# West Burton Solar Project

# Environmental Statement Appendix 8.2 Potential Landscape Effects

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# Environmental Statement Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Appendix 8.2 [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2] March2023

# **Contents**

8.2.1	West Burton 1 [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.2	West Burton 2 [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.3	West Burton 3 [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.4	Cable Route Corridor WB1 to WB2 [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.5	Cable Route Corridor WB2 to WB3 [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.6	Cable Route Corridor WB3 to WB Power Station [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]





# **Contents**

8.2.1.1	Character Overview Tables [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.1.2	LCA Overview [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.1.3	Individual Land Use Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.1.4	Individual Topography and Watercourses Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.1.5	Individual Communications and Infrastructure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.1.6	Individual Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.1.7	Individual Public Rights of Way and Access Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.1.8	Individual Nationally and Locally Designated Landscapes Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.1.9	Individual Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.1.10	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) / Degional Landscape Character Tunes (DLCT) Seening Table	Site WB1
National Character Area (NCA) / Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT) Scoping Table  NCA Profile: 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales (NE429)	5km Study Area
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	l
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 matercourses 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 reused 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.	<i>I</i>
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 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.  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 Llittleborough 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	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands Flat topography	
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	
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	
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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	



# 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

Medium

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

Medium

Medium



# Landscape Receptor - National Scale Landscape Character - 48: Trent and Belvoir Vales (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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power

#### Value of Receptor

*Scenic*: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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

# Sensitivity

<u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.

<u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.

<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.

<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.





Medium	Medium	Medium
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.	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.	
lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works and active sand and gravel extraction sites.  Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape,	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.	



# 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

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.

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 characte 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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

#### Sensitivity

<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.

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.

<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.

<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.

Medium 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 hedgerows 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 easter 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 Fossdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fossdyke 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 Fossdyke.

#### **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 Al56/ A1133)
- The Fossdyke -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 natterns
- 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 Fossdyke 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

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

There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant seminatural 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 easter 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. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.

This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.

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.

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.

**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.

## Value of Receptor

<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.

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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 Habblesthorpe 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.
- 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, Habblesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.



Assessment	of	Sens	itivity	7

# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

**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.

#### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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

**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.

# Sensitivity Character:

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.

Quality: 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.

Value: 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.

#### Capacity:

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.

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 SINCs 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 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 The landform is Insignificant and the limited tree cover/sense of Scenic: This is a flat, arable landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral enclosure which leads to a moderate visibility. This is a flat, arable 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 landscape with a largely geometric field pattern with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and east. Long views to the north and south are constrained only by the effects of distance and riverside Church Laneham. There is very limited tree cover, mature trees are vegetation and hedgerows. confined to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east. woodlands. Long distance views north and south across open landscapes constrained by distance, long distance views Power Station dominates views to the east and west constrained by wooded ridge lines. 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. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.

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.

Cultural: Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.

Natural: 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.

Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.

Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.

Health and Wellbeing: 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.

Important Spatial Function: 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.

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.

Character: 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

**Quality:** A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.

Value: 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.

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.

Medium Low 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 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

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.

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.

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.

**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.

#### Value of Receptor

<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.

<u>Cultural:</u> The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village

<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.

<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.

<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.

Health and Wellbeing: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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 with in 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 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.
- 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		
j	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: 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.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Health and Wellbeing: PRoW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks providing access across the area landscape to the south east of the West Burton Power Station.  Important Spatial Function: 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 extre	Sensitivity  Character: 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.  Quality: 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.  Value: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.  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.		
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; tees 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 Llittleborough 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 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 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

Low



Low

#### [Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2 March 2023 West Burton **Assessment of Sensitivity** Receptor susceptibility to change Value of Receptor Sensitivity This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is Scenic: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout <u>Character:</u> This is a flat landscape less regular geometric throughout the majority of the LCP, but there are the majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to than 5 metres AOD alongside the River areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to the the north and south protected by flood bunds. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north Trent. The field pattern is regular north and south protected by flood bunds. Land use consists of arable and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by geometric throughout the majority of crops including cereals and oil seed rape. elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, the LCP, but there are areas of more and other water courses drain into this. irregular permanent and improved There are no large areas of woodland within the LCP. pasture fields to the north and south Cultural: The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in protected by flood bunds The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough. The only other red brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river and Trent and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. **Quality:** This is a flat landscape within Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. West Burton Power the valley floor of the River Trent. This Station dominates views to the north and Cottam power station is Natural: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the LCP is largely uninhabited except for visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are north and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as isolated properties and Littleborough. Llittleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river. constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river Recreation and Enjoyment: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and and Trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction. Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 24: Littleborough River typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks. PRoW lead east Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features corridor. Value: This is a flat landscape within the within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall, this valley floor of the River Trent that is Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient gives a strongly visually unified area. largely uninhabited. The large West settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation. Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP. Health and Wellbeing: 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 *Capacity:* Features are evident, but they the north and Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to Important Spatial Function: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved landscape character and scope for pasture to the north and south. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam mitigation would therefore help to power station is visible in more distant views to the south. reinforce their prominence in the landscape. 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.

Medium



# 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:**

- Fat 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.

Low



Low

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

Medium



# 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 Fossdyke 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

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.

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.

**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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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		haracter - 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burt		December is a linear
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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	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 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 biodiversit in the local area.  During the decommissioning phase, these short-lived construction activities would not adversely affect the Woode 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 aris through the decommissioning of the WB1 Site without unduring the decommission in the local area.
			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.	adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.
5km Study Are	a:		retaining the integrity of this character area.	
	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
Effects with mitigation	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape R	andscape 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 Dipsolpes (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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Medium

### Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: 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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

High Medium to High



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.

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



Assessment of Effects - Regional Scale Lands	ssment of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (West Burton 1)				
Construction	Operation (Year 1)	C	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning	
The Limestone Scarps and Dipsol Type is found to the east of the W a distinctive landscape feature kn the Lincolnshire Edge or Cliff. The runs on a north south alignment at the Vales and forms a prominent landscape feature and backdrop the eastwards from the neighboring of West Burton 1 Site. Views towards Cathedral are key views across the contribute to the sense of place at the wider area. The Scarp allows follows west across the Till Vale, who massive West Burton and Cottam Transmission lines cross the flat late leading to the power stations.  RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dicharacter Type is found approximeast of the West Burton 1 Site and considered to form part of its immalandscape context. However, give opportunity for wide ranging and views west from the scarp of the late Cliff, it is clear that changes within landscapes could have the opportunity adversely impact upon the apprearural setting of this character area. As demonstrated on Photo Viewp LCC-C-A, both from locations alon Lincolnshire Cliff, the arable farming the scarp lays out across the valuation of the scarp allowing vietnese areas. Yet as the flat landscord the scarp lays out across the valuation of the scarp allowing vietnese areas. Yet as the flat landscord the scarp lays out across the valuation of the scarp allowing vietnese areas. Yet as the flat landscord the scarp lays out across the valuation of the scarp allowing vietnese areas. Yet as the flat landscord the scarp lays out across the valuation of the scarp allowing vietnese areas are allowed landscape. Vertithat extend upwards out of the laconsiderably greater prominence, turbines, pylons, transmission line massive power stations at West B Cottam.  During the construction phase the the solar panel areas and associal	ipsolpes nately 2.4km d is not mediate en the panoramic Lincolnshire in neighboring tunity to ciation of the ews down into ape to the euron and distinction of the econstruction of econstruction of econstruction of experienced during constitute WB1 Site would be sexperienced during constitute to development combined of the development itself between the development and the evelopment and the element sexperienced during constitute WB1 Site would be sexperienced during constitute would be sexperienced during constitut	Scarps and Dipsolpes ted with the operation of similar to those struction.  sibility arising from the to absorb the I with the low level nature elf ensures separation ent within the West Burton Limestone Scarps and ope.  Scarps and Dipsolpes on accommodate the largh the operation of the ear 1 without undue engithe integrity of this  and an	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.  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.  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.  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.  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.	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 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.  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.	



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



Landscape Rece	Landscape Receptor – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	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.	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.  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 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.  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.  The Cumulative Effects upon RLCT 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes Character Type of the West Burton 1 Site with the other 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 p	
Effects with miti	igation		
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.

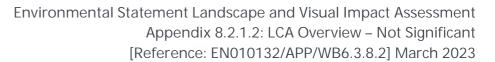
The villages are small and compact. Limestone is the favored building material, with brick detailing and pantile roofs. Boundary walls are generally also constructed from the local limestone. The village of Ingham has grown larger than the others, with the introduction of newer brick houses, many of 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 thelandscape 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

The landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed development, and a moderate ability to accommodate the specific

# Value of Receptor

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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

### Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

*Value*: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

<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.



Assessment of Sensitivity		Assessment of Sensitivity			
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity			
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.	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.				
Medium	High	Medium to High			



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.

- 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
The Cliff Landscape Character Area is found to the east of the WBI 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.  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.  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.  During the construction phase the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure would be somewhat screened by	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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.  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.	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 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.  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.  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.



	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.  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.  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.  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.			
5km Study Area	a:			
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- <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Receptor - Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 1)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	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.	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 is approximately 1.5km north of West Burton 1. The Tillbridge Solar Project is approximately 1.5km north of West Burton 1. 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.  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.  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.  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.	
Effects with miti	igation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	
Type of Effect	Decommissioning: Very Low  Construction: Neutral & Short Term  Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term  Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term  Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Very Low  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	y embedded mitigation	Decommissioning. Regignice Not digitalization	
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 - 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

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.

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.

**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.

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.

Medium

### Value of Receptor

Medium

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.

Medium



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.

- 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

Activities during site preparation / enabling works,

construction activities, dust generation, site runoff,

mud on roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and

construction phase, ground and lower-level activities

such as the construction of the solar panel areas and

however, locally there would be some appreciation of

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

Within the wider area the containment provided to the

landscape by the layering of field boundary vegetation,

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

woodland surrounding Broxholme, North Carlton Covert and woodland to the north of Broxholme Lane

and alongside the Till tributary combined with the

character of the wider area.

area and these activities would be short term.

predominantly be screened by existing vegetation,

construction traffic, noise and vibration from

machinery on site. At the early stages of the

associated infrastructure and inverters would

construction activities within the Site.

construction, and commissioning with effects such as

# Operation (Year 1) 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

The landscape proposals include for:

construction.

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 quidelines.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:

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

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.

These short-lived construction activities would adversely affect the character of the 4a Unwooded Vales Character Area within the Site, and the

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

# Operation (Year 15)

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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

# **Decommissioning**

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 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.

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.

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.





immediate area to a minor degree. However, these effects would be, limited, temporary and short term, and accompanied by additional benefits.

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.

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.

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.

Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA

- 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

#### Adverse effects (mitigated):

- 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

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.



5km Study Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible- <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Medium Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Moderate – <b>Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>



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

### **In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]**

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.

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.

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.

# **Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]**

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.

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 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.

The southern extent of the Cottam Solar Project occupies the landscape to the north of Thorpe Ia 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.

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.

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.

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.

# Effects with mitigation

	Construction: Low	Construction: Very Low
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low
iviagriitude	Operation (Year 15): Low	Operation (Year 15): Very low
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
	Construction: Minor Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Minor <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant



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

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. 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. 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.

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.

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.

**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

### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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 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

<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.

<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.

### Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.



Assessment of Sensitivity					
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity			
not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.  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.	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.				
Medium	Medium	Medium			



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.

- 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

Site.

# Operation (Year 1)

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

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.

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

Other works would be undertaken in connection

with the construction including fencing, gates,

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.

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:

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

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

# Operation (Year 15)

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:

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.

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.

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

Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.

# **Decommissioning**

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 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.

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.

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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

begun to achieve some beneficial effects from the outset.

Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.

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.

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.

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.

Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA

- 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



			<ul> <li>Potential animal grazing</li> <li>Reinstatement of historic field patterns</li> <li>Strengthened Character Area generally</li> <li>Improved shelter/protection across the landscape</li> <li>Adverse effects (mitigated):         <ul> <li>Panels and structures across landscape</li> <li>Increased hard standing areas – water runoff management required</li> <li>Potential minor pollution around substations</li> <li>Visual intrusion in early years</li> <li>Increased traffic in the local area</li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	
5km Study Area	 a:			
Effects with mitigation  Effects with only embedded	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant 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 – <b>Not Significant</b> Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b> Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible- Not Significant Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Not Significant
mitigation Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Receptor - Local Scale Landscape Character - 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 1)					
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]			
	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.	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.			
	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	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.			
	therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.  There would be the introduction of new elements and features comprising the	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.			
	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.	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.			
	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	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.			
	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	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.			
	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.	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.			
Effects with mitigati	ion				
	Construction: Low	Construction: Very Low			
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low			
J	Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Very Low	Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: Very Low			
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term			
	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term			
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term			
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term			
	Construction: Minor Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant			
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Minor <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant			
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Minor <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant			
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant			
Effects with only em	nbedded mitigation				
	Construction: Low	Construction: Very Low			
Magnituda	Operation (Year 1): Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low			
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Low	Operation (Year 15): Very low			
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low			
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term			
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term			
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term			
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term			
	Construction: Minor Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant			
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Minor <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant			
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Minor <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant			
	Decommissioning: 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		
Poor hedgerow condition is commonplace across	<u>Scenic:</u> Native vegetation, large power cables, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by flat		
the area with hedgerows often excessively	Agriculture is the dominant land use.	large-scale arable farmland.		
trimmed and gappy and that few surviving trees				
are in poor condition. There has also been a steady	<u>Cultural:</u> The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanised methods.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat large-		
decline in permanent pasture and conversion	A predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms and residential dwellings linked by long	scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow,		
to arable uses.	straight roads and a network of minor tracks which follow the geometric field patterns.	woodland belts and scattered		
Large-scale arable farmland and managed native		settlement.		
field boundary vegetation exist within the West	<u>Natural:</u> Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the			
Burton 1 Site. Drainage ditches also exist across	fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques. Very little semi-natural	<u>Value:</u> Vegetated drainage ditches and		
the Site along field boundaries.	habitat remains across the area.	vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale		
The land comprises a series of rectilinear field		farmland within and surrounding the		
parcels managed under intensively arable	Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes access the surrounding countryside. The PRoW network is limited and	Site.		
production.	lacking wider connectivity. A small number of isolated PRoW footpaths surrounding the West Burton 1 Site experience a rural			
For the West Burton 1 Site, this intensively	landscape which is predominantly agricultural.	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable		
managed land has increased the reliance on		farmland dominates this landscape.		
arable, increased the field sizes, and has degraded	<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> Sparse settlement and flat arable farmland are the key components that define the land	There is scope for development and		
the land over time.	use.	mitigation. The landscape has some		
		scope for landscape change since the		
Overall, the land use within the West Burton 1 Site	Health and Wellbeing: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.	features are generally commonplace		
lacks native vegetation and the intensively		and could be readily replaced.		
managed farmland has led to increase in field	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the large arable			
sizes.	fields.			
However, the field ditches and a network of				
managed native field boundary vegetation form a	Overall, Within the Study Area is open agricultural, predominantly regular rectilinear farmland with field boundary hedgerows			
component of this landscape.	and some small woodlands. Occasional isolated residential properties and farmsteads are dotted throughout the surrounding			
The relevant characteristics of the landscape	countryside. The Site comprises a series of agricultural field parcels that follow the surrounding field patterns separated by			
therefore have some ability to accommodate	hedgerows with trees, and drainage ditches that feed into the River Till.			
change without undue adverse effects given there	For the West Burton 1 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the large scale, flat and open agricultural field			
is scope to restore the habitats and landscape	parcels that make up the Site itself and that follow the surrounding field patterns and hedgerows.			
features that have been lost through agricultural intensification.				
On balance, land use in the West Burton 1 Site has				
a medium susceptibility to change.				
a mediam susceptionity to change.				
Medium	Medium	Medium		



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.

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



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



	Effects - Land Use (West Burton 1) Construction	Operation (Year 1)		Decommissioning
	Construction	Operation (real 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
		break up the over intensified local arable landscape and significantly diversify the land-use in the local area.	field boundaries. Historic field patterns will also have been restored where possible.	
		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.	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.	
		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.	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.	
			Changes to the land use would be seen as Minor beneficial in landscape terms.	
5km Study Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not</b> Significant



Landscape Recep	andscape Receptor – Land Use (West Burton 1)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination  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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with miti	gation			
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low		
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & 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: Minor Not Significant	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor 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 & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & 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 - 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	
In the WB1 Site, the land is flat-lying farmland which gently drains towards the River Till to the west.	Scenic: Native vegetation within flat farmland.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by the flat farmland.	
Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches. Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography of	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural setting.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat	
the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the	<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.	farmland, vegetation and settlement.	
rectangular fields.  Overall, the topography and watercourses within the West Burton 1	<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> Users of small country lanes and a small number of isolated PRoW footpaths experience a flat rural landscape.	<u>Value:</u> Drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland.	
Site has a medium susceptibility to change.	<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key components that define the topography.	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable dominates the landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation.	
	Health and Wellbeing: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.		
	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.		
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.		
	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.		
Medium	Medium	Medium	



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.

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



Assessment of	f Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  The land within the WB1 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	During operation, the topography and watercourses within the Site would not change.  The land within the WB1 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage ditches and, to an extent, help naturalize the watercourse.  The land within the WB1 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.
5km Study Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Level of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Level of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	andscape Receptor - Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 1)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	<u>In combination</u> Yes	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project		
	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.	Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with mit	igation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low		
Manusituda	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low		
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low		
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term		
Tune of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term		
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant		
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant		
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant		
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant		
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low		
Magnituda	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low		
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low		
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term		
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant		
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant		
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant		
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant		



# 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	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity	
change			
In the WB1 Site, large electricity	Scenic: Large electricity power cables cross an open agricultural landscape.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by the	
power cables cross the arable		flat farmland and power infrastructure	
farmland in an east/ west direction.	<u>Cultural:</u> The A1500 Roman road near Sturton on Stow is an important historic route and the	linking with power stations. This is	
	B1241 is a strategic north-south minor route which links several settlements including Saxilby,	defined by A1500 Roman road near	
There is sparse, scattered	Sturton by Stow and Stow. Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The large electricity power cables that	Sturton on Stow that is an important	
settlement across the area, and as	crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association.	historic route and the B1241 is a	
a result, limited infrastructure		strategic north-south minor route which	
within the landscape.	<u>Natural:</u> The east west travel direction often links the older settlements moving in a more random pattern. These roads gain access to	links several settlements including	
Overall, the susceptibility of the	smaller villages and are popular for recreation since they provide attractive destinations as narrow country lanes often with hedgerows on both sides.	Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.	
Communications and	botti sides.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat	
Infrastructure for the WB1 Site is	Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes and a small number of isolated PRoW footpaths experience a flat rural landscape and	farmland and electricity infrastructure.	
conditioned by the sensitivity of	large electricity infrastructure.	The east west travel direction between	
the rural roads and minor tracks,	an go chodh iolly in mach dottal of	the north-south routes links the older	
lanes and farm roads that are	<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> Large electricity infrastructure crosses the landscape and links with the large power stations (e.g.	settlements moving in a more random	
bordered by wide verges. The	West Burton Power Station). This is a typical view within this flat arable landscape and the electricity infrastructure contributes to the local	pattern, and which adds interest to the	
relevant characteristics of the	distinctiveness. This is a predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet lanes that	landscape.	
landscape have some ability to	connect across the landscape to the wider strategic road network linking the cities of Nottingham and Lincoln.		
accommodate change without		<u>Value:</u> There is a network of large	
undue adverse effects given there	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> : Electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland slightly detracts from the rural characteristics of the	electricity infrastructure within the flat	
is scope to protect the character	area. The local roads (that gain access to smaller villages) are popular for recreation since they provide attractive destinations as narrow	large-scale farmland that dominates the	
and diversity of the road networks	country lanes often with high levels of tranquility and isolation.	land.	
through conservation and	In a start Contint Equation 1 and a start of start and the AMP4 City in a start of the last of the las	The landscape shows evidence of	
enhancement of the local lanes	Important Spatial Function: Large power infrastructure cuts through the WB1 Site in an east/ west direction, splitting the Site into two. Main	historic settlement with farms,	
and recognition of the value that the strategic routes provide in	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.	nucleated villages, and small hamlets.	
connections across the region.	village centers has also changed the spatial function of the landscape.	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable	
The communications and		farmland, and electricity infrastructure	
infrastructure within the West	Overall, The Study Area is open flat farmland with large electricity power cables in the area. Large power infrastructure crosses the Site and	is part of the landscape character.	
Burton 1 Site has a medium	links in an east/west direction linking with West Burton Power Station.	There is scope for development and	
susceptibility to change.	The area has a number of power stations on this flat farmland, including Cottam Power Station and West Burton Power Station. The large	mitigation.	
	electricity power cables link with these power stations, and the farmland and electricity power cables within the Site is a continuation of this	Main roads are significant features in	
	surrounding energy infrastructure.	the landscape with recent development	
	The strategic major road network is defined by important historic routes and in contrast, the east west minor road network links several	concentrated along these main roads.	
	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.		
Medium	Medium	Medium	
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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.

