some very minor appreciation of these activities from locations on the Ridge. However, if possible, these would be minor and not impact on the setting or character of the AGLV.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape, and views of the countryside would be retained, maintaining the setting of the AGLV.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape, and views of the countryside would be retained, maintaining the setting of the AGLV.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape, and views of the countryside would be retained, maintaining the setting of the AGLV.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3 Site, crosses the landscape between the WB2 and WB3 Sites. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape retaining the setting of the AGLV.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within a Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

The Deserted village of North Ingleby (List Entry Number: 1003570) is located on Sturton Road in the middle of, but outside of the WB2 Site.

The Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park, Stow Park (List Entry Number: 1019229), is located adjacent to the WB3 Site. (Refer to **Figure 8.6: Landscape Receptors**).

The Cable Route Corridor passes along the southern tip of the wider Scheduled Monument designation alongside WB3 before turning north alongside the railway line.

Key Features:

There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Cable Route Corridor.

There are no Listed Buildings on the Cable Route Corridor.

The Cable Route Corridor is not located within a Conservation Area.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Cable Route Corridor.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 itself however, but the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park is located in the adjacent Stow Park.</p> <p>There are a number of Scheduled Monuments within the area.</p> <p>There are no Listed Buildings on the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3. The Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is not located within or near Conservation Area or Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p>Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 have a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park is located in the adjacent Stow Park.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Limited PRoW's in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Limited PRoW's in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Scheduled Monuments on the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 itself however, the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park, Stow Park (List Entry Number: 1019229), is located immediately adjacent to the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3. The designations are however wholly outside of the proposed development area but enclosed by it. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is not located within a Conservation Area or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 or within 2km of the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.</p> <p>For the West Burton 3 Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3, the judgement on value (high) is shaped by the immediate proximity to the Scheduled Monuments.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in this landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside, and the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the area have not become degraded.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside has little man-made interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	High	Low - Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	During construction, underground power cables linking the WB2 Site and the WB3 Site would require the excavation of earthworks. For the short period of time whilst the Cable Route Corridor was under construction there maybe some very minor appreciation of these activities locally but would not directly interfere with the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens surrounding the Site.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3 Site, crosses the landscape between the WB2 and WB3 Sites. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]**.

Natural Designations include National Parks and AONBs. In addition to these there are further national and international statutory environmental designations which contribute to England's natural environment and make a major contribution to national and regional character. These include the following:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Ramsar Sites
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site have a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Limited PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site. There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site. For the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of designations across the Site or locally.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in this landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no areas of ancient woodland or Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3 Site, crosses the landscape between the WB2 and WB3 Sites. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

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- 8.2.6.3 Individual Land Use Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
- 8.2.6.4 Individual Topography and Watercourses Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
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Yellow highlight indicates potential significant effects may be identified during final assessment process on landscape receptor.	
National Character Area (NCA) / Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT) Scoping Table	Cable Route Corridor WB3 to WB Power Station 500m Study Area
NCA Profile: 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales (NE429)	/
A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains. The mature, powerful River Trent flows north through the full length of the area, meandering across its broad flood plain and continuing to influence the physical and human geography of the area as it has done for thousands of years.	/
The bedrock geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.	
Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops. While much pasture has been converted to arable use over the years, grazing is still significant in places, such as along the Trent and around settlements.	/
A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.	/
Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.	/
Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent flood plain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.	
Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.	
A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.	/
Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert a visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them. The same applies to the gas-fired power station and sugar beet factory near Newark, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.	
NCA Profile: 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (NE554)	
Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.	
Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.	
Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.	
Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber, and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.	
Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.	
Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.	
Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.	
Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.	
Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street; sparse on higher land, with springline villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.	
Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.	
Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-coloured limestone with dark brown pantiles.	
Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.	
RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys (East Midlands)	/
Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;	/
River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;	/
Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;	/
Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;	/
Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;	/
Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;	/
Limited settlement and development in rural areas;	/
Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;	/
Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and	/
Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.	/
RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales (East Midlands)	/
Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.	/
Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.	/
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.	/
Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.	/
Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result.	/
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.	/
Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fieldscapes evident in areas of arable reversion.	/
Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.	/
RLCT Profile: 4b Wooded Vales	
Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type.	
Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover.	
Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment.	
Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat.	
Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations.	
Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping.	
Irregular shaped assorted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas.	
Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.	
RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes	
Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment.	
Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope.	
Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology.	
Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries.	
Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland.	
Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.	

LLCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley (West Lindsey)	/
Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.	/
Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape.	/
River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.	/
Historic parkland landscape including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle.	/
Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main road, bypassing original village centres.	/
Views towards the west are dominated by the power stations along the River Trent.	/
LLCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale (West Lindsey)	/
Agricultural landscape with large, flat open fields.	/
Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.	/
Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelter belts	/
Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.	/
String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating grounds along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.	/
Large farm buildings and individual farmhouse on flatter land to the east.	/
Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.	/
Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'.	/
LLCA Profile: 4 The Cliff (West Lindsey)	/
Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.	/
Diverse patterns of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.	/
Springline villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.	/
Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.	/
Pond and lakes along the springline.	/
BLCA Policy Zones MNPZ 05 Leverton	/
Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.	/
A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.	/
Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.	/
Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.	/
Isolated farmsteads.	/
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands	/
A predominantly large scale arable landscape	/
Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham	/
Views dominated by power stations and pylons	/
Well trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees	/
Less well maintained road side hedges, with trees	/
Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.	/
Limited small woodlands	/
Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines	/
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands	/
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south	/
Views are dominated by Cottam power station	/
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular	/
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	/
There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east	/
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village	/
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands	/
This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD	/
Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South	/
Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks	/
The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties	/
Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees	/
Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy	/
Watercourses are present throughout the PZ	/
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands	/
This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south	/
Views are dominated by West Burton power station	/
Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village	/
Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river	/
There are long distance views to the north and south , views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east	/
The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough , characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.	/
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands	/
Flat topography	/
A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent	/
Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses	/
Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees	/
Grass flood bank	/

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

NCA Profile 45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is broadly characterised by a ridge of Jurassic limestone running north from Lincoln to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises prominently from adjacent low-lying land, forming the Edge or Cliff, and giving panoramic views out, in particular to the west. In the north is a second, lower scarp of ironstone. In the vicinity of Scunthorpe are the Coversands, post-glacial wind-blown sands which have given rise to mosaics of heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodland, supporting rare plant and animal communities akin to the Brecklands. At the northern boundary the limestone drops below the River Humber.

Ermine Street, a key Roman route from Lincoln to a crossing point on the Humber, follows the higher, drier land of the limestone plateau. Built in Norman times, the magnificent Lincoln Cathedral occupies a commanding position on top of the Edge and is visible from far around.

Key Features:

Elevated arable landscape with a distinct limestone cliff running north-south, the scarp slope providing extensive long views out to the west.

Double scarp around Scunthorpe of ironstone, and extensive areas of wind-blown sand, the Coversands, giving rise to infertile soils supporting heathland, acid grassland and oak/birch woodlands, with rare species such as woodlark and grayling butterfly.

Underlying limestone supporting small areas of calcareous grassland.

Few watercourses on the plateau, which lies between the rivers Trent and Ancholme which flow into the Humber and is cut through in the south by the River Witham.

Productive soils on limestone plateau giving rise to a large-scale landscape of arable cultivation with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries of clipped hedges or rubble limestone, supporting birds such as grey partridge and corn bunting.

Semi-natural habitats of acid and calcareous grassland and broadleaved woodland are small and fragmented, and often associated with disused quarries.

Limited woodland cover, with patches of both broadleaves and conifers associated with infertile sandy soils, elsewhere occasional shelterbelts.

Long, straight roads and tracks, often with wide verges; Ermine Street follows the route of a key Roman north-south route.

Nucleated medieval settlement patterns following major routes, especially Ermine Street, sparse on higher land, with spring line villages along the foot of the Cliff and some estates and parklands.

Other development comprises the major settlements of Lincoln and Scunthorpe, with their prominent landmarks of the cathedral and steelworks, and several active and re-used airfields prominent on the ridgetop.

Vernacular architecture and walling, especially in villages, of local warm-colored limestone with dark brown pantiles.

Several ground features, especially on the plateau, include prehistoric burial mounds, Roman artefacts and abandoned medieval villages.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Edge, an escarpment formed of Jurassic limestones combined with an escarpment of Lower Jurassic mudstones, rises prominently from the low-lying farmland in the Humberhead Levels and Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Areas (NCAs) to the west, giving rise to impressive long-distance views. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River. The outcrop of limestone forming the Edge extends south into the Southern Lincolnshire Edge NCA, bisected by the River Witham at Lincoln, and giving rise to a similar landscape of good-quality agricultural land. Lincoln Cathedral, built on top of the Edge above the Witham Gap, is a prominent landmark from miles around.</p> <p>The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area, from Whitton on the Humber Estuary in the north to Lincoln in the south. To the east of Scunthorpe a second scarp of calcareous mudstones and siltstones, including ironstone, forms the western margin of the north part of the NCA. These slopes rise prominently from the flat cultivated lands of the Humberhead Levels and the Trent and Belvoir Vales, forming a distinct wooded edge to these areas. From the top of the Cliff there are impressive panoramic views out over the Humber Estuary, the Levels and the Vales.</p> <p>This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. Fields are typically large and rectilinear with gappy clipped hedgerows, or rubble limestone in places. Field sizes tend to be smaller around the villages. The dispersed farmsteads are typically large, with courtyard arrangements of barns and sheds that have developed over time, often overshadowing the original stone farmhouse. Copses of mixed-species trees provide some shelter. In places the limestone comes close to the surface, giving rise to small areas of calcareous grassland, which can also be found in a number of disused limestone quarries.</p> <p>The area is punctuated by a number of prominent features, from the massive steelworks at Scunthorpe and the hangars of military airfields along the top of the Edge, to the distinctive and prominent cathedral in Lincoln, standing high up on the Edge overlooking the Witham Gap, where the river cuts through the limestone. On the plateau top, some airfields have been put to new uses, and large buildings constructed for grain storage, light industry, warehousing and retail and communications masts are often very prominent out on the flat open land of the limestone plateau. Several farms now have large rectilinear reservoirs to provide for irrigation of crops on the light soils of the plateau.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Lincolnshire Edge is a long, prominent ridge, running from Grantham to the Humber Estuary. The scarp slope rises sharply from low-lying land to the west, while the dip slope drops gently to the Ancholme Valley in the east. In the northern part of the NCA this forms a very distinct secondary scarp, overlooking the River Trent as it draws close below Alkborough.</p> <p>Cultural: There is widespread evidence of early settlement along the Edge, including prehistoric burial mounds and linear boundary features. The legacy of the Romans is more visible, particularly the roads that converge on the fort and later colonia at Lincoln. Ermine Street runs north-south along the full length of the NCA. The historic evidence that is most visible is that of the Roman period, with the network of long, straight roads, in particular Ermine Street which links the settlement of Lincoln with the crossing point of the Humber. Other features include the cathedral in Lincoln built by the Normans, deserted medieval villages and, more recently, military airfields and the steelworks that tower above Scunthorpe. There is scope for protecting these features and providing interpretation to bring them to the attention of a wider audience.</p> <p>Natural: The Coversands support important mosaics of heathland, akin to those of Breckland, as well as dry acid grassland and oak/birch woodland.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited, and there is scope for improving access for walkers, cyclists and horse riders, especially providing links between urban areas and the countryside.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: While a predominantly arable landscape, it has many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff), the varied habitats of the Coversands, the prominent steelworks at Scunthorpe, historic villages, the airfields and inspirational long-distance views, especially out to the west. In the south is the city of Lincoln with its rich history and inspirational views to and from the cathedral. There is scope for strengthening the fabric of the landscape and for managing further development.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Ironstone Walk and the woodlands and heaths of the Coversands provide access for quiet recreation in the Scunthorpe area, as do some restored extraction sites, such as at Messingham. However, elsewhere accessible areas and footpath networks are limited.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Lincolnshire Edge is a distinctive limestone scarp or 'Cliff' running down the length of the area. This is a predominantly large-scale arable landscape with occasional shallow dry valleys. To the east the dip slope drops away to the clays of the Central Lincolnshire Vale NCA, with a number of spring-fed small rivers draining into the heavily modified Ancholme River.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA45: Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands is shaped by the predominantly arable landscape, with many distinctive features including the scarp slope (the Cliff) and the varied habitats of the Coversands.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – National Scale Landscape Character – 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Landscape Character at the national level is identified by Natural England on the England-wide mapping and identifies that the West Burton Sites are located within National Character Area (NCA) profile 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.4]**.

NCA48 extends across all of the 2km and the majority of the wider 5km Study Area apart from the eastern most edge of the 5km Study Area where it shares a boundary with NCA45 Northern Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands.

National Character Areas and are at a large scale, cover a large geographic area of land and typically provide context only, as opposed to being a receptor to be assessed. As agreed through consultation through workshops with Lincolnshire County Council NCAs have been scoped out.

