

**Tillbridge Solar Project
EN010142**

**Volume 6
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1. Landscape Baseline

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix sets out the relevant extracts and information from published landscape character assessments and associated studies across the Study Area. These have been used to inform the value of the landscape baseline, which is required to determine landscape sensitivity in order to assess landscape effects. This information should be read in combination with **Figures 12-1 to 12-14** of this Environmental Statement (ES) **[EN010142/APP/6.3]**.
- 1.1.2 Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, third edition (GLVIA3) (Ref. 1) (paras 5.12-5.18) indicates that broad-scale character assessments, such as those produced at the national and regional level, can be used to set the scene and indicate the key characteristics that may be apparent in the Study Area. It suggests that local authority assessments provide more detail and that these can be mapped to show how the Scheme relates to them. GLVIA3 acknowledges that it is likely that it will be necessary to carry out specific and more detailed surveys of the site and its immediate setting or surroundings and that it is proportionate to the assessment of the Scheme.
- 1.1.3 This Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) takes this approach, by identifying Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs). This site-specific LLCA was requested by the Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) Landscape Officer. Further details are provided in Section 10 below.

2. National Level Published Landscape Character Assessments

- 2.1.1 Natural England produces mapping and written descriptions of the landscape character of England, based on National Character Areas (NCA). The aim is to assist those who make decisions regarding local plans to consider how best to enhance and respect local distinctiveness.

NCA 45: North Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands

- 2.1.2 With reference to **Figure 12-8** of this ES **[EN010142/APP/6.3]**, NCA 45: North Lincolnshire Edge with Coversands (2014) (Ref. 2) covers the eastern edge of the Study Area, broadly parallel to the north-south Lincoln Cliff (or Lincoln Edge) of Jurassic limestone. The wider NCA encompasses this feature from the Humber in the north to Lincoln in the south, alongside a westwards extension that includes Laughton and Scotton Commons (the 'Coversands'), north of Gainsborough.
- 2.1.3 Relevant key characteristics of NCA 45 include the limestone cliff and scarp slope affording extensive views; a large scale-landscape on the Cliff plateau with extensive rectilinear fields and few boundaries; long, straight roads and

tracks; and spring-line villages on the foot of the Cliff. Viewpoints at Hemswell and Scampton are noted.

- 2.1.4 Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) include references to establishing networks of linking habitats to strengthen biodiversity and landscape character; maintaining the sense of place and diversity of landscape features through expanding semi-natural habitats; retaining the inspirational long views; ensuring that development is sustainable and well-integrated into the landscape; and providing access through good green infrastructure links.
- 2.1.5 The continuing demand for renewable energy is noted as a 'driver for change'.
- 2.1.6 Landscape opportunities set out within the publication for NCA 45 with particular relevance to the Scheme are noted below:
- a. *“Protect the scarp slope from inappropriate development, increasing woodland cover where possible.*
 - b. *Retain long, panoramic views out over adjacent lower-lying land, especially from the scarp slope in the west.*
 - c. *Manage existing hedges, allowing them to fill out, and plant to fill in gaps.*
 - d. *Restore and introduce hedges into key locations to reinforce field patterns.*
 - e. *Increase the area of native broadleaved woodland especially along the scarp slope of the Edge in the west,*
 - f. *Manage grassy verges to encourage greater species richness and to maintain them as a feature of the long straight roads.*
 - g. *Protect long-distance views of the impressive Lincoln Cathedral.*
 - h. *Enhance the contrast between the open plateau and the wooded scarp slopes by encouraging more woodland establishment on the slopes.*
 - i. *Maintain and restore limestone rubble walls.”*

NCA 48: Trent and Belvoir Vale

- 2.1.7 NCA 48: Trent and Belvoir Vale (2013) (Ref. 3) encompasses the majority of the Study Area, with the wider NCA extending from Nottingham in the south to Gainsborough in the north.
- 2.1.8 Relevant key characteristics of NCA 48 include the largely gently undulating and low-lying landform associated with the broad floodplain of the River Trent; dominant agricultural land-use with a regular pattern of medium to large fields with hawthorn hedgerows and ditches; sparse settlement of small villages and dispersed farms; and immense coal-fired power stations that exert a visual influence over the wider area, including through plumes, pylons and overhead lines.
- 2.1.9 SEO include references to enhancing the woodland and hedgerow network to benefit landscape character and habitat connectivity; enhancing rivers for

their ecological, historical and recreational importance; and managing and enhancing character and distinctive elements that contribute to the overarching sense of place.

- 2.1.10 Landscape-scale projects such as those delivered by the Trent Vale Landscape Partnership are noted under ‘drivers for change’.
- 2.1.11 Landscape opportunities set out within the publication for NCA 45 with particular relevance to the Scheme are noted below:
- a. *“Restore and manage hedgerows, where they have been lost, to strengthen the historical field patterns, improve wildlife networks and enhance landscape character.*
 - b. *Enhance tree cover throughout the NCA following the recommendations of the East Midlands Woodland Opportunity Mapping Guidance for each of the sub areas within the NCA through, for example, extensive planting of hedgerow trees.*
 - c. *Reconnect rivers with their flood plains and restore and create a mosaic of wetland and flood plain habitats including grazing marsh, pastures, fens, reedbeds, wet woodland and eutrophic standing waters. Link and extend existing habitats to reverse the fragmentation that has taken place over the years. Make space for the natural development of rivers.*
 - d. *Conserve protected areas and other high-quality habitats, the range and ecological variability of habitats and species. Manage grassy verges to encourage greater species richness and to maintain them as a feature of the long straight roads”.*

3. East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment

- 3.1.1 The East Midlands Regional Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 4) was published in 2010 and covers the counties of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland, along with a number of unitary authorities, and including the Peak District National Park and Lincolnshire Wolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). It identified 31 Regional Landscape Character Types (RLCTs), within 11 broad groups. A non-technical description is provided for each, alongside a review of ‘Forces for Change’, and suggested mechanisms to counter adverse impacts and promote positive change.
- 3.1.2 Within Group 3 River Valley Floodplains is RLCTS 3a Floodplain Valleys, which, within the Study Area, encompasses the flood plain of the River Trent, mainly to the west of the river. Key characteristics include the wide, flat floodplain with river channel; riparian habitats; mainly pastoral land use, with regular pattern of medium to large fields defined by hedgerows and post-and-wire fencing; hedgerow trees as an important component of the landscape; limited settlement; power stations and road or communication routes defining the outer edges of the floodplain.

- 3.1.3 Key aims under 'Shaping the Future Landscape' for RLCTS 3a that are relevant to the Scheme include protection of existing river valley features; restoration of river valley meadows; strengthening the character of river channels; and providing diverse range of habitats.
- 3.1.4 Within Group 4 Lowland Vales is RLCTS 4a Unwooded Vales, which covers the majority of the Study Area, including much of the low-lying land between the Trent and Lincoln Cliff. Key characteristics include long-distance and expansive views from higher ground at the margins giving visual containment; low hills and ridges that gain visual prominence in an otherwise gently undulating landscape; complex drainage patterns of watercourses; limited woodland cover, whereby shelter belts and hedgerow trees gain greater significance and habitat value as a result; productive arable and pastoral farmland; regular pattern of medium-sized fields with low and generally well-maintained hedgerows; large modern fieldscapes in areas of arable reversion; and sparsely settled, with small villages and dispersed farms linked by quiet rural lanes.
- 3.1.5 Key aims under 'Shaping the Future Landscape' for RLCTS 4a Unwooded Vales that are relevant to the Scheme include ensuring that development is appropriate in terms of types, scale and location; restoration and creation of new hedgerows; creation of permanent pasture alongside watercourses; and increasing the occurrence of semi-natural habitats. Extensive woodland planting is not generally considered to be appropriate, but the report states that limited tree planting could help create a mixed pattern of land-use, increase the occurrence of semi-natural habitats and maintain the perception of a well-treed landscape.
- 3.1.6 Also within Group 4 Lowland Vales is 4b Wooded Vales, which extends north from Gate Burton to Gainsborough. Key characteristics include gently undulating landform; low hills and ridges that gain visual prominence, with elevated landform fringing the vales giving a broad sense of containment; numerous watercourses within shallow undulations; relatively high levels of woodland cover, including notable tracts of ancient semi-natural woodland; productive arable and pastoral farmland; irregular-shaped assarted fields (ancient enclosures) marked by belts of trees and tall hedgerows, alongside regular patterns of medium-sized fields associated with enclosure of land; and open, modern fieldscape created by hedgerow removal in areas of arable reversion.
- 3.1.7 Key aims under 'Shaping the Future Landscape' for RLCTS 4a and 4b include the impact on setting of village churches that are distinctive local landmarks; the planting of new woodland in suitable locations; and the management of existing trees and woodland, to enhance biodiversity value and age structure.
- 3.1.8 Within Group 6 Limestone Farmlands is RLCTS 6a Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes. Within the Study Area, this covers the north-south escarpment, parallel to Middle Street. Key characteristics include the regular spring-line settlements on the scarp that contrast with the more open dip-slope; the strong historic character of the limestone villages; and evidence of declining landscape condition across intensively farmed areas.

- 3.1.9 Key aims under 'Shaping the Future Landscape' for RLCTS 6a include the protection of key views and vistas, ensuring that view lines are retained; limiting visual intrusion; siting infrastructure away from visually prominent locations; protection of existing landscape features, such as restoration of hedgerows, stone walls, grassland and areas of pasture; planting woodland to enhance the scarp slope; and managing existing woodland to encourage a varied structure whilst removing invasive species.
- 3.1.10 For RLCTS 6a, the study notes that consideration should also be given to the relationship between Limestone Scarps and Dipslopes and Unwooded Vales, ensuring new planting does not negatively impact on the open character of the adjoining Landscape Character Type.