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



Assessment of	f Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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.	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.	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.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.  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.
5km Study Are				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	andscape Receptor - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 1)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with mit	igation			
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	y 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 - 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 surrouding 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		
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	<u>Scenic:</u> Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The landscape is influenced by the sparsely populated flat arable farmland. The string of small, nucleated		
tracks.  For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other industry and commerce and a limited amount of leisure.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. A number of a listed buildings are dotted across the landscape.	settlements on the limestone capped scarp slope add to the sequence of views and help define the settled		
Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.	<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.	character of the landscape. <u>Quality:</u> The land has a mix of flat arable		
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	<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.	and scattered sparsely populated settlement. There is little commerce or economic activity other than		
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.	<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.	agriculture. The farmsteads and dwellings add a positive character to the local network where there are associated heritage features.		
Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the West Burton 1 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> : The small narrow country lanes provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.	Value: The flat large-scale arable farmland prevalent in the landscape,		
	Important Spatial Function: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	and a sparsely populated scattered settlement, contribute to the value of the countryside within the site and the		
	<b>Overall</b> , 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	area. <u>Capacity:</u> The sparsely populated, flat		
	landscape setting and the sequence of views towards churches is an important feature along with the other long views across the landscape.	large-scale arable farmland forms part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
	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).			
	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.			
Medium	Medium	Medium		



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.

- 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
Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as construction traffic, noise and vibration from construativities, dust generation, site runoff, mud on roads, the visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. At early stages of the construction stage, ground, and lo level activities such as the construction of the solar pareas and associated infrastructure and inverters wo predominantly screened by existing vegetation. During the latter part of the construction stage, views would become available of the elevated activities abothe hedgerows may be possible, but this would be shiterm.  Other works would be undertaken in connection with construction including fencing, gates, boundary treat and other means of enclosure and works for the provion of security and monitoring measures such as CCTV at laying down of internal tracks. There would also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation works, including planting and the improvement of existing hedgerows boundaries of the Site/Sites.  These short-lived construction activities would not aff any of the settlements or other commercial/industria areas in this area. There would be a change to the aralland use, but the field boundaries and the associated cover would remain intact and help with layering and integration of the new panels. Development would not have any adverse effects on the integrity of the local settlements.	ction and 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.  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	Over time, the proposals would be perceived as part of the economic activities within the predominantly arable farming landscape.  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.  The solar panels within the WB1 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.	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 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.



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



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



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.

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



ssessment of Effects			
Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
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, but this would be short term.  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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.	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.



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



Landscape Rece	Landscape Receptor - PRoW Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton 1)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	Vest Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km).  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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with miti	l igation			
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 - 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	
		Capacity: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape to the landscape that has remained largely influenced by arable farmland cliff form a notable element in the landscape to the east.  Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.  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.  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.	
	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.		
High	Medium	Medium to High	



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.

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



Assessment of Effects				
Con	nstruction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
thes	the WB1 Site, the construction and installation of solar panels would be approximately 2.3km east of AGLV 1 designated area.	For the WB1 Site, the operation of the solar panels would be approximately 2.3km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.	For the WB1 Site, the long-term operation of the solar panels would be approximately 2.3km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.	For the WB1 Site, the decommissioning of the solar panels would be approximately 2.3km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.
consicons consicons consicons on remainded consisted associated as	invities during site preparation / enabling works, instruction, and commissioning with effects such as instruction traffic, noise and vibration from instruction activities, dust generation, site runoff, much roads, and the visual intrusion of plant and cohinery on site. At the early stages of the instruction stage, ground, and lower-level activities has the construction of the solar panel areas and ociated infrastructure and inverters would be genered due to existing vegetation, intervening thements, and topography.  The latter part of the construction stage, views all become available of the elevated activities above hedgerows. Some views from limited specific areas he elevated land to the east are likely to occur, but see would not affect the integrity of the landscape eptor in itself and would be limited in their duration.  The works would be undertaken in connection with construction including fencing, gates, boundary atment and other means of enclosure and works for provision of security and monitoring measures such active and the laying down of internal tracks. There all also be landscape and biodiversity mitigation ricks, including planting and the improvement of sting hedgerows to all boundaries of the Site/Sites. The would be a change to the arable land use, but the doundaries and the associated tree cover would main intact and help with layering and the integration he new panels. There would not be a fundamental inge to the surroundings to the views and settings of AGLV.	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.  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.  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 character generally in the context of the AGLV.	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.  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.  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.  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.  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.	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.



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



Landscape Recep	Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton 1)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	<u>In combination</u>	<u>In combination</u>	
	Yes West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km).	Yes Cottam to the north of West Burton 1 (approximately 1.5km).	
	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.  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.	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.  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.  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 undu	
		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.	
Effects with miti	gation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	
3	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low	
	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term	
. , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term	
	Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	
01 161 6	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	
Effects with only	embedded mitigation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low	
Magnituda	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low	
	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	
T 6 E66	Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term	
	Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	
	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	
Effect	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	
	Decommosioning, regingible rect 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 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	
There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings on the Site.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is	
There is a Scheduled Monument near Broxholme, and a number of		heavily influenced by arable farmland	
monuments and listed buildings in the area.	<u>Cultural:</u> Medieval settlement and cultivation remains (List Entry Number: 1016797), located immediately	and countryside features. The area is	
	adjacent to the southwest of the Site.	not recognized for its Listed Buildings,	
The Site is not located within or within 2km of a Conservation Area or		Conservation Areas and Registered	
Registered Parks and Gardens.	<u>Natural:</u> Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields.	Parks and Gardens.	
	Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a		
Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation	green infrastructure network across the landscape.		
Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the West Burton 1 Site		Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable	
have a high susceptibility to change.	Recreation and Enjoyment: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small	farmland and scattered settlement. The	
	narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.	countryside does not detract from the	
		Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas	
	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local	and Registered Parks and Gardens in	
	distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered	this landscape.	
	Parks and Gardens.		
	Health and Wellbeing: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for	Value: The landscape is sparce and	
	residents and visitors to the countryside.	other than the arable farming, there is	
		little man-made interference of the	
	<u>Important Spatial Function:</u> The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense	countryside, and the Listed Buildings,	
	of openness with the flat arable landscape.	Conservation Areas and Registered	
		Parks and Gardens in the area have not	
	Overall, there are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The	become degraded.	
	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.		
		<u>Capacity:</u> The countryside has little man-	
	For the West Burton 1 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the absence of assets across	made interference. There is scope for	
	the Site itself and the proximity to Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monument at Broxholme.	development and mitigation.	
High	Medium	Medium to High	
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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.

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



Assessment of	f Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.	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.  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.	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.  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.	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.
5km Study Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate - <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not</b> 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 Rece	andscape Receptor - Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 1)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	<u>In combination</u>	Cottam Solar Project		
	Yes	Tillbridge Solar Project		
	West Burton 2 Site to the west of West Burton 1 (within 1km).	Gate Burton Energy Park		
	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.			
	macronal action of the fartacoape in minor hards about an eappropriate and			
Effects with mit	igation			
LITECIS WITH THIT	igation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low		
Magnituda	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low		
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low		
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term		
Tune of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term		
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant		
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant		
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant		
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant		
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low		
	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	· ·		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low		
	Decommissioning: Very Low  Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Very Low Construction: Neutral & Short Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term		
	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term  Construction: Negligible Net Significant	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term  Construction: Negligible Net Significant		
Significance of	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant  Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant		
	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant		
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant		
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant		



# 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		
There are no Natural Designations on the Site	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily		
or within 2km of the Site.		influenced by arable farmland and countryside		
There is no ancient woodland on the Site or	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	features. The area is not recognized for its		
within 2km of the Site.		Ancient Woodlands or Natural Designations.		
	<u>Natural:</u> Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense vegetation			
Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural	surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network			
Designations have a medium susceptibility to	across the landscape.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable		
change.		farmland and scattered settlement.		
	<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.			
		<u>Value:</u> The landscape is sparce and other than		
	<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness. The area	the arable farming, there is little man-made		
	is not recognized for its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.	interference of the countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.		
	<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.			
		Capacity: The countryside has little man-made		
	<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.	interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
	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 1 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of designations across the Site or locally.			
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	f 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 Are	======================================			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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]	
	In combination 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 mit	igation		
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**

8.2.2.1	Character Overview Tables [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
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	$Individual\ Settlements,\ Industry,\ Commerce\ and\ Leisure\ Sheets\ [ENO10132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]]$
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.	
	Sites WB2
National Character Area (NCA) / Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT) Scoping Table	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.	
minostruct supplier in generation of grap part in declaration of minostruction of minostruc	
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 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.	
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.	
riace traines and some nutrator species are reminues or or networkspread neutrinand.  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.  Springling villages at the fact of the scare with historic character and many trees.		
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 potwork of backs flooked by vesetation stratching cast to work		
A network of becks flanked by vegetation stretching east to west.  Generally well managed hedgerow field boundaries with occasional hedgerow trees.		
Generally well managed nedgerow field boundaries with occasional nedgerow 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 Llittleborough 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 paragraphy and unimproved pacture following the course of the Direct Treat		
A narrow swathe of improved and unimproved pasture following the course of the River Trent  Millouse and corubby riparian vegetation associated with waterspursors		
Willows and scrubby riparian vegetation associated with watercourses  Well maintained, bushy, Hawthorn hedgerows with Willow and Ash hedgerow trees		
Well maintained, busny, Hawthorn neogerows with Willow and Ash neogerow 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

Medium

<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.

<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.

*Natural*: The Coversands support important mosaics of heathland, akin to those of Breckland, as well as dry acid grassland and oak/birch woodland.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power

# Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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

# Sensitivity

<u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.

<u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.

<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.

<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.





Medium	Medium	Medium
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.	<b>Overall</b> , the value of the NCA48: Trent and Belvoir Vales is shaped by the strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland centred on the River Trent.	
and active sand and gravel extraction sites.  Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape recentor is moderately susceptible to the proposed.	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.	
lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works	cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The settlement pattern is characterised by	



# 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 Habblesthorpe 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, Habblesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

Low



Low

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

Medium



# 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 SINCs 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 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.

Low



Low

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

Medium



# 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:

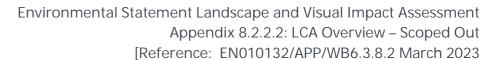
Landscape condition is defined as good. There is a coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall this gives a visually unified area.

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 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

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.

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.

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.

**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.

# Value of Receptor

<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.

<u>Cultural:</u> The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village

<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.

<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.

<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.

Health and Wellbeing: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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 with in 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 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		
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.	<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. <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.	Character: 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		
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.  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.  The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.	Natural: 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.  **Recreation and Enjoyment:** 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.  **Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:** 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.  **Health and Wellbeing:** 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.  **Important Spatial Function:**  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.  **Overall*, with Trent Washlands: TWP2 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the	improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.  Quality: 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.  Value: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.  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.		
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; tees 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 Llittleborough 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)<sup>r</sup> 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 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 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 This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is Scenic: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout

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 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.

**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.

<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.

<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.

<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 Llittleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

Sensitivity

Character: 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

<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.

<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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since *t*he 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.

<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.

Medium 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	sessment of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 2)			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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.  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.  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.  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	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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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.	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 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.  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.
5km Study Are	features would be retained and enhanced.  a:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Receptor - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 2)				
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	n/a 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. 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.	n/a		
Effects with mit	igation			
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	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 - 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 Fossdyke 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

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.

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.

**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.

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.

Medium

# Value of Receptor

High

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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	essment of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning	
	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.  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 Fossdyke and within a separate and distinct landscape focused on the wooded countryside to the north west of Skellingthorpe.  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.	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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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	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 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.  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	
5km Study Are	a:		integrity of this character area.	retained and enhanced.	
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	



Landscape R	eceptor - 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 Dipsolpes (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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Medium

#### Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: 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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

## Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

High Medium to High



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

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



ssessment of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character	ent of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (West Burton 2)				
Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning		
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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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.  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.	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 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.  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 2 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.		



5km Study Are				
Effects with	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
mitigation	Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	1	Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
only	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
embedded	Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
mitigation				
Site				
Effects with	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
mitigation	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
Tilitigation	Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant
Effects with	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
only	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
embedded	Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant
mitigation				



Landscape Rece	ptor - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 6a: Limestone Scarps	and Dipsolpes (West Burton 2)
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	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.	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.  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.  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.
		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.
		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.
Effects with miti	igation	
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



Environmental Statement Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Appendix 8.2.2.2: LCA Overview – Not Significant [Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2] March 2023



## 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 hedgerows 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 easter 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 Fossdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fossdyke 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 Fossdyke.

#### **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 Al56/ A1133)
- The Fossdyke -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 Fossdyke 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/ All33 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

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

There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant seminatural 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 easter 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. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.

This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.

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.

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.

**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.

## Value of Receptor

<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.

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

## Sensitivity

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.

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.

<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.

<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.

Medium Medium Medium



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

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



Assessment of	Assessment of Effects Local Scale Landscape Character - 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 2)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning	
	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.  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 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.  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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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. 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.	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 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.  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.  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.	
5km Study Area:					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Site					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	



Landscape Rece	ptor - Local Scale Landscape Character - 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 2)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a 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. 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.	n/a
Effects with mit	igation	
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	y 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 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

#### Value of Receptor

*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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place</u>: 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

#### Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

Value: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.



Assessment of Sensitivity	sessment of Sensitivity				
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity			
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.	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.				
Medium	High	Medium to High			



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

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



Assessment of Effects - Local Scale Landscape Character 4:	ent of Effects - Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 2)				
Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning		
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.  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.  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.  During the construction phase the construction of the solar panel areas and associated infrastructure would be screened by the layering	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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.  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.	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 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.  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.  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.		



	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.  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.			
5km Study Are	a:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 - <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Recep	ptor - Local Scale Landscape Character 4: The Cliff (West Burton 2)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	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.	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 is approximately 2.5km north of West Burton 2. The Tillbridge Solar Project is approximately 8.25km north of West Burton 2.  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.  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.  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.
Effects with miti	igation	
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 - 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 Va	/alue of Receptor	Sensitivity	
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.  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.	Earlier Districtiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Cultural: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.  Valural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.  Acad Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Acade Institute of the River Trent. Cottam Power Station down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station down towards the River Trent is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of he River Trent. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. The area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. Station is located to the far south.  Doerall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the narrow, pastoral, river	Character: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The historic field pattern is still evident.  Quality: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent.  Value: 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.  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.	
Low	Medium	Low	



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

- 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	
	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.	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.  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.  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.	
5km Study Are					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	



Landscape Rece	ptor - Local Scale Landscape Character - TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough Rive	r 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 mit	igation	
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	y 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."



Medium

## **Assessment of Sensitivity**

## Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

**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.

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.

#### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

## Sensitivity

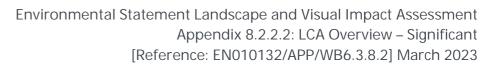
Character: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.

Medium Medium





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

- 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

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.

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. 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.

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

Other works would be undertaken in connection

with the construction including fencing, gates,

boundary treatment and other means of

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.

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.

New native scattered trees would be planted along existing hedgerows throughout the Site, increasing tree cover and providing greater enclosure.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:

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

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

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:

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

**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.



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 swather of bird mitigation meadowlands. This would create an attractive naturalistic setting to the Till.

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.

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.

cover, buffering and connecting existing fragmented vegetation, aims to create a more resilient and biodiverse landscape.

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.

The proposed grassland would have established and have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes.

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. The soil quality would be considerably improved

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 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.

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 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.

Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA

- 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



embedded mitigation Site  Effects with mitigation	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant  Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant  Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant  Magnitude: Medium Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Moderate – Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible– Not Significant
embedded mitigation	3.		3.	
embedded mitigation	3.		3.	
Office	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term		Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
only	S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	S .	5
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
mitigation	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Not Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible- Not Significant
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Very Low
5km Study Are	ea:			
			runoff management required  - Potential minor pollution around substations  - Visual intrusion in early years  - Increased traffic in the local area  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.	
			Adverse effects (mitigated):  - Panels and structures across landscape - Increased hard standing areas – water	
			wetland and elsewhere with Bird mitigation - Potential animal grazing - Reinstatement of historic field patterns - Strengthened Character Area generally - Improved shelter/protection across the landscape	
			mitigation - Potential animal grazing - Reinstatement of historic field patterns - Strengthened Character Area generally - Improved shelter/protection across the	



Landscape Receptor - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 2)				
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	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.	n/a		
	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.			
	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.			
Effects with miti	gation			
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 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 welt 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.



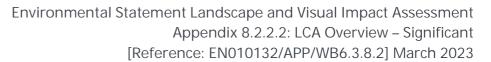
- Avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms.
- Small woodlands their edges are vulnerable to the impact of agricultural machinery.
- Minor streams and their associated riparian vegetation

#### 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 associates 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

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. 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.

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.

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.

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.

**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

#### Value of Receptor

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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 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

<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.

<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.

**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

## Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.



Assessment of Sensitivity			
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity	
not form a significant component of this landscape, and in considering its open and expansive character, extensive new woodland planting would be generally inappropriate.  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.	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.		
Medium	Medium	Medium	



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

- 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

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.

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. 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.

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

# Operation (Year 1)

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.

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

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.

New native scattered trees would be planted along existing hedgerows throughout the Site, increasing tree cover and providing greater enclosure. Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:

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

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

# Operation (Year 15)

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:

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.

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.

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.

The proposed grassland would have established and have settled into its natural scheme with some minor appropriate management of differing regimes.

The large bird mitigation alongside the Till would be providing an attractive naturalistic setting of the Till and

# Decommissioning

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 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.

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.

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.



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 swather of bird mitigation meadowlands. This would create an attractive naturalistic setting to the Till.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

providing significant ecological, habitat and biodiversity benefits.

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 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.

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 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.

Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA

- 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

# Adverse effects (mitigated):

- 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



			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 Are	a:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible- Not Significant
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
only	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
embedded	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant
mitigation		Significant		
Site				
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Medium	Magnitude: Very Low
mitigation	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
J	Significance of Effect: Minor - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Moderate – Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible- Not Significant
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
only	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term
embedded mitigation	Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant



Landscape Rece	Landscape Receptor - Local Scale Landscape Character - 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 2)				
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]  Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]				
	The In-combination effects upon WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale of the West Burton 2 Site with the other	n/a			
	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.				
	pariets and therefore the effects aport landscape character are reduced.				
	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.				
	valo is able to absorb these samalative sites whilst maintaining the integrity of the sharacter of this area.				
	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.				
	Onwooded vales character Area.				
Effects with miti					
	Construction: Low	Construction: n/a			
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a			
g	Operation (Year 15): Low	Operation (Year 15): n/a			
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a			
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a			
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a			
31	Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a			
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term  Construction: Minor Not Simificant	Decommissioning: n/a Construction: n/a			
Significance of	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a			
	Operation (Year 15): Minor <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): n/a			
Effect	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a			
Effects with only	/ embedded mitigation	Descriming, 174			
	Construction: Low	Construction: n/a			
	Operation (Year 1): Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a			
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Low	Operation (Year 15): n/a			
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a			
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a			
Turn of Effect		Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a			
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term				
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a			
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a			
Type of Effect Significance of	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a			
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term Construction: Minor Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a Decommissioning: n/a Construction: 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
Large-scale arable farmland, isolated	Scenic: Native vegetation, small settlements, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by the
properties, and managed native field	Agriculture is the dominant land use, although there are some small areas of grazing and paddocks locally.	flat large-scale arable farmland.
boundary vegetation exist within the West		
Burton 2 Site.	<u>Cultural:</u> The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanized methods.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat large-
The land comprises a series of field parcels		scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow,
which are managed intensively.	<u>Natural:</u> Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation surrounding the fields,	woodland belts and scattered
For the West Burton 2 Site, this intensively	the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques.	settlement.
managed arable land has increased the		
reliance on arable, increased the field	Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural. The PRoW	<u>Value:</u> Vegetated drainage ditches and
sizes, and degraded the land over time.	network is limited and lacking wider connectivity. A small number of isolated PRoW footpaths surrounding the West Burton 2 Site	vegetation surrounds the flat large-
	experience a rural landscape which is predominantly agricultural.	scale farmland within and surrounding
Overall, the land use within the West		the Site.
Burton 2 Site lacks native vegetation and	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Small country lanes and flat arable farmland are the key components that define the land use.	
the intensively managed farmland means		<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable
the land has become degraded.	Health and Wellbeing: Absence of PRoW network.	farmland dominates this landscape.
However, the woodland blocks, field		There is scope for development and
ditches and managed native field	<u>Important Spatial Function:</u> Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable	mitigation. The landscape has some
boundary vegetation form components of	fields.	scope for landscape change since the
the landscape.		features are generally commonplace
On balance, land use in the West Burton 2 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.	<b>Overall,</b> Within the Study Area is agricultural farmland interspersed with farms and villages, in addition to the larger settlements of Saxilby and Sturton by Stow.	and could be readily replaced.
	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.	
Medium	Medium	Medium



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

- 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
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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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.  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.  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	As the ecological measures mature, woodland, hedgerows, and grassland would increase vegetation cover across an area dominated by large-scale arable farmland.  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.  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.  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.  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.  New hedgerows will replace those lost to intensive agriculture whilst infilling with	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.