The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland cover, the NCA offers long, open views. Newark-on-Trent (generally referred to as Newark) lies at the centre with Grantham, Nottingham, Lincoln and Gainsborough on the peripheries. The area's generally fertile soils and good quality agricultural land have supported a diversity of farming over a long period but, because of this, little semi-natural habitat remains. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain provide a strong feature running through the landscape. It is the greatest biodiversity resource, being a major corridor for wildlife moving through the area and supporting a variety of wetland habitats. It also provides flood storage as well as large amounts of cooling water for local power stations.

Key Features:

A gently undulating and low-lying landform in the main, with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys, vales and flood plains.

The bedrock of geology of Triassic and Jurassic mudstones has given rise to fertile clayey soils across much of the area, while extensive deposits of alluvium and sand and gravel have given rise to a wider variety of soils, especially in the flood plains and over much of the eastern part of the NCA.

Agriculture is the dominant land use, with most farmland being used for growing cereals, oilseeds and other arable crops.

A regular pattern of medium to large fields enclosed by hawthorn hedgerows, and ditches in low-lying areas, dominates the landscape.

Very little semi-natural habitat remains across the area; however, areas of flood plain grazing marsh are still found in places along the Trent.

Extraction of sand and gravel deposits continues within the Trent floodplain and the area to the west of Lincoln. Many former sites of extraction have been flooded, introducing new waterbodies and new wetland habitats to the landscape.

Extensive use of red bricks and pantiles in the 19th century has contributed to the consistent character of traditional architecture within villages and farmsteads across the area. Stone hewn from harder courses within the mudstones, along with stone from neighbouring areas, also feature as building materials, especially in the churches.

A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46.

Immense coal-fired power stations in the north exert visual influence over a wide area, not just because of their structures but also the plumes that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent and Belvoir Vales offer a gently undulating and low-lying landform with low ridges dividing shallow, broad river valleys and flood plains. The landscape follows a strong north-south pattern due to the orientation of the underlying Triassic and Jurassic geology. Woodland cover is low. On the higher ground west of the Trent, small broadleaved, ancient semi-natural woodlands of oak and ash are frequently found, often as narrow strips alongside incised watercourses.</p> <p>Most of the area contains productive farmland, the majority of which is used for commercial arable production while grazing land for sheep, cattle and horses is locally significant in places. The sandy soils west of Lincoln have low natural fertility, but with fertiliser inputs these also provide very useful farmland, particularly for root crop production. Because of the value of the land for agriculture, the area has retained little semi-natural habitat. What remnants survive include flood plain grazing marsh such as The Holmes near Sutton on Trent, lowland meadows and some small areas of heathland, for example on the windblown sand deposits north of Collingham. Throughout the area, broadleaved woodlands, copses and the networks of hedgerows provide important habitats for farmland species.</p> <p>The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Throughout, hedgerow trees are few and limited to oak and ash, with willow along watercourses. In the east, hedgerows become fewer and the division of fields by dykes becomes more common, giving the landscape a fen-like character.</p> <p>The flood plains are distinctive features, especially that of the Trent; however, the rivers themselves are not visually prominent in the wider landscape and are often completely hidden from view by levees. They flow largely unnoticed, marked only by a fringe of scattered trees and riparian vegetation. The Trent is in its mature form as it meanders slowly but powerfully through the area. For ease of navigation and flood prevention, the channel has been deepened and, particularly in its lower reaches, tightly confined by levees. The Trent and its flood plain act as a major corridor for wildlife through the area and provide a variety of wetland habitats.</p> <p>The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them. Building styles vary but are unified in rural areas by red brick and pantiles.</p> <p>Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power</p>	<p>Scenic: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.</p> <p>Cultural: The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact. Medieval ridge-and-furrow cultivation features can still be seen on land uncultivated since. At Laxton the medieval open field system of farming has been retained to the present day. Enclosure and reorganisation of the landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries is seen in the regular shaped fields bounded by hawthorn hedgerows and the red brick and pantile building style of farmsteads and villages. Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires are prominent historical landmarks in the landscape.</p> <p>Natural: A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns of Newark and Grantham, the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln, the major roads connecting them and the cross-country dual carriageways of the A1 and A46. The pattern of field enclosure, bounded almost invariably with hawthorn hedgerows, plays an important part in creating the character of the Trent and Belvoir Vales NCA. Ancient hedgerows are still evident in many places, often as sinuous belts of trees and shrubs, occasionally defining ancient parish boundaries. The Vale of Belvoir has seen a steady decline in permanent pasture and conversion to arable uses. Increases in horse ownership across the NCA have led to some permanent pasture being used as horse paddocks. There has been pig and poultry unit expansion and upgrade across the NCA.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: Recreation is provided by numerous small country lanes and public rights of way, especially along the Trent corridor, including the Trent Valley Way. It is also provided by country parks such as Cotgrave and Hartsholme. The restoration of the numerous disused sand and gravel extraction sites to wetlands, along with the River Trent and the Fossdyke Navigation, provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for boating, water sports, fishing, walking and experiencing wildlife.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Higher ground defines the edges of the NCA from where there are extensive views across the vales. The powerful River Trent and its flood plain is a major feature running through the landscape. Villages are unified by the dominant rural vernacular style of red brick and pantile. The main settlements have strong associations with the area. Distinctive landmarks include Lincoln Cathedral, Belvoir Castle, Bottesford and Newark church spires and the power stations on the Trent.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: PRow are often limited and lacking wider connectivity, with a reliance on the local rural road network. Greater access is provided alongside the River Trent. The Trent is the main river of this NCA, providing a functional, recreational and environmental link with the NCAs upstream and downstream through which it flows.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The Trent and Belvoir Vales National Character Area (NCA) is characterised by undulating, strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland, centred on the River Trent. A low-lying rural landscape with relatively little woodland</p>	<p>Character: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.</p> <p>Quality: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.</p> <p>Value: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, small hamlets and larger Market Towns. The medieval settlement pattern of small compact villages and larger market towns remains broadly intact.</p> <p>Capacity: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>

<p>lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works and active sand and gravel extraction sites.</p> <p>Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects.</p>	<p>cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The settlement pattern is characterised by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads linked by a network of small, quiet country lanes, contrasting with the busy market towns and cities and the major roads that connect them.</p> <p>Overall, the value of the NCA48: Trent and Belvoir Vales is shaped by the strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland centred on the River Trent.</p>	
<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4b: Wooded Vales (Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The sparsely settled Wooded Vales Landscape Character Type generally occurs in north Lincolnshire and lies within the much broader and extensive Unwooded Vales. Whilst various underlying bedrock geologies can be identified, extensive superficial deposits of till and cover sand create a softly undulating landscape. The Wooded Vales generally has a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. High levels of woodland cover are in evidence when compared to the Unwooded Vales and add to local distinctiveness and provide a coherent and recognizable character and strong identity. Woodlands and localised variations in landform also foreshorten views and obstruct wide panoramas to create a more intimate scale landscape than is experienced in the Unwooded Vales. However, uninterrupted panoramic views across farmland are possible, albeit with woodlands often forming a dark backdrop or feature on the horizon.

The Wooded Vales landscape is generally characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well maintained hedgerows, sometimes marking ancient asserts. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands. Sizable areas of sandy heathland are also evident on areas of cover sand, although some have been extensively forested with conifers. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their course can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat, wet woodland and riverside trees. The vast majority of the Wooded Vales retains a historic, deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland and linked by narrow winding lanes and roads.

Key Features:

- Gently undulating landform formed over soft mudstone and clay geology, sharing many characteristics with the wider Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type;
- Deposits of superficial geology, particularly cover sands and till influences local land use and semi-natural habitat cover;
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence; elevated landform fringing vales give broad sense of containment;
- Numerous watercourses flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitat;
- Relatively high levels of woodland cover, with notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland along outer fringes of parishes and large coniferous plantations;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping;
- Irregular shaped assarted fields marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, juxtaposed with regular pattern of medium sized fields associated with enclosure of land, with low and generally well maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas;
- Open, modern fieldscapes created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The sparsely settled landscape of the Wooded Vales has seen relatively little urban growth, although some expansion and in-fill development is noted in larger settlements, such as Market Rasen, Horncastle and Wragby. This can erode architectural and historic character, whilst creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. Agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation are resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. This contributes to a more homogenous landscape, and the effect is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Woodland is a significant component of this landscape, and new woodland planting would be generally appropriate, increasing the overall woodland coverage in the region. However, the landform of the Wooded Vales is typically low and extensive panoramas are possible, often framed by larger areas of woodland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Wooded Vales aims to promote new woodland planting as this is a significant component of the landscape. The aim should be to also protect the distinctive character of the settlements and consider the visual impact of any new development. The restoration of hedgerows should also be given priority to strengthen the field pattern and enhance linkages between woodlands. The impact on the setting of village churches is also particularly important as these are distinctive local landmarks. There are regular patterns of enclosure and modern arable fields where hedgerows have been removed, but due to the abundance of large woodland blocks this helps reinforce a sense of enclosure.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Wooded Vales is conditioned by several key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the agricultural intensification and farm amalgamation that is resulting in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including traditional patterns of field boundaries, remnants of ridge and furrow, and grasslands. The loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages that is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Wooded Vales appeal to the visual senses with extensive access to a variety of footpaths often framed by these large areas of woodland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of small villages, hamlets, and farms but they are scarcely distributed within the landscape. This includes settlement of Knaith Park which falls within the Area of Greater Landscape Value (AGLV).</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: to the north of Gainsborough and towards the villages of Blyton and Laughton, there are large areas of ancient and species-rich native woodland juxtaposed with regular blocks of coniferous plantations. Sizable areas of water bodies are also notable within the wider character area with wet woodland sites characterised by native broadleaved species and affording SSSI status.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a ‘strong sense of place’ endorsed by the strong woodland character, with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness, notably within the central wooded parts.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Wooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRoW within the wider landscape, but this is more than compensated for within Laughton Woods, which is the main focus for recreation.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landscape benefits from the woodland areas that occupy the northern part of the area, but also extend south towards Gainsborough and East Stockwith and include Owlet Plantation.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4b: Wooded Vales the value (high) is shaped by the sparsely settled landscape that has seen relatively little urban growth. The landscape is characterised by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of well-maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture. Whilst agricultural improvement has created large tracts of productive farmland, significant areas remain thickly wooded with ancient broadleaved woodlands and planted ancient woodlands.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Areas have a positive character, but the loss of grazing fields around the edges of villages is leading to a more homogenous landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Mature vegetation is characteristic that occupies the northern part of the area with some areas retaining a sense of tranquility and remoteness.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The Wooded Vales are valued for recreation which are focused on the woodland trail network that crosses Laughton Woods, Laughton Forest, Scotton Common Nature Reserve and Green Howe Pond.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There would be a lower landscape tolerance and scope for landscape change due to the presence of extensive woodland that has seen relatively little settlement intervention.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes (Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB Power Station is identified as being within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales

RLCT Profile: 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB Power Station, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes Landscape Character Type is part of the Jurassic limestone belt that runs from Dorset to the Humber. It is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, both in its physical structure, large scale arable land uses and the character of many of the stone built villages along the lower scarp slopes. However, in contrast to elsewhere with areas of similar geology, locally occurring heathland on thinning limestone created a unique character up until agricultural improvement in the 19th century.

The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighboring vale. To the east of the scarp extends a gently undulating and tilted limestone dip slope that merges with the adjacent fenland and marshland fringes of eastern Lincolnshire. It is thought that the landscape has remained largely devoid of trees since the prehistoric period. Whilst it is assumed that the landscape was farmed from at least the Neolithic, place names and occasional indicator species provide clues to the marginal and heathy character of the landscape prior to agricultural improvement.

The consistent alignment of the edge has created a strong sense of linearity, further emphasized by ancient transportation routes. Ermine Street was created in Roman times to link London to York and possibly consolidated much more ancient trackways running along the top of the edge. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that adds to the geometric character of the dip slope landscape.

Despite evidence of long established settlement and exploitation, the dip slope retains a modern and sometimes declining character, largely as a result of intensive arable production and poor boundary maintenance.

However, the edge and scarp villages continue to retain a more intricate and intact historic character.

Key Features:

- Limestone escarpment and dip-slope with strong north south alignment;
- Diverse patterns of land use and regular spring line settlements along scarp in contrast to the more open and exposed dip slope;
- Limestone villages retain strong historic character, and provide strong link to the nature of the underlying geology;
- Ermine Street forms a significant feature of the landscape, and continues to dictate landscape patterns and boundaries;
- Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland; and
- Evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosure roads are distinctive landscape features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes; however, these are under threat from lack of management and inappropriate planting.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes is conditioned by the escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, that rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes appeal to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Scarps and Dipslopes are valued for recreation which often focuses on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes the value (high) is shaped by the Jurassic limestone belt that is reminiscent of the Cotswolds, particularly in terms of the large-scale arable land uses. The escarpment, known locally as the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff, rises above the Trent Vale and forms a prominent and distinctive landscape feature and backdrop to views eastwards from the neighbouring vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley and within BLC's: MNPZ 05 Leverton, TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands, TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands and TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

This is an agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields and strong rural Character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominantly hawthorn; they are kept low and have few hedgerow trees. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fosdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation.