4. West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment

- 4.1.1 The West Lindsey Landscape Character Assessment was published in 1999 (Ref. 5) and identifies four Broad Landscape Character Types, which are subdivided into four Broad Landscape Character Areas (LCA) and 14 more detailed Landscape Character Areas (LCA). Each LCA, which represents a tract of land that display a unity of character, includes a description with a summary of key characteristics. Notes on landscape sensitivity, including a list of areas consider to be 'most sensitive', are provided, although there is no specific evaluation of sensitivity. Principles for both landscape management and accommodating new development are provided, with the latter generally referencing built form of no particular type. Three LCA are within the Study Area and are summarised below:
- 4.1.2 LCA2 Trent Valley, which extends along the eastern side of the Study Area and includes the land around Marton in the Cable Route Corridor. Key characteristics include low lying, undulating landform; significant blocks of deciduous woodland and good hedgerows with hedgerow trees; the River Trent with adjacent washlands enclosed by steep flood embankments; historic parkland landscapes such as deer parks and the landmark Torksey Castle; main roads; and views of the power stations along the river.
- 4.1.3 For LCA2, the areas described as '*most sensitive parts of the landscape*', and with reference to the Study Area and proposals, include:
- Higher land to the south and east of Gainsborough, which extends as far south as Marton;
 - Historic parklands including Knaith and Gate Burton;
 - Ancient woodlands;
 - River Trent washlands, and low-lying land along the River Trent; and
 - The Fosdyke and Torksey Castle.
- 4.1.4 For LCA2, under Principles for Landscape Management, with reference to the Study Area and the Schemes, the publication states the management of existing woodland; planting of new woodland, designed to link with existing;

- retention of hedgerows and hedgerow trees; and the careful consideration of landscape parklands and built features.
- 4.1.5 For LCA2, under Principles for Accommodating Development, the publication states that development on the low-lying land to the west of the A156/A1333 would be prominent and cannot easily be accommodated without detracting from the gentle transition to the river; and that new development should not impinge on views to the many important designed parklands in the area.
- 4.1.6 LCA3 The Till Vale encompasses much of the Principal Site and the Cable Route Corridor, extending in a north-south oriented band across the District. Key characteristics of LCA3 include large, flat open fields; low hawthorn hedges with some trees; small blocks of mixed woodland and shelterbelts; extensive network of rivers, dikes and ditches but with little visual presence; small, nucleated settlements on high ground with a sequence of views to landmark churches; ancient enclosure roads; and long views west to the power stations and east to the Cliff.
- 4.1.7 For LCA3, the areas described as “*most sensitive parts of the landscape*” and with reference to the Study Area and Scheme, include:
- a. Rural roads and minor farm tracks bordered by wide verges and hedgerows;
 - b. Edges of villages which show evidence of medieval settlement;
 - c. The sequence of views to village churches along the B1241;
 - d. Avenues and lines of trees on the approaches to farms;
 - e. Views to Lincoln Cathedral;
 - f. Small woodlands - their edges are vulnerable to the impact of agricultural machinery; and
 - g. Minor streams and their associated riparian vegetation.
- 4.1.8 For LCA3, under Principles for Landscape Management and with reference to the Scheme, the publication notes retention of buffer zones and new planting along rivers and streams; management of existing small farm woodlands, shelterbelts and trees within villages and along rural roads; and creation of buffer zones around woodland blocks. The section ‘Principles for Accommodating Development’ states the need to conserve key tracts of open farmland between villages and adjacent outlying farms.
- 4.1.9 LCA4 The Cliff covers the very eastern edge of the Principal Site, running north-south along the prominent landscape feature. Key characteristics include the straight, limestone-capped scarp slope; a 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 landscapes; and ponds and lakes along the spring-line.
- 4.1.10 For LCA4, the areas described as ‘most sensitive parts of the landscape’, and with reference to the Study area and proposals, include:
- a. Diverse landscape pattern on scarp slope;

- b. Wetlands: ponds and lakes at the spring-line;
 - c. Trees and woodlands, at the foot of the escarpment;
 - d. Village entrances: narrow and secluded, contrasting with the ridge-top road along the skyline (Middle Street);
 - e. Historic buildings and parkland e.g. Glentworth;
 - f. Village greens, mature trees, limestone walls and churches; and
 - g. Pastures on western fringes of villages that provide contrast to surrounding arable land.
- 4.1.11 For LCA4, under Principles for Landscape Management and with reference to the Study Area and the Scheme, the publication notes woodland management; management of trees and hedges to the margins and entrances to villages; scope for new hedgerow planting on the western edges of villages to reinforce the contrast in character between the Cliff landscape and that of open arable farmland to the west (framing rather than obscuring views to village churches and other buildings, or landscape features with historic interest); and reversion of arable land to grazing pasture.
- 4.1.12 For LCA4, the section 'Principles for Accommodating Development' notes that new development and tree planting should be carefully sited and designed to avoid compromising the views associated with the design historic parkland landscapes that are characteristic of many of these villages.

5. Trent Vale Landscape Partnership

- 5.1.1 The Trent Vale Landscape Partnership (TVLP) was a three-year programme which ran from January 2010 to December 2012, covering the stretch of the River Trent between Newark and Gainsborough. Aims of the partnership, which including a number of organisations led by the Canal & River Trust, included the conservation and enhancement of natural features and public access routes with the Trent Vale area. The study is referenced in the Bassetlaw District Council Core Strategy Policy DM9, in relation to green infrastructure. A Landscape Character Assessment was prepared, although this was not publicly available at the time of ES preparation.

6. Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment (2009)

- 6.1.1 Within Nottinghamshire, the eastern end of the Cable Route Corridor is covered by the Bassetlaw Landscape Character Assessment (Ref. 6), which forms part of the county-wide Nottinghamshire Landscape Character Assessment. The NCAs described above are used as the basis for the definition of a series of Regional Character Areas (RCA), of which the Cable Route Corridor is within the Trent Washlands RCA. Bassetlaw is then subdivided into Landscape Policy Zones or Policy Zones (PZ), each of which includes a description of key criteria that are used to define landscape

condition and sensitivity, from which factors a 'landscape Policy' is derived. All of the following PZ are within the Cable Route Corridor.

Trent Washlands Policy Zone (TW PZ) 21: Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham Village Farmlands

6.1.2 Trent Washlands Policy Zone (TW PZ) 21 Cottam, Rampton and Church Laneham Village Farmlands covers the area to the west of Cottam power station and is typified by flat, large-scale arable fields with smaller scale pastoral fields around villages; long distance views dominated by power stations and pylons; and nucleated villages.

6.1.3 Landscape condition for TW PZ 21 is defined as 'good' and landscape sensitivity as 'moderate', resulting in a policy of 'Conserve and Reinforce'. Landscape Actions include the conservation of traditional hedge and field patterns around Cottam; recreation of historic field boundaries where they have been lost; restoration of arable land to permanent pasture/wet grassland; reinforcement of hedgerows in poor condition and continuity of ecological diversity in streams and ditches; and conservation of mature hedge lines along tracks.

Trent Washlands Policy Zone 22: Cottam River Meadowlands

6.1.4 TW PZ 22: Cottam River Meadowlands, to the north of Cottam, is described as a flat landscape of arable and pasture fields; long-distance views dominated by the power station; mature trees confined to the riverside and wetland areas; scrub and aquatic vegetation close to the river; and limited settlement.

6.1.5 Landscape condition for PZ22 is defined as 'good' and landscape sensitivity as 'moderate', resulting in a policy of 'Conserve and Reinforce'. Landscape Actions include the conservation of traditional historic patterns of hedges, fields, grazing pasture and mature trees along the Trent; re-creation of historic field boundaries where lost; restoration of arable land to permanent pasture and wet grassland; reinforcement of hedgerows in poor condition; continuity of ecological diversity in streams and ditches; and conservation of the pattern and special features of meadowland hedges.

Trent Washlands Policy Zone 48: Littleborough Village Meadowlands

6.1.6 TW PZ 48: Littleborough Village Meadowlands is a narrow area along the western side of the River Trent, characterised by flat improved and unimproved pasture; willows and scrubby riparian vegetation along watercourses; hedgerows; and a grassy flood bank.

6.1.7 Landscape condition for PZ 48 is defined as 'good' and landscape sensitivity as 'moderate', resulting in a policy of 'Conserve'. Landscape Actions include the promotion of measures to enhance ecological diversity of agricultural grassland; conservation of pastoral character, river channel diversity, waterside vegetation, the pattern and special features of meadowland

hedgerows and the simple unity of the landscape; and seeking opportunities to re-pollard willows, re-create historic field boundaries and convert arable land to permanent pasture.

7. The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire (2011)

7.1.1 The Historic Landscape Characterisation Project for Lincolnshire, prepared by English Heritage and LCC and summarised in the report 'The Historic Character of The County of Lincolnshire' (Ref. 7), categorises and characterises the landscape of the county, with specific reference to its development over time. It identifies ten high-level Regional Character Areas which are sub-divided into Character Zones. For each Regional Character Area, a number of 'Drivers for Change' are identified, whilst notes on 'historic landscape evolution' and 'legibility' are provided for each Character Zone.

Character Zone NCL3, The Cliff Edge Airfields

7.1.2 Regional Character Area 2 'The Northern Cliff' includes Character Zone NCL3, The Cliff Edge Airfields, which extends along the Cliff from Lincoln in the south to Hibaldstow in the north. Key characteristics of NCL3 with particular reference to the Scheme and Study Area include:

- a. Largely modern field pattern, with some evidence of survival of planned enclosures and strong east-west orientation where long boundaries have survived the process of consolidation;
- b. Surviving ancient enclosures, characterised by small field sizes around historic settlements in the west; and
- c. Settlements arranged along the base break slope of the cliff, nucleated in nature and with little expansion beyond their historic cores.

7.1.3 Legibility of the medieval landscape within NCL3 is evident in the survival of the field pattern and long east-to-west oriented fields, with historic settlement cores still retaining much of their historic character and most modern development being small-scale. Legibility of the post-medieval landscape is evident in the extensive survival of planned enclosure and isolated farmsteads across the character zone.

Character Zone TVL1, The Northern Cliff Foothills

7.1.4 Regional Character Area 6 The Trent Valley includes Character Zone TVL1, The Northern Cliff Foothills, which covers the area between the River Trent and the foot of Lincoln Cliff, from near Saxilby in the south, north to the M180, and including Gainsborough. Key characteristics of TVL1 with particular reference to the Scheme and Study Area include:

- a. Largely flat, with level topography allowing wide views of large features in the landscape, especially the power stations and plumes.

- b. Settlements retain much of their historic character, with isolated farmsteads across the zone, the majority of which have expanded to include modern barns and animal pens.
 - c. Surviving ancient enclosures, characterised by small field sizes, are concentrated in the west of the zone, with a number of ancient enclosures of a large size that seem to be associated with specific isolated farmsteads.
 - d. Strong survival of planned enclosure landscape across the Character Zone, with modern fields—produced through 20th century consolidation—retaining much of the rectilinear (often east-west oriented) character of the underlying planned enclosures.
- 7.1.5 The section ‘Historic Landscape Evolution’ for TVL1 notes evidence of early enclosure of former open fields strips around most of the villages in the zone, with several examples of ancient enclosure associated with isolated farmsteads. The zone is described as being largely enclosed in a planned fashion between the 17th and 19th centuries, evident in the strongly rectilinear field boundaries that survive to this day. This enclosure also resulted in the creation of a new settlement pattern of many isolated farms in the landscape.
- 7.1.6 Legibility of the medieval landscape within TVL1 is evident in the survival of the linear settlement pattern and long east-to-west oriented field boundaries. Legibility of the post-medieval is evident in the good survival of planned enclosure and isolated farmsteads, giving the zone its dispersed character. The modern landscape shows field consolidation; and whilst most modern housing is centred on ancient settlements, these retain their historic character.

8. Neighbourhood Plan supporting documents

- 8.1.1 Character assessments, profiles and design guides are frequently provided as part of the evidence base for Neighbourhood Plans. A summary of key findings, with particular relevance to the Scheme and the nature of the development proposed, are provided below.

Corringham Character Assessment

- 8.1.2 The Neighbourhood Character Profile (Ref. 8) for Corringham provides an overview of key qualities and characteristics the parish and informs policies in the Corringham Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 9).
- 8.1.3 The report includes a description of the landscape setting based on the West Lindsey LCA, making reference to long-distance views towards Lincoln Cliff, aided by the flat and open character. Windmills, including Corringham Mill (situated around 0.8km east of the village) are noted as a ‘*key local landmark*’ and a ‘*pleasing characteristic of the Till Vale LCA*’. The rural roads with verges, ditches and hedgerows are described as being of a ‘*strong,*

singular character' and of value to pedestrians in the absence of the Parish's lack of dedicated Public Right of Way (PRoW) network.