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



Landscape Rece	otor - Land Use (West Burton 2)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination 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).	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park
	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.	
Effects with miti	gation	
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & 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: Minor Not Significant	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor 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 & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & 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 - 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	
In the WB2 Site, the land is flat-lying farmland which gently drains	Scenic: Native vegetation within flat farmland.	Character: The area is influenced by the	
towards the River Till to the east.		flat large-scale arable farmland.	
Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.		
Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography		Quality: The land has a mix of flat large-	
of the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in	<u>Natural:</u> Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation	scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow,	
drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the	surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.	woodland belts and scattered	
rectangular fields.		settlement.	
	Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes experience a flat rural landscape.		
Overall, the topography and watercourses within the West Burton		<u>Value:</u> Drainage ditches and the	
2 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key	vegetation surrounds the flat large-	
	components that define the topography.	scale farmland.	
	Health and Wellbeing: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable dominates the landscape. There is	
	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.	scope for development and mitigation.	
	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.		
	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.		
Medium	Medium	Medium	



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

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



Assessment of	f Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  The land within the WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.  The land within the WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.  The land within the WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.
5km Study Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	ptor - Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 2)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination	Cottam Solar Project
	Yes	Tillbridge Solar Project
	West Burton 1 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 1km).	Gate Burton Energy Park
	West Burton 3 Site to the west of West Burton 2 (within 2km).	Cate Barton Energy Fark
	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.	
Effects with mit	igation	
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low
Magaituda	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation	
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low
Monnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant



# 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 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	
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.  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	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: 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.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes experience a flat rural landscape, country roads, and views of large electricity infrastructure,  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.	Character: 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.  Quality: 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.	
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 2 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.	Health and Wellbeing: Electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland, and the small roads, slightly detracts from the rural characteristics of the area.  Important Spatial Function: 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.  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.  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	Value: 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.  Capacity: 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.	
Medium	Medium	Medium	



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

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



Assessment o	f Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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.	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.	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.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.  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.
5km Study Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Receptor - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 2)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	In combination 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).	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park	
	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.		
Effects with mit	igation		
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 - 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 surrouding 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		
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	<u>Scenic:</u> Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The landscape is influenced by the sparsely populated flat arable farmland. The string of small, nucleated		
tracks.  For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other industry	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	settlements on the limestone capped scarp slope add to the sequence of		
and commerce and a limited amount of leisure. Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.	<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.	views and help define the settled character of the landscape.		
This landscape has some ability to accommodate change without	Recreation and Enjoyment: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small,	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable and scattered sparsely populated		
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	narrow country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local	settlement. There is little commerce or economic activity other than agriculture. The farmsteads and		
farms are also sensitive features. The balance between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important	distinctiveness.	dwellings add a positive character to the local network where there are		
characteristic.	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> : The small narrow country lanes provide a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.	associated heritage features.		
<b>Overall,</b> settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the West Burton 2 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.	Important Spatial Function: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	<u>Value:</u> The flat large-scale arable farmland prevalent in the landscape, and a sparsely populated scattered settlement, contribute to the value of		
	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.	the countryside within the site and the area.		
	Ingleby and Sturton Road are located on an elevated landform and sits at approximately 15m AOD.	<u>Capacity:</u> The sparsely populated, flat large-scale arable farmland forms part		
	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.	of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
	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.			
Medium	Medium	Medium		



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

- 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
	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.  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.  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.	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.  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 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.	Over time, the proposals would be perceived as part of the economic activities within the predominantly arable farming landscape.  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.  The solar panels within the WB2 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.	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 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.
5km Study Are	a:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible- <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Receptor - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 2)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	In combination 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).	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park	
	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.		
Effects with mit	igation		
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.

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.

**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 restricted to routes that generally follow the pattern of watercourses, tracks, and woodlands across the area. 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	
No Public Rights of Way (PRoW) cross the WB2 Site, and there is imited PRoW through the immediate countryside surroundings.  The wider PRoW network surrounding the Site provides access to the wider countryside.	<u>Scenic:</u> Views of flat, large-scale arable landscape and settlement. <u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape 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.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the surrounding area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and space and scattered settlement.	
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 cootpaths 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 apportunities including where there are natural features and historical elements to draw interest from residents and tourists.	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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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,	Quality: 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.  Value: The countryside within and surrounding the Site has poor public access other than small narrow country lanes.  Capacity: The countryside is open flat	
	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.  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.  For the West burton 2 Site, the judgement on value (Low) is shaped by the lack of public access across this area of countryside.	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'.	
High	Low	Low to Medium	



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

- 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 Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	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]		
	In combination 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). 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with miti				
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 - 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	
The Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.  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.	<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.	<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.	
AGLV1 is associated with the distinct landform ridge leading north from Lincoln.  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.  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.  Overall, the National and Locally Designated Landscapes network in the West Burton 2 Site has a high susceptibility to change.	Cultural: Flat large-scape 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.  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.  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 obstom of the scarp in this location linking villages  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.  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.  Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.  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	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.  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.  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.	
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



installation of the solar panels would be approximately 3.6km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.  There will be a much greater level of tree cover were the WB2 Site. Alto the existing field boundary and woodland vegetation both locally and across the wi	Assessment of Effects				
installation of the solar panels would be approximately 3.6km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.  There will be a much greater level of tree cover were the WB2 Site. This tree cover will have exist of the WB2 Site. All the opponing field but with the Sc	Construc	uction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
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 as well as having the benefit of capturing carbon in the longer term.  as well as having the benefit of capturing carbon in the longer term.  By Year 15, new tree cover in the form of scattered native tree belts and shelterbelts/woodlands will have established and depending upon atmospheric conditions and as well as having the benefit of capturing carbon in the longer term.  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 enhancing the overall character and provention. The Sit however benefit from the significantly entered native tree and hedgerow planting that has been out and has begun to mature, reaching a height of some	installation approximated designate.  Activities of works, conference survibration of generation visual intractive early survibration of generation visual intractive early survival early	on of the solar panels would be nately 3.6km east of the AGLV 1 ed area.  It during site preparation / enabling onstruction, and commissioning with such as construction traffic, noise and a from construction activities, dust on, site runoff, mud on roads, and the trusion of plant and machinery on site. At a stages of the construction stage, and lower-level activities such as the tion of the solar panel areas and ed infrastructure and inverters would be did due to existing vegetation, intervening ints, and topography.  The latter part of the construction stage, ered appreciation of the elevated above the hedgerows within the eastern of the WB2 Site may become available – ingupon atmospheric conditions and ear.  The sws from limited specific areas of the land to the east may occur, but these of affect the integrity of the landscape in itself and would be limited in their ould be a change to the arable land use, itself boundaries and the associated tree ould remain intact and help with layering integration of the new panels. There of the a fundamental change to the	panels would be approximately 3.6km east of the AGLV 1 designated area.  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.  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.  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	For the WB2 Site, the long-term operation of the solar panels would be approximately 3.6km east of the AGLV 1 designated area. 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.  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.  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.  The AGLV is able to accommodate the proposed development within the wider landscape without undue adverse effects with long term physical	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



5km Study Are	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Site					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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]	
	In combination	n/a	
	Yes	11/4	
	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).		
	11 00 1 2 di 10 1 0 1 1		
	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.		
	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.		
	to your behalidir cheets.		
Effects with mit	igation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a	
Magnituda	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a	
01 101 0	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a	
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a	
	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a	
T 6.500	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	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 northwest, in the Thorpe in the Fallows hamlet is Thorpe medieval settlement (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		
The Deserted village of North Ingleby is located on Sturton Road. There are no Listed Buildings on Site.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland		
There are a number of monuments and listed buildings in the area.	<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.	and countryside features. The area is not widely recognized for its Listed		
Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation		Buildings, Conservation Areas and		
Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the West Burton 2 Site	<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	Registered Parks and Gardens. However		
have a high susceptibility to change.	green infrastructure network across the landscape.	the Deserted village of North Ingleby provides time depth locally.		
	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 and the sensitive designations in the area.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The		
	<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	countryside does not detract from the		
	Parks and Gardens.	Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in this landscape.		
	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> : No PRoW's in the surrounding area provide a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.	tino la raccapo.		
		<u>Value:</u> The landscape is sparce and		
	Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the		
	Overall, located to the immediate east of Sturton Road, the Deserted village of North Ingleby (List Entry	countryside, and the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered		
	Number: 1003570), is located outside of, but in close proximity to the Site. There are also three Scheduled	Parks and Gardens in the area have not		
	Monuments within 2km. There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. The closest in proximity is Grade II	become degraded.		
	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	<u>Capacity:</u> The countryside has little man-		
	Registered Parks and Gardens on the Site or within 2km.	made interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
	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.			
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	ent of Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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	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.  Enhancements to the overall level of tree and	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.  Enhancements to the overall level of tree and	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
	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.	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	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	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
	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.	appreciated.  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.	appreciated.  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.	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.
5km Study Area	a:			
	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
Effects with mitigation	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate – <b>Not</b> Significant	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate - <b>Not</b> Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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				
	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
Effects with mitigation	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate - <b>Not</b> Significant	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - moderate - <b>Not</b> Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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]	
	In combination 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).	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park	
	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.		
Effects with miti	igation		
	Construction: Low	Construction: Low	
Mognitudo	Operation (Year 1): Low	Operation (Year 1): Low	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low	
	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term	
Type of Lifect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	
	Construction: Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	Construction: Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 1): Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation		
	Construction: Low	Construction: Low	
Magnitudo	Operation (Year 1): Low	Operation (Year 1): Low	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Low	Operation (Year 15): Low	
	Decommissioning: Low	Decommissioning: Low	
	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term	
	Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	
	Construction: Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	Construction: Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 1): Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	
	Decommissioning: Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	Decommissioning: Minor - moderate <b>Not Significant</b>	



# 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	
There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland	
There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	and countryside features. The area is not recognised for its Ancient	
<b>Overall</b> , the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations have a medium susceptibility to change.	<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.	Woodlands and Natural Designations.	
	<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.	<u>Quality:</u> The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.	
	<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.	<u>Value:</u> The landscape is sparce and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the	
	<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.	countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.	
	<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.	<u>Capacity:</u> The countryside has little man- made interference. There is scope for	
	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.	development and mitigation.	
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	f 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 Are				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 Rece	ptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 2)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination 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 mit	igation	
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a
	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a
T of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): n/a
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation	
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a
Manusikusla	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a
Turns of Effort	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): n/a
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a





# **Contents**

8.2.3.1	Character Overview Tables [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.3.2	LCA Overview [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.3.3	Individual Land Use Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.3.4	Individual Topography and Watercourses Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.3.5	Individual Communications and Infrastructure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.3.6	Individual Settlements, Industry, Commerce and Leisure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]]
8.2.3.7	Individual Public Rights of Way and Access Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.3.8	$Individual\ Nationally\ and\ Locally\ Designated\ Landscapes\ Sheets\ [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]$
8.2.3.9	Individual Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.3.10	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	Site WB3 5km Study Area
NCA Profile: 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales (NE429)	/ skill Study Area
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 cominatural baking coming agrees the areas because a good of fleed plain graving march are still found in places along the Treat	,
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;	1
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.	<i>I</i>
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.	1
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.	
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.	/
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.	
Place names and some indicator species are reminders of once widespread heathland.  Evidence of Acelliania landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.	

LLCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley (West Lindsey)	1
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.	
Tradecated vinigges constant reset by feet orick buildings and partitle footed buildings to instant cores with newer development to the periphery.  Limited smill woodlands	1
Emic sinui woodanas	/
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	
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	
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# 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.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

Medium

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

## Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<u>Ouality</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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

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.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power

## Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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

# Sensitivity

<u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.

<u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.

<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.

<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.





Medium	Medium	Medium
nave some ability to accommodate it without and a deverse enests.		
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.	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.	
lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works and active sand and gravel extraction sites.  Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape,	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.	



# 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 Dipslopes 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 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.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

Medium

## Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: 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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

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.



Medium

# **Assessment of Sensitivity**

## Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

## Value of Receptor

High

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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

<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.

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 Habblesthorpe 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, Habblesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

**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.

## Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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

**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.

# Sensitivity Character:

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.

<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.

Value: 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.

## Capacity:

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.

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.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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 characte 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.

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.

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.

## Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

## Sensitivity

<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.

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.

<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.

<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.

Medium 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



of Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Character	Effects – Regional Scale Landscape Character – 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 3)					
Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning			
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.  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.  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.  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.  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.  Existing field boundary hedgerows	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15. Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.  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.  The lack of intervisibility, combined with the low level nature of 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.	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 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.  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 WB3 Site without undue adverse effects. The integrity of all features would be retained and enhanced.			



	1	T	1	
	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.  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.			
Elem Childre				
5km Study Are		NA	Many tasks Warratasa	Many Santa Warraham
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
only embedded mitigation	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – <b>Not</b> Significant	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate - Not Significant	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate - Not Significant	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate - Not Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant



Landscape Rece	andscape Receptor - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 3a: Floodplain Valleys (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	n/a 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. 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.	n/a	
	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.		
Effects with mit	igation		
	Construction: n/a	Construction: n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): n/a	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): n/a	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: n/a	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: n/a	Construction: n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): n/a	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): n/a	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: n/a	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: n/a	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): n/a	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): n/a	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: n/a	Decommissioning: n/a	
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation		
	Construction: n/a	Construction: n/a	
Magnituda	Operation (Year 1): n/a	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): n/a	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: n/a	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: n/a	Construction: n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): n/a	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): n/a	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: n/a	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: n/a	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): n/a	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): n/a	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: n/a	Decommissioning: n/a	



## 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

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.

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.

**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.

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.

Medium

### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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).

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

Medium to High

High



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

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



Assessment of	Effects - Regional Scale Landscape Ch	aracter - 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 3)	)	
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  The landscape proposals for the WB3 Site include for a new native woodland block within the north western corner of the Site alongside Marton.  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.  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.	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 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.  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.
5km Study Area	:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Environmental Statement Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Appendix 8.2.3.2: LCA Overview – Not Significant [Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2] March 2023



Landscape R	Landscape Receptor - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 4b: Wooded Vales (West Burton 3)			
	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 3 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 WB3 Site and the RLCT Profile: 4b: Wooded Vales landscape character area.	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.  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.  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.		
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: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & 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	g and g and g and g		
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: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & 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 - 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 SINCs 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 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.



Low

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



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

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



Assessment of	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
	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.	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.	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.	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.
	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.	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.	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.	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.
	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.	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.	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.	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.
	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.			
5km Study Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 mit	igation		
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	y 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 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.

Low



Low

West Burton	[Reference: E	N010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2] March 2023
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
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.  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.  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.  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.	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village  Natural. 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: PROW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Health and Wellbeing. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.  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 that is largely uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.  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 p	Character: 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.  Quality: 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.  Value: 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.  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.

Medium



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

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



Assessment of	essment of Effects - Local Scale Landscape Character - TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning	
	This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent, approximately 1.2km west of the West Burton 3 Site.  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.  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.	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.  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 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.  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.	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 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.  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.	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.  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 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.	
5km Study Are	ea:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Site	ite				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	



Landscape Rece	dscape Receptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	n/a The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands is	n/a	
	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.  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.		
Effects with mit	igation		
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	y 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 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 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 P7

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	
Assessment of Sensitivity  Receptor susceptibility to change  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.  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.  The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.	Value of Receptor  Scenic: 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.  Cultural: 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.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Health and Wellbeing: 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.  Important Spatial Function:  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 pastu	Character: 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.  Quality: 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.  Value: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.  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.	
	mature trees. The roadside hedgerows and internal field boundaries are more fragmented and poorly maintained. There are no large areas of woodland.		
Low	Medium	Low	



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

- 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: Stu	rton le Steeple Village Farmlands (West	Burton 3)	
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power	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.	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.	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.
	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.  The Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23:	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.	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.	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.
	Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands is not considered to form part of the immediate landscape context for the West Burton 3 Site.	The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the	The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the	The distance, lack of visibility, combined with the low level nature of the development itself ensures separation between the development
	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.	development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.	development within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.	within the WB3 Site and the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Policy Zone TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands.
	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.			
5km Study Are	a:			,
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant



Landscape Rece	andscape 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 mit	igation	•		
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	y 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; tees 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 Llittleborough 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:

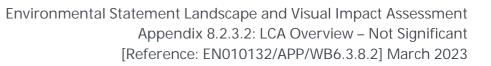
Landscape condition is defined as very good. There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features within the PZ. The detractors include pylons and masts. Overall this gives a strongly visually unified area. The overall cultural integrity is good due largely to the maturity of vegetation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

Tree cover is low, there are 4 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 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 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

Low



Low

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

Medium



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

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



Assessment of	Assessment of Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.	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.	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.	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.
	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.	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	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	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
	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.	River Trent.  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	River Trent.  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	River Trent.  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
	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.	Meadowlands.	Meadowlands.	River Meadowlands.
5km Study Area	a:			
Effects with	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
mitigation	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 mit	igation					
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	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.

- 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.



the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.  The south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power 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.	Assessment of Sensitivity						
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.  As 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.  As 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 is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. There are open views to the western side of the River Trent. The historic field pattern is still evident.  Cultural: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.  As 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 open views to the River Trent.  As and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and east. The bistoric field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.  As and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the River Trent.  Natural: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.  Natural: The area has a fla	Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity				
	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.  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.	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the area.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Health and Wellbeing: 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.  Important Spatial Function: 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. Ottam 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.  Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 48 Littleborough River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by	Character: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The historic field pattern is still evident.  Quality: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent.  Value: 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.  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				
Low Medium Low	Low	Medium	Low				



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

- 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				
	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.  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.	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.  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 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.  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.	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 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.  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.	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.  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 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.				
5km Study Area	a:							
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>				
Site								
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>				



Landscape Rece	scape Receptor - Local Scale Landscape Character - TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton 3)				
	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 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. 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.	n/a			
Effects with mit	igation				
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	y 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 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

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.

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.

**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.

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.

Medium

### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

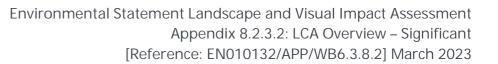
Character: Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character. Enhancing the visibility of streams, dykes and other watercourses in the landscape would bring forward some positive benefits.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.

Medium Medium





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

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



Construction

Assessment of Effects -	- Regional Scale	Landscape Character	r - 4a: Unwooded Vales	(West Burton 3)
	3			

# 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.

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. 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.

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

# Operation (Year 1)

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.

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.

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. 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.

New native scattered trees would be planted along existing hedgerows throughout the Site, increasing tree cover and providing greater enclosure.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:

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

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

# Operation (Year 15)

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

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:

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 multilayered landscape. Native woodland belts would connect with existing blocks of woodland on the Site boundaries.

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.

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.

# Decommissioning

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 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.

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.

**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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.

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.

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.

Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA

- 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



Effects with only embedded	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	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
Site				
mitigation				
Effects with only embedded	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible- Not Significant
5km Study Are	a:		<ul> <li>Strengthened Character Area generally</li> <li>Improved shelter/protection across the landscape</li> <li>Adverse effects (mitigated):         <ul> <li>Panels and structures across landscape</li> <li>Increased hard standing areas – water runoff management required</li> <li>Potential minor pollution around substations</li> <li>Visual intrusion in early years</li> <li>Increased traffic in the local area</li> </ul> </li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	



Landscape Receptor - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 4a: Unwooded Vales (West Burton 3)				
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	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	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.		
	Area. Embedded and Secondary Mitigation proposed would screen the panels and therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.	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		
	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	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.		
	area. There is no intervisibility between the WB3 Site and the other WB Sites.  Overall, the character of the Unwooded Vales is shaped by the strong agricultural presence, with wide areas	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		
	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	wedge between the two Developments.  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.		
	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.	Development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the Unwooded Vales Character Area.		
Effects with miti	gation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low		
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low		
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term		
Typo or Erroot	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term		
C!!6!	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant		
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant		
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant		
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant		
Effects with only	embedded mitigation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low		
Magaituda	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low		
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low		
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term		
	December in circumstant of the state of the	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Becommissioning. Neutral & chart form		
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant		
Significance of				
Significance of Effect	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: 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 hedgerows 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 Fossdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fossdyke 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 Fossdyke.

### **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 Fossdyke -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/ All33 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 Fossdyke 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 scarpslope 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

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

There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant seminatural 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 easter 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. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.

This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.

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.

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.

**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.

Medium

# Value of Receptor

<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.

<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

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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

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.

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.

<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.

<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.

Medium Medium



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

- 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

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.

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.

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.

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

# Operation (Year 1)

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.

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.

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.

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.

New native scattered trees would be planted along existing hedgerows throughout the Site, increasing tree cover and providing greater enclosure.

Widespread new grassland and meadow throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits, particularly to the local bird populations, including areas of:

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

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.

# Operation (Year 15)

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:

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.

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.

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.

# Decommissioning

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 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.

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.

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.



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.

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. 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.

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,

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.

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.

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 runoff 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.

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.

Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA

- 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



			T	T
	including the new woodland shelter belts		<ul> <li>Improved shelter/protection across the</li> </ul>	
	throughout the Site and reversion to grassland.		landscape	
	Due to the separation between the Site and the		Adverse effects (mitigated):	
	Trent corridor, effects on the wider WLLCA LCA		- Panels and structures across landscape	
	Profile: 2 Trent Valley character area would be		<ul> <li>Increased hard standing areas – water runoff</li> </ul>	
	extremely limited, and tempered by the presence		management required	
	of the large Cottam and West Burton Power		<ul> <li>Potential minor pollution around substations</li> </ul>	
	Stations and numerous large scale pylon runs		- Visual intrusion in early years	
	which already exert an industrial influence across		- Increased traffic in the local area	
	y .		- Increased traine in the local area	
	this character area.			
			Following mitigation, the Site and the WLLCA LCA	
	Overall, the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent Valley		Profile: 2 Trent Valley would be able to accommodate	
	landscape character area is able to accommodate		change brought about through the development	
	the changes that arise through the construction		without undue adverse effects. The scale of the	
	phase with minor adverse effects to the Site itself		planting across the Site would lead to considerable	
	·			
	and its immediate surroundings. Within the wider		beneficial effects through the increased level of	
	character area, there would be limited		vegetation cover locally, the linking and enhancement	
	appreciation of the array, associated		of existing natural features and the associated	
	infrastructure or the Substation as they are		biodiversity benefits that this will bring. This new	
	constructed, with the integrity of the character		planting would create a stronger, more resilient	
	0 0		framework across the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 Trent	
	area, and all features within retained and			
	enhanced resulting in Minor Neutral and short		Valley.	
	term effects to the wider character area only.			
5km Study Are	a:			
,	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Very Low
Effects with	9			5
	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
mitigation	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible- <b>Not</b>
				Significant
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
only	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Minor - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not</b>
embedded	organical de el Ellect. Willion Test organicalit	organical or Effect. William Proc organical	organical control of the organical terror of the organ	Significant
mitigation				Significant
Site				
	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Medium	Magnitude: Very Low
Effects with	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
	Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Minor - <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Moderate – <b>Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Negligible- <b>Not</b>
mitigation	Significance of Effect. Willion - Not Significant	Significance of Effect. Million – Not Significant	Significance of Effect. Moderate – Significant	0 0
				Significant
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
only	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term
embedded	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor - Not
			J	Significant
mitigation				orglouit



Landscape Rece	Receptor - Local Scale Landscape Character - 2: Trent Valley (West Burton 3)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	n/a 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. 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.	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.  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.  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.		
		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.  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.  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.  Development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 2 The Trent Valley landscape character area.		
Effects with mit	igation			
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: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & 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	y 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: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & 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 - 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 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 welt 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 associates 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

### Value of Receptor

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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 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

<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.

<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.

**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,

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.



Assessment of Sensitivity			
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity	
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.  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.	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.		
Medium	Medium	Medium	



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

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



mitigation works, including large scale planting

[Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2] March 2023			
Effects - Local Scale Landscape Character -	· 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 3)		
Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
Activities during site preparation / enabling	At Year 1 of Operation, landscape effects within	The effects at the Operational Phase at Year 15	A similar process to that of construction
works, construction, and commissioning with	the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape	without Mitigation equate to those effects at the	stage, but with the Scheme being no lo
effects such as construction traffic, noise and	character area, associated with the operation of	beginning of Year 1 before any secondary mitigation	operational. This is an assessment of the
vibration from construction activities, dust	the WB3 Site would be similar to those	has been applied. Mitigation embedded in the design	in winter but assumes retention of exis
generation, site runoff, mud on roads, and the	experienced during construction.	will apply as will the growing out of the existing	vegetation and builds upon the propos
visual intrusion of plant and machinery on site. A	t	hedges.	primary and secondary mitigation that
the early stages of the construction phase,	The landscape proposals include for a substantial	With secondary mitigation such as planting and grass	been established as the future baselir
ground and lower-level activities such as the	area of new woodland along the western	seeding being taken into account at the operational	Effects are those arising from activities
construction of the solar panel areas and	boundary of the Site, alongside Marton and	stage (Year 15) the following changes to the landscape	the duration of the decommissioning
associated infrastructure and inverters would	running east west through the Site and new areas	would occur and the effects are set out below:	include site traffic, noise and vibration
predominantly be screened by existing	of scrub helping provide enclosure and break up		decommissioning activities, dust gene
vegetation, notably existing vegetation along the	views of the array.	The new hedgerow and substantial shelterbelt	and site runoff.
A1500. However, locally there would be some	New sections of native hedgerow throughout the	planting along with the enhancement of existing	
appreciation of construction activities within the	Site would be reinstated and provide additional	hedgerows (which would be managed to a height of	Following decommissioning, the land
Site, notably from the A1500, but overall visibility	·	5m) would provide enclosure to the Site, screening the	to be returned to arable production.
into the West Burton 3 Site is extremely limited.	hedgerows would be reinforced with irregularly	array and associated infrastructure. These new and	would however benefit from the sign
	spaced native tree planting to help provide	augmented hedgerows would provide a series of good	enhanced tree and hedgerow planting
During the latter part of the construction stage,	enclosure across the Site, whilst respecting the	quality field boundaries both formally strengthening	has been carried out and has mature
as the upper sections of the array is constructed	overall unwooded character of the area.	the existing and historical field pattern and creating a	create a much stronger and robust
including the Substation, views would become	New native woodland shelter belts are proposed	multi-layered landscape. Native woodland belts would	landscape, retaining, and enhancing
available of the elevated activities above the	to the south of the A1500, enclosing the Site and	connect with existing blocks of woodland on the Site	overall character and providing cons
hedgerows, but these would be limited to	separating the array from the arable landscape to	boundaries.	biodiversity benefits over the years.
locations locally to the Site, again predominantly		bouridanos.	potential may exist to retain grass m
from the A1500 as those sections of array are	New native scattered trees would be planted	The planting of large blocks of woodland within the	to maintain some varied land use an
constructed within the adjacent fields, but given	along existing hedgerows throughout the Site,	Site have been avoided, instead native woodland	level of biodiversity in the local area.
separation and screening, this would not affect	increasing tree cover and providing greater	shelter belts and individual trees have been utilised to	level of blodiversity in the local area.
the integrity of the wider character area and	enclosure.	support the existing character of this area. Where	Without Secondary Mitigation havin
these activities would be short term.	Widespread new grassland and meadow	visible from within the wider landscape, the new	applied throughout the scheme, the
Within the wider area the containment provided	throughout the Site to provide ecological benefits,	planting would reinforce the well layered landscape	change to the landscape following
·			
to the landscape by the layering of field boundar vegetation, vegetation along the railway line and		with a backdrop of wooded vegetation in places on the	_
woodland blocks on the Site boundaries combine		horizon. Both new and existing vegetation would have established and begun to mature, creating a much	hedgerows which will have been allogrow out and will have been manage
with the lowlying nature of the development to	- Tussocky grass mix	stronger structure to the landscape locally, retaining	height of 5m. It is assumed that thes
allow these activities to be readily absorbed into		and enhancing the overall character of the area.	retained.
the Site itself and its immediate setting, limiting	- Tall herb mix	and enhancing the overall character of the area.	retained.
	- Diverse meadow mix	Crowth of existing and proposed vegetation is	With Mitigation the pagative offects
adverse effects upon the character of the wider	- Diverse meadow mix	Growth of existing and proposed vegetation is assumed to be:	With Mitigation, the negative effects physical decommissioning will be ba
area.	Although now vogetetion will be immeture		. 3
Other works would be undertaken in connection	Although new vegetation will be immature,	Woodland/trees and shelterbelts: 2.5m max at Year 1, 7.5m max at Year 15.	out by the long term landscape and v
	3 3		effects of this mitigation.
with the construction including fencing, gates,	at Year 1 and the varied grassland areas will have	New hedgerows: 0.6m at Year 1 and 3.5m at Year 15.	The now established mitigation plant
boundary treatment and other means of	become established, starting to create valuable	Existing hedgerows: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.	would screen the decommissioning a
enclosure and works for the provision of security		Shrubs: 0.9m at Year 1 and 5m at Year 15.	within the Site, limiting opportunities
and monitoring measures such as CCTV and the	Overall, this will help to link habitats and	The second secon	adverse effects upon the wider chara
laying down of internal tracks.	strengthen the overall character locally and	The proposed grassland would have established and	the area.
As well as the construction of the array, there	maintain a sense of place. Important	have settled into its natural scheme with some minor	
would also be landscape and biodiversity	opportunities to bolster the local vegetation	appropriate management of differing regimes.	
mitigation works, including large scale planting	cover buffering and connecting existing		1

cover, buffering and connecting existing



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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Between Years 1 and 15, the following beneficial effects will be achieved in terms of the LCA

- 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

# Adverse effects (mitigated):

- 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



			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 Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Medium  Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term  Significance of Effect: Moderate – <b>Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – Not Significant



Landscape Rece	otor - Local Scale Landscape Character - 3: The Till Vale (West Burton 3)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	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	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.  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
	therefore the effects upon landscape character are reduced.	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
	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.	Valley landscape character areas 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.
	Overall, the character of the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area is shaped by the strong	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,
	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.	forming a green wedge between the two Developments. 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.  Development would not alter the overall character of the landscape within the WLLCA LCA Profile: 3 The Till Vale landscape character area.
Effects with miti	gation	
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	Assessment of Sensitivity				
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity			
Large-scale arable farmland, scattered with small settlements, isolated properties and managed native field boundary vegetation	<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.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland.			
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.	<u>Cultural:</u> The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanized methods. <u>Natural:</u> Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches across the Site, the landscape is predominantly flat arable	<u>Quality:</u> The land has a mix of flat large- scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement. Detractors include the			
For the West Burton 3 Site, this intensively managed arable land has increased the reliance on arable, increase in field sizes has	farmland managed using modern farming techniques. Some small areas of scrub exist alongside the pylon stanchions.  **Recreation and Enjoyment:** Users of small country lanes access the surrounding countryside.	railway, power lines and the presence of the large power stations.			
degraded the land over time.  Overall, the land use within the West Burton	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.	<u>Value:</u> Vegetated drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat largescale farmland within and surrounding			
3 Site lacks native vegetation and the intensively managed farmland means the land has become degraded.  However, the woodland blocks, field ditches	<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.	the Site. <u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable farmland is the predominant land use.			
and managed native field boundary vegetation form a component of this	Health and Wellbeing: Limited number of PRoW routes. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.	There is scope for development and mitigation.			
landscape, resulting in a medium susceptibility of change.	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable fields.				
	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.				
	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 Fester's area is leasted between the railway line and the A1500 which runs clare the recipity of the parth are				
	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.				
Medium	Medium	Medium			



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

- 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
Assessment of		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.  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.  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.  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.  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	As the ecological measures mature, woodland, hedgerows, and grassland would increase vegetation cover across an area dominated by large-scale arable farmland.  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.  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.  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.  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.  New hedgerows will replace those lost to intensive agriculture whilst infilling with strengthen those existing which have been overmanaged.  By Year 15, the proposed mitigation will have established and begun to mature. Existing vegetation	Decommissioning  A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.
		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	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	
		integrate development into the landscape.	boundaries.	



		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.  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.  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, 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.	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.  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.  Changes to the land use would be seen as Minor beneficial in landscape terms.	
5km Study Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation  Effects with only	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term
embedded mitigation	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant
Site:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Beneficial & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor – <b>Not</b> Significant



Landscape Recep	otor – Land Use (West Burton 3)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park
Effects with miti	gation	
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): low Decommissioning: Very Low
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Beneficial & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Beneficial & 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: Minor Not Significant	Construction: Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor 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 & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & 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 - 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	
In the WB3 Site, the land is flat-lying farmland which gently drains towards the River Trent to the west.	Scenic: Native vegetation within flat farmland.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland.	
Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches. Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography of	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat large-	
the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the rectangular fields.	<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.	scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.	
Overall, the topography and watercourses within the West Burton 3 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.	Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes and isolated PRoW footpaths experience a flat rural landscape.	<u>Value:</u> Drainage ditches and the vegetation surrounds the flat large-	
cite nac a moutain casespitanty to onange.	<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key components that define the topography.	scale farmland.	
	Health and Wellbeing: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable farmland is the predominant land use.  There is scope for development and	
	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.	mitigation.	
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.		
	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.		
Medium	Medium	Medium	



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

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



Assessment of	f Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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	During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.	Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.
	upon the topography or watercourses.  The land within the WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	The land within the WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	The land within the WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	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.
5km Study Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	ptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton 3)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	<u>In combination</u> Yes	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project
	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.	Gate Burton Energy Park
Effects with mit	igation	
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): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & 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	y 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 - 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.



Name   Processor	Assessment of Sensitivity - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 3)			
Translated in an east west direction and link with West Burton Power Station. The Sheffield – Lincoin and Dencaster – Lincoin railway line cuts across the countryside and through the Stote in a north/south direction. There is sparse, scattered settlement across the area, and as a result, not much intrastructure within the landscape.  Overall, the susceptibility of the Communications and infrastructure in the Wast Burton Stote in a north/south direction and understanding of this asset.  Matural: Somi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and nalive vegotation surrounds anable hidds, and minor tracks, lanes and farm roads that are bordered by wide verges. The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate charge without number adverse effects given there is scope to protect the characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate charge without number adverse effects given there is scope to protect the characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate charge without number adverse effects given there is scope to protect the characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate charge without number adverse effects given there is scope to protect the characteristics of the landscape and links with landscape and links with the landscape and links with the land	Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity	
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The Shaffield – Lincoln and Doncaster – Lincoln railway line cuts across the countryside and through the Site in a north-South direction.  There is sparse, scallered selllement across the area, and as a result, not much intrastructure within the landscape.  Overall, the susceptibility of the Communications and infrastructure of the W38 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 character sizes of the landscape does not conflict with this cuttural sascialation. The design of the south of the size is limit appreciation and understanding of this asset.  Midurall, Seminatural habital along the derivage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arrable fields. The large electricity infrastructure. Vegetation along the railway line creates a green corridor which is not natural but is obtained by the sensitivity of the rural roads and views of a railway line and large electricity infrastructure.  Per protect the character and diversity of the road interest to a commodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scope to protect the character and diversity of the road interest to a commodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scope to protect the character and diversity of the road interest to the indicape, small roads and views of a railway line and large electricity infrastructure.  **Exercise and Sonse of Flace:**Large power and communication infrastructure crosses the landscape ose and links with the large power and communication infrastructure crosses the landscape ose and links with the large power and communication infrastructure crosses the landscape.  **Walker:**The land has a mix of flat farmland and and electricity infrastructure.**  **Local Distinctions and Infrastructure and Communication infrastructure crosses the capture of the value with the large power and communication infrastructure and communication infrastructure and communication infrastructure and communication infrastru	farmland in an east/ west direction and link with West Burton Power		·	
the countryside and through the Site in a north/south direction.  There is sparse, scallered selllement across the area, and as a result, not much infrastructure within the landscape.  Overail, the susceptibility of the Communications and Infrastructure for the WB3 Site is conditioned by the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor trads, lanes and form roads that are bordered by wide verges. The rolevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scape to protect the characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scape to protect the characteristics of the landscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scape 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 3 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.  **Exercision and Enjoyment** Users of small country lanes and users of the PRoW experience a flat rural and scape, small roads and views of a railway line and large electricity infrastructure.  **Exercision and Enjoyment** Users of small country lanes and users of the PRoW experience a flat rural and scape, small roads and views of a railway line and large electricity infrastructure.  **Exercision and Enjoyment** Users of small country lanes and users of the PRoW experience a flat rural and scape.  **Exercision and Enjoyment** Users of small country lanes and users of the PRoW experience a flat rural and scape.  **Exercision and Enjoyment** Users of small country lanes and users of the PRoW experience a flat rural and electricity infrastructure.  **The lange electricity infrastructure within the flat large scale arable farmland in the provide in a north/south the large power and communication infrast				
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There is sparse, scattered settlement across the area, and as a result, not much infrastructure within the landscape.  Overall, the susceptibility of the Communications and infrastructure for the WB3. Site is conditioned by the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor tracks, lance and farm roads that are bordered by wide verges. The relevant characteristics of the indiscape have some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is scope to protocit the characters is relevant on the value that the strategic routes provide in connections across the region.  The communications and infrastructure within the West Burton 3 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.  **Baltina Melibeling** Power and communication infrastructure within the first large-scale arable farmland direction; pits the land into two.  Overall, within the Study Area and the Sile, the countryside is crossed by the railway line across the countryside in a north/south direction, and the surrounding countryside and the work of power infrastructure.  Overall, within the Study Area and the Sile, the countryside is crossed by the railway line across the countryside in a north/south for the WB3 Site in a north/south for the WB3 Burton 3 Site the judgement on value (medium) is happed by or presence of railway line across the countryside in a north/south direction, and the large locaticity power cables in an east/west direction. The strategic major road network is several sistoric and distinctive smaller string of settlements across the area. Overall, within the Study Area and the Sile, the countryside is crossed by the railway line across the countryside in a north/south direction and the large locaticity power cables in an east/west direction. The landscape shows evidence of nistoric sellinement with farms, nucleated willages, and small handless that the country side in a north/south direction and the surrounding country side and the network of power infrastructure.  For the West Burton 3 Sile the pudgement on value (methods	the countryside and through the Site in a north/south direction.			
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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

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



Assessment of	Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning	
	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.  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.	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.	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.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.  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.	
5km Study Are	 ea:				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Site					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	



Landscape Receptor - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton 3)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	In combination Yes	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project	
	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.	Gate Burton Energy Park	
Effects with miti	igation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low	
Type of Effect	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Adverse & 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	y embedded mitigation	Decontriissioning. Negligible Not Significant	
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	
Type of Effect	Decommissioning: Very Low  Construction: Adverse & Short Term  Operation (Year 1): Adverse & Long Term  Operation (Year 15): Adverse & Long Term  Decommissioning: Adverse & Short Term	Decommissioning: Very Low  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 - 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 surrouding 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.



farming. This is illustrated by the large-scale, flat, rectangular parcels landscape forms countryside views.	Assessment of Sensitivity - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 3)				
laming. This is illustrated by the largo-scale, flat, rectangular parcels of arable land, isolated farmsteads, and a network of farm tracks. For the landscape to the north of Savilby, there is little other industry and commerce and a limited amount of loisure. Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.  This landscape has some ability to accommodate change without undue adverse effects given the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor fram tracks. The edges of the villages, the sequence of views to the churches and the avenues and lines of traces on the approaches to farms are also sensitive features. The balrace between clustered villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic.  Sobiled properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.  Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the West Burton 3 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.  Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the West Burton 3 Site has a medium susceptibility to change.  Overall, settlements in the West Lindsey district of Lincoln Sectional Settlements of the village of Surroup by Sow. The Site is located to the south western corner of the Site, surrounding the small harded for the Atsoc.  The Lincoln Golf Club is located between the Settlements of Marton and Brampton in the West Lindsey district of Lincoln Site is located to the south western corner of the Site, surrounding the small harded forms and space	Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity		
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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.  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		The Lincoln Colf Club is located to the south west of the Site currounding the small hamlet of Prampton			
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settlement of Marton which occupies the hillside leading down from the arable plateau to the lower lying landform alongside the River Trent.  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		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Iandform alongside the River Trent.  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					
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					
settlement of Marton to the north west being relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential		landionn diongside the river frent.			
settlement of Marton to the north west being relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential		For the West Burton 3 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the area, outside of the			
Medium Medium Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium		



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

- 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
Activities during site preparation / enabling works, construction, and commissioning with effects such as 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.  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.  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.	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.  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 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.	Over time, the proposals would be perceived as part of the economic activities within the predominantly arable farming landscape.  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 settling of these settlements.  The solar panels within the WB2 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.	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 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.