The area is crossed by three east-west. main roads; the A631 to Gainsborough in the north, the A1500 Roman road near Sturton by Stow and the A57 alongside the Fosdyke in the south. There is also an important north-south route, the B1241, which links a number of settlements, including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow. It continues northwards as a minor road, linking a further string of small, nucleated settlements, such as Upton, Springthorpe and Corringham. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting, but the sequence of views to village churches from the B1241 and other smaller lanes is particularly important. A number of windmills, some without sails, are similar landmarks in the landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features.

Some of the villages in the far north of the area, such as Pilham and Aisby, are very small, although archaeological evidence suggests they may once have been larger. By contrast, the larger villages of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow have expanded rapidly as a result of their proximity to Lincoln. There is also some warehouse and light industrial development in this southern area, between the A57 and the railway, and a major transmission line crosses the landscape. To the east, on the flatter land, there are some individual farmhouses and other large farm buildings, often with associated tree planting. Here there are some other interesting features, such as nodding donkeys at the oil well near Glentworth, and a number of above-ground reservoirs. The minor roads that lead across this flatter area to the Lincoln 'Cliff' exhibit the typical form of ancient enclosure roads; they are generally straight, with wide verges, a ditch and hedgerow.

This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Cliff' throughout the southern part of the area.

Key Features:

- Agricultural landscape with large, flat, open fields.
- Some fields have low hawthorn hedgerows, with few hedgerow trees.
- Small blocks of mixed woodland and shelterbelts.
- Extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches, which have little visual presence in the landscape.
- String of small nucleated settlements on higher undulating ground along a minor north south route; sequence of views to landmark churches.
- Large farm buildings and individual farmhouses on flatter land to the east.
- Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.
- Long westward views to the power station on the River Trent, and eastward views to the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff'

Landscape Sensitivity:

This agricultural landscape is sensitive to changes in European Commission agricultural policy and its influence on farming practice. Some villages retain evidence of medieval settlement (earth works and cropmarks) and may once have been considerably larger. There is pressure for built development in villages within commuting distance of Lincoln and for the development of above-ground reservoirs within the open farmland.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- Rural roads and minor farm tracks boarded by wide verges and hedgerows.
- Edges of villages which show evidence of medieval settlement.
- The sequence of views of village churches along the B1241.
- Avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms.
- Small woodlands - their edges are vulnerable to the impact of agricultural machinery.
- Minor streams and their associated riparian vegetation

Landscape Strategy:

- Development on the fringes of villages should be accompanied by new tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with surrounding field patterns. New planting should be native species and design to frame (not screen) views from the surrounding, expansive farmland landscape.
- The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic; new development should be sited and designed to conserve this pattern by encouraging relatively dense development in villages and conserving key tracts of open farmland between villages and adjacent outlying farms.
- Linear development should be avoided particularly on the approaches to villages, as it will lead to the erosion of the landscape setting and the distinctive sequence of views from one village church to the next.
- Entrances and approaches to the villages are particularly sensitive sites, which requires special attention. There may be opportunities for new buildings in such locations, provided they are carefully designed to reflect the small scale and dense massing of traditional village buildings and provided they are associated with groups and lines of native trees.
- The introduction of protected zones between close adjacent settlements, such as Stow and Sturton by Stow, will prevent coalescence and ensure that individual landscape settings are conserved.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- The retention of buffer zones along rivers and streams will reduce the risk of fertilizer/pesticide runoff from arable land and will enhance their nature conservation value.
- There may be scope for new tree/scrub planting (goat willow, hawthorn, alder and alder buckthorn) along rivers, streams and ditches to increase their visual presence in the landscape.
- The nature conservation value of ditches may be enhanced by cutting shallow ledges into side slopes to provide habitats for aquatic plants.
- The existing small farm woodlands and shelterbelts would benefit from management, including thinning, replanting and the development of robust, well structured edges.
- The creation of buffer zones on the fringes of the woodland blocks will help to protect the existing woodland edges from damage by agricultural machinery; subsequent woodland encroachment onto farmland can be controlled by careful tree surgery and on-going woodland management. The aim should be to conserve (or in some cases create) a diverse age structure and an intact woodland edge.
- Trees and hedgerows make an important contribution to the landscape setting of villages and their management should be a priority in these areas, as well as along rural roads.
- Heavy vehicles can erode the character of rural roads, particularly where hedgerows are removed to improve sight-lines at junctions. Hedgerows should be reinstated to accommodate the new sight-lines.
- New tree planting along approaches to villages and farms could improve the identity of the local landscape. Lines of trees are characteristic in such locations. Tree planting should be confined to hedgerows (i.e. not on verges) on all historic enclosure roads.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Till Vale is located east of Gainsborough and the Trent valley and to the West of the scarp known as the Lincoln 'Cliff'. This is an agricultural landscape with large flat open fields and a strong rural character. The hedgerow boundaries to the fields are predominately hawthorn, which are kept low, with few hedgerow trees. The landform comes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west, it becomes more open with a flatter landform towards the east.</p> <p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees.</p> <p>The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible.</p> <p>Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, within the Till Vale there should be an aspiration to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size.</p> <p>The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fossdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation. The landform becomes rolling and the landscape more enclosed by hedgerows and trees towards the west; it becomes more open with a flatter landform landscape.</p> <p>This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Till Vale is conditioned by ensuring new developments are accompanied by new native tree and hedgerow planting to integrate with the surrounding tree patterns, by ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location and reinforces approaches to villages. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: The Till Vale appeals to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east. This is a landscape of long views. To the west, the power stations on the River Trent are visible, and to the east, the scarp face of the Lincoln 'Cliff' is a prominent feature. There are distant views of Lincoln Cathedral set high on the 'Oiff' throughout the southern part of the area.</p> <p>Cultural: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p>Natural: The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Till Vale is valued for recreation which is often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of The Till Vale is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses. The River Till and its tributaries flow across this area into the Fossdyke. The extensive network of rivers, dykes and ditches have visual presence in the landscape as they are contained by high foodbanks and lack significant riparian vegetation</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Till Vale provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 3 The Till Vale the value (medium) is shaped by its strong rural character provided by the large, flat, open agricultural landscape that dominates this area. Fields tend to be smaller near to the settlements and there are more hedgerows and trees. The villages have a broad landscape setting. The settlements are generally small and scattered along this north-south line, often on slightly higher ground within the gently undulating landscape. Lines of trees such as horse chestnuts sometimes mark the driveways to larger farmhouses forming distinctive landscape features. Views to village churches from local lanes are particularly important.</p>	<p>Character: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p>Quality: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p>Value: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p>Capacity: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as being within WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale and within WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley.

The WLLCA LCA Profile: 4 The Cliff landscape character area is outside of the 0.5km Study Area for the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, and so has been scoped out.

Character Context:

The Lincoln Cliff is a straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the center of the district. It is the narrowest part of an extensive band of resistant limestone which stretches from the Humber to the South Kesteven Uplands. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. Isolated storm-damaged ash trees, which often have grotesque shapes, are characteristic features of the scarp slope.

There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton.

The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.

The villages are small and compact. Limestone is the favored building material, with brick detailing and pantile roofs. Boundary walls are generally also constructed from the local limestone. The village of Ingham has grown larger than the others, with the introduction of newer brick houses, many of which are bungalows. Despite this, the center has retained its integrity and identity, with buildings placed around an attractive village green. There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the spring line.

Key Features:

- Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.
- Diverse pattern of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.
- Spring line villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.
- Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.
- Ponds and lakes along the spring line.

Landscape Sensitivity:

A relatively small, but distinctive limestone scarp with a diverse landscape pattern; there is a transition from trees and woodlands enclosing a string of historic spring line villages at the foot of the slope to a mix of pastures and arable fields on the steep slopes. The scarp is visible from much of the Till Vale and there are long views from the ridge-top road. The villages have a range of important historic and archaeological sites and many are associated with wooded parkland landscapes.

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- diverse landscape pattern on scarp slope;
- wetlands - ponds and lakes at the spring line;

- trees and woodlands - at the foot of the escarpment;
- village entrances - narrow, secluded contrast to the ridge-top road along the skyline (Middle Street);
- historic buildings and parkland eg. Glentworth,
- village greens, mature trees, limestone walls and churches.
- pastures on western fringes of villages - provide contrast to surrounding arable land.

Landscape Strategy:

- There is relatively little scope for new development in these historic and sensitive villages; only small-scale development of individual sites and the conversion of existing buildings will be appropriate.
- The 'Cliff' villages have a secluded landscape setting, surrounded by pasture and trees; new development should not encroach on the existing small pastures on the fringes of the village and should be associated with new tree planting designed to complement the existing diverse pattern of trees.
- New development and tree planting should be carefully sited and designed to avoid compromising the views associated with the designed historic parkland landscapes which are characteristic of many of these villages.
- There is a risk that further development on the 'Cliff' villages may lead to coalescence and loss of identity.
- Entrances to the villages are particularly vulnerable to change; there may be scope for development which can enhance the existing approach, but it should be carefully sited and designed to complement the existing buildings and form a clear entrance statement.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Woodland management - including thinning, possibly coppicing, replanting and tree surgery to mature trees - to ensure these valuable landscape features are retained.
- The management of hedgerows (and hedgerow trees) on the margins of villages and particularly at their entrances will help to retain the characteristic sense of enclosure.
- There may be scope for new hedgerow planting on the western edges of villages to reinforce the contrast in character between the 'Cliff' landscape and that of the open arable farmland to the west. Any new planting should be designed to frame rather than obscure views to village churches and other buildings. Appropriate local tree species include field maple, beech, ash, oak and elm; hedgerow species include hawthorn, hazel, dog rose, blackthorn, and privet.
- This narrow landscape band has a wealth of archaeological and historical interest. All proposals to alter land uses and/or the landscape pattern should take account of the findings of historical research. Tree planting or other landscape management schemes may be designed to frame key views and enhance the setting of landscape features with historic interest.
- Wherever possible, the reversion of arable land to grazing pastures should be encouraged to conserve the diverse landscape pattern on the scarp and the striking contrast with the surrounding arable farmland. Priority should be given to the retention of existing permanent pasture.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are a number of small, quiet and secluded spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings.</p> <p>Villages are under increasing pressure from development, damaging the character and pattern of settlement. The expansion of ridgeline villages is particularly harmful due to their visually prominent locations. The aim should be to protect the character of the countryside and consider the visual impact of any new development. Specific mechanisms include planting of new trees, helping to integrate new development into the landscape and the use of best practice innovative architectural solutions and planning solutions. Roman roads and the network of enclosed roads leading to the small scarp villages are distinctive landscape features of the Cliff.</p> <p>Airfields are also a feature of the Cliff. Woodland along the scarp is a significant landscape feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. However, existing woodlands are often small and isolated, and suffer from a lack of management. The landscape is under increasing pressure from intensification of arable cultivation. This has resulted in field enlargement, removing field boundaries and creating a more open landscape. This is particularly evident on the dip slopes, where there is little existing enclosure. The aim should be to protect existing landscape features, whilst encouraging positive management of those features lost or under threat. The restoration of hedgerows and stone walls should be given priority, creating a stronger field pattern and helping to integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Cliff is formed through its prominence as a unique landscape feature that rises up to the east above the Trent Vale forming a prominent and distinctive landscape feature. The Roman roads are also a key consideration created to link London with York. Superimposed on the north south axis of the Roman road is a less dominant but nonetheless distinctive pattern of east west routes and field boundaries that add geometric character. The relevant characteristics of the landscape therefore have a moderate ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p>Scenic: There is a diverse landscape pattern along the scarp slope. There are a number of small spring line villages along the foot of the scarp, sited at the junction between the limestone and the underlying clay of the Till Vale. These villages seem quiet and secluded. They are generally accessed by steep minor lanes which descend the scarp from the ridge-top route of the B1398. There is little direct linkage by road between the villages at the lower level, except for where the B1398 dips down to the bottom of the scarp towards the south, linking villages such as Ingham, Cammeringham and Scampton. The springline villages have attractive settings at the bottom of the scarp, with many trees and smaller fields with robust hedgerow boundaries. This narrow landscape band contrasts with the wider, open landscape to the west. Some of the limestone churches are important landmarks, particularly when approached from the west, although they may be partially hidden by trees and other village buildings. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale. From here the villages of Scampton and Aisthorpe can be clearly seen nestling in trees at the bottom of the slope.</p> <p>The Cliff appeals to the visual senses where woodland along the scarp slope is a significant feature, defining the ridgeline and helping to contain settlement. Views towards Lincoln Cathedral are part of key views across the area. Scarp allows for wide ranging views west across the Till Vale.</p> <p>Cultural: There are a number of historic halls and associated parkland landscapes in this area. They include Blyborough Hall and the halls at Brattleby and Burton. There is a large landscaped lake at Fillingham, linked to the parkland landscape of Fillingham Castle at the top of the scarp. Many of the parklands include ponds and minor streams along the springline. The landscape shows evidence of Roman roads and network of enclosure roads that are distinctive features of the Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. The course of Ermine Street is an important asset. Airfields are also a feature providing a link with the wartime past and a focal point for new settlements.</p> <p>Natural: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape. In some places, the water table is close to the surface, resulting in several streams emerging close to the top of the scarp and flowing eastwards.</p> <p>Recreation and Enjoyment: The Cliff provides recreation opportunities often focused on the locations where the crests of ridges allow views across the area, in particular towards Lincoln Cathedral. The course of Ermine Street is a recreation and habitat corridor, which contributes to biodiversity and landscape character.</p> <p>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with a subtle regimented character that is reinforced by the geometric patterns of fields. The transport routes and regularity of the scarp edge villages also exert a strong geometry.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: The Cliff provides a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good. There are areas of pastoral landscapes and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character.</p> <p>Important Spatial Function: The landscape occupies an elevated position within the landscape which is prominent in views from the surrounding lowlands, forming a notable feature on the eastern horizon.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 4 The Cliff the value (high) is shaped by the prominence and contrast of The Lincoln Cliff with the surrounding flat landscape. A straight and prominent, limestone capped, scarp slope extending north-south across the centre of the district. The scarp has a diverse pattern of mixed pasture, arable fields, woodland and hedgerows and is a backdrop for views across the Till Vale. There are long views from many points along the ridge-top road. For instance, the junction of the A1500 Roman Road and the B1398 offers extensive views across the scarp and over the Till Vale.</p>	<p>Character: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.</p> <p>Quality: Areas have a positive landscape character with some elements that could be described as unique such as the views from the distinctive ridge towards the Trent floodplain.</p> <p>Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.</p> <p>Capacity: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stone-built villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.</p>
Medium	High	Medium to High