- 8.1.4 Figure 26 in the document denotes general views towards Lincoln Cliff from the eastern edge of the village and Figure 314-316 in the Character Profile highlights 'key views across rural landscape setting' that reflect those referenced in the Neighbourhood Plan Policy CPN6. For the latter, the two views of relevance to this Scheme are looking east from the village.

Neighbourhood Character Profile for Glentworth

- 8.1.5 The Neighbourhood Character Profile for Glentworth (Ref. 10) presents results of the events organised by the Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan Working Group and informs the Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 11).
- 8.1.6 Figure 1 in the Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan identifies areas of woodland and Figure 4 denotes recreational walking, horse riding and cycle routes, along with 'gateways' that include the junction of Middle Street and Hanover Hill. The recreational routes cover PRoW and the majority of roads within the vicinity of the village, including cycle routes along Middle Street (but not north of Dog Kennel Road) and walking routes along Kexby Road and Northlands Road, away from the village. These routes, along with woodland (where the narrative highlights those that are associated with the 'gateways') and roadside verges are described as Green Infrastructure, and subject to Neighbourhood Plan Policy 5.
- 8.1.7 Figure 5 in the Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan denotes ten views, accompanied by descriptions, that are considered to be of importance. These are subject to Neighbourhood Plan Policy 1 'Views'. Of relevance to the Scheme are the following:
- a. View 8, looking southwest from Middle Street to Glentworth Hall and beyond, described as a 'superb view of this historic house in its parkland setting with distant views across the Trent in the background.'
 - b. View 9, looking south from Middle Street towards St. Michael's Church and beyond, described as providing '*the best opportunity to appreciate the character and setting of the entire village in one view*'; and
 - c. View 10, looking northwest from Middle Street (approaching the village from the south, near Glentworth Hall Farm), which notes '*glimpses of the church, Glentworth Hall and the characteristic pantile roofs, softened and harmonised by the trees. Emphasises the discrete rural setting*'.

Hemswell and Harpswell Character Assessment

- 8.1.8 The Hemswell and Harpswell Character Assessment (Ref. 12) provides a comprehensive review of key qualities and characteristics within the parish, particularly the two settlements; and informs policies in the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 13).
- 8.1.9 The Assessment includes a description of the landscape setting based on the West Lindsey LCA. This notes the contrasting character of the Cliff and the landscape to the west, the latter described as being of a '*...more uniform, less dramatic character, but has a charm and identity of its own*'.

Harpwell Low Farm, Harpswell Grange, Hermitage Low Farm and Billyards Farm are noted as dispersed farms, with *'...localised tree planting in and around their immediate setting, which helps to reduce their visual impact and integrate them into the rural setting'*.

8.1.10 Figure 7 in the Assessment identifies 21 'key views', each of which is supported by a photograph and accompanying descriptive text. Those which are of relevance to the Principal Site, through location and broad direction of views, are described below:

- a. View 10, looking east from the junction of the A631 Harpswell Lane and Hemswell Lane: *"...reveals a wide panoramic view towards the Lincoln Cliff, whose rising form terminates the view. Within this view, both Hemswell and Harpswell nestle at the foot of the Cliff behind a foreground of mature tree planting, whilst to the rear of each settlement the Cliff rises up above the villages and provides them each with a distinct and characterful backdrop."*
- b. View 11, looking southwest across the A631 Harpswell Lane from the junction with Hemswell Lane, towards Harpswell Grange: *"Harpwell accommodates several isolated farms within its parish boundaries, which are typically set within mature, heavily planted settings."*
- c. View 12, looking west from the junction of the A631 Harpswell Lane and Hemswell Lane: *"Long views out across the Till Vale...reveal an expansive agricultural landscape, comprised of large fields edged by low-lying hedgerows and with minimal tree cover"*.
- d. View 13, taken from the private access road to Harpswell Grange, looking east: *"The flat character of the land that occupies the western extents of the Neighbourhood Plan Area allows for uninterrupted, open views towards Hemswell and Harpswell and their cliff setting. In this view, the rising profile of the scarp is most easily read by observing the stretch of land that runs along the cliff and separates Hemswell and Harpswell, its undeveloped and agricultural character exposing the precise slope of the cliff landform. This agricultural gap also allows the extents and positioning of both Hemswell and Harpswell to be easier read, and is crucial in providing clear separation between the two and preventing their coalescence"*.
- e. View 17, looking east from Common Lane west of Harpswell, near to the moat on the site of the former Harpswell Hall: *"The flat and open pastoral landscape that defines the western half of Harpswell Parish gives way to a more enclosed, wooded landscape at Hemswell village. In this view, Harpswell's position in the landscape can be identified by the elevated woodland that looms above the village's built core and creates a gentle wooded arch along the skyline above the settlement"*.
- f. View 18, looking west from the bends in Common Lane west of Harpswell: *"...present[s] a landscape comprised of open arable fields, within which sit occasional isolated farms, such as Hermitage Low Farm. Positioned to the right of this view, and forming a distinct feature on the horizon is Harpswell Wood, which lies to the western end of the parish"*.

- g. View 19, looking east from the bends in Common Lane west of Harpswell: *“The contrasting character of the flat, open landscape of the Till Vale LCA and the rising, wooded nature of the Cliff LCA is one of the defining characteristics of Hemswell and Harpswell. These neighbouring landscape typologies combine to create picturesque, uninterrupted views from the west of the Neighbourhood Plan Area towards the Lincoln Cliff and the settlements of Hemswell and Harpswell, which sit along the escarpment.”*
- h. View 20, looking west from the private farm access track off Middle Street, above Harpswell: *“From Middle Street, which runs along the cliff ridge, expansive and far-reaching views can be obtained across the lower-lying landscape of the Till Vale. From this vantage point glimpses can be gained of elements of Harpswell’s roofscape, including local landmarks such as St Chad’s Church and Hermitage Lodge. Less pleasing is the large agricultural building positioned to the left of the view, which is of a scale and bulk unseen elsewhere in the parish. Sited in an exposed location without any form of landscaping or screening, this substantial structure disrupts the otherwise open character of the landscape and adversely impacts upon the quality of the view”.*

8.1.11 The Assessment includes a character of profile of Harpswell, which notes the following of relevance to the Scheme:

- a. The history and location of the now demolished post medieval Harpswell Hall and Gardens, a Scheduled Monument and non-designated heritage asset, including elements (identified on a plan) that are *“...still visible, including a prospect mound, which would have been used to gain views across the landscape grounds and out toward the countryside beyond, and a water-filled moat, which was likely a key ornamental feature of the garden”*.
- b. The large area of ‘access land’ south of Hall Farm is described as *“...allowing locals and visitors alike to view the various earthworks that mark this historic landscape”*, with the area around the moat site noted as a ‘community green space that is *“unique and picturesque”*. Furthermore, it states that the access land is a *“...valued community asset and local attraction, which offers both local residents and visitors the opportunity for leisurely walks and relaxation in a handsome and distinct historic, rural landscape”*.
- c. Further to the access land described above, Figures 213 and 298 in the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan denote ‘permissive paths’ provided by the same landowner that extend west from Hall Farm, offering additional outdoor leisure opportunities. These paths continue beyond the moat, and around the periphery of the field to the west, north of Common Lane.
- d. The 17th century Hall Farm is noted as a ‘key local landmark’, with a description of the associated gardens that are open to the public.
- e. St. Chad’s church is described as the ‘true landmark’ of the village, where it may be possible to visualise the broad, tree-lined avenue that once aligned the church to the former Harpswell Hall and gardens. Views

from the western side of Church Lane, across the historic landscape of the former Hall and to Hall Farm, are also noted.

Draft Neighbourhood Profile for Ingham

- 8.1.12 A draft Neighbourhood Profile for Ingham (2020) (Ref. 14) has been prepared as an evidence base for the preparation of the Ingham Neighbourhood Plan. A number of key views are indicated on plans associated with Character Area descriptions of the village, but none is towards the Principal Site.

Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Profile

- 8.1.13 The Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Profile (2019) (Ref. 15) provides a summary of character areas as evidence for the Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 16). Of relevance to this assessment is Character Area 4 'Rural Stow', that extends around Stow village and to the north, east and west of the Parish boundary.
- 8.1.14 For Character Area 4, the Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Profile includes a hand-annotated map (Ref. 17) that notes the site of a shrunken village in Normanby. General views across open fields towards Lincoln Cliff are noted, with a specific view west (TV14) from Normanby "*towards the Trent Valley...towards Cottam power station...*" and "*a fine spot to enjoy a beautiful sunset*". "*Beautiful views*' to the north of the road to Coates, across the Till valley, are highlighted. Views towards Stow Minster are frequently noted, with a photograph from the bridleway (Wooden Pole Lane) provided and the annotated plan indicating a view (IV19) due west of Stow.
- 8.1.15 North of East Farm, highlighted on the plan near the Padmoor Drain, the accompanying description notes that "...[here] there is part of the medieval Parish boundary hedge, rich in species such as medieval plum [where] cuckoos and nightingales can be heard singing".
- 8.1.16 It highlights road verges with wildflowers and the recreational value of local roads for walkers, runners, horse riders and cyclists, including the unclassified road from Normanby to Coates. In contrast, the B1241 is described as "*very busy*".
- 8.1.17 The Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plan Protected Views Assessment (Ref. 18) presents seventeen important views, alongside the evidence and rationale for their inclusion in the Protected Views Policy in the Neighbourhood Plan. Although several views are identified in the precursor Character Area descriptions above, none is taken forward into this document. No protected views are towards the Scheme.

Treswell with Cottam Character Assessment

- 8.1.18 The Treswell with Cottam Character Assessment (2018) (Ref. 19) provides a comprehensive review of key qualities and characteristics within the parish and informs policies in the Treswell with Cottam Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 20).

- 8.1.19 The Treswell with Cottam Character Assessment includes a description of the landscape setting based on the Policy Zones described in the Bassetlaw LCA. As an overall comment on the character area, the report highlights the over-bearing scale, dominance and adverse effects of the Cottam power station and associated pylons and power lines.
- 8.1.20 A plan (Figure 48 in Treswell with Cottam Character Assessment) notes the following elements that are relevant to the current Cable Route Corridor:
- a. Important views across the open space at the eastern entrance to the village, and eastwards from Town Street.
 - b. Important view towards the Grade II listed Church of Holy Trinity, from Overcoat Lane.
 - c. Overcoat Lane and Wells Lane as “*pedestrian links*”.
- 8.1.21 The open space noted above is described as a “particularly picturesque green backed by mature trees...one of the defining characteristics of this end of the village”. A photograph caption states that the green “...contributes greatly to the character and quality of this gateway...as do the mature deciduous trees that overlook it”. This open space, which is subsequently described as the Cottam playing field, is subject to Neighbourhood Plan Policy LGS1, and designated as a Local Green Space. It is also designated as an open space and subject to policy protection through the Bassetlaw Local Plan.
- 8.1.22 Overcoat Lane (Restricted Byway RB4) is noted as “...providing pedestrian access to Cottam’s immediate western landscape setting”.