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



Landscape Rece	Landscape Receptor - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton 3)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination	Cottam Solar Project		
	Yes West Burton 2 Site to the east of West Burton 3 (within 2km).	Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
	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.			
Effects with mit	igation			
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low		
	Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: 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	y embedded mitigation	Decommissioning. Negligible 1401 significant		
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 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.



Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
		Scrisitivity
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	<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.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland.
The wider PRoW network travels through the countryside.  A limited PRoW network surrounding the Site provides access the wider landscape.  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.	Cultural: Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.  Health and Wellbeing: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.  Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.  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.  For the West burton 3 Site, the judgement on value (Medium) is shaped by the lack of public access across this area of countryside.	Quality: 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.  Value: 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.  Capacity: 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'.
High	Medium	Medium to High
r ngn	Modium	modiani to riigii



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

- 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
	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.	Within the WB3 Site, the operation of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the Site.	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.	Within the WB3 Site, the decommissioning of the solar panels and the mitigation would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the 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, but this would be short term.  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.  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.  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.  Within the WB3 Site, the construction and installation of the solar panels	As well as the enhancement and retention of native hedgerows, other mitigation includes native shelter belts and woodland planting within the wider WB3 Site.  A new native woodland has been proposed to the north of the Substation, helping break up the wider array and screen the Substation infrastructure.  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.	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.  This would form an attractive route, but would be enclosed by vegetation, loosing 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.	
5km Study Are	would not obstruct or redirect the PRoW access surrounding the Site.	<u> </u>		
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 - <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate- <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Minor - Moderate – <b>Not Significant</b>	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]	
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park	
Effects with mit	igation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low	
Type of Effect	Decommissioning: Very Low  Construction: Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Very Low  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	y 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 - 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 Lindscape 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	
		Character: The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside features.  Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.  Value: The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value of the countryside within the Site and the area.  Capacity: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. There is scope for development and mitigation.	
	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Small country lanes, isolated PRoW footpaths, and flat arable farmland are the key components that define land use.  Health and Wellbeing: Limited number of PRoW routes. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.  Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable fields.  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.  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.		
High	Medium	Medium to High	



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

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



Assessment of Effects				
Constru	iction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
and instal would be the south designate from it by developm A1500, ex Mount Ple and Willin There wo arable lan the field b associated intact and the integr There wo change to	VB3 Site, the construction approximately 350m to east of the AGLV3 and area and separated by the new residential ment to the north of the existing properties on easant Close, the A1500 angham Road. Sould be a change to the end use within the Site, but boundaries and the end the tend to the new panels. Sould not be a fundamental to the surroundings or to so and settings of the AGLV.	For the WB3 Site, the operation of the solar panels would be approximately 350m to the south-east of the AGLV3 designated area. 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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  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.  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.  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.	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. 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.



5km Study Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	ptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burto	on 3)
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	n/a	In combination Yes 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. 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
Effects with mit	igation	within different landscape parcels.
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	y embedded mitigation	Decommissioning. Negligible Not Significant
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) 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 Monumer	nts, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens (West Burton 3)	
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site itself however, but the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and countryside
Park is located in the adjacent Stow Park.  There are a number of Scheduled Monuments within	<u>Cultural:</u> The Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park is located in the adjacent Stow Park.	features.
the area.	<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	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable
There are no Listed Buildings on the Site. There are a number of Listed Buildings surrounding the Site.	infrastructure network across the landscape.	farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Listed
The Site is not located within or near Conservation Area or Registered Parks and Gardens.	<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.	Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in this landscape.
<b>Overall</b> , the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the West Burton 3 Site have a high susceptibility to	<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.	<u>Value:</u> The landscape is sparce and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made
change.	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> : Limited PRoW's in the surrounding area provides limited access for residents and visitors to the countryside.	interference of the countryside, and the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the area have not become degraded.
	<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.	<u>Capacity:</u> The countryside has little man-made
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.	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.
	For the West Burton 3 Site, the judgement on value (high) is shaped by the immediate proximity to the Scheduled Monuments.	
High	High	High



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

- 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
	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.  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.	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.  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.  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.	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.  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.  New woodland blocks and shelterbelts are now established providing containment to the array.	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.
5km Study Area	 a·			
okiii otaay 711 oo	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
Effects with	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term
mitigation	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>
margation	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
only	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term
embedded	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>
mitigation	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant
Site				
	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
Effects with	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term
mitigation	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>
Tilligation	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant
Effects with	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low	Magnitude: Low
	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Long Term	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term
only	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>	Significance of Effect: Minor-moderate – <b>Not</b>
embedded	Significant	Significant	Significant	Significant
mitigation	1-9	9	9	9



Landscape Rece	ptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Register	ed Parks and Gardens (West Burton 3)
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park
Effects with mit	l igation	
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Low	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: 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: Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor-moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor-moderate Not Significant	Construction: Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor-moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor-moderate Not Significant
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation	,
Magnitude	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: Low	Construction: Low Operation (Year 1): Low Operation (Year 15): Low Decommissioning: 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: Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor-moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor-moderate Not Significant	Construction: Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Minor-moderate Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Minor-moderate Not Significant Decommissioning: Minor-moderate Not Significant



## 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 D	Designations (West Burton 3)	
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland
The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the Site at Gate Burton.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Ancient
Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations have a	<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	Woodlands and Natural Designations.
medium susceptibility to change.	green infrastructure network across the landscape.  Recreation and Enjoyment: No PRoW in the Site, and a limited number in the surrounding area. Small	<u>Quality:</u> The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The
	narrow lanes are used to access the countryside and the sensitive designations in the area.	countryside does not detract from the Ancient Woodlands and Natural
	<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.	Designations in this landscape.
	Health and Wellbeing: The limited number of PRoW in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.	<u>Value:</u> The landscape is sparce and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the
	Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.	<u>Capacity:</u> The countryside has little manmade interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.
	For the West Burton 3 Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the lack of designations across the Site or locally	
Medium	Medium	Medium



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

- 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 Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	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.	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.	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.	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.
5km Study Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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Landscape Rece	ptor - Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton 3)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination Yes	In combination 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 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.	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.
Effects with miti	igation	
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low
iviagilituue	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation	
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low
Magrittude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant





# **Contents**

8.2.4.1	Character Overview Tables [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.4.2	LCA Overview [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.4.3	Individual Land Use Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.4.4	Individual Topography and Watercourses Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.4.5	Individual Communications and Infrastructure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.4.6	$Individual\ Settlements,\ Industry,\ Commerce\ and\ Leisure\ Sheets\ [ENO10132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]]$
8.2.4.7	Individual Public Rights of Way and Access Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.4.8	$Individual\ Nationally\ and\ Locally\ Designated\ Landscapes\ Sheets\ [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]$
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.	Cable Route Corridor WB1 to WB2
National Character Area (NCA) / Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCT) Scoping Table  NCA Profile: 48 Trent and Belvoir Vales (NE429)	500m Study Area
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	
South State of the	
Underlying limestone supporting small areas of caicareous 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.	
rew watercourses of mice patacea, wince rise set exweet mice invest men and anchoring with control more minute, and is controlled in the sound by mice water with the standard 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.	
The first state of the distance of passing and producted wooding are shall use to principle of the observed with distance quarters.	
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;	
recommence of posterial and out, with recreal growing mercoang in some areas. You ping a reasonapeer to more mechanic extrem 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 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.	
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	
Note that the second of the se	
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	
I he PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village	
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BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands	
BLCA Policy Zones TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands This is a flat landscape less than 5metres AOD	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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	
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 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	
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 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	
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	
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	
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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 Llittleborough 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.	
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# 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

Medium

<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.

<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.

*Natural*: The Coversands support important mosaics of heathland, akin to those of Breckland, as well as dry acid grassland and oak/birch woodland.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<u>Ouality</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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power

### Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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

# Sensitivity

<u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.

<u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.

<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.

<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.





Medium	Medium	Medium
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.  Madium		
lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works and active sand and gravel extraction sites.  Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed	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.	



# 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

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.

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.

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.

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.

### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

# Sensitivity

Medium

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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

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.

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.

**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.

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.

Medium

## Value of Receptor

High

<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.

<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).

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

Medium to High



# Landscape Receptor - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Medium

# Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: 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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

<u>Capacity</u>: There are areas of pastoral landscape and wooded scarps interspersed with small stonebuilt villages and this helps retain a tangible connection to the landscape character, but these features are vulnerable and show less tolerance for change.

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 Lindscape 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 hedgerows 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 easter 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 Fossdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fossdyke 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 Fossdyke.

### **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 Al56/ A1133)
- The Fossdyke -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/ All33 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.

- 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 Fossdyke 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

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

There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant seminatural 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 easter 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. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.

This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.

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.

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.

**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.

# Value of Receptor

<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.

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

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.

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.

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.

<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.

Medium

Medium



Environmental Statement Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Appendix 8.2.4.2: LCA Overview – Scoped Out [Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2 March 2023



# 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:**

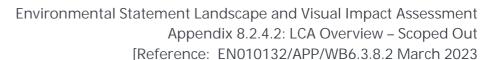
- Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.
- Diverse pattern of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.
- Spring line villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.
- Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.
-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

- 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.



Medium

# **Assessment of Sensitivity**

### Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

High

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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

<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.

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 Habblesthorpe 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.

- 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, Habblesthorpe, and South Wheatley.
- Conserve and respect the local brick-built vernacular in any new development.
- Contain new development within existing field boundaries.

Low



Low

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



# 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 SINCs 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 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 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 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.

Low



Low

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.  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 views to the north and south are constrained by wooded ridge lines.  There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained by wooded ridge lines.  There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east. Long views to the north and south are constrained by distance, long distance views and west constrained by wooded ridge lines.  Long views to the north and south are constrained by wooded ridge lines.  Cultural. Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.  Natural: There is very limited tree cover within the area. The only small woodlands are north of 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.  **Recreation and Enjoyment!** 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.  **Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:** Small scale pastoral landscapes of Sampton, Church Laneham and Church Laneham.** The historic field pattern i	SOLAR PROJECT			
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 conflicted to the historic village cores and hedge lines rather than woodlands.  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, long distance, l	Assessment of Sensitivity			
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.  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 and west constrained by wooded ridge lines. Pylons cross the area from north to south and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.  **Cultural:** Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantitle roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.  **Overall,** the susceptibility of TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham. The village cores consist of red with smaller scale pastoral landscapes around the villages of Cottam, Rampton and Cottam Power Station dominates views to the east.  **Overall,** the susceptibility of TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham villages and content power Station dominates views to the east.  **Overall,** the susceptibility of TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham villages farmland or the east to the periphery.  **Overall,** the province of the 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 and track province and the province of the pattern of landscape and Church Laneham. The villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham The villages of details and west constrained by distance, long distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows.  **Output Laneham The villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham The villages of Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneh				
Important Spatial Function: 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  are locally commonplace. Some featur make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the	Receptor susceptibility to change  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.  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.  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.	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: Nucleated villages characterised by red brick buildings and pantile roofed buildings to historic cores with newer development to the periphery.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Health and Wellbeing: 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.  Important Spatial Function: 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	Character: This is a flat, arable landscapes 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.  Quality: A visually unified area with a coherent habitat for wildlife/functional integrity gives a good landscape condition.  Value: 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.  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	



# 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 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.

Low



Low

Assessment of Sensitivity  Percentage susceptibility to change	Value of Pocentor	Soncitivity
Receptor susceptibility to change  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.  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.  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.  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.	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: PROW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Health and Wellbeing: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP.  Important Spatial Function: 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.  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 in	Character: 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.  Quality: 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.  Value: 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.  Capacity: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some feature make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.



# 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 with in 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 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 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.

- 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	
This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The	<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.	Character: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land	
some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.	<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.	use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some	
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.  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. The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.	Natural: 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.  **Recreation and Enjoyment:** 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.  **Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:** 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.  **Health and Wellbeing**. 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.  **Important Spatial Function:** 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.  **Overall**, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 23 Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands the value (medium) is shaped by the	improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.  Quality: 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.  Value: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.  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.	
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; tees 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 Llittleborough 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)<sup>r</sup> 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 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 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

Low



Low

West Burton		N010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2 March 2023		
SOLAR PROJECT	[Neterence: E	1.101010132/71117 WD0.3.3.2 Wd1 C11 2023		
Assessment of Sensitivity				
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity		
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 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	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: 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.  Natural: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the porth and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and bedgerows to tracks, as well as	Character: 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  Quality: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties and Littleborough		
visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by elevated ridgelines and riverside vegetation.  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.	north and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as Llittleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.  *Recreation and Enjoyment:* 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.  *Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:* The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient*	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.  Value: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely uninhabited. The large West		
	Settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.  Health and Wellbeing: 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.  Important Spatial Function: This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved	Burton and Cottam power stations dominate the views in this LCP.  Capacity: Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for		
	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.  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.	mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.		



# 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:**

- Fat 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.

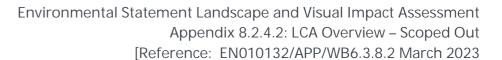
A moderate network for wildlife and a good cultural integrity | habitat for wildlife. An area that is strongly visually unified with a strong functional integrity | habitat for wildlife has a very good landscape condition.

#### 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.

Low



Low

#### [Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2 March 2023 West Burton **Assessment of Sensitivity** Receptor susceptibility to change Value of Receptor Sensitivity The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which Scenic: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The Character: This is a narrow, pastoral, extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area. riverside landscape located along the Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. There are open views to the the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and western side of the River Trent. The unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation. north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are historic field pattern is still evident. enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station. The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian Quality: This is a narrow, pastoral, vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are <u>Cultural</u>: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the riverside landscape located along the enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with encroachment of arable farmland to the west. western side of the River Trent. 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 Natural: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western *Value:* This is a flat landscape within the the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power edge of the area, and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and valley floor of the River Trent that is Station. The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation. largely uninhabited. The large West to the west of the area. Burton and Cottam power stations Recreation and Enjoyment: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the dominate the views in this LCP. Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape. Capacity: Features are evident, but they There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the are locally commonplace. Some features within the PZ. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south, western side of the River Trent. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, dominating views south make a minimal contribution to outside the Policy Zone area. along the river corridor. landscape character and scope for Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area. mitigation would therefore help to Health and Wellbeing: PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting reinforce their prominence in the with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station dominates views to the south. landscape. Important Spatial Function: 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. 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.



# 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."



Medium

### **Assessment of Sensitivity**

### Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

**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.

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.

#### Value of Receptor

Medium

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

### Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.

Medium





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.



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
	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.  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].  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.	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.	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.	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.
	In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to coordinate 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.  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.			
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> <b>Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> <b>Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>



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]		
	The In-combination Effects of the Cable Route Corridor (West Burton 1 to West Burton 2)	n/a		
	with the other Cumulative Sites and Cable Route Corridors is Negligible at the construction,			
	operation (year 1 and year 15) and decommissioning stages.			
	Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature			
	and would be limited to a short-term duration.			
	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.			
	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.			
	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.			
	deserming stage.			
Effects with miti	igation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very Low	Operation (Year 15): n/a		
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a		
	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: n/a		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a		
31	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a Construction: n/a		
Significance of	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a		
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): n/a		
LITEGE	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a		
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a		
	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very Low	Operation (Year 15): n/a		
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a		
	Construction: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: n/a		
T of Eff	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a		
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a		
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a		
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): n/a		
	Decommissioning: Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	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 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 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 welt 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.

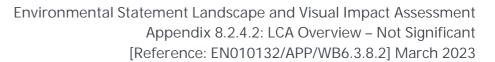
### **Key Features:**

- 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 it's 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:





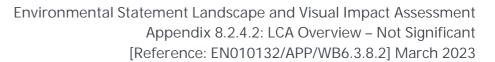
- Rural roads and minor farm tracks boarded by wide verges and hedgerows.
- Edges of villages which show evidence of medieval settlement.
- The sequence of views of village churches along the B1241.
- Avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms.
- Small woodlands their edges are vulnerable 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 associates 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

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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 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

<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.

<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.

**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.

### Sensitivity

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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.



Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
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.		
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.		
Medium	Medium	Medium

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.



Assessment of	f Effects – Local Scale Landscape Character – 3: The Till Vale (West Burton Cable Route Corrido	or WB1 – WB2)		
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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].  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.  In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to coordinate 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 building	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.	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.	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.
	Following installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing conditions.			
5km Study Are				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect:	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect:	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Negligible - Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low  Type of Effect: Neutral & Long  Term  Significance of Effect:  Negligible - Not Significant	Negligible - Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low  Type of Effect: Neutral & Long  Term  Significance of Effect:  Negligible - Not Significant	- 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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant



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]	
	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.	n/a	
	Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.		
	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.		
	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.		
Effects with miti	gation		
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		
Large-scale arable farmland and managed native field boundary vegetation exist within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site.	<u>Scenic:</u> Native vegetation, large power cables, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale, rectangular fields.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by flat large-scale arable farmland.		
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	<u>Cultural:</u> The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanized methods. <u>Natural:</u> Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation	<u>Quality:</u> The land has a mix of flat large- scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered		
managed land has increased the field sizes, and has degraded the quality of the land over time.	surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques.	settlement.  Value: Vegetated drainage ditches and		
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	<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.	vegetated dramage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat largescale farmland within and surrounding the Site.		
field boundary vegetation form a component of this landscape.  On balance, land use in the Cable Route Corridor WB1-WB2 has a low susceptibility to change.	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparse settlement and flat arable farmland are the key components that define the land use.  Health and Wellbeing: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable farmland dominates this landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the large arable fields.			
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.			
	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.			
Low	Medium	Low		



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.



Assessment of	Effects - Land Use (West Burton Cable Route	Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.	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.
	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.			
5km Study Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Receptor - Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	In combination Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 Sites.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park	
	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.		
Effects with miti	gation		
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 - 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/WB6.4.8.5.1]**.

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 that follows the surrounding field patterns and hedgerows and is divided into two separate areas by Broxholme Lane, which crosses the north western corner of the

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		
In the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site, the land is flat-lying	Scenic: Native vegetation within flat farmland.	Character: The area is influenced by the		
farmland which gently drains towards the River Till to the west.		flat farmland.		
Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.			
Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography of		Quality: The land has a mix of flat		
the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in	<u>Natural:</u> Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation	farmland, vegetation and settlement.		
drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the	surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.			
rectangular fields.		<u>Value:</u> Drainage ditches and vegetation		
O constitution to the state of	Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes and a small number of isolated PRoW footpaths	surrounds the flat large-scale farmland.		
Overall, the topography and watercourses within the West Burton 1	experience a flat rural landscape.	Conseits The flet leves early grable		
Site has a low susceptibility to change.	<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key	Capacity: The flat large-scale arable		
	components that define the topography.	dominates the landscape. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
		scope for development and mitigation.		
	Health and Wellbeing: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.			
	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.			
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.			
	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.			
Low	Medium	Low		



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.