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified at its eastern most extent as being within RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales. For the majority of the length of its route it is within the RLCT Profile: 3a Floodplain Valleys landscape character area.

Character Context:

The Floodplain Valleys Landscape Character Type is found throughout the region, along the broad valleys of the Trent, Nene, Welland, Wreake, Soar and Dove, and short stretches of the Derwent and Witham. Despite occupying different parts of the region, and therefore contrasting bedrock geologies, the broad flat belts of alluvium and gravel terrace deposits flanking the river channels are a strong unifying characteristic. Historically, the floodplains would have shared common land use characteristics with a predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows and arable fields on drier gravel terraces. Whilst many stretches of permanent pasture and riverside meadows remain, increasing arable and silage production, and the influence of large urban areas and sand and gravel extraction creates significant contrasts in local landscape character. Whilst the floodplains themselves are generally devoid of settlement, the rivers and neighboring gravel terraces have been a focus for settlement for several thousands of years. As such, many areas are noted for their rich and varied archaeological deposits. The majority of the region's major towns are located adjacent to the floodplains and exert a strong but localized influence on their character. Elsewhere, the floodplains constitute some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas in the East Midlands.

Key Features:

- Deep alluvium and gravel deposits mask underlying bedrock geology to create wide, flat alluvial floodplains surrounded by rising landform of adjacent Landscape Character Types;
- River channels, often along managed courses, bordered by riparian habitat;
- Predominance of pastoral land use, with cereal growing increasing in some areas. 'Warping' areas subject to more intensive cereal growing;
- Limited woodland cover; however, steep riverside bluffs and areas close to settlement or on former gravel extraction sites notable for a higher level of woodland cover;
- Regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows or post and wire fencing, breaking down and becoming open in some areas;
- Hedgerow and riverside trees important component of landscape. Alder, Willow and Poplar are typical riverside trees;
- Limited settlement and development in rural areas;
- Sewage Treatment Works and power stations common close to larger settlements that fringe the floodplains;
- Roads and communication routes often define the outer edges of the floodplain; and
- Restoration of sand and gravel extraction sites to open water creates new character across many areas.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Development on settlement margins is damaging the character of the landscape, creating visual intrusion and extending the urban edge into the Floodplain Valleys. In particular the edges of Leicester, Nottingham and Derby, and also Northampton and Wellingborough in the Nene Valley, need to be carefully considered as these are identified Growth Points that will receive significant levels of new mixed use development in the short and longer term. Large-scale industrial developments, such as sewage treatment works and power stations are particularly prominent in this otherwise flat and open landscape.</p> <p>In response to flood risk, engineered solutions, such as concrete flood walls and embankments, have been installed in many locations along the river channels. This has resulted in the canalisation of rivers and loss of riverside vegetation, meadows and pastures, changing the natural character of the Floodplain Valleys, although historic structures can contribute to the character of the river. In some instances, the height of the defences screens the river from view, reducing the sense of openness and sense of place. There is marked evidence of agricultural intensification, accompanied by a move from pastoral towards arable farming. This has resulted in the loss or damage of many typical landscape features, including riverside meadows, which would have traditionally defined the river channels and distinguished them from the surrounding farmland.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Floodplain Valleys aims to protect the open and unsettled character of the landscape from inappropriate development and that tree planting around settlement fringes can help with integration and help contribute to the overall perception of a well treed landscape. The changes from flood risk and engineered solutions are also changing the landscape, but there is potential for landscape restoration projects to assist with mitigation of this change. The potential for river landscape to change is also a key consideration, but there is potential to introduce positive landscape interventions such as biodiversity and nature conservation initiatives.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Floodplain Valleys is conditioned by a number of key forces for change that have the potential to shape the future of the landscape. These include the impact of settlement on the edges of the river floodplain, the interventions associated with flood risk, the shifting of river channels, sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure. There are however also significant benefits to be gained from a range of landscape and biodiversity interventions such as restoration projects. The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Floodplain Valleys appeal to the visual senses in that vast stretches of the floodplain retain an intact and traditional character, despite the intrusion from sand and gravel extraction and power and energy infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such as Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths such as the Trent Valley Way Recreational Route.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 3a: Floodplain Valleys the value (medium) is shaped by the general absence of built development which enhances the quiet, rural character of the landscape, which across the wider area is only occasionally interrupted by roads crossing the river, or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Locally, however this is disrupted by the presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations. Hedgerows and rising landform fringing the floodplain enclose views and create an intimate, human scale landscape fringing the more open floodplain.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	<p>The initial section of the Cable Route Corridor from the West Burton 3 Site is shared with the Cottam Solar Project and the Gate Burton Solar Park. This allows for a combined crossing of the River Trent, minimising disturbance and construction time. The combined Cable Route Corridors separate to the south of Coates, with the Cottam and Gate Burton Cable Route Corridors turning south to connect with the Cottam Power Station.</p> <p>The West Burton Cable Route Corridor continues north to connect with the West Burton Power Station. The Cable Route Corridor would only result in effects during the construction phase of the development, where there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration. There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. Where the Cable Route Corridor crosses watercourses such as the River Trent HDD will be required.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**.

The eastern most extent of the West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located within RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales.

Character Context:

The rural Unwooded Vales Landscape Character Type within a central area of the region on a broadly north south axis, and whilst various underlying bedrock geologies exert a local influence, superficial deposits create a softly undulating landscape and consistent and recognizable character. The Vales generally have a strong sense of place, with major landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment. Within the vales, low hills and ridges are also important, foreshortening views and creating subtle relief features.

The vale landscape is generally characterized by productive mixed agriculture, set within an enclosed landscape of low, well-maintained hedgerows. Wide areas are under permanent pasture, often grazed by dairy herds. However, areas of pasture are increasingly being ploughed up for cereals and hedgerows removed to accommodate large machines. Rivers and streams are also an important landscape feature. Whilst these occupy shallow folds and are not immediately apparent in views, their courses can often be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habitat and riverside trees.

The vast majority of the Vales retain a deeply rural and tranquil character, with farms and small nucleated villages located throughout areas of productive farmland, linked by narrow winding lanes and roads. Despite low levels of woodland cover, local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts create visual containment and give the Vales landscape an intimate character. By contrast, panoramic views are possible from elevated locations albeit contained by rising land at the edges of the Vales.

Key Features:

- Extensive, low lying rural landscape underlain by Triassic and Jurassic mudstones and clays and widespread superficial deposits.
- Expansive long distance and panoramic views from higher ground at the margin of the vales gives a sense of visual containment.
- Low hills and ridges gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape.
- Complex drainage patterns of watercourses that flow within shallow undulations often flanked by pasture and riparian habitats.
- Limited woodland cover; shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater visual significance and habitat value as a result;
- Productive arable and pastoral farmland, with evidence of increasing reversion to arable cropping in recent times.
- Regular pattern of medium sized fields enclosed by low and generally well-maintained hedgerows and ditches in low lying areas; large modern fields capes evident in areas of arable reversion; and
- Sparsely settled with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes."

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The most widespread change has been agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping. This has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, an increase in field size. Although the remaining hedgerow network is generally strong, there is nevertheless evidence of decline in a number of areas, with gaps and few hedgerow trees. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Watercourses are also an important feature of the landscape, although often indiscernible. Woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate. However, limited tree planting could be used in and around settlements to integrate new development into the landscape and in more intimate low-lying areas to help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a 'well treed' landscape.</p> <p>In terms of forces for change, the Unwooded Vales aims to protect existing rural landscape features, in particular the restoration of hedgerows since the most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification and the change from pastoral to arable cropping that has resulted in the loss of hedges, and consequently, increase in field size. The loss of pasture is particularly evident around settlements, where grazing animals and smaller field sizes contribute to the setting and structure of several villages. Many of the rural villages have not seen widespread expansion but development pressures continue with the demand for housing, commerce and industry creating visual intrusion and extending the urban fringe. For development associated with the rural villages, specific mechanisms include Village Design Statements, and tree planting around settlement fringes to help integrate new development into the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of the Unwooded Vales is conditioned by managing growth, ensuring development is appropriate in terms of type, scale, and location. The flat, open landscape is also a key consideration and whilst the aim is to plan new tree planting around key settlements, woodland does not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.</p> <p>The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, and/or achievement of relevant planning policies and strategies.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The Unwooded Vales appeal to the visual senses where the roads and watercourses combine to give a subtle grain to the landscape. The bridge crossing provide local points of interest and the opportunity to capture views across the landscape to the higher landform at the Cliff fringing the Vales to the east.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms and nucleated villages and small hamlets such as Ingleby and Broxholme. The landscape surrounding these settlements retain a deeply rural and tranquil character with farms linked by minor lanes and roads. There are Roman roads that pass across the area such as Tillbridge Lane indicating that these low-lying areas provided convenient routes through the hills and wetlands.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat, rivers, streams and ditches are an important landscape feature such as the River Till where the course can be observed by tracing sinuous belts of riparian habit and riverside trees. Overall, in such a managed agricultural environment, networks of hedgerows and hedgerow trees gain significance in offering a refuge for birds and insects.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Unwooded Vales are valued for recreation which often focused on the locations where panoramic views are possible from elevated locations from rising land at the edges of the Vales. Whilst the landform of the Unwooded Vales is typically low and subdued, rising landform to the east often provides locations for more panoramic views. PRoW are often limited and not well connected.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' with the major flat landform features flanking the lower lying areas creating broad scale visual containment along the ridgeline to the east. Wide panoramic views are also possible from the low hills and ridges that form watersheds between watercourses.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The Unwooded Vales provide a very limited network of PRoW leading to the dependence on the more direct arterial routes that run east to west across the area linked by a series of narrow straight lanes. PRoW often do not connect leading to a dependency on local lanes.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: From within the low lying areas of landscape, despite the low levels of woodland cover there are levels of visual containment limiting views and appreciation of the wider countryside. Instead, the local landform, hedgerows and shelter belts often create visual containment and give the Vales Landscape an intimate character. However, where there are points of elevation, these allow for more wide ranging views across the surrounding arable countryside.</p> <p>Overall, with RLCT 4a: Unwooded Vales the value (medium) is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas retaining a strong sense of rural tranquillity. In contrast, the low levels of woodland cover create a relatively open and expansive landscape comprising an arable land use within a scattered pattern of settlement, linked by a series of minor roads east to west and a more strategic road network north to south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable cropping has resulted in loss of hedges, and consequently increase in field sizes.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage

Assessment of Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 2: Trent Valley (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as passing through:

WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley

TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands

TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands

TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands

TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands

MNPZ 05 Leverton.