Rampton and Woodbeck Character Assessment

- 8.1.23 The Rampton and Woodbeck Character Assessment (Ref. 21) provides a comprehensive review of key qualities and characteristics within the parish, largely focused on the two settlements and including character area descriptions within the settlement boundaries to each. The Assessment informs policies in the Rampton and Woodbeck Neighbourhood Plan (Ref. 22).
- 8.1.24 Within the description of Rampton, the particularly straight alignment of Torksey Ferry Road, which extends east from the village toward the River Trent and Cottam power station, is noted. This alignment allows “...*long distance views eastwards along this route from the village core*”. Torksey Ferry Road is also described as having the “...*appearance and ambience of a quiet rural lane with an informal character*”, which is stated as becoming even more pronounced further east, where only unenclosed grass verges are present either side of the road.
- 8.1.25 The Assessment includes a description of the wider landscape setting based on the Bassetlaw LCA. This includes reference to the presence of Cottam Power Station, the chimneys of which “...*rise up and stand prominently within many landscape views, their visual impact accentuated by the relatively flat, featureless character of the countryside that surrounds them*”. The network of associated pylons is described as having “...*an equally acute impact on the parish’s eastern landscape setting*”. Overall, the power station

is described as a distinct and arresting feature, a key landmark and a point of reference.

- 8.1.26 The assessment notes the "...particularly extensive network of public footpaths and bridleways...forming peaceful, traffic-free pedestrian links" that connect to the wider PRow network". These are further described as a true asset to the local community, allowing direct engagement with the rural landscape and recreational opportunities.
- 8.1.27 A number of landscape character recommendations are provided. With respect to areas outside the settlements, the use of existing tree planting to partly screen development, or new tree planting as mitigation, is noted. Views towards All Saints Church in Rampton and new development should avoid negatively impacting on the composition or visual quality of such views.
- 8.1.28 A map (Figure 245 in the Assessment) denotes a number of 'key views' in Rampton, including three that are across the rural landscape setting to the east of the village and therefore have relevance to the Scheme:
- A view east along Torksey Ferry Road (Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) Rampton 13);
 - A view east from footpath (PRow) Rampton FP4, immediately north of the village and Old Manor Farm; and
 - A view east from the footpath (PRow) Rampton FP9, each of Orchard Drive.
- 8.1.29 There is no specific description of these identified 'key views', which are referenced in more general terms within the descriptions of character areas identified inside the settlement boundaries.

9. Designations relevant to Landscape Value

- 9.1.1 Designations or land use categories which relate fully or contribute to landscape value in the Study Area are shown on **Figure 12-6** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3]. Reference should be made to **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** and **Chapter 9: Ecology and Nature Conservation** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1] for further details of the heritage and biodiversity designations.

International and National Designations

- 9.1.2 With reference to **Figure 12-6** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3], neither the Study Area nor the Order limits is covered by any statutory landscape designations (e.g. National Parks or National Landscapes, formerly Areas Outstanding Natural Beauty); or any international designations that may inform landscape value, such as World Heritage Sites.
- 9.1.3 The boundary to the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape lies around 18 km to the east of the Principal Site at the closest point. No appreciable visibility of the Scheme is expected from the National Landscape due to distance and the intervening landform of Lincoln Cliff.

Local Designations

- 9.1.4 With reference to **Figure 12-6** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.3], the Study Area includes areas protected through Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Ref. 23) Policy S62 and denoted on accompanying Proposal Maps as an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV).
- 9.1.5 Policy S62 Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Areas of Great Landscape Value states that areas within the AGLV designation are subject to a higher level of policy protection reflecting their “*locally important high scenic quality, special landscape features and sensitivity*”. The policy wording also references the ‘setting’ of the AGLV, although the setting is not defined. Further details of this policy are included within **Appendix 12-2** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.2]
- 9.1.6 Within the Study Area are two separate areas identified as AGLV. These include:
- The north-south scarp slope of Lincoln Cliff, extending from a point at South Carlton (north of Lincoln), northwards to the county boundary at Grayingham. The eastern extent is generally defined by the B1398 Middle Street, except where it includes the grounds to Fillingham Castle. The western boundary runs broadly along the base of the scarp slope, but also includes Fillingham Lake, land to the west of Glentworth village and Blyborough Hall.
 - An area extending south from Gainsborough that includes historic parkland around Knaith and Gate Burton and continues as far south as the northern edge of Marton.

Other Designations Influencing Landscape Value: Heritage

- 9.1.7 A single Registered Park and Garden (Grade II) is associated with Fillingham Castle, located approximately 2.3km south-east of the Principal Site Boundary) at the nearest point. It comprises a mid- to late-18th century park and woodland surrounding the 18th century Gothic style (Grade I listed) castle. The Official List Entry for the park (Ref. 24) notes that the “...*ground falls away to the west, giving dramatic views over Fillingham Broad [Lake] and the village of Fillingham*”.
- 9.1.8 Scheduled Monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas, whilst not specific landscape designations, may reflect landscape and architectural quality and can be relevant to development proposals that may impact upon them. The presence of such features can inform landscape and visual value and hence sensitivity. Further details are provided in **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 9.1.9 There are no heritage designations of this nature within the Principal Site and the Cable Route Corridor but within the Study Area there are numerous Listed Buildings, including Grade I churches in Harpswell, Springthorpe, Heapham and Marton.
- 9.1.10 The closest Scheduled Monuments include Harpswell Hall (a post-medieval house and gardens which overlies earlier medieval remains) and a Moated Manorial Complex at Elm Tree Farm, Heapham.

- 9.1.11 A number of Conservation Areas are located close to the Scheme:
- a. Hemswell Conservation Area, within the central part of the village;
 - b. Glentworth Conservation Area, within the historic core of the village and centred on the Church of St. Michael;
 - c. Fillingham Conservation Area, which encompasses much of the village;
 - d. Ingham Conservation Area, which covers the High Street and central Green; and
 - e. Springthorpe Conservation Area, extending south from St. George and St. Lawrence's Church.
- 9.1.12 Summaries of the information that informs baseline landscape and visual receptor value within Conservation Area Appraisals and supporting assessments are provided below.
- 9.1.13 Two non-designated (unregistered) parks and gardens, listed on the Nottinghamshire Historic Record, are located north of Rampton village, around 300m west of the Cable Corridor. These are associated with grounds of Rampton Hall and Rampton Manor, both now demolished. Remnant elements include woodland to the north of the village, although the eastern extent of the area has been ploughed.

Other Designations Influencing Landscape Value: Nature and Biodiversity

- 9.1.14 National and local designations provide protection to areas of biodiversity value, which may inform landscape condition, quality and value. None are located within the Principal Site or Cable Route Corridor, but there is a single statutory designation (Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)) for nature conservation value at Ashton's Meadow, around 1.3km west of the Cable Route Corridor.
- 9.1.15 There are a number of non-statutory sites designated for nature conservation within or close to the Cable Route Corridor. These include the following Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), designated for biodiversity value at county level:
- a. Willingham to Fillingham Road Verges and Upton Grange Road Verges LWS: species-rich road verges set within intensive agricultural fields, highlighted with temporary signs by the Wildlife Trust;
 - b. Trent Port Wetland LWS, an area of grassland, scrub and wetland adjacent to the River Trent;
 - c. Coates Wetland LWS, a mosaic of wetland, woodland and grassland on the west bank of the River Trent;
 - d. Cottam Wetlands, an area of restored power station ash pits, including woodland and grassland; and
 - e. Cow Pasture Lane Drains LWS, with notable aquatic and bankside vegetation, including a species-rich hedgerow.

- 9.1.16 No areas of ancient or semi-natural woodland are within the Order Limit. The nearest is Burton Wood, around 550m north-west of the Cable Route Corridor, east of Gate Burton.

Conservation Area Appraisals

- 9.1.17 The following Conservation Area Appraisals were reviewed. Information that may be relevant to landscape and visual matters, including where this may inform the value of an area or particular view, is noted below. A full review of Conservation Area Appraisals is provided in **Chapter 8: Cultural Heritage** of this ES [EN010142/APP/6.1].
- 9.1.18 The Hemswell Conservation Area Appraisal (1985) (Ref. 25) includes a plan showing significant trees or groups of trees and notes attractive landscapes in relation to the setting of some of the buildings, but there is no reference to elements such as key views or vistas.
- 9.1.19 The Glentworth Conservation Area Appraisal (1993) (Ref. 26) notes the following of relevance:
- The Grade II* listed Glentworth Hall is seen clearly from Middle Street (along the Cliff) from the north, although much of the village itself is hidden by trees when viewed from this route;
 - The larger spaces formed by fields, trees, hedges and scattered buildings beyond the village fringe form the setting of Glentworth village and are an important contributory element of the Conservation Area; and
 - The position of Glentworth Hall is a key feature, especially from the north; and the collection of important buildings, trees, hedges, walls, open fields and land, together with the informal arrangement of open spaces, provides Glentworth with a strong identity.
- 9.1.20 The Fillingham Conservation Area Appraisal (1993) (Ref. 27) notes the visual relationship between Fillingham Castle and the village; the importance of topography and views of the village from the wider landscape, including Middle Street; and views of the castle from the lake. A map is provided, but this does not denote any specific views.
- 9.1.21 The Ingham Conservation Area Appraisal (1971) (Ref. 28) does not note any key views associated with the designation.
- 9.1.22 The Springthorpe Conservation Area Appraisal (1985) (Ref. 29) notes that a feature of both the village and the area is the “*fine hedgerows*”. No references to views into or out of the village, or other references to the wider landscape, are provided.

10. Local Landscape Character Areas defined by the Applicant

- 10.1.1 The landscape baseline within the Study Area references a range of published LCA of varied age, level of detail, spatial extent and informed by different methodologies. Given the complexity of this baseline, and to ensure

a proportionate, consistent and balanced approach when assessing landscape impacts, a Scheme-specific baseline local landscape assessment has been undertaken. This approach was requested by the LCC Landscape Officer, but also includes Nottinghamshire.

- 10.1.2 All landscape effects arising from the Scheme are assessed LLCAs, which have been defined by the Applicant. The LLCA are broadly based on published assessments and baseline information detailed above, including planning policies and evidence base documents, alongside site surveys. The LLCA are shown on **Figure 12-11** of this ES **[EN01042/APP/6.3]**.
- 10.1.3 The extent of the LLCA have been defined on the basis of expected significant landscape effects, such that those outside the Site will be derived from impacts on perceptual qualities, such as tranquillity; and important views where these are a key characteristic that informs the LLCA value. Based on the extent of visibility defined by site surveys and professional judgement, the LLCA extend approximately 2km from Order limits around the Principal Site and around 1km from the Cable Route Corridor.
- 10.1.4 The LLCA are grouped into broad categories that exhibit shared characteristics and broadly reflect published assessments, as follows:
- a. LLCA 1a Limestone Dip slopes;
 - b. LLCA 2a to 2e: Lincoln Cliff (including spring-line villages);
 - c. LLCA 3a to 3c: Till Vale;
 - d. LLCA 4 Marton Ridge; and
 - e. LLCA 5a to 5c Trent Valley.
- 10.1.5 LLCA 1b Limestone Dip Slopes - Fillingham Castle was scoped out after the Preliminary Environmental Information (PEI) Report stage, as it lay outside the LLCA Study Area. Although of higher sensitivity, due to the presence of heritage assets, the level of screening through woodland (coupled with distance) was such that no significant landscape effects were expected. LLCA 2e – Fillingham was added for completeness, as this area was not previously described, despite being within the LLCA Study Area.
- 10.1.6 For each LLCA, a list of Key Characteristics is provided, informed by *An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment* (Natural England (Ref. 30)). In addition, a table lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).
- 10.1.7 Each of the factors stated in the table is summarised as follows, broadly in line with the guidance provided in TNG 02/21:
- a. Natural heritage: landscape with clear evidence of ecological, geological, geomorphological or physiographic interest that contribute positively to the landscape.
 - b. Cultural heritage: landscape with clear evidence of archaeological, historical or cultural interest that contribute positively to the landscape.
 - c. Landscape condition: landscape which is in a good physical state both with regard to individual elements and overall landscape structure.