Assessment o	f Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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	During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.	Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.
	would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.	The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however, benefit from the significantly enhanced
	The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.			planting that would create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character.
5km Study Arc				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	eptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - V	WB2)
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park
Effects with mit	igation	
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	y 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 - 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		
In the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, large electricity power cables cross the arable farmland in an east/ west direction.	Scenic: Large electricity power cables cross an open agricultural landscape.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by the flat farmland and power infrastructure		
	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The large electricity	linking with power stations. This is		
There is sparse, scattered settlement across the area, and as a result,	power cables that crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association.	defined by A1500 Roman road near		
limited infrastructure within the landscape.		Sturton on Stow that is an important		
	<u>Natural:</u> Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields.	historic route and the B1241 is a		
Overall, the susceptibility of the Communications and Infrastructure	The large electricity infrastructure that crosses the landscape does not interfere with this green	strategic north-south minor route which		
for the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 is conditioned by the sensitivity of the rural roads and minor tracks, lanes and farm roads	infrastructure.	links several settlements including Saxilby, Sturton by Stow and Stow.		
that are bordered by wide verges.	Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes and a small number of isolated PRoW footpaths	Saxing, Starton by Stow and Stow.		
The relevant characteristics of the landscape have some ability to	experience a flat rural landscape and large electricity infrastructure.	<b>Quality:</b> The land has a mix of flat		
accommodate change without undue adverse effects given there is		farmland and electricity infrastructure.		
scope to protect the character and diversity of the road networks	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Large electricity infrastructure crosses the landscape and links with	The east west travel direction between		
through conservation and enhancement of the local lanes and	the large power stations (e.g. West Burton Power Station). This is a typical view within this flat arable	the north-south routes links the older		
recognition of the value that the strategic routes provide in	landscape and the electricity infrastructure contributes to the local distinctiveness.	settlements moving in a more random		
connections across the region.  The communications and infrastructure within the Cable Route	Health and Wellbeing: Electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland slightly detracts	pattern, and which adds interest to the		
Corridor WB1 - WB2 has a low susceptibility to change.	from the rural characteristics of the area. There is however, no large transport infrastructure within the	landscape.		
Contract WB1 WB2 has a low susceptibility to change.	area.	<i>Value:</i> There is a network of large		
		electricity infrastructure within the flat		
	Important Spatial Function: Large power infrastructure cuts through the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2	large-scale farmland that dominates the		
	Site. No large transport infrastructure within the area.	land.		
		The landscape shows evidence of		
	Overall. The Study Area is open flat formland with large electricity never pobles in the area. Large never	historic settlement with farms,		
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.	nucleated villages, and small hamlets.		
	The area has a number of power stations on this flat farmland, including Cottam Power Station and West	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable		
	Burton Power Station. The large electricity power cables link with these power stations, and the farmland	farmland, and electricity infrastructure		
	and electricity power cables within the Site is a continuation of this surrounding energy infrastructure.	is part of the landscape character.		
		There is scope for development and		
	For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by flat agricultural	mitigation.		
	field parcels with large power infrastructure that links with West Burton Power Station in the west.	Main roads are significant features in		
		the landscape with recent development		
		concentrated along these main roads.		
Low	Medium	Low		
LOW	iviedium	LOW		





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.



Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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.	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.	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.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.  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.
5km Study Are	a:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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]		
	In combination Yes	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project		
	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.	Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with mit	igation			
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low		
	Decommissioning: 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  Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant  Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant				
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low		
Type of Effect	Decommissioning: Very Low  Construction: Neutral & Short Term  Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term  Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term  Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Very Low  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 - 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 surrouding 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 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		
The economic driver for the settlements north of Saxilby is	Scenic: Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape	<u>Character:</u> The landscape is influenced		
arable farming, and this is illustrated by the large-scale, flat,	forms countryside views.	by the sparsely populated flat arable		
rectangular parcels of arable land, isolated farmsteads, and a		farmland. The string of small, nucleated		
network of farm tracks.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. A number of a listed buildings	settlements on the limestone capped		
For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other	are dotted across the landscape.	scarp slope add to the sequence of		
industry and commerce and a limited amount of leisure.		views and help define the settled		
Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit	<u>Natural:</u> Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields. Dense	character of the landscape.		
within a rural setting.	vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green			
	infrastructure network across the landscape.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable		
This landscape has some ability to accommodate change		and scattered sparsely populated		
without undue adverse effects given the sensitivity of the	Recreation and Enjoyment: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small, narrow	settlement. There is little commerce or		
rural roads and minor farm tracks. The edges of the villages,	country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.	economic activity other than		
the sequence of views to the churches and the avenues and		agriculture. The farmsteads and		
lines of trees on the approaches to farms are also sensitive	<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.	dwellings add a positive character to the		
features. The balance between clustered villages and their		local network where there are		
adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important characteristic.	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> : The small narrow country lanes provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.	associated heritage features.		
Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within		<u>Value:</u> The flat large-scale arable		
the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site has a low	Important Spatial Function: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated	farmland prevalent in the landscape,		
susceptibility to change.	properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	and a sparsely populated scattered		
		settlement, contribute to the value of		
	Overall, the value of Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure for the Cable Route Corridor WB1 – WB2 Site is	the countryside within the site and the		
	shaped by the nature of the predominantly rural and sparsely settled area with small villages and dispersed farms	area.		
	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	<u>Capacity:</u> The sparsely populated, flat		
	long views across the landscape.	large-scale arable farmland forms part		
		of the landscape character. There is		
	For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the area being	scope for development and mitigation.		
	relatively sparsely populated with isolated residential properties and farmsteads dotted throughout the			
	surrounding countryside.			
Low	Medium	Low		





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.



Assessment of	Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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.  The solar array within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.	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.  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.
5km Study Are				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Receptor - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)				
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination Yes	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project		
	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.	Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with miti	igation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decommissioning: 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 Decomplishing: Very Low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low Decomplishing: Very Low		
Type of Effect	Decommissioning: Very Low  Construction: Neutral & Short Term  Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term  Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term  Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Very Low  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 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 PRoWs 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	
The wider PRoW network travels through the countryside.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape and countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland	
A number of PRoW's surrounds the Site and provides access to the wider landscape.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	and countryside features.	
Overall, the PRoW network in the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2	<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	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.	
has a low susceptibility to change.	green infrastructure network across the landscape.	There are isolated PRoW footpaths that surround the Site.	
	<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> . A number of PRoW in the surrounding area. Small narrow lanes are used to access the countryside.	Value: The land is influenced by arable farmland. This contributes to the value	
	<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.	of the countryside within the Site and the area.	
	<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.	Capacity: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. The landscape surrounding the Site has isolated public	
	Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	access. There is scope for development and mitigation.	
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.		
	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.		
Low	High	Low to Medium	



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.



Assessment o	f 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. 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.	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.  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.	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.	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.
	Within the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRoW access.			
5km Study Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Site				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Receptor - PRoW Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)				
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 Sites.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
	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.			
Effects with miti	igation			
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 - 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.







# **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 maybe 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 Are					
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	
Site	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	



Landscape Receptor - National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	In combination Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 Sites.	n/a	
	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.		
Effects with mit	igation		
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	y 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 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		
There are no Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings on the Cable Route Corridor.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Cable Route Corridor and the area is heavily influenced by		
There is a Scheduled Monument near Broxholme, and a number of	<u>Cultural:</u> Medieval settlement and cultivation remains (List Entry Number: 1016797), located immediately	arable farmland and countryside		
monuments and listed buildings in the area.	adjacent to the southwest of the Site.	features. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas		
The Cable Route Corridor is not located within or within 2km of a	<u>Natural:</u> Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields.	and Registered Parks and Gardens.		
Conservation Area or Registered Parks and Gardens.	Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.			
Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation	green initiastractare network across the lanascape.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable		
Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site have a low susceptibility to change.	Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.	farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas		
	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local	and Registered Parks and Gardens in		
	distinctiveness. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens.	this landscape.		
	<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.	Value: The landscape is sparce and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the		
	Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	countryside, and the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the area have not		
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.	become degraded.		
		<u>Capacity:</u> The countryside has little man-		
	For the Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the absence of	made interference. There is scope for		
	assets across the Site itself and the proximity to Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monument at Broxholme.	development and mitigation.		
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 Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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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]		
	In combination Yes Cable Paute Carridor WP1 - WP2 Site grosses the landscape between the WP1 and WP2 Sites	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Cotta Burton Frozen Pork		
	Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 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.	Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with mit	igation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low		
	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low		
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low		
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term		
T 6 F 6 6 1	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term		
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant		
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant		
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant		
Liioot	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant		
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation			
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: Very Low		
N/le aveito de	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): Very Low		
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): Very low		
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: Very Low		
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: Neutral & Short Term		
Τ ο ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε Ε	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term		
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term		
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term		
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: Negligible Not Significant		
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant		
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant		
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant		



# 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	
There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland	
There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Ancient	
Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site have a low susceptibility to change.	<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.	Woodlands and Natural Designations.	
	<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.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Ancient Woodlands and Natural	
	<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.	Designations in this landscape.	
	<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.	<u>Value:</u> The landscape is sparce and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the	
	<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.	countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.	
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.	<u>Capacity:</u> There is scope for development and mitigation.	
	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.		
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 Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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Landscape Rece	andscape Receptor – Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	<u>In combination</u>	n/a	
	Yes Cable Route Corridor WB1 - WB2 Site crosses the landscape between the WB1 and WB2 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.		
Effects with mit	igation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magrittude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a	
Tune of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a	
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a	
Magnituda	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a	





# **Contents**

8.2.5.1	Character Overview Tables [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
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]
8.2.5.8	Individual Nationally and Locally Designated Landscapes Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.5.9	Individual Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
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)	
NCA Profile: 45 Nortnern Lincoinsnire 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 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.  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 Llittleborough 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	
well maintained, busny, Hawthorn nedgerows with Willow and Ash nedgerow 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.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

Medium

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<u>Ouality</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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

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.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power

### Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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

# Sensitivity

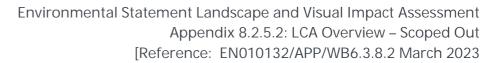
<u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.

<u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.

<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.

<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.





Medium	Medium	Medium
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.	<b>Overall</b> , the value of the NCA48: Trent and Belvoir Vales is shaped by the strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland centred on the River Trent.	
and active sand and gravel extraction sites.  Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape receptor is moderately susceptible to the proposed	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.	
lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works	cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The settlement pattern is characterised by	



# 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.



Medium

# **Assessment of Sensitivity**

# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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 characte 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.

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.

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.

### Value of Receptor

Medium

<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.

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: Lower landscape tolerance or scope for landscape change since *t*he 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.

<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.

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.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

**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.

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.

Medium

# Value of Receptor

High

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

Medium to High



# Landscape Receptor - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (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.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

Medium

### Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: 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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

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 hedgerows 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 easter 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 Fossdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fossdyke 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 Fossdyke.

### **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 Al56/ A1133)
- The Fossdyke -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/ All33 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 Fossdyke 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.



### Receptor susceptibility to change

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

There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant seminatural 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 easter 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. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.

This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.

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.

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.

**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.

# Value of Receptor

<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.

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

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.

<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.

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.

<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.

Medium Medium

Medium



Environmental Statement Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Appendix 8.2.5.2: LCA Overview – Scoped Out [Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2 March 2023



# 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.



Medium

# **Assessment of Sensitivity**

### Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

### Value of Receptor

High

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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

<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.

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 Habblesthorpe 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.

- 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, Habblesthorpe, 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

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.

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.

**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.

#### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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

**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.

# Sensitivity Character:

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.

<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.

<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.

#### Capacity:

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.

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 SINCs 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 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.

Low



Low

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

Medium



# 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.

- 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.

Low



Low

#### [Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2 March 2023 West Burton **Assessment of Sensitivity** Receptor susceptibility to change Value of Receptor Sensitivity This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the <u>Scenic:</u> This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station dominates **Character:** This is a flat landscape within east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being the views in this LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines to the east and long the valley floor of the River Trent. The views to the north and south, contained by the effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. pumping stations. Cottam power station dominates the views in this northern half of the LCP shows a regular LCP. There are long distance views to more elevated wooded skylines geometric and irregular field pattern. to the east and long views to the north and south, contained by the <u>Cultural</u>: The PZ is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties on the fringes of Cottam village The southern section has a more effects of distance and riverside vegetation and hedgerows. irregular pattern. Cottam power station Natural: The largest area of scrub and woodland within the LCP is the Coates Wetland SINC to the north of dominates the views in this LCP. Land use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A the LCP. Mature trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also occur along tracks grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam power station and within scrub around wetland areas close to the river, as well as along the river banks. **Quality:** This is a flat landscape within from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the the valley floor of the River Trent. This river bends are permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Mature Recreation and Enjoyment: PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, LCP is largely uninhabited except for trees are found in hedges of the fields of pasture. Hedgerow trees also connecting with promoted routes along the river corridor. isolated properties to the east of the occur along tracks and within scrub around wetland areas close to the village of Cottam; the only other built Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the river, as well as along the riverbanks. structures being pumping stations. east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being pumping stations. Land use consists of Cottam power station dominates the This LCP is largely uninhabited except for isolated properties to the arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. A grass bund protects the arable land north of Cottam views in this LCP. east of the village of Cottam; the only other built structures being power station from the river. To the east of the bund closer to the river and in the river bends are pumping stations. permanent pasture fields and grazing lands. Cottam power station itself is excluded from the character *Value:* This is a flat landscape within area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the power station to the the valley floor of the River Trent that is south. largely uninhabited. Cottam power Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands station dominates the views in this LCP. stems from the good condition of this landscape, and coherent pattern Health and Wellbeing: Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ. Capacity: Features are evident, but they The detractors include power station infrastructure and pylons. Overall, Important Spatial Function: This is a flat landscape within the valley floor of the River Trent that is largely are locally commonplace. Some features this gives a visually unified area. uninhabited. Cottam power station dominates the views in this LCP. make a minimal contribution to landscape character and scope for Overall, with Trent Washlands: TWPZ 22 Cottam River Meadowlands the value (medium) is shaped by the mitigation would therefore help to flat landscape of this area within the valley floor of the River Trent. Cottam power station itself is excluded reinforce their prominence in the from the character area but the LCP does include settling lagoons and infrastructure associated with the landscape. power station to the south.

Medium



# 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 with in 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 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 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.

- 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		
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	<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.	Character: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric through out the area. Land		
some improved pasture closer to the extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.	<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.	use consists of arable crops including cereals and oil seed rape. There is some improved pasture closer to the		
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	<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	extremities of the village of Sturton le Steeple on the western side of the LCP.		
long distance. Views to the east are more constrained by distant elevated ridgelines and vegetation.	boundaries are more fragmented and gappy.  Recreation and Enjoyment: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and	<u>Quality:</u> Cottam Power Station to the south and West Burton Power Station to the north dominate the views from this		
Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Farmlands stems from the good condition of this landscape, and	typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: This is a completely flat landscape which is all under 5 metres AOD.	LCP and power lines connecting the two stations cross the area.		
coherent pattern of landscape elements with few detracting features within the PZ.  The detractors include the large scape power stations, associated infrastructure and pylons and masts. Overall, this gives a strongly visually unified area.	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.	<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.		
	Health and Wellbeing: 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.	<u>Capacity:</u> Features are evident, but they are locally commonplace. Some features make a minimal contribution to		
	Important Spatial Function: 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.	landscape character and scope for mitigation would therefore help to reinforce their prominence in the landscape.		
	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.			
	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.			
Low	Medium	Low		
	1	<u> </u>		



# 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; tees 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 Llittleborough 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)<sup>r</sup> 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 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 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.

Low



Low

West Burton [Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2 March 20				
Assessment of Sensitivity				
lue of Receptor	Sensitivity			
This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout majority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to north and south protected by flood bunds. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north of Cottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by vated ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, of other water courses drain into this.  **Lord:** The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in brick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river of trent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.  **Lural:** This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the thand south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as tieborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.  **Treation and Enjoyment**: A network of minor roads and tracks serve the area. PRoW are numerous and ically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks. PRoW lead east oss the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river ridor.  ***al Distinctiveness and Sense of Place**: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient telement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.  ***al Distinctiveness and Sense of Place**: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient telement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.  ***al Distinctiveness and Sense of Place**: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient telement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.  ***al Distinctiveness and Sense	Character: 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  Ouality: 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.  Value: 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.  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.			
nic model Control of the control of	e of Receptor  2: This is a flat landscape less than 5 metres AOD. The field pattern is regular geometric throughout lajority of the LCP, but there are areas of more irregular permanent and improved pasture fields to borth and south protected by flood bunds. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north tottam power station is visible in more distant views to the south. Views to the east are constrained by ted ridgelines and riverside vegetation. The Mother Drain forms the western boundary of the site, there water courses drain into this.  2: **The only settlement is the small hamlet of Littleborough, which consists of vernacular buildings in rick with pantile roofs. The only other built structures are a pumping station at the edge of the river rent Bank Farm, which are both of recent construction.  2: **This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as borough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.  2: **This is a flat landscape composed of arable fields and permanent and improved pasture to the and south. Mature trees are confined to the riverside and hedgerows to tracks, as well as borough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.  2: **Attention of the properties of the arable farmland or along the network of tracks. PRoW lead east is the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting with promoted routes along the river lor.  2: **Distinctiveness and Sense of Place**: The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient ment of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.  2: **Attention of the properties of the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, eaching with promoted routes along the river corridor. West Burton Power Station dominates views to over the north and South. West Burton Power Station dominates views to the north and Cottam roved re to t			

Medium



# 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:**

- Fat 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.

- 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.

Low



Low

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Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
Assessment of Sensitivity	Value of Receptor  Scenic: 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.  Cultural: The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the encroachment of arable farmland to the west.  Natural: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western	

Medium



# 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

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.

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.

**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.

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.

Medium

#### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

#### Sensitivity

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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.

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
	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.  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].  The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering	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.	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.	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
	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.			decommissioning stage.
	In terms of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to coordinate 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.			
	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.			
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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]		
	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.	n/a		
	Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.			
	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.			
	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.			
Effects with miti	gation			
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	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 welt 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.

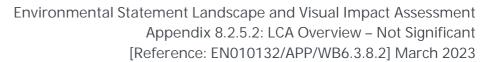
# **Key Features:**

- 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 it's 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 associates 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.

- 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 tr-ee/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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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 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

<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.

<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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.