The 0.5km Study area for the Cable Route Corridor also includes:

TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands.

The Cable Route Corridor passes through WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley.

Character Context:

The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain to the east and southeast of Gainsborough extends as far south as Marton. This relatively elevated land is formed by local outcrops of resistant gypsum within the rock strata. There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. These are generally hawthorn, but there are also taller mixed species hedgerows and hedgerow trees, particularly adjacent to roads.

The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton. Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape.

Gainsborough, the major settlement in this area, is located at one of the few crossing points of the River Trent. A number of main roads pass through Gainsborough and are dominant features within this character area. The A156 runs north south and the A631 east west into Gainsborough. Railways also approach Gainsborough from the north and south. South of Gainsborough, the A156 passes through a string of small settlements; Knaith, Marton and Fenton. Towards the south, the A156 branches into the A1133 where it crosses the Fosdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fosdyke is a man-made canal linking the navigable river Witham with the Trent, giving access to the Midland river system from the Wash. Today it is used primarily for recreational boating and there are some limited visitor facilities at Torksey Lock.

The area has some important historic parkland landscapes at Knaith, Gate Burton and Kettlethorpe, and the remnants of a medieval deer park to the south east of Gainsborough. There are also a number of historic landmarks in addition to those in Gainsborough itself. These are the ruins of Torksey Castle and a hall and pavilion at Gate Burton, all of which are highly visible from the A156. This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including, settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the Fosdyke.

Key Features:

- Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough.
- Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape."
- River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments.
- Historic parklands landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle
- Main roads are significant features in the landscape; recent development concentrated along the main roads, bypassing original village centres.
- Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent."

Landscape Sensitivities:

Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands. The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI."

Key visual sensitivities of the landscape:

- The higher land to the south and east of Gainsborough, which extends as far south as Marton.
- The historic parklands of Kettlethorpe, Knaith, Gate Burton and Gainsborough, together with their associated boundary earthworks.
- Ancient woodlands, such as Thurlby Wood, Houghton Wood and Wharton Wood.
- River Trent washlands, such as the Lea Marshes.
- Village entrances which are frequently marred by linear development along adjacent main roads low-lying land along the River Trent (to the west of the A156/ A1133)
- The Fosseydyke -a low lying meadow landscape with potential for recreation
- Torksey Castle, a historic landmark with an important landscape setting

Landscape Strategy:

- New development can be accommodated on the higher ridges to the south and east of Gainsborough, provided it is associated with new tree and hedgerow planting which is designed to integrate with local field patterns.
- Further linear development along the principal roads in the area would be detrimental to local landscape character.
- Entrances to settlements, abrupt road bends and junctions are particularly sensitive sites; they are the focus for local views and can easily be marred by nondescript development. New development at such locations should be designed to provide 'one-off', distinctive buildings, which reflect local building types and materials.
- Many settlements are bypassed by major roads and there is a risk that views to the village centre will be obscured by peripheral development; such key views should be identified and conserved.
- New development on the periphery of settlements should always be bounded by new or existing hedgerows and native hedgerow trees so that the buildings are visually 'anchored' within the wider landscape pattern.
- Development on the low-lying land to the west of the A156/ A1133 would be prominent and cannot easily be accommodated without detracting from the gentle transition to the open, flat farmland on the banks of the River Trent.
- New development should not impinge on views of the many important designed parkland landscapes in the area.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Sustainable management of existing woodlands by thinning, coppicing and/or replanting will ensure that these important local landscape features are conserved and enhanced; they should remain a viable landscape screen and a valuable wildlife habitat.
- Priority should be given to new woodland, shelterbelt or hedgerow planting which is designed to link existing woodlands, particularly those with semi-natural or ancient woodland status. Appropriate local species include field maple, hawthorn, ash and oak.
- Hedgerows and hedgerow trees should be managed to retain the existing landscape pattern, screen settlements and contribute to local identity.
- There is scope to improve the setting of the Fosseydyke as a recreational landscape. For instance, tree planting might be designed to draw attention to the position of the lock and there may also be opportunities for more informal tree groups along the edge of the river corridor.
- Any schemes for the management of local water tables which allow the extension of existing areas of marshland to create relatively large-scale areas of wetland would have significant visual and nature conservation value. For instance, there may be opportunities to re-create riverine woodlands on low riverside banks (left-over belts of land).
- Roads are visually dominant in this area; their influence could be improved by a landscape strategy designed to incorporate tree planting, hedgerow management and signage. This should take account of key views and the entrances to settlements which would often benefit from distinctive planting schemes.
- The landscape setting of historic parklands and built features requires careful consideration, backed by research.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Trent Valley Character area stretches from Gainsborough and its suburbs south towards Newton on Trent, with the River Trent forming a definitive western boundary. The landform is gently undulating and quite low lying, although the higher terrain in the east and south east of Gainsborough extends as far South as Marton</p> <p>There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant semi-natural ancient woodland, and good hedgerow boundaries throughout the area. The combination of tree cover and an undulating landform provides a sense of enclosure; long views are generally contained, particularly to the east of the A156 and A1133 spine roads. However, there are some views down onto this area from the high ground Gainsborough and along the higher ground along the eastern boundary near Marton.</p> <p>Further south, views to the west are dominated by the power station along River Trent and the major transmission lines leading to them. The River Trent and its sequence of washlands is enclosed by steep flood embankments and is relatively inconspicuous in the wider landscape. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.</p> <p>This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.</p> <p>Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, Woodlands country groups, giving the landscapes on capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient Woodlands.</p> <p>The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat including a small central meadow.</p> <p>Overall, the Trent Valley character area is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific proposed change, because the relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate it without undue adverse effects, taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, which is somewhat marred by the presence of the large scale power stations to the west of the river corridor.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Low-lying, gently undulating landform with higher terrain to east and south of Gainsborough. Significant blocks of deciduous woodland, good hedgerows and hedgerow trees create a relatively enclosed landscape. River Trent and its adjacent washlands are enclosed by steep flood embankments. Views towards the west are dominant by the power station along the River Trent. Views are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change. The area has some important historic parkland landscapes and some of the woodlands on the fringes of Gainsborough are valuable ancient woodlands.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The landscape shows evidence of archaeology and built heritage particularly where there are road crossings over the river or views to farms and villages on drier, more elevated land. Marton and Torksey are typical of the many settlements in the floodplain that are linear, stretching out along roads parallel to the main river channel. Historic sites include mill sites and races and canalized sections of rivers and associated locks and sluices. Historic parkland landscapes including a medieval deer park, and landmarks such as the ruins of Torksey Castle</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are extensive expanses of semi-natural habitat along the river corridor including permanent grazing land interspersed with meandering river channels fringed by riparian habitats and riverside trees. Several former mineral sites are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The River Trent washlands are also important for nature conservation and the Lea Marshes are renowned as a habitat for breeding waders. The Marshes are flooded regularly and there are pockets of valuable wet meadow habitat, including a small central meadow, which is a designated SSSI.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are valued for recreation and whilst there is a marked contrast between areas that remote, other areas close to settlements such Marton and Torksey have access to the floodplain landscape including core paths along the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The landscape has a 'strong sense of place' in that field patterns are largely geometric with the pattern breaking down in some places to create large areas of farmland.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The floodplain landscape provides facilities that are well-used and valued by local communities and visitors including for informal recreation and nature, notably for overwintering birds.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The Floodplain Valleys are host to numerous gateways established at strategic river crossings where settlement is typically located at the edge of the floodplain with riverside settlements. Marton is typically a gateway settlement with historic origins including the Grade I Listed Church of St Margaret of Antioch.</p> <p>Overall, with WLLCA LCA 2 Trent Valley the value (medium) is shaped by its gently undulating and quite low lying landform which includes the washlands along the eastern edge of the River Trent. However, a band of higher relatively elevated land runs along the eastern edge of the character area extending as far south as Marton.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Although there is an aim to protect the open character, tree planting around the edges of settlements can help with integration of built form. The presence of the large-scale Cottam and West Burton Power Stations form notable industrial elements along the western edge of the Trent.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The predominance of permanent pasture on riverside meadows constitutes some of the most remote and peaceful terrestrial lowland areas of the East Midlands. The industrial influence associated with the power stations exerts a strong but localized influence on the quality of the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since the landscape has a distinctive scenic quality and is valued by local communities and visitors for informal recreation and nature conservation, notably for overwintering birds. However, this is tempered by the industrial influence associated with the power stations.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features contribute to a sense of place and illustrate a time-depth and could for example not be replaced other than in the long term. Views across the area are generally contained by tall hedgerows, woodlands and tree groups, giving the landscape some capacity to accommodate change.</p>
Medium	Medium	Medium

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – 2: Trent Valley (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed.</p> <p>Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – 2: Trent Valley (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as passing through:

WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley

TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands

TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands

TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands

TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands

MNPZ 05 Leverton.

The 0.5km Study area for the Cable Route Corridor also includes:

TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands.

The Cable Route Corridor passes through MNPZ 05 Leverton.

Character Context:

The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Located within the Policy Zone are Sturton le Steeple, North Leverton with Habbleshorpe and South Wheatley. It wraps around but excludes West Burton Power Station in the east. A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively.

Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.

The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub. The Policy Zone also encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck.

Key Features:

- Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages.
- A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.
- Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.
- Predominantly vernacular settlement though some newer and older non-vernacular development is evident.
- Isolated farmsteads.

Landscape Analysis:

The landscape condition is good. Within the Policy Zone there is a coherent pattern of elements with few detracting features comprising the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines, high voltage power lines and pylons and a sewage works. This gives a visually unified area overall. The field pattern is partially intact, rationalization is more notable at the center where the land is under intensive arable use. A network of becks extends across the area, the water channels are flanked by vegetation which connects into hedgerow field boundaries. Most hedgerows are well maintained, where gaps occur, they have been in-filled with fencing or left. Trees are apparent in the hedgerows though some are over mature and not being replaced. Smaller areas of pasture and rough grazing surround the becks and villages, an area of parkland style pasture with individual trees is located north of South Leverton.

Settlement within the Policy Zone is predominantly traditional although both North Leverton and South Wheatley comprise a mix of vernacular buildings with both modern and older non-vernacular development, newer buildings tend to be at the village edges. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed. The overall cultural integrity is variable. Two SINC's lie within the Policy Zone and comprise areas of grassland. Tree cover is relatively low and is concentrated along watercourses and the railway embankments [younger scrub], small deciduous clumps lie near to settlement areas. Oak and ash are dominant with some willow along the watercourses. There are no significant blocks of woodland within the Policy Zone. The ecological integrity is assessed as moderate which gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity result in a good landscape condition overall.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility results in high landscape sensitivity overall.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve historic field pattern, maintaining existing watercourses/hedgerows including ancient hedgerows, restoring and reinforcing where necessary, create new hedgerows to replace infill fencing.
- Conserve hedgerow trees and replace where necessary.
- Conserve permanent pasture and parkland area near to South Leverton, seek opportunities to restore arable land to pasture.
- Conserve tree cover and landscape planting, enhance and reinforce where appropriate to increase the green infrastructure and wildlife habitats across the Policy Zone.
- Conserve areas of improved and unimproved pasture and grassland and areas of ridge and furrow.
- Conserve the biodiversity and setting of the designated SINC's, seek to enhance where appropriate.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Enhance visual unity and soften built development through additional woodland and landscape planting; this applies to both the existing settlements and new development.
- Conserve the open rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development of appropriate scale and design around the existing settlements of Sturton-le-Steeple, North Leverton, Hablesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area extends south of North Wheatley to South Leverton which straddles the southern boundary. Arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too.</p> <p>Views are fairly enclosed in the north by vegetation and hedgerow boundaries. Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of MNPZ 5: Leverton stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of elements, with few detracting elements. However, despite being of limited quantity, the presence of the railway lines and the West Burton Power Station form significant detractors.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: The landscape is a mix of arable and pastoral farmland, arable fields tend to be large whereas pasture is contained in smaller fields located near to villages and farms particularly in the north and east close to North/South Wheatley and Sturton le Steeple but is evident in the south too. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Policy Zone encompasses the site of the mediaeval village of West Burton, the remains of an historic church at South Wheatley, North Leverton Windmill; a tourist attraction, and a sewage works north of Wheatley Beck. Isolated farmsteads are evident across the area and a number of buildings throughout the Policy Zone are listed.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary. Hedgerows with trees are more common in the west where there is no woodland, watercourses are well vegetated with fragmented groups of trees and scrub.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area and the Doncaster to Grimsby and Sheffield to Lincoln railway lines transect the area towards the north and south respectively. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Mid-Nottinghamshire Farmlands region and the continuity/time depth is historic [post 1600] resulting in a moderate sense of place. Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Open views are more prevalent further south due to a low woodland cover and much of the settlement being located along the eastern boundary, strong views are afforded towards surrounding higher ground in the west. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east</p> <p>Overall, with MNPZ 05 Leverton the value (medium) is shaped by the mix of arable and pastoral farmland. Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses; including Wheatley Beck and Oswald Beck in the north, and Catchwater Drain which follows the eastern boundary.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: Intensive arable farmland with small pastoral areas adjacent to the becks and villages. West Burton Power Station, although outside the area, is dominant in the east. A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Landform is predominantly flat becoming more undulating in the west and sloping down towards the Trent valley in the east. Floodplain flanks the main watercourses. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity results in a good landscape condition overall.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Though the landform is relatively flat it is considered dominant and affords high visibility across the Policy Zone in general. A moderate sense of place combined with high visibility.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: A flat, intensively farmed arable landscape skirting the West Burton Power Station. Crossed by large scale transmission lines and railway. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character MNPZ 5: Leverton (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a MNPZ 5: Leverton is beyond the 2km Study Area for the West Burton Sites.	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as passing through:

WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley

TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands

TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands

TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands

TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands

MNPZ 05 Leverton.