- d. Associations: landscape which is connected with notable people, events and the arts.
 - e. Distinctiveness: landscape that has a strong sense of identity.
 - f. Recreational: landscape offering recreational opportunities where experience of landscape is important.
 - g. Perceptual (scenic): landscape that appeals to the senses, primarily the visual sense.
 - h. Perceptual (wildness and tranquility): landscape with a strong perceptual value notably wildness, tranquillity and/or dark skies
 - i. Functional: landscape which performs a clearly identifiable and valuable function, particularly in the healthy functioning of the landscape.
- 10.1.8 The evidence to support the presence or otherwise of these factors is derived from site surveys and observations; review of planning policy and supporting evidence base documents (such as green infrastructure assessments); landscape character assessments; historic environment and archaeological designations; conservation area appraisals; tree and ecological surveys; and feedback provided through stakeholder consultation and meetings.

LLCA 1a Open Limestone Dip Slopes – Hemswell Cliff

- 10.1.9 Key characteristics of LLCA 1a include:
- a. Gentle east-facing dip slope of Lincoln Cliff, derived from underlying, more resistant Jurassic Lincoln Limestone.
 - b. Mainly agricultural, with a simple pattern of planned enclosure, medium-scale rectilinear fields with boundaries comprising low hedgerows and occasional trees; but often absent. Occasional relic limestone rubble walls, often in poor condition. Lack of watercourses on free-draining soils.
 - c. B1398 Middle Street runs north-south along the highest point of the dip slope, forming the western boundary to the LLCA.
 - d. Dominant presence of the former RAF Hemswell, used by Bomber Command (notably during the Second World War); and later as a nuclear missile base. The site, including residential quarters, mess and barracks, was later sold and is now fully in civilian use. Much of this area now has a largely industrial character, incongruous in the otherwise agricultural context, with functional elements (including large grain stores) visible from relatively long distances. Former runways are used for materials storage.
 - e. Hemswell Cliff is a focus for antique businesses and hosts a popular Sunday market.
 - f. Other than the above, built form is limited to occasional farmsteads, often associated with woodland shelter belts; a small hospital; and scattered residences along Middle Street.
 - g. Limited access through occasional rural roads, although the A631 runs east-west to the north of the area.

10.1.10 **Table 10-1** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 1a, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-1: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 1a Open Limestone Dip Slopes

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Gentle east-facing slope as part of a regionally important geomorphological feature. Expansive character, allowing long-range views towards the Wolds, albeit more localised and less notable than those from the Cliff the west. Intensive agriculture results in limited ecological value. No biodiversity designations.
Cultural heritage	Grade II Hemswell Court (former Officers' Mess).
Landscape condition	Limited, due to removal of boundaries, intensive agriculture and presence of Hemswell Cliff.
Associations	Hemswell Court used as film set for the 1954 'The Dam Busters' film, as a substitute for RAF Scampton. Military and aviation history associated with RAF Hemswell.
Distinctiveness	Dominance of former RAF Hemswell and wider context of Lincoln Cliff as a location for airfields, although influenced by larger, modern industrial and agricultural buildings.
Recreational	Limited, due to scarcity of PRow and busy roads with footways.
Perceptual (scenic)	Expansive character and long-range views east to the Wolds, but heavily influenced by Hemswell Cliff industrial buildings.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Limited, due to proximity of busy roads and industrial/residential areas visible in long-range views.
Functional	Limited, due to intensive agriculture, lack of habitat corridors and presence of industrial areas.

10.1.11 Elements judged to be of relevance when making judgments on landscape value for LLCA 1a include the open expansive character and long-range views to the east, but with the visual influence and arguably incongruous presence of Hemswell Cliff set within intensive agriculture. Overall landscape value is assessed to be Low.

LLCA 2a Lincoln Cliff – Hemswell

10.1.12 Key characteristics of LLCA 2a include:

- a. Topography dominated by the relatively steep, west-facing scarp slope derived from more resistant Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone formation, forming part of the regionally prominent Lincoln Cliff.
- b. Subject to Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) designation, which occupies much of the LLCA.
- c. Spring line village of Hemswell, clustered around a historic core towards the base of the scarp slope but with peripheral, modern residential development including large plots along the Cliff.
- d. Designated heritage assets, including Grade II* Church of All Saints and other Grade II buildings. The village centre is designated a Conservation Area.
- e. Mature trees provide an attractive setting to Hemswell, contrasting with the more open surrounding farmland.
- f. Smaller-scale, mainly pastoral fields reflect a pre-enclosure field pattern, often bounded by dense hedges that limit wider views, especially west of the village.
- g. Some expansive, panoramic views to the west, although often limited by dense hedgerows and trees around private gardens.
- h. Fast moving (national speed limit) traffic along the B1398 Middle Street to the top of the Cliff; but rural and residential roads connecting this and the A631 to the village.
- i. Key views, routes and open spaces identified through the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents.

10.1.13 **Table 10-2** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 2a, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-2: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 2a Lincoln Cliff - Hemswell

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Section of Lincoln Cliff: regionally notable geomorphological feature which has influenced historic settlement and allows expansive views to the west. Mature trees, small areas of woodland and older, potentially more species-rich hedgerows surrounding pastoral land around edge of village.
Cultural heritage	Numerous listed buildings and Conservation Area designation; smaller fields reflect ancient enclosure.
Landscape condition	Well-preserved village core with field and garden boundaries characterised by dense vegetation and in generally good condition. AGLV designation through Local Plan policy and protection of green spaces and general landscape character through Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan.

Factor	Indicators of value
Associations	None noted.
Distinctiveness	Good example of spring-line village at base of scarp, centred on Grade I listed church and with historic settlement plan largely intact.
Recreational	Relatively good network of PRow compared to the wider Cliff, allowing connectivity with villages to the north and south.
Perceptual (scenic)	Intimate character within village core, but with some open views (where gaps in vegetation allow) across the wide agricultural setting, including from the Cliff. AGLV designation through Local Plan policy and protection of views through Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Relatively tranquil, although locally some noise and movement apparent from the A631 (due to prevailing wind).
Functional	Woodland belts and hedgerows provide north-south ecological connectivity along Cliff. Vegetation within the village offers greater habitat diversity than the intensive farmland beyond. Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan references value and protection of Green Spaces and general landscape character.

10.1.14 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 2a include the older, enclosed historic village core with designated heritage assets; and the presence of the Cliff, although the latter is subject to more modern housing development and with limited intervisibility through trees. Overall landscape value is assessed to be Medium.

LLCA 2b Lincoln Cliff - Harpswell

10.1.15 Key characteristics of LLCA 2b include:

- a. Topography dominated by the relatively steep, west-facing scarp slope derived from more resistant Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone, forming part of the regionally prominent Lincoln Cliff. More gentle topography towards the west.
- b. Local Policy AGLV designation, which occupies much of the LLCA.
- c. Spring line village of Harpswell: small-scale, generally intimate in character, with detached properties and clusters of buildings set towards the base of the scarp slope.
- d. Grade I listed Church of St. Chad (Harpswell) as a focal feature, with the tower often glimpsed in local views, above the surrounding trees. The Scheduled Monument at Harpswell Hall reflects the post-medieval building and associated gardens, the former demolished in the 19th century but the latter still evident through earthworks.

- e. Mature trees provide an attractive setting to the villages, contrasting with the more open surrounding farmland and providing enclosure to the large open space on the former Hall site, where permissive access is provided, along with a short public footpath.
- f. Occasional glimpsed expansive, panoramic views to the west, although often limited by dense hedgerows and trees, including around private gardens.
- g. Busy A631 immediately to the north of the LLCA, although relatively screened by trees, limiting influence on what is otherwise a generally tranquil area, with only light traffic on the unclassified Common Lane.
- h. Small businesses associated with Harpswell Hall Farm, including the Open Garden, offer a low-key visitor attraction, with permissive walks and interpretation boards around the Scheduled Monument moat and former gardens.
- i. Key views, routes and open spaces identified through the Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents.

10.1.16 **Table 10-3** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 2b, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-3: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 2b Lincoln Cliff – Harpswell

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Section of Lincoln Cliff: regionally notable geomorphological feature which influenced historic settlement and allows expansive views to the west. Mature trees, woodland and pastoral land with some potentially more species-rich hedgerows; moat provides aquatic habitats that are relatively limited in the area.
Cultural heritage	Layout of the former Scheduled Monument (Harpswell Hall) and relationship with the Grade I listed Church of St. Chad and wider landscape context is legible and accessible, with interpretative information.
Landscape condition	Good management practice within the open, green space has led to a varied, attractive and distinctive landscape of relatively high quality. AGLV designation through Local Plan policy and protection of green spaces and general landscape character through Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan.
Associations	None noted.
Distinctiveness	High quality and accessible landscape (unusual for the local area) with strong historic influences, supplemented by the attractive open gardens at Hall Farm.

Factor	Indicators of value
Recreational	Relatively open and accessible, with well-maintained and signed permissive paths that link key features and allow an appreciation of the village character and history.
Perceptual (scenic)	Pleasing balance of prospect and enclosure within a setting of mature trees and an attractive moat, offering a compelling contrast with the wider, intensively farmed open countryside. AGLV designation through Local Plan policy and protection of views through Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Relatively tranquil, although locally some noise and movement apparent from the A631 depending on the prevailing wind.
Functional	Mature trees, woodland and sympathetically managed hedgerows provide greater habitat diversity than the intensive farmland beyond. Moat provides aquatic habitats that are relatively limited in the wider area. Hemswell and Harpswell Neighbourhood Plan references value and protection of Green Spaces and general landscape character.

10.1.17 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 2b include the designated heritage assets, particularly the prominent churches and legibility of the moated site; green spaces (including the accessible area within the centre of Harpswell); views and elements of value as described in the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents; mature trees; and long-range views to and from the Cliff and the surrounding farmland. Overall landscape value is assessed to be High.

LLCA 2c Lincoln Cliff – Open Farmland

10.1.18 Key characteristics of LLCA 2c include:

- a. Topography dominated by the relatively steep, west-facing scarp slope derived from more resistant Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone formation, forming part of the regionally prominent Lincoln Cliff.
- b. Local Policy AGLV designation, which occupies much of the LLCA in the Study Area.
- c. Expansive, panoramic views to the west, extending across the Trent Valley as far as the Peak District and including distant power stations at West Burton and Cottam.
- d. Dominantly intensive arable farmland, with medium-sized planned enclosure rectilinear fields, where boundary features are often absent or comprise gappy hedges.