Assessment of Sensitivity			
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity	
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.  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.	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.		
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 - 3: The Till Vale (West Burton Cable Route Corridor W	/B2 - WB3)		
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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].  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.  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 buildi	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.	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.	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.
5km Study Area:	match the existing conditions.			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b> Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b> Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 - 3: The Till Vale (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	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.	n/a	
	Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.		
	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.		
	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.		
Effects with miti	igation		
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 <b>East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment</b> as forming part of RLCT Profile: 4a Unwooded Vales, which is shown on <b>Figure 8.5 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5]</b> . At a local scale, landscape character is assessed within the <b>West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment</b> as forming part of WLLCA LCA3: The Till Vale, which is shown on <b>Figure 8.5.1 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.5.1]</b> . Landscape receptors are shown on <b>Figure 8.6.2 [EN010132APP/WB6.4.8.6.2]</b> .			
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		
Large-scale arable farmland, isolated properties, and managed native	Scenic: Native vegetation, small settlements, and isolated farmsteads form views within flat, large-scale,	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by the		
field boundary vegetation exist within the Cable Route Corridor WB2- WB3 Site.	rectangular fields.	flat large-scale arable farmland.		
The land comprises a series of field parcels which are managed intensively for arable production.	<u>Cultural:</u> The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanized methods.	<u>Quality:</u> The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow,		
	Natural: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native	woodland belts and scattered		
Overall, the land use within the WB2 – WB3 Cable Route Corridor lacks native vegetation and the intensively managed farmland means	vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland managed using modern farming techniques.	settlement.		
the land has become degraded.		Value: Vegetated drainage ditches and		
However, the field ditches and a network of managed native field	<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> Users of small country lanes experience a rural landscape which is	vegetation surrounds the flat large-		
boundary vegetation form a component of this landscape. On balance, land use in the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 has a	predominantly agricultural. PRoW are extremely limited.	scale farmland within and surrounding the Site.		
low susceptibility to change.	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Small country lanes and flat arable farmland are the key			
	components that define the land use.	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable		
	Health and Wellbeing: Absence of PRoW network.	farmland dominates this landscape. There is scope for development and		
		mitigation.		
	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable fields.			
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.			
	addition to the larger settlements of Saxiby and Starton by Stow.			
	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.			
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	•		
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.	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.
	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.			
5km Study Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not</b> Significant	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> 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]	
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park	
Effects with miti	gation		
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 <b>Not Significant</b> Operation (Year 1): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b> Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b> Decommissioning: Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Construction: Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	



# 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
The Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3 is made up of flat-lying farmland	Scenic: Native vegetation within flat farmland.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by the
which gently drains towards the River Till to the east.		flat large-scale arable farmland.
Semi-natural habitats run along drainage ditches.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.	
Intensively managed agricultural land has retained the topography of		Quality: The land has a mix of flat large-
the land. Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in	<u>Natural:</u> Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Till, and native vegetation	scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow,
drainage ditches being straightened and redirected around the	surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.	woodland belts and scattered
rectangular fields.		settlement.
	Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes experience a flat rural landscape.	
<b>Overall</b> , the topography and watercourses within the West Burton 2		<u>Value:</u> Drainage ditches and the
Site has a low susceptibility to change.	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key	vegetation surrounds the flat large-
	components that define the topography.	scale farmland.
	Health and Wellbeing: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable
		dominates the landscape. There is
	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment	scope for development and mitigation.
	of the flat farmland.	
	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.	
	reed into the river fill.	
	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.	
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	f Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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	During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.	Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.
	would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.	The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB2-WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	The land within the Cable route Corridor WB2-WB3 Site is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however, benefit from the significantly enhanced
	The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.			planting that would create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character.
5km Study Are		Manusia da Wara Lang		
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 - <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant



Landscape Rece	ndscape Receptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with mit	igation			
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	y 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 - 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 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		
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.  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.	Scenic: Small wires, small roads and narrow country lanes cross the Site in an agricultural landscape with large energy infrastructure.  Cultural: Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The power and communication infrastructure that crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: Users of small country lanes experience a flat rural landscape, country roads, and views of large electricity infrastructure,  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.	Character: 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.  Quality: 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.		
Overall, the communications and infrastructure within Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site has a low susceptibility to change.	Health and Wellbeing: Electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland, and the small roads, slightly detracts from the rural characteristics of the area.  Important Spatial Function: Network of power infrastructure divides up the arable farmland.  Overall, Within the Study Area, the countryside is crossed by local rural lanes, with Sturton Road being the most prominent locally.  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.	Value: 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.  Capacity: The flat large-scale arable		
	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	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.		
Low	Medium	Low		





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.



Assessment of	Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning	
	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.  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.	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.	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.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.  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.	
5km Study Are	a:				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Site					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	



Landscape Rece	Iscape Receptor – Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination 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	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
F66 1 111 111	and views along these road networks in the combination of all the Cumulative Sites.			
Effects with miti	igation			
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low		
Type of Effect	Decommissioning: Very Low  Construction: Neutral & Short Term  Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term  Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term  Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Very Low  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	y 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 - 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 surrouding 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			
The economic driver for the settlements north of Saxilby is arable	Scenic: Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated	<u>Character:</u> The landscape is influenced			
farming, and this is illustrated by the large-scale, flat, rectangular	landscape forms countryside views.	by the sparsely populated flat arable			
parcels of arable land, isolated farmsteads, and a network of farm		farmland. The string of small, nucleated			
tracks.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	settlements on the limestone capped			
For the landscape to the north of Saxilby, there is little other industry		scarp slope add to the sequence of			
and commerce and a limited amount of leisure.	<u>Natural:</u> Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields.	views and help define the settled			
Isolated properties, farmsteads and small settlements sit within a rural setting.	Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.	character of the landscape.			
		Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable			
This landscape has some ability to accommodate change without	Recreation and Enjoyment: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small,	and scattered sparsely populated			
undue adverse effects given the sensitivity of the rural roads and	narrow country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.	settlement. There is little commerce or			
minor farm tracks. The edges of the villages, the sequence of views to		economic activity other than			
the churches and the avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local	agriculture. The farmsteads and			
farms are also sensitive features. The balance between clustered	distinctiveness.	dwellings add a positive character to the			
villages and their adjacent, outlying farmsteads is an important		local network where there are			
characteristic.	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> : The small narrow country lanes provide a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.	associated heritage features.			
Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the		<u>Value:</u> The flat large-scale arable			
Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 has a low susceptibility to change.	<u>Important Spatial Function:</u> The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and	farmland prevalent in the landscape,			
	isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	and a sparsely populated scattered			
		settlement, contribute to the value of			
	Overall. The Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 is located alongside, but outside of the hamlet of Ingleby	the countryside within the site and the			
	in the West Lindsey district of Lincolnshire. The hamlet is situated less than 1.5 km north of the village of	area.			
	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	Capacity: The sparsely populated, flat			
	approximately 15m AOD.	large-scale arable farmland forms part			
	Towards the control of the City the City beautiful and the control of the least of the last of the city beautiful and the city beautiful	of the landscape character. There is			
	Towards the centre of the Site, the Site boundary cuts around three properties located within Ingleby.	scope for development and mitigation.			
	Those properties include Wood Farm and Ingleby Hall Farm to the north and Ingleby Grange to the south.				
	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.				
Low	Medium	Low			





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.



Assessment of	Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning	
	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.  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.  The solar array within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.	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.  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.	
5km Study Are	a:				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	



Landscape Rece	dscape Receptor - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination Yes Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 crosses the landscape between the WB2 and WB3 Sites.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
	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.			
Effects with miti	igation			
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	y 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 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.

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.

**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 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		
No Public Rights of Way (PRoW) cross the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site, and there is limited PRoW through the immediate	Scenic: Views of flat, large-scale arable landscape and settlement.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the surrounding area is heavily influenced by arable		
countryside surroundings.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	farmland and space and scattered settlement.		
The wider PRoW network surrounding the Site provides access to the	Natural: Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields.			
wider countryside.	Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable		
	green infrastructure network across the landscape.	farmland and scattered settlement.		
Overall, the PRoW network in the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3		There are no PRoW footpaths within or		
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	<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 the Site.		
network of footpaths and bridleways and the availability of the rural roads and minor tracks for extended access. The relevant	surrounding area.	<u>Value:</u> The countryside within and surrounding the Site has poor public		
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	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.	access other than small narrow country lanes.		
and historical elements to draw interest from residents and tourists.	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> : No PRoW in the surrounding area provides poor access for residents and visitors to the countryside.	<u>Capacity:</u> The countryside is open flat arable farmland. The Site has poor public access. There is scope for		
	Important Spatial Function: A sparse and scattered settled landscape with a poor PRoW network creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	development and mitigation.		
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.			
	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.			
Low	Medium	Low		



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.



Assessment of	Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning	
	There is no PRoW within or crossing the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.	There is no PRoW within or crossing the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.	There is no PRoW within or crossing the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.	There is no PRoW within or crossing the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3.	
	Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRoW access surrounding the Site.	Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRoW access surrounding the Site.	Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRoW access surrounding the Site.	Within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRoW access surrounding the Site.	
5km Study Are	ra:				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Site					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	



Landscape Rece	dscape Receptor – PRow Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with mit	igation			
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	y 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 - 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			
AGLV1 is located approximately 3.6km east of the Site. AGLV1 forms a 20km fringe running north to south from Grayingham village at B1205	<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.	<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.			
from Lincoln. 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.  Overall, the National and Locally Designated Landscapes network in the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site has a low susceptibility to change.	Cultural: Flat large-scape 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.  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.  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  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.  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.  Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.  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 ap	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement.  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.  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.			
Low	Medium	Low			





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.



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 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 Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant



Landscape Rece	Landscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)				
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]			
	In combination 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.	n/a			
Effects with mit	igation				
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	y 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		
There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 itself however, but the Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland		
Park is located in the adjacent Stow Park. There are a number of Scheduled Monuments within the area.	<u>Cultural:</u> The Medieval Bishop's Palace and Deer Park is located in the adjacent Stow Park.	and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Listed Buildings,		
	<u>Natural:</u> Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields.	Conservation Areas and Registered		
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.	Dense vegetation surrounds the isolated properties and farmsteads. Together, this vegetation creates a green infrastructure network across the landscape.	Parks and Gardens.		
Overall, the Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in the Cable Route Corridor	Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the		
WB2 – WB3 have a low susceptibility to change.	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.	Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens in this landscape.		
	<u>Health and Wellbeing</u> : Limited PRoW's in the surrounding area provides a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.	<u>Value:</u> The landscape is sparce and other than the arable farming, there is		
	Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	little man-made interference of the countryside, and the Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered		
	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	Parks and Gardens in the area have not become degraded.		
	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.	<u>Capacity:</u> The countryside has little man- made interference. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
	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.			
Low	High	Low - Medium		



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.



Assessment o	f 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 Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	ptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Register	red Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3)	
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park	
Effects with mit	igation		
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	y 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 - 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		
There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland		
There is no ancient woodland on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Ancient		
Overall, the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations in the Cable Route Corridor WB2 – WB3 Site have a low susceptibility to change.	<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.	Woodlands and Natural Designations.		
	<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.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Ancient Woodlands and Natural		
	<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.	Designations in this landscape.		
	<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.	Value: The landscape is sparce and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the		
	<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.	countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.		
	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.	<u>Capacity:</u> There is scope for development and mitigation.		
Low	Medium	Low		



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.



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 Are	a:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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Landscape Rece	Landscape Receptor - Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB2 - WB3)				
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]			
	In combination 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.	n/a			
Effects with mit	igation				
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	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**

8.2.6.1	Character Overview Tables [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.6.2	LCA Overview [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
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]
8.2.6.5	Individual Communications and Infrastructure Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.6.6	$Individual\ Settlements,\ Industry,\ Commerce\ and\ Leisure\ Sheets\ [ENO10132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]$
8.2.6.7	Individual Public Rights of Way and Access Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.6.8	Individual Nationally and Locally Designated Landscapes Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.6.9	Individual Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens Sheets [EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2]
8.2.6.10	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 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.	1
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.	1
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)	/
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Large extension of major and service to the power states on the first Treet, and estimated views to the sarry face of the Lincoln COFF.  Large Filler Early Coff West Lindows    Large Fill Early Coff West Lindows	arge farm buildings and individual farmhouse on flatter land to the east.	
LLCA Profile 4 The CHIT (West Lundsey)	Ancient enclosure roads with characteristic wide verges and hedgerow boundaries, particularly in the east.	
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## 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.



## Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

Medium

<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.

<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.

*Natural*: The Coversands support important mosaics of heathland, akin to those of Breckland, as well as dry acid grassland and oak/birch woodland.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

## Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<u>Ouality</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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

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.



## Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Major industrial developments are mainly focused along the Trent flood plain corridor, including power stations and associated overhead power

#### Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: The landscape has a strong rural character, with wide areas retaining a sense of tranquillity and self-containment.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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

## Sensitivity

<u>Character:</u> Medium landscape tolerance with some scope for change to landscape character.

<u>Quality:</u> The most widespread change has been in agricultural intensification, where the change from pastoral to arable.

<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.

<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.





Medium	Medium	Medium
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.	<b>Overall</b> , the value of the NCA48: Trent and Belvoir Vales is shaped by the strongly rural and predominantly arable farmland centred on the River Trent.	
and active sand and gravel extraction sites.  Taking account of the existing character and quality of the landscape, the landscape recentor is moderately susceptible to the proposed.	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.	
lines, a sugar beet factory, industrial estates, sewage treatment works	cover, the NCA offers long, open views. The settlement pattern is characterised by	



## 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.



Medium

# **Assessment of Sensitivity**

# Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

**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.

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.

# Value of Receptor

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

High Medium to High



## Landscape Receptor - Regional Scale Landscape Character - 6a: Limestone Scarps and Dipsolpes (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.



## Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

Medium

## Value of Receptor

<u>Scenic</u>: 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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

#### Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

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.

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 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 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 welt 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 associates 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.





## Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

#### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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 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

<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.

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.

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.

## Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.

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:**

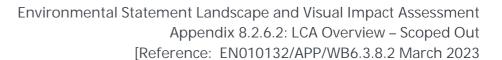
- Straight, limestone capped scarp slope, with a due north-south alignment.
- Diverse pattern of mixed pasture and arable land with good hedgerow boundaries.
- Spring line villages at the foot of the scarp with historic character and many trees.
- Historic halls and associated parkland landscapes.
-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



Medium

# **Assessment of Sensitivity**

## Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

## Value of Receptor

High

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.

<u>Cultural</u>: 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.

<u>Natural</u>: 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.

<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> 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.

<u>Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:</u> 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.

<u>Health and Wellbeing</u>: 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.

<u>Important Spatial Function</u>: 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.

**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.

## Sensitivity

<u>Character</u>: There is a diverse character with pasture, arable, woodland and hedgerows that create an intricate and textured landscape.

<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.

<u>Value</u>: The Scarps and Dipslopes provide a rural landscape that has remained largely intact where the landscape condition is generally good.

<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.

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.



## Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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 characte 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.

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.

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.

#### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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).

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

## Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

Medium 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 V	WB3 – WB Power Station	า)	
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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].	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	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	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
	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.	and the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.	the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.	this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage.
	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.			
	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.			
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- <b>Not Significant</b>	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]	
	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.  Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.  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.  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.	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.  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.	
Effects with miti	igation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low Construction: Adverse & Short Term	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low Decommissioning: Very Low Construction: Adverse & Short Term	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term Decommissioning: Neutral & 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	y 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."



## Receptor susceptibility to change

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.

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.

**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.

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.

Medium

#### Value of Receptor

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

**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.

#### Sensitivity

<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.

<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.

<u>Value:</u> The landscape shows evidence of historic settlement with farms, nucleated villages, and small hamlets which are features of value.

<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.

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 W	/B3 – WB Power Station)		
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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].  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.  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 building	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.	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.	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.
	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.			
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> 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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 WB3 - WB Power Station)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	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.	n/a	
	Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.		
	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.		
	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.		
Effects with miti	igation		
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very Low	Construction: n/a Operation (Year 1): n/a Operation (Year 15): n/a	
Type of Effect	Decommissioning: Very Low  Construction: Adverse & Short Term  Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term  Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term  Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a  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 hedgerows 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 easter 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 Fossdyke at Torksey Lock. The A1133 then passes through the settlements of Laughterton and Newton on Trent. The Fossdyke 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, nll 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 Fossdyke.

## **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 Al56/ A1133)
- The Fossdyke -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/ All33 would be prominent and cannot easily be accommodated without detracting from the gentle transition to the open, flat farmland on the banks of the
- 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 Fossdyke 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.



# Receptor susceptibility to change

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

There are significant blocks of predominantly deciduous woodland to the south and east of Gainsborough, some of which are remnant seminatural 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 easter 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. The area also has some important historic parkland landscapes and a number of historic landmarks.

This landscape accommodates a variety of land uses and features including settlements, golf courses, transmission lines, roads, a railway and the fossdyke.

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.

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.

**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.

## Value of Receptor

<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.

<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

<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.

<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.

<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.

<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.

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.

**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.

# Sensitivity

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.

<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.

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.

<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.

Medium 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 - V	VB Power Station)		
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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].  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 discussed to the difference of the scheme and the scheme and the scheme and the scheme are treated to the capter that are treated to the capter that the capter that are treated to the capter that the capter that are treated to the capter that are treated to the capter that the capter th	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.	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.	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.
	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.  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.			
	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.			
5km Study Area:				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	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]	
	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.	n/a	
	Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.		
	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.		
	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.		
Effects with miti	igation		
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	y 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 Habblesthorpe 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, Habblesthorpe, 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	
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.  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.  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.	Scanic: 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.  Cultural: 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.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Leath and Wellbeing. PROW are numerous and typically run along the boundaries of the arable farmland or along the n	Character: 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	
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 F	Power Station)		
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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].  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.	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.	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.	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.
	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.  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.			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant



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 mit	igation	
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	y 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 SINCs 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 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.

Low



Low

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

Medium





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.



Assessment of	Effects - Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 21: Cottam, Rampton, and Church Laneham Village Farmlan	ds (West Burton Cable I	Route Corridor WB3 – W	B Power Station)
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.  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].  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.	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.	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.	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
	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.  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.			
5km Study Area:	CONTRIBUTES.			
okin otday / ii ca.	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
Effects with mitigation	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b> Significant
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	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.  Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.  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.  For the decommissioning stage, following backfilling and ground reinstatement, the ducts / pipes et each leasting would remain in situ and not be removed. Following installation the	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.  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.	
	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.		
Effects with mit			
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	Construction: Adverse & Short Term Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Short Term Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Short Term	
Significance of	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term  Construction: Negligible Not Significant  Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term  Construction: Negligible Not Significant  Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	
Effects with only	y 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 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.

Low



Low

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

Medium





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.



Assessment of	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	
	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.  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].  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.  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 buildi	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.	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.	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	
5km Study Area:	conditions.				
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Site					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	



Environmental Statement Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Appendix 8.2.6.2: LCA Overview – Not Significant [Reference: EN010132/APP/WB6.3.8.2] March 2023



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]	
	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.  Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.  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.	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 TWPZ21 and TWPZ21. The West Burton Cable Route Corridor continues north to connect with the West Burton Power Station through TWPZ21, TWPZ23 and MN05.  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.	
	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.		
Effects with mit			
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	y embedded mitigation	December 19 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 2	
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.

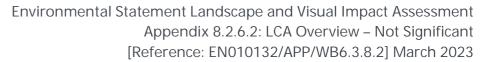
## Landscape Strategy:

- 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.

- 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
	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: 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.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: 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.  Health and Wellbeing: 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.  Important Spatial Function:  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 ex	Character: 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.  Quality: 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.  Value: This is a flat landscape that is largely uninhabited. The Cottam and West Burton power stations dominates the views in this LCP.  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.
Low	Medium	Low





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.



Assessment of	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	
	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.  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].	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	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	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	
	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.	the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.	the ground re-instated to match the existing conditions.	original use and this would remain throughout and beyond the decommissioning stage	
	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.				
	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.				
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:	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect:	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect:	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Negligible - 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 – <b>Not Significant</b> Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect:	
		Negligible – Not Significant	Negligible – Not Significant	Negligible - Not Significant	
Site					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	



Landscape Rece	ptor – Local Scale Landscape Character – TWPZ 23: Sturton le Steeple Village Far	rmlands (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 mit	igation	
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	y 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; tees 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 Llittleborough 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)<sup>r</sup> 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 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

Low



Low

SOLAR PROJECT		
Assessment of Sensitivity		
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity
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 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.  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.	Scalia: 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.  **Cultural:** 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.  **Matural:** 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 Llittleborough village. Areas of scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river.  **Recreation and Enjoyment:** 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.  **Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place:** The PZ is uninhabited except for an isolated farm and the ancient settlement of Littleborough, characterised by vernacular architecture and mature vegetation.  **Littlebring:** 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.  **Moreating Type Interval Contampower Station is visible in more distant views to the north and cottam po	Character. 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  Ouality: 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.  Value: 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.  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.

Medium





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.