The 0.5km Study area for the Cable Route Corridor also includes:

TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands.

The Cable Route Corridor passes through TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands.

Character Context:

This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. The major agricultural land use is cereal and oil seed rape production. There are several camping and caravan parks within the LCP.

There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, northeast of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the southeast to the northwest past Cottam Power Station. There are mature trees in association with the historic village cores. There are mixed species road side hedges including Hawthorn, Rose, Elder with mature trees predominantly Ash, but also Willow and Oak. These hedgerows vary in their standard of maintenance. Field boundaries are trimmed, mixed species Hedgerows, predominantly Hawthorn with mature trees -mostly Ash, but also Willow and Oak.

There are various small ponds, water courses and ditches dotted throughout the area with associated riparian vegetation Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- A predominantly large-scale arable landscape.
- Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Views dominated by power stations and pylons.
- Well-trimmed mature hedgerows to internal field boundaries, with trees.
- Less well-maintained roadside hedges, with trees.
- Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.
- Limited small woodlands.
- Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape Condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ , the detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam. Outside the villages some of the field boundaries shown on Sanderson's plan of 1835 are intact but intervening boundaries have been removed. The overall cultural integrity is described as variable.

There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands. There are two SINC's in the PZ designated for aquatic and bankside vegetation and neutral grassland. The ecological network is defined as moderate which combined with as variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape Sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to low landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve the traditional pattern of hedges, fields and pasture around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly along roadsides.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity of ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve mature hedge lines along tracks and promote measures for increasing existing tree cover.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlements of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power lines and freight traffic on mineral lines. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red brick buildings with pantile roofs. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of Rampton around Manor House, north east of Rampton at Rampton Thorns, and Fleet Plantation south of Cottam Power Station. There is some scrub and tree cover along the railway line that cuts across from the south east to the north west past Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Small scale pastoral landscape around Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. The historic field pattern is intact around the villages of Rampton, Church Laneham and Cottam.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the north west of the Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within this area itself. However, large scale pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines. The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects - Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	<p>Cumulative effects would be limited to the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) and the Cable Route Corridors associated with the Cottam and Gate Burton Schemes where they connect to the Cottam Power station. The initial section of the Cable Route Corridor from the West Burton 3 Site is shared with the Cottam Solar Project and the Gate Burton Solar Park. This allows for a combined crossing of the River Trent, minimising disturbance and construction time. The combined Cable Route Corridors separate to the south of Coates, with the Cottam and Gate Burton Cable Route Corridors turning south to connect with the Cottam Power Station through TWPZ22 and TWPZ21. The West Burton Cable Route Corridor continues north to connect with the West Burton Power Station through TWPZ21, TWPZ23 and MN05.</p> <p>The Cable Route Corridor would only result in effects during the construction phase of the development, where there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration. There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. Where the Cable Route Corridor crosses watercourses such as the River Trent HDD will be required.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character - TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as passing through:

WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley

TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands

TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands

TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands

TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands

MNPZ 05 Leverton.

The 0.5km Study area for the Cable Route Corridor also includes:

TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands.

The Cable Route Corridor passes through TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.

The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks; species include Willow, Ash and Hawthorn. Internal field hedges are well trimmed in the pasture areas but some hedges are fragmented between arable fields; species are predominantly Hawthorn with Rose, Elder and Ash.

There are two SINCS within this area designated for their aquatic communities: Cottam Wetlands, mentioned above, made up of marshy grassland, swamp and a mosaic of wetlands, and Coates Wetland which is a group of pools with rough grazing. There are two MLAs within the LCP Littleborough (125) and Laneham / Cottam (124). A small portion of the Dunham Laneham (123) MLA is also contained within the south of the area. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields to the west and pasture fields along the course of the River Trent and to the south.
- Views are dominated by Cottam power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and wetland areas and the hedgerows of pasture fields in particular.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.
- There are long distance views along the River Trent to the North and South, views are bounded by elevated wooded ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is defined as variable. There is moderate tree cover which consists mainly of bands of riverside vegetation. There are 2 SINCS sites within the PZ designated for their aquatic interest. The integrity of the ecological network is defined as moderate, which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a coherent habitat for wildlife / functional integrity. A visually unified area with a coherent functional integrity/ habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east, and long views to the north and south contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.

The landform is insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of enclosure leads to a moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture close to the River Trent.
- Conserve mature trees to the rivers edge.
- Seek opportunities to recreate historic field boundaries where these have been lost.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly around arable fields.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Cottam.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p>Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the riverbanks.</p> <p>This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall, this gives a visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the river banks.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: PROW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the flat landscape of this area within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. The northern half of the LCP shows a regular geometric and irregular field pattern. The southern section has a more irregular pattern. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character - TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character - TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	<p>Cumulative effects would be limited to the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) and the Cable Route Corridors associated with the Cottam and Gate Burton Schemes where they connect to the Cottam Power station. The initial section of the Cable Route Corridor from the West Burton 3 Site is shared with the Cottam Solar Project and the Gate Burton Solar Park. This allows for a combined crossing of the River Trent, minimising disturbance and construction time. The combined Cable Route Corridors separate to the south of Coates, with the Cottam and Gate Burton Cable Route Corridors turning south to connect with the Cottam Power Station through TWPZ22 and TWPZ21. The West Burton Cable Route Corridor continues north to connect with the West Burton Power Station through TWPZ21, TWPZ23 and MN05.</p> <p>The Cable Route Corridor would only result in effects during the construction phase of the development, where there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration. There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. Where the Cable Route Corridor crosses watercourses such as the River Trent HDD will be required.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as passing through:

WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley

TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands

TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands

TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands

TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands

MNPZ 05 Leverton.

The 0.5km Study area for the Cable Route Corridor also includes:

TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands.

The Cable Route Corridor passes through TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.

Character Context:

This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 meters AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, species include Elder, Elm, Hawthorn, Hazel, and Rose. These also contain mature trees, species include Ash and Willow. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained, species include Hawthorn predominantly, also Elder, Hazel, Rose and Holly.

There are no MLAs with in the area and 1 SINC. Small water courses are present through out the area; some of these contain aquatic vegetation. There is very limited settlement within the area, and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non vernacular styles. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD.
- Views are dominated by West Burton and Cottam Power Stations to the north and South.
- Mature trees are limited and confined to small woodlands and field access tracks.
- The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties.
- Field access track hedgerows are mature and of mixed species with mature trees.
- Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.
- Watercourses are present throughout the PZ.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.

The overall cultural integrity is variable. The tree cover is poor, the I integrity of the ecological network is weak which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall. A strongly visually unified area with a weak functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/time depth is described as historic (post 1600) which gives a moderate sense of place. Cottam Power Station to the South and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover which leads to a moderate visibility both in and out of the PZ.

A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to road edges and field boundaries.
- Conserve mature hedgerows to field access tracks.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Seek opportunities to create small woodlands to reduce visual impact of power stations.
- Seek opportunities to restore arable land to permanent pasture/ wet grassland.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small-scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p>Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ.</p> <p>The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: There is very limited settlement within the area and this comprises isolated farms and one residential property Littleborough Cottage. These are a mix of vernacular and non vernacular styles.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP; the only 2 small areas being Fenton Gorse and the woodland south of Cow Pasture Lane. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area, these also contain mature trees. However, Roadside hedges and field boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the arable landscape to the south east of the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area. The views to the north and south are long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP. There is very limited settlement within the area. There are robust, mature hedgerows along the field access tracks which cross the area which also contain mature trees. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained. There are no large areas of woodland.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable 'lay down'. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is beyond the 2km Study Area for the West Burton Sites.	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as passing through:

WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley

TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands

TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands

TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands

TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands

MNPZ 05 Leverton.

The 0.5km Study area for the Cable Route Corridor also includes:

TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands.

The TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands is within the 0.5km Study Area for the Cable Route Corridor.

Character Context:

This is a flat landscape less than 5 meters AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.

There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. The only woodland area is a narrow strip to the west of Littleborough. There are mature trees, species include Ash, Beech Oak, and Willow, and mature hedge lines including Holly within the settlement of Littleborough. Out Ings SINC contains some scrubby woodland. Mature trees are present in the riverside vegetation, species include Ash, Oak Sycamore, and Willow. Field boundary hedgerows are weak and gappy. The hedgerow species is predominantly Hawthorn; trees include Oak and Sycamore. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows, species include Elder, Elm, Hazel, Hawthorn and Rose with mature trees including Ash.

There are 4 SINC's within the area - including Littleborough Lagoons and Out Ings, both designated for their aquatic communities. The Ferries MLA (18) forms the northern end of the LCP. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this. The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.

Key Features:

- This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south.
- Views are dominated by West Burton power station.
- Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village.
- Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river
- There are long distance views to the north and south, views are bounded by elevated ridgelines to the east.
- The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterized by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.

Landscape Analysis:

Landscape condition is defined as very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall this gives a strongly visually unified area. The overall cultural integrity is good due largely to the maturity of vegetation and time depth of the ancient settlement of Littleborough.

Tree cover is low, there are 4 SINCs in the area mostly designated for their aquatic communities, the integrity of the ecological network is moderate which together with a variable cultural integrity gives a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife overall.

A strongly visually unified area with a strong functional integrity/habitat for wildlife gives a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands and the continuity/ time depth is described as historic (post 1600)' although the settlement of Littleborough is ancient, which gives a moderate sense of place.

West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The landform is insignificant, there is poor tree cover/ sense of enclosure which leads to moderate visibility. A moderate sense of place with a moderate visibility leads to a landscape of moderate Sensitivity

Landscape Strategy:

- Conserve permanent grazing pasture adjacent to the River Trent and change arable land to permanent pasture where appropriate.
- Conserve mature trees to river edge, and within the village of Littleborough.
- Reinforce hedgerows where these are gappy and in poor condition particularly to field boundaries.
- Reinforce and strengthen the continuity and ecological diversity of stream and ditch corridors.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grassland.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Conserve the sparsely settled rural character of the landscape by concentrating new development around the existing settlement of Littleborough.
- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.
- Promote sensitive design and setting of new agricultural buildings

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape.</p> <p>There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP.</p> <p>The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, and other water courses drain into this.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Littleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks. PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the north and south. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the low lying and flat landscape at less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. There are mature trees, and mature hedgelines which are often weak and gappy. The field access tracks have stronger, more mature hedgerows.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD alongside the River Trent. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the north and south protected by flood bunds</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties and Littleborough. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable ‘lay down’. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, at a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey District Landscape Character Assessment** and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

The West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is identified as passing through:

WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley

TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands

TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands

TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands

TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands

MNPZ 05 Leverton.

The 0.5km Study area for the Cable Route Corridor also includes:

TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands.

The Cable Route Corridor passes through TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands.

Character Context:

This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.

The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.

The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.

The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.

Key Features:

- Flat topography.
- A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent.
- Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses.
- Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees.
- Grass flood bank.

Landscape Analysis:

The overall condition of this landscape is defined as very good. The pattern of landscape elements is unified. The area has few detracting features. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall this is a strongly visually unified area. The historic field pattern is still evident therefore the cultural integrity is good. Although the area has no SINC designations the trees, improved and unimproved pasture, and riparian vegetation provide a moderate network of wildlife habitats.

A moderate network for wildlife and a good cultural integrity leads to a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife. An area that is strongly visually unified with a strong functional integrity / habitat for wildlife has a very good landscape condition.

Landscape Sensitivity:

Landscape sensitivity is defined as moderate. The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west. The features which give the area its local distinctiveness are characteristic of the Trent Washlands RCA and the continuity / time depth is historic (post 1600). The area has a moderate sense of place.

There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The landform is apparent and has intermittent tree cover which leads to moderate visibility of the area from outside the PZ. A moderate sense of place with a moderate degree of visibility leads to a moderate landscape sensitivity.