- e. Built form generally limited, with a single property 'Millfield', north of Harpswell. Recently constructed grain silos at Homeyard Farm and a large barn south of Harpswell are functional influences within the open landscape.
- f. B1398 Middle Street along the Cliff, limiting tranquillity through relatively fast-moving vehicles.
- g. No designated heritage assets.
- h. Limited public rights of way, mainly between Harpswell and Hemswell. Middle Street is not attractive to leisure cycling and walking due to the lack of a footway and fast-moving traffic.
- i. Very limited woodland cover or trees, with the latter generally limited to the edge of Middle Street.

10.1.19 **Table 10-4** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 2c, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-4: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 2c Lincoln Cliff – Open Farmland

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Section of Lincoln Cliff: regionally notable geomorphological feature which influenced historic settlement and allows expansive 180° views to the west. Limited habitat value due to dominance of intensive farmland, other than short section of woodland along Middle Street.
Cultural heritage	No designated assets, although open farmland (especially when viewed from the west) allows legibility of the relationship between spring-line villages and the Cliff.
Landscape condition	Absence of features other than intensive farmland, with elements such as field boundaries generally absent or in declining condition.
Associations	None noted.
Distinctiveness	Locally distinctive topography, although landscape itself is largely intensive farmland that is typical of the wider area.
Recreational	Generally restricted to short sections of footpath, with no recreational route between Harpswell and Glentworth (subject to an ongoing PRoW application). Middle Street generally unappealing to walkers and leisure cyclists. Few opportunities to stop and enjoy the open view.
Perceptual (scenic)	Panoramic, open character allowing appreciation of the agricultural Trent Valley and Till Vale. AGLV designation through Local Plan policy.

Factor	Indicators of value
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Some tranquility, but generally influenced by fast-moving traffic on Middle Street.
Functional	Limited connectivity of habitats between villages along north-south Cliff due to loss of woodland and intensive farming.

10.1.20 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 2c include the open scarp slope that is subject to AGLV designation with views frequently cited in published assessments; the wider influence of the LLCA over adjacent landscapes; and the generally intensively farmed nature of the land. Overall landscape value is assessed to be Medium.

LLCA 2d Lincoln Cliff – Glentworth

10.1.21 Key characteristics of LLCA 2d include:

- a. Topography dominated by the relatively steep, west-facing scarp slope derived from more resistant Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone formation, forming part of the regionally prominent Lincoln Cliff. More gentle topography towards the west.
- b. Spring line village of Glentworth, largely clustered around a historic core towards the base of the cliff, with more modern development to the periphery.
- c. Grade II* listed Church of St. Michael and four Grade buildings located within the centre of the village. To the northwest edge is the Grade II* Glentworth Hall and associated Grade II stables; the latter in a more expansive, open setting with views to the west.
- d. Mature trees within Glentworth add character and contrast with the more open surrounding farmland. These, along with woodland blocks, provide some screening to views in and out of the village.
- e. A limited number of smaller-scale, mainly pastoral fields, mainly within or immediately adjacent to the village.
- f. The B1398 Middle Street along the Cliff has limited impact on the village, within which are number of narrow lanes, and Kexby Road which runs along the southern edge.
- g. Short sections of public footpath within the village, although PRow into the wider countryside are limited to a bridleway running south to Fillingham.
- h. Local Policy AGLV designation, which occupies much of the LLCA in the Study Area.
- i. Key views, routes and green infrastructure identified through the Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents.
- j. Conservation Area in Glentworth.

10.1.22 **Table 10-5** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 2d, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-5: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 2d Lincoln Cliff – Glentworth

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Section of Lincoln Cliff: regionally notable geomorphological feature which influenced historic settlement with expansive but localised views to the west. Mature trees, small areas of woodland and older, potentially more species-rich hedgerows surrounding pastoral land around edge of village. Area of grassland within the village.
Cultural heritage	Numerous listed buildings and Conservation Area designation, including the relationship of the Grade II* Glentworth Hall with the wider landscape of the Cliff and Till Vale beyond. Some smaller fields around the village reflect ancient enclosure.
Landscape condition	Well-preserved village core with field and garden boundaries characterised by dense vegetation and in generally good condition. AGLV designation through Local Plan policy and protection of landscape/green infrastructure through Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan.
Associations	None noted.
Distinctiveness	Good example of spring-line village at base of scarp, centred on Grade II* listed church and with historic settlement plan largely intact. Presence of Glentworth Hall and relationship to wider landscape.
Recreational	PRoW generally limited to a small area within the centre of the village, alongside the bridleway to Fillingham. Lack of PRoW results in use of rural lanes (e.g. Northlands Road) as recreational routes. No footway along sections of Middle Street above the village.
Perceptual (scenic)	Intimate character within village core, but with some open views (where gaps in vegetation allow) across the wider agricultural setting, mainly from the southern village edge. AGLV designation through Local Plan policy and protection of views through Glentworth Neighbourhood Plan.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Relatively tranquil, with limited influence of traffic along Middle Street.
Functional	Woodland belts and hedgerows provide north-south ecological connectivity along the Cliff. Vegetation within

the village offers greater habitat diversity than the intensive farmland of the beyond.

10.1.23 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 2d include the designated heritage assets, the intimate, enclosed nature of the historic village core with narrow lanes, small green spaces and mature trees; limited open views associated with Glentworth Hall; and views and elements of value as described in the Neighbourhood Plan and supporting documents. Overall landscape value is assessed to be Medium.

LLCA 2e Lincoln Cliff – Fillingham

10.1.24 Key characteristics of LLCA 2e include:

- a. Topography dominated by the relatively steep, west-facing scarp slope derived from more resistant Jurassic Lincolnshire Limestone formation, forming part of the regionally prominent Lincoln Cliff. More gentle topography towards the west.
- b. Spring line village of Fillingham, largely clustered around a historic core towards the base of the cliff, with more modern development to the periphery, particularly the southern edge.
- c. Grade II* listed Church of St. Andrew and four Grade II listed buildings located within the centre of the village.
- d. Presence of Fillingham Lake, linked to the construction of Fillingham Castle (with associated Registered Park and Garden) on the top of the Cliff, with a legible, designed landscape relationship between the two. The Lake represents an attractive, unexpected feature that provides visual, historic and ecological interest. It is visible from the bridleway (via a footbridge) although there is no public access to the lake margins.
- e. Mature trees within the village and around the lake add character and contrast with the more open surrounding farmland. These, along with gentle topography to the north of the Lake, largely screen views of the farmland to then north of the village.
- f. Smaller-scale, mainly pastoral fields with mature trees set in dense hedgerows located to the west of the village.
- g. Local Policy AGLV designation, which occupies much of the LLCA in the Study Area.
- h. Conservation Area in Fillingham.

10.1.25 **Table 10-6** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 2e, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-6: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 2e Lincoln Cliff – Fillingham

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Section of Lincoln Cliff: regionally notable geomorphological feature which influenced historic settlement and allows expansive views to the west. Fillingham Lake as valued and locally distinctive landscape/ecology feature. Riparian and aquatic habitats associated with the Lake, with mature trees, small areas of woodland and older, potentially more species-rich hedgerows surrounding pastoral land around edge of village.
Cultural heritage	Listed buildings and Conservation Area designation, including the relationship of the Grade I Fillingham Castle and associated Grade II Registered Park and Garden through designed views and planting; and the construction/location of the lake. Smaller fields around the village reflect ancient enclosure.
Landscape condition	Well-preserved village core with field and garden boundaries characterised by dense vegetation and in generally good condition.
Associations	Fillingham Castle was built for Sir Cecil Wray, an 18 th century politician and Lincolnshire landowner who is buried in the churchyard.
Distinctiveness	Good example of spring-line village at base of scarp, centred on Grade II* listed church and with historic settlement plan largely intact. The lake is an unusual and distinctive feature in the area.
Recreational	PRoW north to Glentworth (allowing views of the lake) and south along the base of the Cliff to Ingham. Rural Willingham Road allows access to bridleways across more open farmland.
Perceptual (scenic)	Intimate character within village core, but with some open views (where gaps in vegetation allow) across the wider agricultural setting, mainly from the lower village edge. Opportunities to stop and appreciate the panoramic views from Middle Street are limited. AGLV designation through Local Plan policy.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Relatively tranquil, but with some influence of traffic along Middle Street.
Functional	Vegetation within the village offers greater habitat diversity than the intensive farmland of the beyond. The Lake offers valuable aquatic habitats in an area with relatively few waterbodies.

10.1.26 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 2f include the designated heritage assets, the intimate, enclosed nature of the historic village core with narrow lanes, the presence of the Lake and relationship with Fillingham Castle. Overall landscape value is assessed to be High.

LLCA 3a – Till Vale Open Farmland

10.1.27 Key characteristics of LLCA 3a include:

- a. Low-lying, often superficially flat topography, with superficial glacial clays overlying mudstones. Some gentle undulations provide interest to the southeast, around Glentworth.
- b. Medium to large scale rectilinear fields reflecting the post-enclosure landscape away from historic villages. Boundaries are generally low-cut hedgerows, sometimes gappy or absent. Land use is mainly arable, reflecting an overall character of intensive farming, including biomass such as maize.
- c. Occasional east-west oriented roads and tracks, locally with dense, high hedges and wide verges, that reflect former enclosure routes from villages to adjacent low-lying land.
- d. Small watercourses draining north into the River Eau and south (including to the River Till), but often straightened and/or as drainage ditches, but with little visual influence on the landscape and limited biodiversity value.
- e. Built form generally limited to dispersed, isolated farmsteads and occasional residential buildings, such as along Kexby Road. Large barns and outbuildings are often associated with both and occasionally as standalone features.
- f. A near-absence of designated heritage assets, with the exception of the Grade II listed Corringham Windmill on the A631. Views are locally available towards nearby church towers and spires, such as Stow Minster and St. Chad's at Harpswell.
- g. Limited woodland: mainly woodland blocks or shelter belts, largely focused on Big Wood in the centre of the LLCA, which provides a subtle local change in character. Hedgerow trees are generally limited.
- h. The main communication route is the busy A631, which reduces tranquillity through noise and movement. To the west is the A1500 and the Gainsborough to Lincoln railway. Away from these routes, routes are limited to unclassified, single-track roads such as Common Land and Kexby Road.
- i. A notable lack of PRoW, which limited amenity and recreational value; such routes are restricted to bridleways south of Kexby Road.
- j. A largely open, expansive character, dominated by long-range views towards the Lincoln Cliff in the east and with power stations at Cottam and West Burton in the west.

- k. Other man-made elements include 400kV and 132kV pylons and overhead line to the south between Sturton and Marton; 33kV overhead lines on woodland poles in the north around Corringham and Harpswell; the incongruous ‘nodding donkeys’ west of Glentworth; and an existing solar farm west of Stow.