Assessment of Effects	Assessment of Effects - Local Scale Landscape Character - TWPZ 24: Littleborough River Meadowlands (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station)			
Const	truction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
For the	e construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable	For the operation stage, all	For the operation stage, all	For the decommissioning
	alled. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be	the cables will be	the cables will be	stage, following backfilling
	to a short-term duration.	underground, and no new	underground, and no new	and ground
	is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the	overhead lines will be	overhead lines will be	reinstatement, the ducts /
	of the ground investigations and the final detailed design. At certain crossing locations such as railways; and watercourses such as vers Trent and Till, HDD will be required. This is addressed in the Crossing Schedule [EN010132/APP/WB7.15].	required. Following installation of the ducts /	required. Following installation of the ducts /	pipes at each location would remain in situ and
The wid	dth and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing	pipes each designated location will be backfilled	pipes each designated location will be backfilled	not be removed. Following installation, the
	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	and the ground re-instated	and the ground re-instated	land is returned to its
	Construction compounds along this route will also be required. Any existing overhead power lines will be retained, and no new ead lines will be required.	to match the existing conditions.	to match the existing conditions.	original use and this would remain throughout
	tion to the Cable Route Corridor crossing the Trent and the Till, this is a necessary part of the scheme. The cable will be directionally			and beyond the
	under the rivers and so no permanent above ground structures are proposed. During the construction period there are likely to be trary construction compounds which will be removed on completion of construction.			decommissioning stage
area for and act designa	ns of construction activities, each work area will then be excavated to expose all utilities present and to co-ordinate and prepare the or installation of the proposed ducts / pipes. Some locations may require shuttering along the trench. The works would be temporary stivities will be planned and co-ordinated before commencement in each work area. Welfare facilities will be provided at each lated work area including canteen, toilets and a drying room, but these would be temporary buildings to be removed at the end of the luction stage.			
	act location of the ducts / pipes and working areas would be confined to designated locations to ensure operations are controlled are			
	ely associated with each working area.			
Followin	ing installation of the ducts / pipes each designated work area will be backfilled and the ground reinstated to match the existing			
condition	ions.			
5km Study Area:				
	tude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
9.7	of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Cance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
	cance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Long Term Significance of Effect:	Long Term Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:
mitigation		Negligible – <b>Not</b>	Negligible – <b>Not</b>	Negligible – <b>Not</b>
		Significant	Significant	Significant
Magnit	tude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
Type of	of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral &
Effects with only embedded Signification	cance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Long Term	Long Term	Short Term
mitigation		Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:
mitigation		ŭ .	o .	
		Negligible – <b>Not</b>	Negligible – <b>Not</b>	Negligible – <b>Not</b>
		Negligible – <b>Not</b> <b>Significant</b>		Negligible – <b>Not</b> <b>Significant</b>
Site		Significant	Negligible – Not Significant	Significant
Magnito	tude: Very Low	Significant  Magnitude: Very Low	Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low	Significant  Magnitude: Very Low
Magnitu Type of	of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral &	Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral &	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral &
Magnitu Type of Effects with Signification		Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
Magnitu Type of	of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	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:	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect:
Magnitu Type of Effects with Significa	of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not	Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not</b>
Effects with Signification	of Effect: Adverse & Short Term cance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant	Negligible – 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 mitigation  Magnitu Type of Signification  Magnitu	of Effect: Adverse & Short Term cance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b> tude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low	Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low
Effects with mitigation  Magnitu Type of Signification  Magnitu Type of Signification  Effects with only	of Effect: Adverse & Short Term cance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b> tude: Very Low of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral &	Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral &	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral &
Effects with mitigation  Effects with only embedded  Magnitu Type of Signification  Magnitu Type of Signification	of Effect: Adverse & Short Term cance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b> tude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Negligible – 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	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
Effects with mitigation  Magnitu Type of Signification  Magnitu Type of Signification  Effects with only	of Effect: Adverse & Short Term cance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b> tude: Very Low of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral &	Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant  Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral &	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – Not Significant Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral &



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]	
	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.  Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.  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.  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	n/a	
	decommissioning stage.		
Effects with mit	igation		
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:**

- Fat 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.

- 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	
The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which	Scenic: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent. The	<u>Character:</u> This is a narrow, pastoral,	
extends along the western edge of the area and follows the course of	area is located to the east of the settlement of Cottam. The village is located outside the Policy Zone area.	riverside landscape located along the	
the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and	Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, outside the Policy Zone area. There are open views to the	western side of the River Trent. The	
unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.	north and east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To the south, the views are	historic field pattern is still evident.	
T	enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power Station.	0 /// This	
The area has an intermittent tree cover. Willow trees and riparian	Cultural. The historic field wettern is still evident. The appear beyonds become about the case from the	Quality: This is a narrow, pastoral,	
vegetation are distributed throughout the landscape. The fields are	<u>Cultural:</u> The historic field pattern is still evident. The grass bunds have protected the area from the	riverside landscape located along the western side of the River Trent.	
enclosed by mature, well maintained, bushy Hawthorn hedgerows with Ash and Willow standard trees. There are open views to the north and	encroachment of arable farmland to the west.	western side of the River Trent.	
east. The views to the west are slightly contained by the flood bank. To	Natural: The area has a flat topography except for a grass flood bank which extends along the western	<u>Value:</u> This is a flat landscape within the	
the south, the views are enclosed by Torksey village and Cottam Power	edge of the area, and follows the course of the river. The area consists of a linear swathe of improved and	valley floor of the River Trent that is	
Station. The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located	unimproved pasture with mature Willows and riparian vegetation.	largely uninhabited. The large West	
to the west of the area.	a initiprovou pustaro vitti maturo vitto una ripuntari vogotationi	Burton and Cottam power stations	
	Recreation and Enjoyment: The Trent Valley Way runs along the grass flood bank located to the west of the	dominate the views in this LCP.	
Overall, the susceptibility of TWPZ 48: Leverton Littleborough River	area.		
Meadowlands stems from the very good condition of this landscape.		Capacity: Features are evident, but they	
There is a unified pattern of elements with few detracting features	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: This is a narrow, pastoral, riverside landscape located along the	are locally commonplace. Some features	
within the PZ. The Cottam Power Station is visible to the far south,	western side of the River Trent. Cottam Power Station is located to the far south, dominating views south	make a minimal contribution to	
outside the Policy Zone area.	along the river corridor.	landscape character and scope for	
Overall, this is a strongly visually unified area.		mitigation would therefore help to	
	Health and Wellbeing: PRoW lead east across the arable farmland down towards the River Trent, connecting	reinforce their prominence in the	
	with promoted routes along the river corridor. Cottam Power Station dominates views to the south.	landscape.	
	Important Coatial Function. This is a parrow postaral riverside landscape legated along the western side of		
	<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.		
	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.		
Low	Medium	Low	
	•		





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.



Assessment of	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
	For the construction stage, there would be the intervention of digging the trenches along the length of the Cable Route Corridor as the cable	For the operation stage, all	For the operation stage, all	For the decommissioning
	is installed. However, the effects of this would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be	the cables will be	the cables will be	stage, following backfilling
	limited to a short-term duration.	underground, and no new	underground, and no new	and ground
	There is a need for HDD construction techniques at a number of locations across the Cable Route Corridor, however, this will depend on the	overhead lines will be	overhead lines will be	reinstatement, the ducts /
	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].	required. Following installation of the ducts /	required. Following installation of the ducts /	pipes at each location would remain in situ and
	The width and spacing of the cable trenches may differ depending on environmental constraints, engineering requirements or if crossing	pipes each designated location will be backfilled	pipes each designated location will be backfilled	not be removed. Following installation, the
	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	and the ground re-instated	and the ground re-instated	land is returned to its
	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.	to match the existing conditions.	to match the existing conditions.	original use and this would remain throughout
	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			and beyond the
	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.			decommissioning stage
	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.			
	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.			
5km Study Area:				
	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
Efforts with	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
Effects with	Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Long Term Significance of Effect:	Long Term Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:
mitigation		Negligible – <b>Not</b>	Negligible – <b>Not</b>	Negligible – <b>Not</b>
		Significant	Significant	Significant
	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
Ecc 1 111 1	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral &
Effects with only	Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Long Term	Long Term	Short Term
embedded		Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:
mitigation		Negligible – <b>Not</b>	Negligible – <b>Not</b>	Negligible – <b>Not</b>
		Significant	Significant	Significant
Site				
	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
	Type of Effect: Adverse & Short Term	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral &	Type of Effect: Neutral &
Effects with	Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant	Long Term	Long Term	Short Term
mitigation		Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:
		Negligible - Not	Negligible – <b>Not</b>	Negligible – Not
	Magnitude, Very Low	Significant Magnitude: Very Low	Significant  Magnitude: Very Lew	Significant Magnitude: Very Lew
	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low	Magnitude: Very Low
Effects with only	Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term	Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term
embedded	Significance of Effect. Negligible – Not Significant	Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:	Significance of Effect:
mitigation			· ·	9
mitigation		Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



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]	
	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.  Effects would not be above that typically associated with utility installation of this nature and would be limited to a short-term duration.  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.  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.	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.  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.	
	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.		
Effects with miti			
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 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	s, including iviarton and the River Trent. Tr	ne landform quickly drops away down to 5m A	NOD alongside the A 156 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	
,	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: The agricultural landscape is managed using modern mechanised methods.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Flat arable farmland are the key components that define land use.  Health and Wellbeing: Large number of PROW routes. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.  Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create some visual containment of the large arable fields.  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 approximitley 10m AOD alongside West Burton Power Station.  For the Cable Route Corridor the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the Site currently being used for	Sensitivity  Character: The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland and large scale power stations.  Quality: The land has a mix of flat large-scale farmland, native trees, hedgerow, woodland belts and scattered settlement.  Value: Vegetated drainage ditches and vegetation surrounds the flat large-scale farmland within and surrounding the Site.  Capacity: The flat large-scale arable farmland is the predominant land use. There is scope for development and mitigation.	
	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 approximitley 10m AOD alongside West Burton Power Station.		
Low	Medium	Low	



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.



Assessment o	f Effects – Land Use (West Burton Cable Route	Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station)		
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.	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.
	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.			
5km Study Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Receptor - Land Use (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park	
Effects with miti	gation		
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 - 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:**

Key reatures.
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 landform 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		
Along the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station the land is predominantly flat, low lying arable farmland which gently drains	Scenic: Native vegetation within flat farmland.	<u>Character:</u> The area is influenced by the flat large-scale arable farmland, the		
towards the River Trent to the east.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat arable farmland contributes to the rural settings.	River Trent and the large power stations.		
Intensively managed agriculture has also resulted in drainage ditches	Natural: Besides a semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches into the River Trent, and native			
being straightened and redirected around the rectangular fields.	vegetation surrounding the fields, the landscape is predominantly flat arable farmland.	<u>Quality:</u> The land has a mix of flat largescale farmland, native trees, hedgerow,		
<b>Overall</b> , the topography and watercourses within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station has a low susceptibility to change.	<u>Recreation and Enjoyment:</u> Users of small country lanes and isolated PRoW footpaths experience a flat rural landscape.	woodland belts and scattered settlement.		
	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: A flat arable farmland and straightened drainage ditches are key components that define the topography.	<u>Value:</u> Drainage ditches and the vegetation surrounds the flat largescale farmland.		
	Health and Wellbeing: A limited network of PRoW. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.			
	Important Spatial Function: Hedgerows, shelter belts, and vegetated settlements create visual containment of the flat farmland.	<u>Capacity:</u> The flat large-scale arable farmland is the predominant land use. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.			
	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.			
Low	Medium	Low		



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.



Assessment of	Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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	During operation, the topography and watercourses within the landscape would not change.	Ecological measure matures would increase vegetation along the drainage and, to an extent, help naturalise the watercourse.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.
	proposals would not impact upon the topography or watercourses.	The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.	Following decommissioning, the land is likely to be returned to arable production. The Site will however, benefit from the significantly enhanced
	The land within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is small in context with the surrounding flat large-scale farmland.			planting that would create a much stronger and robust landscape, retaining and enhancing the overall character.
5km Study Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant



Landscape Rece	ptor – Topography & Watercourses (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WE	3 Power Station)
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park
Effects with mit	gation	
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 - 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]**.

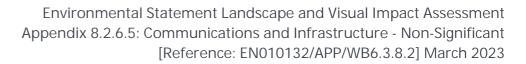
Within the Study Area is agricultural land interspersed with farmsteads and small villages including the River Trent corridor. The Cable Route Corridor is currently being used for agricultural purposes being a combination of pastoral land alongside the river and arable farmland on the valley slopes.

### **Key Features:**

and 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 The large Cottam and West Burton Power Stations are dominant features alongside the river.	and the River Trent.



Assessment of Sensitivity - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)				
Receptor susceptibility to change	Value of Receptor	Sensitivity		
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.  There is sparse, scattered settlement across the area, and as a result, not much infrastructure within the landscape.  Overall, the communications and infrastructure within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station has a low susceptibility to change.	Scanic: Two large electricity power cables cross the Site.  Cultural: Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting. The large electricity power cables that crosses the landscape does not conflict with this cultural association.  Natural: 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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Large power and communication infrastructure crosses the landscape and links with the large power stations. This contributes to the local distinctiveness.  Health and Wellbeing: Power and communication infrastructure within the flat large-scale arable farmland slightly detracts from the enjoyment of the countryside.  Important Spatial Function: Network of power infrastructure divides up the arable farmland.  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 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.  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.	Character: The Site and the area is influenced by the flat farmland and large power infrastructure.  Quality: The land has a mix of flat farmland, large electricity power cables, and sparse settlement.  Value: A network of large electricity infrastructure within the flat large-scale farmland is a landscape component of the landscape.  Capacity: The flat large-scale arable farmland, and electricity infrastructure is part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
Low	Low	Negligible to Low		





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.



Assessment of	Assessment of Effects					
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning		
	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.  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	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.	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.	A similar process to that of the construction stage, but with the Scheme, is no longer operational.  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.  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.		
5km Study Are	a:					
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>		
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>		
Site						
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>		
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>		



Landscape Rece	andscape Receptor - Communications and Infrastructure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with miti	igation			
Magnitude	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low	Construction: Very Low Operation (Year 1): Very Low Operation (Year 15): Very low		
Type of Effect	Decommissioning: Very Low  Construction: Neutral & Short Term  Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term  Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term  Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: Very Low  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	y 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 - 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 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 surrouding 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		
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.  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.  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.  Overall, settlements, industry, commerce, and leisure within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station has a low susceptibility to change.	Scenic: Isolated residential properties, farmsteads and small settlements dotted and sparsely populated landscape forms countryside views.  Cultural: Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.  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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: Small number of PRoW in the Site and surrounding area. A network of small, narrow country lanes connects the isolated properties and small settlements.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.  Health and Wellbeing: The small narrow country lanes provide a point of access for residents and visitors to the countryside.  Important Spatial Function: The sparsely populated and scattered nature of the small settlement and isolated properties creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.  Overall.  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.	Character: 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.  Quality: 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.  Value: 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.  Capacity: The sparsely populated, flat large-scale arable farmland forms part of the landscape character. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
Low	Low	Negligible to Low		





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.



Assessment of	Assessment of Effects				
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning	
	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.  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.  The solar array within the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station are small-scale in context with the wider arable farmland.	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.  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.	
5km Study Are	ea:				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Site					
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	



Landscape Rece	andscape Receptor - Settlements, Industry, Commerce, and Leisure (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 - WB Power Station)			
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]		
	In combination 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.  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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park		
Effects with mit	igation			
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	y embedded mitigation	j van de grand gra		
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 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		
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.  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.  The Trent Valley Way Recreational Route runs alongside the River Trent.  The wider PRoW network surrounding the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor provides access to the wider countryside.  Overall, on balance, the PRoW network in the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor has a low susceptibility to change.	Scenic: 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.  Cultural: Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.  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.  Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.  Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local distinctiveness.  Health and Wellbeing: Large number of PRoW routes, however limited wider connectivity other than alongside the River Trent. Views of flat large-scale arable farmland.  Important Spatial Function: A sparse and scattered settled landscape with a poor PRoW network creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.  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 R	Character: The Site and the surrounding area is heavily influenced by arable farmland and space and scattered settlement.  Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. There are no PRoW footpaths within or surrounding the Site.  Value: The countryside within and surrounding the Site has poor public access other than small narrow country lanes.  Capacity: The countryside is open flat arable farmland. The Site has poor public access. There is scope for development and mitigation.		
Low	Medium	Low		



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.



	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. 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.	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.  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.	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.	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.
	Within the WB3 - WB Power Station Cable Route Corridor, the construction and installation of the solar panels would not obstruct the PRoW access.			
5km Study Are	ea:			
Effects with mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant



Landscape Rece	ptor – PRoW Analysis & Evaluation (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB	Power Station)
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park
Effects with mit	igation	
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	y 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 - 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	
The Site does not have any nationally designated landscapes or AGLV.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is	
Located approximately 350m to the north east of the Cable Route		heavily influenced by arable farmland	
Corridor Route is AGLV3 to the north of the settlement of Marton.  The AGLV3 area extends across the countryside to the north of the	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	and countryside features.	
A1500 across Gate Burton and Knaith.	<u>Natural:</u> Semi-natural habitat along the drainage ditches and native vegetation surrounds arable fields.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable	
	Dense vegetation surrounds the properties and railway infrastructure. Together, this vegetation creates a	farmland and scattered settlement.	
Overall, the National and Locally Designated Landscapes network in	green infrastructure network across the landscape.		
the Cable Route Corridor from WB3 to WB Power Station has a low		<u>Value:</u> The land is influenced by arable	
susceptibility to change.	Recreation and Enjoyment: Limited numbers of PRoW's in the Site and in the surrounding area. Small	farmland. This contributes to the value	
	narrow lanes are used to access the countryside.	of the countryside within the Site and the area.	
	Local Distinctiveness and Sense of Place: Sparsely settled arable farmland contributes to the local		
	distinctiveness.	<u>Capacity:</u> The countryside is open flat	
		arable farmland. There is scope for	
	<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.	development and mitigation.	
	Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement and PRoW footpaths creates a		
	sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.		
	Overall, the Site does not include nationally designated landscape or AGLV.		
	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.		
Low	Low	Negligible to Low	





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.



Assessment of	f 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 Are	2a:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	ndscape Receptor – National and Locally Designated Landscapes (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)		
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	In combination	n/a	
	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.		
Effects with mit	igation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a	
N. A. a	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a	
T of Effort	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a	
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a	
Manusituda	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible Not Significant	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	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	
Low	For the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station Site, the judgement on value (medium) is shaped by the proximity to the Scheduled Monument.  Medium	Low	



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.



Assessment of	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 Are	ea:			
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible - Not Significant
Site	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



Landscape Rece	ptor – Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Register	red Parks and Gardens (West Burton Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station)
	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]
	In combination 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.	Cottam Solar Project Tillbridge Solar Project Gate Burton Energy Park
Effects with mit	igation	
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	y 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 - 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	
There are no Natural Designations on the Site or within 2km of the Site.	Scenic: Flat, large-scale arable landscape forms countryside views.	<u>Character:</u> The Site and the area is heavily influenced by arable farmland	
The nearest area of Ancient Woodland is located approximately 1.2km north of the WB3 Site at Gate Burton.	<u>Cultural:</u> Flat large-scape farmland is representative of the wider landscape setting.	and countryside features. The area is not recognized for its Ancient	
<b>Overall</b> , the Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations have a low susceptibility to change.	<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.	Woodlands and Natural Designations.	
	Recreation and Enjoyment: 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.	Quality: The land has a mix of flat arable farmland and scattered settlement. The countryside does not detract from the Ancient Woodlands and Natural	
	<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.	Designations in this landscape.	
	<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.	<u>Value:</u> The landscape is sparce and other than the arable farming, there is little man-made interference of the	
	Important Spatial Function: The sparse and scattered nature of settlement within the area creates a sense of openness with the flat arable landscape.	countryside and its Ancient Woodlands and Natural Designations.	
	<b>Overall</b> , 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.	<u>Capacity:</u> There is scope for development and mitigation.	
	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		
Low	Medium	Low	



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.



Assessment of	f Effects			
	Construction	Operation (Year 1)	Operation (Year 15)	Decommissioning
	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.	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.	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.	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.
	There are no Natural Designations on the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station or within 2km.  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.	There are no Natural Designations on the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station or within 2km.  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.	There are no Natural Designations on the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station or within 2km.  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.	There are no Natural Designations on the Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station or within 2km.  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.
5km Study Are				
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>
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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	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 – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>
Effects with only embedded mitigation	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Long Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>	Magnitude: Very Low Type of Effect: Neutral & Short Term Significance of Effect: Negligible – <b>Not Significant</b>



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	In-Combination Effects [Cumulative Sites]	Cumulative Effects [Cumulative Developments]	
	In combination Yes Cable Route Corridor WB3 – WB Power Station is located to the west of the WB3 Site.	n/a	
	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.		
Effects with mit	igation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magrittade	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a	
Type of Effect	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Type of Lifect	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a	
Effects with only	y embedded mitigation		
	Construction: Very Low	Construction: n/a	
Magnitude	Operation (Year 1): Very Low	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Magrittade	Operation (Year 15): Very low	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Very Low	Decommissioning: n/a	
Type of Effect	Construction: Neutral & Short Term	Construction: n/a	
	Operation (Year 1): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
	Operation (Year 15): Neutral & Long Term	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Neutral & Short Term	Decommissioning: n/a	
	Construction: Negligible Not Significant	Construction: n/a	
Significance of	Operation (Year 1): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 1): n/a	
Effect	Operation (Year 15): Negligible <b>Not Significant</b>	Operation (Year 15): n/a	
	Decommissioning: Negligible Not Significant	Decommissioning: n/a	