Landscape Strategy:

- Promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve pastoral character and promote measures for enhancing the ecological diversity of alluvial grasslands.
- Conserve and enhance river channel diversity and marginal riverside vegetation.
- Conserve pollarded Willows and seek opportunities to re-pollard Willows to maintain the traditional riparian character of the landscape.
- Seek opportunities to re-create historic field boundaries.
- Seek opportunities to convert arable land to permanent pasture.
- Conserve and enhance the pattern and special features of meadowland hedgerows.
- Conserve and strengthen the simple unity and sparsely settled character of the landscape.

Landscape Management Guidelines:

- Promote measures for reinforcing the traditional character of isolated farm buildings using vernacular building styles.
- Conserve historic field pattern by containing new small scale development within historic boundaries, maintain existing hedgerows, restore and reinforce poor hedgerow boundaries where necessary.
- Conserve and respect the local vernacular of red brick and pantile roof construction in any new development.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p>The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p>Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. There are open views to the north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, dominating views south along the river corridor.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: PRow lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station dominates views to the south.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western edge of the area, and follows the course of the river.</p> <p>Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The historic field pattern is still evident.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as the Rivers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].</p> <p>The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing third party apparatus (e.g., railway lines). In addition to the trenches, land will be required in the corridor for access and soil and cable ‘lay down’. Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new overhead lines will be required.</p> <p>In relation to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally drilled under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be temporary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.</p> <p>In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the area for installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary and activities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each designated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the construction stage.</p> <p>The exact location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are precisely associated with each working area.</p> <p>Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p>	<p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p>The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction, operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.</p> <p>Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.</p> <p>There would not be the removal of, or changes to the landscape elements or features within the Cable Route Corridor limiting opportunities for the laying down of the cable to lead to any notable overall cumulative effect.</p> <p>For the operation stage, all the cables will be underground, and no new overhead lines will be required. Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated location will be backfilled and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.</p> <p>For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes at each location would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation, the land is returned to its original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.</p>	<p>Cumulative effects would be limited to the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 3 to West Burton Power Station) and the Cable Route Corridors associated with the Cottam and Gate Burton Schemes where they connect to the Cottam Power station. The initial section of the Cable Route Corridor from the West Burton 3 Site is shared with the Cottam Solar Project and the Gate Burton Solar Park. This allows for a combined crossing of the River Trent, minimising disturbance and construction time. The combined Cable Route Corridors separate to the south of Coates, with the Cottam and Gate Burton Cable Route Corridors turning south to connect with the Cottam Power Station through TWPZ22 and TWPZ21. The West Burton Cable Route Corridor continues north to connect with the West Burton Power Station through TWPZ21, TWPZ23 and MN05.</p> <p>The Cable Route Corridor would only result in effects during the construction phase of the development, where there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration. There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the results of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. Where the Cable Route Corridor crosses watercourses such as the River Trent HDD will be required.</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of MNPZ 05 Leverton, PZs TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands PZs TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, PZs TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.4]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages including the River Trent corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes being a combination of pastoral land alongside the river and arable farmland on the valley slopes.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton and the River Trent. The landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent. The large Cottam and West Burton Power Stations are dominant features alongside the river.

Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Large-scale arable farmland alongside the River Trent, scattered with small settlements, isolated properties and managed native field boundary vegetation exists within the WB3- WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor. The agricultural land is predominantly arable and comprises a series of intensively managed arable field parcels. For the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor, this intensively managed land has increased the field sizes, and has degraded the quality of the land over time.</p> <p>Overall, the land use within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site has a lack of native vegetation. However, the woodland blocks, field ditches and managed native field boundary vegetation form a component of this landscape. On balance, land use in the Cable Route Corridor WB3-WB Power Station has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: River Trent corridor. Native vegetation, small settlements, large power cables, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields. Large scale power stations dominate views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanised methods.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Trent, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes access the surrounding countryside. Countryside to the west of the river is crossed by numerous PRoW surrounding the Cable Route Corridor WB3-WB Power Station allowing users to experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural but dominated by the industrial presence of the power stations and power lines.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Flat arable farmland are the key components that define land use.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Large number of PRoW routes. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable fields.</p> <p>Overall, Land within the Cable Route Corridor is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads, small villages and the River Trent corridor. The landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent and gently rises back up to approximately 10m AOD alongside West Burton Power Station.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the Site currently being used for agricultural purposes and occupying an area of elevated land predominantly to the west of the River Trent, but also incorporating a section of the River corridor.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland and large scale power stations.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Vegetated drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland within and surrounding the Site.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland is the predominant land use. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The installation of the solar array and its ecological mitigation measures would change the land use and break up a landscape that is predominantly flat arable farmland. The change would be beneficial to the soils, watercourses, and biodiversity.</p> <p>Activities during the construction phase within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site, such as construction access and storage, would no longer be managed as arable farmland. The construction activities would be temporary and barely noticeable.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Site:				
Effects with mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>	<p>Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><i>In combination</i> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located to the west of the WB3 Site. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of MNPZ 05 Leverton, PZs TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands PZs TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, PZs TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.4]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages including the River Trent corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes being a combination of pastoral land alongside the river and arable farmland on the valley slopes.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton and the River Trent. The landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent. The large Cottam and West Burton Power Stations are dominant features alongside the river.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Along the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station the land is predominantly flat, low lying arable farmland which gently drains towards the River Trent to the east.</p> <p>Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the rectangular fields.</p> <p>Overall, the topography and watercourses within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Native vegetation within flat farmland.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Trent, and native vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes and isolated PRoW footpaths experience a flat rural landscape.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key components that define the topography.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.</p> <p>Overall, The Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, is open agricultural, predominantly flat farmland. The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by drainage ditches that feed into the River Trent.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by flat agricultural field parcels that make up the Site itself and that follow the surrounding topography and water courses.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland, the River Trent and the large power stations.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: Drainage ditches and the vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland is the predominant land use. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>The installation of the solar array retains the same levels as the existing flat arable farmland. Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, the construction and installation of the proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.</p> <p>The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.</p> <p>The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.</p> <p>The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however, benefit from the significantly enhanced planting that would create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located to the west of the WB3 Site. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of MNPZ 05 Leverton, PZs TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands PZs TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, PZs TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.4]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages including the River Trent corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes being a combination of pastoral land alongside the river and arable farmland on the valley slopes.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton and the River Trent. The landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent. The large Cottam and West Burton Power Stations are dominant features alongside the river.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>In the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, large electricity power cables cross the arable farmland in an east/ west direction and link with West Burton Power Station.</p> <p>There is sparse, scattered settlement across the area, and as a result, not much infrastructure within the landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the communications and infrastructure within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Two large electricity power cables cross the Site.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The large electricity power cables that crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. The large electricity infrastructure that crosses the landscape does not interfere with this green infrastructure. Vegetation along the railway line creates a green corridor which is not natural but is biodiversity rich.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes and users of the PRoW experience a flat rural landscape, small roads and views of a railway line and large electricity infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Large power and communication infrastructure crosses the landscape and links with the large power stations. This contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Power and communication infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland slightly detracts from the enjoyment of the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: Network of power infrastructure divides up the arable farmland.</p> <p>Overall, Within the Study Area and the Site, the countryside is crossed by the railway line across the countryside in a north/south direction, and the large electricity power cables in an east/west direction.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site the judgement on value (low) is shaped by the surrounding countryside and the network of power infrastructure.</p> <p>Local lanes are bordered by isolated farmsteads and residential dwellings, often with very narrow grass verges and high hedgerows that add elements of intimacy to the routes. The sense of natural enjoyment adds to the value, which stems from the local lanes, small villages, arable fields, and the peacefulness of the landscape.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is influenced by the flat farmland and large power infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat farmland, large electricity power cables, and sparse settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: A network of large electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale farmland is a landscape component of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland, and electricity infrastructure is part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Low	Negligible to Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the cable route corridor as they facilitate construction traffic, enabling works, access etc. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Sites and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects. The integrity and tranquillity of these routes, often used for informal recreation, would be affected to some degree by increased traffic during the construction phase but this will be short term and field specific at any one time to the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>Overall, the communications links are able to accommodate the increased level of traffic between the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station and to the wider transport links without undue adverse effects on the integrity of these routes. These routes are often used for informal recreation but will not be unduly affected during the operational phase of the development. Although there will be some loss of tranquillity, this will be mitigated by improved vegetative cover locally predominantly screening or softening views of additional traffic.</p>	<p>A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.</p> <p>There would be some short term disruption to roads passing through and alongside the Site as they facilitate construction traffic, etc associated with the decommissioning of the array. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would have benefitted from the enhanced planting and a more robust landscape which retains the overall character of the landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located to the west of the WB3 Site. There will be positive changes in the communications and infrastructure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local road network. The existing character associated with these roads and local lanes of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area are predominantly grass verges, with roadside hedgerows or trees providing enclosure. Significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character and views along these road networks in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3-WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of MNPZ 05 Leverton, PZs TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands PZs TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, PZs TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.4]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages including the River Trent corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes being a combination of pastoral land alongside the river and arable farmland on the valley slopes.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton and the River Trent. The landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent. The large Cottam and West Burton Power Stations are dominant features alongside the river.

The Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure network is broadly defined to the north-west by the large settlement of Gainsborough (approximately 7km) which is Britain's most inland port and one of the main cities within the area along with Newark-on-Trent, Nottingham, Lincoln, and Grantham.

To the southeast (approximately 13km), the city of Lincoln is a prominent landmark with the Cathedral that captures the skyline in views across the area. The settlement of Saxilby is immediately to the south of the Site. Otherwise, larger settlements are sparse to the surrounding area.

To the east, the landscape is defined by compact villages and dispersed farmsteads with the A15 (Ermine Street), which is also a Roman road, following a distinctive straight alignment along the limestone capped scarp slope. Ermine Street connects the city of Lincoln from the south as far as the Humber Estuary in the north. The B1398 (Middle Street) also passes along the scarp slope following an almost parallel alignment with Ermine Street and this historic route supports a string of smaller settlements including Burton, South Carlton, North Carlton and Scampton.

Finally, to the west, there is the River Trent and the immense coal-fired power stations that exert a visual influence over a wide area, particularly the cooling towers that rise from them and the pylons and power lines that are linked to them.

To the west, the A156 (Gainsborough Road) is almost true to the River Trent and passes through the settlements of Torksey, Marton, Gate Burton before reaching the large settlement of Gainsborough.

The B1241 runs north from the A57 through Saxilby and the smaller settlements of Ingleby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.

The A1500 connects the A156 in the west with the A15 on the scarp slope.

With the exception of the villages/hamlets mentioned above, the area is relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside. Smaller settlements and hamlets are pocketed through the rural countryside surrounding the Sites including Broxholme, Bransby and Brampton.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The economic driver for the settlements north of Saxilby is arable farming. This is illustrated by the large-scale, flat, rectangular parcels of arable land, isolated farmsteads, and a network of farm tracks.</p> <p>For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other industry and commerce and a limited amount of leisure.</p> <p>Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.</p> <p>This landscape has some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor farm tracks. The edges of the villages, the sequence of views to the churches and the avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms are also sensitive features. The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic.</p> <p>Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small, narrow country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The small narrow country lanes provide a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station the judgement on value (low) is shaped by the area being relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the surrounding countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The landscape is influenced by the sparsely populated flat arable farmland. The string of small, nucleated settlements on the limestone capped scarp slope add to the sequence of views and help define the settled character of the landscape.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable and scattered sparsely populated settlement. There is little commerce or economic activity other than agriculture. The farmsteads and dwellings add a positive character to the local network where there are associated heritage features.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The flat large-scale arable farmland prevalent in the landscape, and a sparsely populated scattered settlement, contribute to the value of the countryside within the site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The sparsely populated, flat large-scale arable farmland forms part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Low	Negligible to Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>There would be some short term disruption to within and alongside the cable route corridor to facilitate construction traffic, enabling works, access etc. These short-lived construction activities would affect routes to and from the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station to some degree, but their integrity would not be lost.</p> <p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, the construction and installation of the solar array would bring an alternative to the arable farmland which is prevalent in the area.</p> <p>The solar array within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p> <p>Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site would have benefitted from the enhanced planting and a more robust landscape which retains the overall character of the landscape.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located to the west of the WB3 Site. There will be positive changes to the settlements, industry, commerce and leisure due to the scope for additional vegetation enhancing the local landscape character and likewise the setting of the local settlements and their approaches, and particularly in the context of the church spires. The existing landscape character associated with the outer edges of these settlements of the Cumulative Sites and Study Area is predominantly woodland and tree cover around the margins and the change to grassland with scattered trees and a significantly improved hedgerow networks would give rise to overall benefits to landscape character in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.</p> <p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – PRoW Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of MNPZ 05 Leverton, PZs TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands PZs TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, PZs TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.4]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages including the River Trent corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes being a combination of pastoral land alongside the river and arable farmland on the valley slopes.