10.1.28 **Table 10-7** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 3a, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-7: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 3a Till Vale Open Farmland

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	<p>Expansive character, allowing views towards Lincoln Cliff that allow an understanding and appreciation the wider topographical and geological context.</p> <p>Lack of artificial light and relatively ‘dark skies’, based on CPRE mapping.</p> <p>Otherwise, features of value generally limited to isolated woodland blocks or relic hedgerows (e.g. along former drovers/enclosure roads) that are dense and more species-rich.</p> <p>Biodiversity designations limited to localised sections of roadside verges. Watercourses in poor condition.</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>Relatively limited designated heritage assets, although these (and non-designated features such as farms) may be prominent due to the open character. Localised visibility of church spires in adjacent LLCA (and sometimes Lincoln Cathedral) and an ability to appreciate the distribution of spring-line villages along the base of the Cliff.</p>
Landscape condition	<p>Dominated by intensive agriculture, with limited habitats and connectivity; and modified watercourses impacted by nutrient run-off. Hedgerows often in poor condition or absent. Most prominent trees are usually ash and suffering from dieback.</p>
Associations	<p>None noted.</p>
Distinctiveness	<p>Limited other than views to the Cliff: a commonplace agricultural landscape.</p>
Recreational	<p>Notable scarcity of PRow and no access land, with bridleways being restricted to the southern part of the LLCA. The absence of such routes results in rural lanes being used for recreation, particularly where they are close to settlement.</p>
Perceptual (scenic)	<p>Largely derived from the long-range views towards the Cliff and expansive, open character.</p>

Factor	Indicators of value
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Relatively tranquil away from A631, although agricultural activity associated with farms, particularly the larger commercial premises.
Functional	Limited connectivity and habitat quality due to intensive agriculture and modified watercourses. Value generally derived from isolated woodland blocks and dense hedgerows; and field set-aside areas. Areas identified as opportunities for management of existing ecological network (e.g. Big Wood) and ecological creation, as shown on Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire).

10.1.29 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 3a include the open, expansive views that included the Cliff but overall dominated by commonplace, intensive agriculture; dark skies; relative absence of public access and registered heritage assets; and the limited presence of green infrastructure features such as woodland, high biodiversity watercourses or non-agricultural grasslands. Overall landscape value is assessed to be Low.

LLCA 3b – Till Vale - Sturgate Airfield

10.1.30 Key characteristics of LLCA 3b include:

- a. Strong influence of the former Royal Air Force (RAF) airfield, opened in 1944 as a location for Bomber Command, but with operational use curtailed by the rapid end to the War. After periods of disrepair, RAF and United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) use, the site was sold off after 1964.
- b. The truncated airfield has been used by private clubs (including Lincoln Aero Club, Sturgate Flying Club and Eastern Air Executive), with an operational runway and facilities including the original control tower as a club house.
- c. Relic areas of runway and hardstanding are used for storage of agricultural materials and aggregates, alongside a waste processing centre accessed from Kexby Road.
- d. A separate area of hardstanding to the northwest, linked by what appear to be historic airfield access routes, is currently used for storage of Travelling showpeople equipment, including large tents and circus equipment.
- e. Rural roads that were diverted around the airfield during construction, resulting in a functional, engineered appearance.
- f. Areas of arable land reclaimed from sections of the airfield, but with a notable absence of tree or hedge planting, anecdotally due to legacy Ministry of Defence requirements. This results in a very open, featureless character, that accentuates the visibility of detracting storage

features. The exception is the shelter belts around the separate storage area to the northwest.

- g. Occasional movement of aircraft, alongside vehicles accessing the airfield. Tranquility is also reduced by waste lorries travelling to the disposal site.

10.1.31 **Table 10-8** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 3b, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-8: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 3b - Till Vale – Sturgate Airfield

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Very limited, due to extant and former runway, with historic vegetation removal and limits on replanting. Functional uses for storage and waste disposal.
Cultural heritage	Links to wider history of Lincolnshire as a focus for airfield development, with presence of control tower as only appreciable relic of former WWII bomber base.
Landscape condition	Dominated by utilitarian elements associated with airfield and no natural features of note.
Associations	Historical link to World War II bomber based and later RAF and USAAF use.
Distinctiveness	Notable as a contrast to the wider agricultural character, but not in itself likely to be considered an element of value.
Recreational	No public access or recreational facilities, although a private café allows views of the airfield and flying club activities.
Perceptual (scenic)	Limited due to functional use and character.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Aircraft movement is limited, although open character allows influence of passing traffic, including vehicles accessing the waste disposal area.
Functional	Limited, other than ground-nesting birds in the uncultivated grassland.

10.1.32 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 3b include the heritage interest of the airfield, including in relation to the wider strategic importance of Lincolnshire during the Second World War; remnant historic features such as the control tower; balanced against the largely open and featureless land with numerous detractors and a degraded appearance. Overall landscape value is assessed to be Very Low.

LLCA 3c Till Vale – Till Vale Villages

10.1.33 Key characteristics of LLCA 3c include:

- a. Generally slightly higher elevation compared to the adjacent LLCA 3a, reflecting subtle differences in superficial glacial deposits. Some lower-lying areas, e.g. along Fillingham Lane.
- b. The more elevated, better-draining ground historically giving rise to settlement, including villages such as Corringham, Springthorpe, Heapham, Willingham by Stow and Stow.
- c. Villages centred around historic cores, often with dominant churches, although Heapham has a more scattered character, with the Church of All Saints set—uncommonly for the area—within fields.
- d. Numerous designated heritage assets, including Grade I listed churches at Corringham, Springthorpe, Heapham and Stow; the Grade II* church at Upton; and Scheduled Monuments such as a moated site at Heapham. Deserted or shrunken villages such as Coates.
- e. Typically medium to small scale fields, with boundaries that reflect the more ancient field patterns: less overtly rectilinear than the adjacent planned enclosure LLCA3a farmland and with more frequent hedgerow trees, and hedges that are taller, denser, and often in better condition.
- f. East-west oriented road and tracks with dense, high hedges and wide verges reflect former enclosure routes from villages to adjacent low-lying land.
- g. Small watercourses draining north into the River Eau and south (including the River Till), sometimes straightened as drainage ditches, but often exhibiting a more sinuous character that reflects lack of intervention.
- h. Mature trees and small woodland blocks associated with villages, adding character and often screening wider views, alongside a higher number of hedgerow trees compared to adjacent LLCA3a.
- i. Network of rural roads linking villages, varying from the B1241 to single-track, unclassified routes that exhibit a more rural character. Some of the latter, where close to settlements, offer informal recreational value for walking and cycling, especially where traffic levels are low and PRoW limited.
- j. Scattered PRoW, mainly focused on settlements, providing amenity and recreational value to residents, allow opportunities to experience more expansive rural views. A recently-adopted byway and a temporary permissive path provides access to the east of Sturgate.
- k. Key views, routes and green infrastructure identified through the Corringham and Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plans and supporting documents.
- l. Conservation Area in Springthorpe.
- m. Fewer detracting elements than in the adjacent LLCA3a, with only short section of 33kv overhead lines around Corringham.

10.1.34 **Table 10-9** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 3b, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-9: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 3c – Till Vale Villages

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Mature trees, small areas of woodland and older, potentially more species-rich hedgerows surrounding pastoral land around edge of villages that are attractive and offer more diverse habitats than surrounding intensive farmland. Some connectivity between villages through hedgerows and along watercourses.
Cultural heritage	Listed buildings within villages and Conservation Area at Springthorpe, with a subtle but sometimes legible relationship of historic settlement on slightly higher ground. Smaller fields around the villages reflect ancient enclosure, with historic enclosure routes extending west, lined by older, more valued hedges. Deserted medieval villages e.g. Coates (Scheduled Monument).
Landscape condition	Well-preserved village cores with field and garden boundaries characterised by dense vegetation and in generally good condition. Hedges generally more intact and subject to more sympathetic management than those within the more open farmland of LLCA 2a.
Associations	None noted.
Distinctiveness	Villages are typical of agricultural settlement in lower-lying parts of rural Lincolnshire and the north Midlands, with historic cores influenced by more modern development around the edges.
Recreational	A greater level of PRoW relative to LLCA 2a allows better opportunities for recreation around and between villages, although some (e.g. Springthorpe and Corringham) are less well-served. The quiet, rural lanes also offer amenity value (referenced in Neighbourhood Plans), although some (e.g. between Springthorpe and Corringham and the B1241) are less attractive due to traffic.
Perceptual (scenic)	Intimate character within village core, but with some open views (where gaps in vegetation allow) across the wider agricultural setting, mainly from edges of villages. Protected or Key Views noted in Corringham and Sturton by Stow and Stow Neighbourhood Plans.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Relatively tranquil away from the A631 and fast-moving (albeit less frequent) traffic on the B1241 and wider rural routes.

Factor	Indicators of value
Functional	Vegetation within the village offers greater habitat diversity than the intensive farmland of the beyond. Areas identified as opportunities for management of existing ecological network (e.g. around River Till north of Stow) and ecological creation, as shown on Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire). Neighbourhood Plans reference value and protection of Green Assets and Wildlife Corridors (Sturton by Stow and Stow) and features such as hedgerows, woodland and road verges (Corringham).

10.1.35 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 3c include the relationship of historic settlement with adjacent farmland that often has a more enclosed character reflecting the pre-enclosure landscape; heritage assets including Grade I churches that can be visible in the wider landscape; recreational and amenity value through PRow or quiet rural roads close to villages; and localised views or elements of value as described in Neighbourhood Plans and supporting documents. Overall landscape value is assessed to be Medium.

LLCA 4 – Marton Ridge

10.1.36 Key characteristics of LLCA 4 include:

- a. Gentle north-south ridges parallel to the River Trent reflecting more resistant underlying mudstones, with the ridge to the east being slightly higher and giving rise to locally steep west-facing slopes around Marton. Some areas of low ground south of Marton, but topographically separate from the main Trent flood plain.
- b. The village of Marton, located on the west-facing slopes of the main ridge, centred on historic communication routes of the A1500 (a former Roman Road) and A156. The historic core is along the A156 High Street, with modern residential ribbon development on roads towards the Trent, and in small estates off Stow Park Road (A1500) on the ridge.
- c. Designated heritage assets, including the Grade I listed Church of St. Margaret in Marton, other Grade II listed buildings in the village and a windmill close to the Trent. The Grade II* Gate Burton Hall and associated Grade II Registered Park and Garden are located to the north and outside the Study Area, with minimal intervisibility due to trees and woodland, including along Willingham Road.
- d. Rectilinear, medium-scale fields across the more rural areas with boundaries of gappy hedges or absent; but smaller scale fields and paddocks with taller, denser hedges and hedgerows trees around Marton, reducing views out of the village. Woodland blocks and scattered trees are prevalent along the west-facing ridges, alongside mature trees within the village that provide character, but the tree cover elsewhere is limited.

- e. The north-south A156 and A1500 are the main road routes, although traffic levels are lower than the A631 to the north. Rural lanes connect with Trent Port and Willingham in the east.
- f. A small network of PRow offer recreational amenity around Marton, particularly towards and along the Trent, including the byway along Littleborough Lane to the historic river crossing site at Littleborough. A public footpath south of Marton runs alongside a former field that appears to be reverting through pioneer woodland to scrub, with evidence of informal recreational use.
- g. Open views across the Trent in the west and the Till Vale in the east, including Cottam power station in the former, although views from the main ridge itself are relatively limited, due to lack of access and screening around Marton.
- h. 400 kV and 132 kV pylons and overhead lines to the south of Marton.