Key Features:

The PRoW network is mainly restricted to routes that generally follow the pattern of watercourses, tracks, and woodlands across the area. The PRoW network is mainly aligned along field boundaries connecting with the local road network and to nearby settlements and farmsteads across the area. The network is generally intermittent because there are few landscape features to help form continuous links. The footpath network is particularly sporadic in the landscape due to these inconsistent links, the local lanes are used to supplement for recreation and the lack of connectivity. The routes mainly follow an east-west and north-south direction to reflect the prevailing landscape pattern and to connect the local lanes with nearby settlements. A number of routes run east west from the small settlements to the south of the West Burton Power Station across the surrounding arable farmland and leading towards the River Trent.

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton, Coates, North Leverton, Sturton le Steeple and the River Trent. The landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent.

The large Cottam and West Burton Power Stations are dominant features alongside the river.

Assessment of Sensitivity - PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>Large-scale arable farmland alongside the River Trent, scattered with small settlements, isolated properties and managed native field boundary vegetation exists within the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>The agricultural land is predominantly arable and comprises a series of intensively managed arable field parcels.</p> <p>Public Rights of Way (PRow) crossing the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor are typically limited to rural tracks across the arable farmland to the south of the WB Power Station running alongside field boundaries and drainage ditches.</p> <p>The Trent Valley Way Recreational Route runs alongside the River Trent.</p> <p>The wider PRow network surrounding the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor provides access to the wider countryside.</p> <p>Overall, on balance, the PRow network in the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: River Trent corridor. Native vegetation, small settlements, large power cables, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields. Large scale power stations dominate views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Users of small country lanes access the surrounding countryside. Countryside to the west of the river is crossed by numerous PRow surrounding the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station allowing users to experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural but dominated by the industrial presence of the power stations and power lines. A network of small country lanes connects the sparse settlement within the surrounding area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Large number of PRow routes, however limited wider connectivity other than alongside the River Trent. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: A sparse and scattered settled landscape with a poor PRow network creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the countryside surrounding the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor is well served by PRow. Users of small country lanes access the surrounding countryside. Countryside to the west of the river is crossed by numerous PRow surrounding the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station allowing users to experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural but dominated by the industrial presence of the power stations and power lines. A network of small country lanes connects the sparse settlement within the surrounding area. For the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site, the judgement on value (Medium) is shaped by the public access across this area of countryside.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the surrounding area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and space and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. There are no PRow footpaths within or surrounding the Site.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The countryside within and surrounding the Site has poor public access other than small narrow country lanes.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. The Site has poor public access. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>During construction, underground power cables linking the WB1 Site and the WB2 Site would require the excavation of earthworks. Views of temporary safety fencing and heavy machinery would be prominent for users of this PRow. For the short period of time whilst the Cable Route Corridor was under construction users would experience views of adjacent construction activities.</p> <p>Within the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor, the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRow access.</p>	<p>Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape, and views of the countryside would be retained.</p> <p>Within the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>	<p>Within the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor, the decommissioning of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>	<p>Within the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor, the decommissioning of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRow access surrounding the Site.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located to the west of the WB3 Site. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of MNPZ 05 Leverton, PZs TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands PZs TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, PZs TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.4]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages including the River Trent corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes being a combination of pastoral land alongside the river and arable farmland on the valley slopes.

West Lindsey District contains a local landscape designation, the West Lindsey Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) which comprises different and disparate parts. These different parts are not named, therefore for clarity, in the descriptions below the areas are named as follows (and shown on **Figure 8.6 Landscape Receptors**):

- AGLV1 – The Ridge
- AGLV2 – Gainsborough
- AGLV3 – Laughton Wood

Key Features:

The Cable Route Corridor does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV. Located approximately 350m to the north east of the Cable Route Corridor is AGLV3 (Laughton Wood) but separated from it by the new the settlement of Marton, residential development to the north of the A1500, existing properties on Mount Pleasant Close and Willingham Road.

AGLV3 extends across the countryside to the north of the A1500 across Gate Burton and Knaith.

The Cable Route Corridor extends south west away from the AGLV, crossing the River Trent and then continuing across the arable farmland to the south of the West Burton Power Station.

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton, North leverton, Sturton le Steeple and the River Trent. The landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent.

The large Cottam and West Burton Power Stations are dominant features alongside the river.

For the majority of the route of the Cable Route Corridor from WB3 to WB Power Station, is located to the west of the River Trent.

Assessment of Sensitivity - National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>The Site does not have any nationally designated landscapes or AGLV. Located approximately 350m to the north east of the Cable Route Corridor Route is AGLV3 to the north of the settlement of Marton. The AGLV3 area extends across the countryside to the north of the A1500 across Gate Burton and Knaith.</p> <p>Overall, the National and Locally Designated Landscapes network in the Cable Route Corridor from WB3 to WB Power Station has a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the properties and railway infrastructure. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: Limited numbers of PRoW's in the Site and in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, the Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station, the judgement on value (low) is shaped by the lack of any designation across the route itself, and in recognition of the separation provided to AGLV3 to the north-west by a combination of distance, the River Trent and intervening vegetation and settlements.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Low	Negligible to Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	During construction, underground power cables linking the WB3 Site and the WB Power Station would require the excavation of earthworks. However, these activities would not impact upon the setting of the AGLV3 due to the separation provided to AGLV3 and the Cable Route Corridor by a combination of distance, the River Trent and intervening vegetation and settlements.	During construction, underground power cables linking the WB3 Site and the WB Power Station would require the excavation of earthworks. However, these activities would not impact upon the setting of the AGLV3 due to the separation provided to AGLV3 and the Cable Route Corridor by a combination of distance, the River Trent and intervening vegetation and settlements.	During construction, underground power cables linking the WB3 Site and the WB Power Station would require the excavation of earthworks. However, these activities would not impact upon the setting of the AGLV3 due to the separation provided to AGLV3 and the Cable Route Corridor by a combination of distance, the River Trent and intervening vegetation and settlements.	During construction, underground power cables linking the WB3 Site and the WB Power Station would require the excavation of earthworks. However, these activities would not impact upon the setting of the AGLV3 due to the separation provided to AGLV3 and the Cable Route Corridor by a combination of distance, the River Trent and intervening vegetation and settlements.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located to the west of the WB3 Site. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of MNPZ 05 Leverton, PZs TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands PZs TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, PZs TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.4]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages including the River Trent corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes being a combination of pastoral land alongside the river and arable farmland on the valley slopes.

Key Features:

Land within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages, including Marton and the River Trent. The landform quickly drops away down to 5m AOD alongside the A156 and the River Trent. The large Cottam and West Burton Power Stations are dominant features alongside the river.

The Scheduled Monument Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm (List Entry Number: 1017741) is located within the Study Area for the Cable Route Corridor immediately alongside the West Burton Power Station. It is located outside of the Cable Route Corridor.

There are no Listed Buildings on the Cable Route Corridor. There are a small number locally within the Study Area. These are focused within the surrounding settlements, such as Marton and Sturton le Steeple.

The Cable Route Corridor is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area.

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on or within 2km of the Cable Route Corridor.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Area or Registered Parks and Gardens within the Cable Route Corridor.</p> <p>Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station have a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><u>Scenic</u>: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><u>Cultural</u>: The Scheduled Monument Medieval settlement and open field system immediately south east of Low Farm (List Entry Number: 1017741) is located within the Study Area for the Cable Route Corridor immediately alongside the West Burton Power Station.</p> <p><u>Natural</u>: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Recreation and Enjoyment</u>: There are a limited number of PRoW's into the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.</p> <p><u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: Limited PRoW's in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><u>Important Spatial Function</u>: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site itself however, the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park, Stow Park (List Entry Number: 1019229), is located immediately adjacent to the Site. The designations are however wholly outside of the proposed development area but enclosed by it. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The Site is not located within a Conservation Area or within 2km of a Conservation Area. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the proximity to the Scheduled Monument.</p>	<p><u>Character</u>: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features.</p> <p><u>Quality</u>: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in this landscape.</p> <p><u>Value</u>: The landscape is sparse and dominated by arable farming. The West Burton and Cottam Power Stations exert a dominating position, towering across this area of countryside.</p> <p><u>Capacity</u>: There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within paneled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	During construction, underground power cables linking the WB3 Site and the WB Power Station would require the excavation of earthworks. For the short period of time whilst the Cable Route Corridor was under construction there maybe some very minor appreciation of these activities locally but would not directly interfere with the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens surrounding the Site.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.	Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located to the west of the WB3 Site. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	<p>Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park</p>
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>	<p>Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low</p>
Type of Effect	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>	<p>Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term</p>
Significance of Effect	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>	<p>Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant</p>

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)

Receptor Baseline:

Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station, at a regional scale, landscape character is assessed within the **East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on **Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]**. At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the **West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale and WLLCA LCA2 Trent Valley, and within the **Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment** as forming part of MNPZ 05 Leverton, PZs TWPZ 21 Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlands PZs TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands, PZs TWPZ 24 Littleborough River Meadowlands, PZs TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands which is shown on **Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]**. Landscape receptors are shown on **Figure 8.6.4 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.4]**.

Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages including the River Trent corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes being a combination of pastoral land alongside the river and arable farmland on the valley slopes.

Key Features:

Natural Designations include National Parks and AONBs. In addition to these there are further national and international statutory environmental designations which contribute to England's natural environment and make a major contribution to national and regional character. These include the following:

- Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Ramsar Sites
- National Nature Reserves (NNR)
- Local Nature Reserves (LNR)
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA)

There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.

There is no ancient woodland on the Site. The nearest Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton.

Assessment of Sensitivity - Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
<p>There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the WB3 Site at Gate Burton.</p> <p>Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations have a low susceptibility to change.</p>	<p><i>Scenic:</i> Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.</p> <p><i>Cultural:</i> Flat large-scale farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.</p> <p><i>Natural:</i> Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.</p> <p><i>Recreation and Enjoyment:</i> Limited PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.</p> <p><i>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</i> Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><i>Health and Wellbeing:</i> The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.</p> <p><i>Important Spatial Function:</i> The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.</p> <p>Overall, there are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site. There is no ancient woodland on the Site. The nearest, Burton Wood, is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton.</p> <p>For the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of designations across the Site or locally</p>	<p><i>Character:</i> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><i>Quality:</i> The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in this landscape.</p> <p><i>Value:</i> The landscape is sparse and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.</p> <p><i>Capacity:</i> There is scope for development and mitigation.</p>
Low	Medium	Low

Embedded Mitigation

Embedded Mitigation would be taken into account at the construction, operation (Year 1 and Year 15) and decommissioning stages of the Scheme. This Embedded Mitigation is also referred to as primary mitigation and would include the following measures:

Panels to be set a minimum of 3m from Site boundaries.

Site boundary fencing to be set back 5m from adjacent existing hedgerows to allow for proposed thickening and growth.

Existing hedges are to be allowed to grow out and will be managed to a height of 5m. Hedgerow trees will be encouraged to grow out to add further thickening and growth to the field boundaries with the addition of new hedgerow trees as appropriate, randomly spaced along the length of existing hedges.

Lighting will be limited to downlights within substations and battery banks only and used when maintenance or security is required. Lighting will be PIR operated and will be calibrated to vehicle and personnel movements. All visible lighting would be 50W, installed at a maximum height of 4m with cowls fitted to prevent light spillage. Lighting required within panelled areas will be manually operated. There will be no lighting on perimeter fencing.

The visual effects with mitigation taken into account includes both embedded mitigation and additional mitigation.

The landscape effects with only the embedded mitigation taken into account equate to those effects set out for the operation stage (Year 1) and this assumes that additional mitigation planting will have been carried out but it will only have had limited physical or visual impact at this stage.

Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	<p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site, the construction and installation of the solar arrays would not interfere with the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>There are no Natural Designations on the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station or within 2km.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the WB3 Site at Gate Burton and separated from it by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>	<p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site, the construction and installation of the solar arrays would not interfere with the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>There are no Natural Designations on the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station or within 2km.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the WB3 Site at Gate Burton and separated from it by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>	<p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site, the construction and installation of the solar arrays would not interfere with the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>There are no Natural Designations on the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station or within 2km.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the WB3 Site at Gate Burton and separated from it by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>	<p>Within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site, the construction and installation of the solar arrays would not interfere with the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>There are no Natural Designations on the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station or within 2km.</p> <p>The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the WB3 Site at Gate Burton and separated from it by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road.</p>
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant

Landscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<p><u>In combination</u> Yes Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located to the west of the WB3 Site. The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton and separated from the Site by the settlement of Marton, the A1500 and Willingham Road. Following the disruption caused by the installation of the underground power cables, the landscape along the cable route corridor would be returned to an arable landscape.</p>	n/a
Effects with mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only embedded mitigation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a