10.1.37 **Table 10-10** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 4, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-10: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 4 Marton Ridge

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Areas of woodland, mature trees (including along hedgerows) and older, potentially more species-rich hedgerows are more prevalent than in other LLCA. Pastoral land (particularly around Marton) and some areas of scrub occupy a larger area than the intensively-farmed, dominantly arable fields within the wider area, offering more diverse habitats. The slight ridge provides local geomorphological interest, as a contrast with the flood plain of the Trent to the east.
Cultural heritage	Listed buildings within Marton. Gate Burton Hall to the north, with parkland landscape and woodland to the latter, has some influence, although this and the AGLV designation is largely outside the LLCA Study Area. The AGLV designation in this area. Smaller fields around the villages reflect ancient enclosure, with historic enclosure routes extending west, lined by older, more valued hedges.
Landscape condition	Well-preserved village core with field and garden boundaries characterised by dense vegetation and in generally good condition. Hedges are generally more intact and subject to more sympathetic management than those within the more open farmland of LLCA 2a.
Associations	None noted.
Distinctiveness	Marton is typical of agricultural settlement in lower-lying parts of rural Lincolnshire and the north Midlands, with

Factor	Indicators of value
	historic cores influenced by more modern development around the edges.
Recreational	Sections of ProW provide access to the River Trent and surrounding fields, although with limited onward connections other than along busy roads. Trent Port Road provides a quiet route from the village centre to the Trent.
Perceptual (scenic)	Some open views (where gaps in vegetation allow) across the wider agricultural setting and glimpses of the River Trent, although views are generally of typical agriculture land and influenced by the presence of pylons and more distant power stations at Cottam and West Burton.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Some tranquility close to the River Trent, although the reduced by the presence of traffic on the A631 and A1500.
Functional	Vegetation within the village and woodland along the ridge provides a greater habitat diversity than the intensive farmland beyond. Areas identified as opportunities for management of existing ecological network (e.g. south of Marton) and ecological creation, as shown on Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire).

10.1.38 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 4 include the older field patterns with dense hedgerows and trees around Marton with its Grade I church; the gentle topography of the ridge that acts as a subtle divide between the Trent floodplain and Till Vale; recreational and amenity value of ProW around the village and linking to the Trent; and influence of busy roads, modern housing and overhead lines. Overall landscape value is assessed to be Low.

LLCA 5a Trent Valley – Meadowlands

10.1.39 Key characteristics of LLCA 5a include:

- a. Flat topography parallel to the River Trent, contained by flood banks and natural river terraces.
- b. The powerful presence of the River Trent, which has shaped much of the surrounding landscape, historic and social development; and is a dominant feature used by both leisure and commercial traffic.
- c. Largely comprised of medium to small, rectilinear fields enclosing improved and unimproved pasture, contrasting with larger, predominantly arable fields on the floodplain to the west (within LLCA 5b) and ridge to the east (LLCA 4). Fields bounded by bushy hedgerows, often with hedgerow trees, generally more intact than LLCA 5b.

- d. Areas of riparian vegetation, including woodland such as Cotes Woodland and Cottam Wetlands (SINC) and pioneer scrub, along with small areas of wetland e.g. Trent Port Wetland Local Wildlife Site (LWS).
- e. Field boundaries and the flood bank are evidence of historic field patterns and drainage.
- f. A notable absence of built form, other than the Grade II* listed Torksey viaduct (just outside the Study Area), formerly part of the Retford to Lincoln railway and now offering pedestrian and cycle access across the Trent.
- g. Network of ProW both along the Trent and connecting to nearby villages, providing amenity and recreational access to the river and across the former Torksey Viaduct. Paths along the left bank of the river form part of the signed long distance Trent Valley Way footpath.
- h. River Trent and Trent Valley Way denoted as Green Infrastructure in the Bassetlaw Local Plan.
- i. 400 kV and 132 kV overhead lines and pylons cross the Trent in the north, with a dominant visual influence of other pylons and the Cottam Power Station in the adjacent LLCA.

10.1.40 **Table 10-11** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 5a, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-11: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 5a Trent Valley – Meadowlands

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Riparian and fluvial habitats associated with the River Trent, including wetlands and woodland (some designated as LWS). Presence of River Trent as a dominant feature that has shaped the development of the landscape over a wide area. Localised areas of pastoral farmland along the river, contrasting with more intensive farmland to the west.
Cultural heritage	No heritage assets within the area, but the Trent is a key influence on historical settlement, both a communication route and a barrier to movement.
Landscape condition	Hedgerows are sometimes in poor condition or absent, although habitat management (and lack of agricultural intervention) has allowed mosaics of diverse habitats to develop.
Associations	None noted.
Distinctiveness	Locally distinctive due to the presence of the Trent as a major landscape element, although much of the adjacent landscape is relatively commonplace and subject to wider influences of detractors such as pylons.

Factor	Indicators of value
Recreational	A relative high number of ProW offers recreational access from both sides of the river, including the Trent Valley Way.
Perceptual (scenic)	Value is primarily derived from the presence of the river, with wider views heavily influenced by detracting infrastructure features.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Relatively tranquil, despite the proximity of large-scale infrastructure.
Functional	Strong connectivity as an important blue-green infrastructure corridor. Areas identified as opportunities for management of existing ecological network (e.g. south of Trent Port) and ecological creation, as shown on Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping (Green Infrastructure Study for Central Lincolnshire).

10.1.41 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 5a include the River Trent as both a prominent asset and a driver for historic change; unimproved pasture, riparian woodland and scrub as part of the green infrastructure network; and the presence of ProW. Overall landscape value is assessed to be Medium.

LLCA 5b Trent Valley – Washlands

10.1.42 Key characteristics of LLCA 5b include:

- a. Flat topography, dominantly arable and intensive farmland forming much of the floodplain on the west (left) bank of the Trent valley.
- b. Largely geometric field pattern with some smaller-scale fields around villages, including Cottam. Field boundaries are generally in good condition, with scattered hedgerow trees, although where absent fields are often bounded by drainage ditches. Woodland cover is limited.
- c. Built form focused on villages such as Cottam and Rampton, with historic cores and some modern, peripheral development; alongside scattered farmsteads and occasional isolated properties in the wider farmland.
- d. Designated heritage assets within settlements, including the Grade I Church of All Saints and adjacent Gateway in Rampton; and the Grade II listed buildings including the Church of the Holy Trinity in Cottam.
- e. Relatively dense network of ProW, often linking village and including bridleways and byways, providing relatively accessible links to the surrounding countryside.
- f. Key views, routes, green spaces and green infrastructure identified through Neighbourhood Plans and supporting documents.

- g. Localised tranquility along rural lanes and footpaths, but some influence of traffic along the upgraded route to Cottam Power Station.
- h. Visual dominance of Cottam Power Station, alongside 400 kV overhead power lines that cross the flood plain, exacerbated by the open landscape outside villages.

10.1.43 **Table 10-12** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 5c, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-12: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 5b Trent Valley - Washlands

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Localised areas of woodland north of Rampton (related to a former parkland/non-registered heritage asset), but generally open, intensive farmland with value derived from isolated, relic-species rich hedgerows, particularly closer to villages. LWS along a single ditch. Open, expansive character but dominated by pylons and influence of nearby Cottam power station.
Cultural heritage	Listed buildings within Rampton and Cottam, although influence generally restricted by built form within the centre of settlements. Smaller fields around the villages reflect ancient enclosure.
Landscape condition	Well-preserved village cores with field and garden boundaries characterised by dense vegetation and in generally good condition. The Rampton / Woodbeck and Cottam Neighbourhood Plans reference the protection of valued landscape elements. Away from settlement, condition is more reflective of intensive agriculture, with influence of infrastructure.
Associations	None noted.
Distinctiveness	Rampton and Cottam are typical of agricultural settlement in lower-lying parts of Nottinghamshire, with historic cores influenced by more modern development around the edges. The presence of the landmark power station, although outside the LLCA, is a frequent influence on views and character, although can divide opinion.
Recreational	A relative high number of PRow offers recreational access from villages, particularly along Torksey Ferry Road from Rampton, noted in the Neighbourhood Plan.
Perceptual (scenic)	Value is primarily derived from more enclosed, intimate views within Rampton, with open views of the wider agricultural setting heavily influenced by the presence of pylons and more distant power stations. The Rampton

Factor	Indicators of value
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	/ Woodbeck and Cottam Neighbourhood Plans reference the protection of key views. Some tranquility close to the centre of Rampton, although more limited where influenced by Cottam power station.
Functional	Vegetation within and around villages provides a greater habitat diversity than the intensive farmland beyond. The Rampton / Woodbeck and Cottam Neighbourhood Plans reference the protection of valued landscape elements. Beyond this, value is generally derived through watercourses, although the majority have been modified and are susceptible to agricultural run-off.

10.1.44 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 5b include mature trees and open space in Cottam; the network of PRow; the wider intensive farmland with limited landscape features such as hedgerows; views and elements of value as described in Neighbourhood Plans and supporting documents; and the presence of pylons and power infrastructure. Overall value is assessed to be Low.

LLCA 5c Trent Valley - Cottam Power Station

10.1.45 Key characteristics of LLCA 5c include:

- a. Dominant presence of Cottam Power station, particularly the eight redundant cooling towers and the associated decommissioned coal-fired facility; the more recent gas-fired plant; and associated infrastructure such as the overhead power lines, substation, railway and sidings; and coal storage areas.
- b. Areas of former coal storage and lagoons, in various stage of colonisation and/or restoration to grassland, woodland and scrub. These areas have biodiversity value reflected in the LWS designation, in contrast with the intensively farmed fields in LLCA 5c.
- c. Screen planting around the plant, particular to limit views from Cottam village to the north. The coal-fired power station (is set in a landscape that was designed by Kenneth and Patricia Booth and included bunds and a viewing platform; such features (particularly the cooling towers) are increasingly rare and accorded historic and cultural value (Ref. 8, Ref. 32).
- d. Future baseline status as a redevelopment site, proposed for housing following demolition of the coal-fired plant.

10.1.46 **Table 10-13** lists a series of factors and indicators used to determine landscape value for LLCA 5c, based on those provided in *Assessing Landscape Value Outside National Designations* (TGN 02/21) (Ref. 31).

Table 10-13: Factors and indicators of landscape value: LLCA 5c Trent Valley – Cottam Power Station

Factor	Indicators of value
Natural heritage	Value primarily derived from the restored ash lagoons to the east of the power station, now forming part of the Cottam Wetlands LWS. Otherwise very limited, due to dominance of the power station and associated infrastructure.
Cultural heritage	No listed buildings, although the power station cooling towers represent a 20 th century infrastructure landmark (albeit scheduled for demolition) with an associated landscape that attempted to both provide screening and accommodate the scheme in the wider context. Demolition of cooling towers elsewhere has highlighted their significance to UK industrial architecture and as iconic features that are increasingly under threat.
Landscape condition	The LWS is managed for habitat value and thus reflects high quality habitats, with screens and buffer areas also subject to regular management.
Associations	None noted, other than as an example of mid-1960s infrastructure design and associated landscape.
Distinctiveness	Derived from being a relatively long-standing landmark, symbolic of 20th century energy generation and visible from long distances, albeit with appreciation being a subjective, personal response.
Recreational	A single bridleway runs through the LWS, although the remainder of the site is closed to public access.
Perceptual (scenic)	Almost complete dominance by energy infrastructure, which although sometimes eliciting divergent responses, would not ordinarily be regarded as being of high scenic value.
Perceptual (wildness and tranquility)	Limited, although decommissioning has resulted in less influence through noise and movement; areas within the LWS are tranquil and more likely a focus of birdsong than the wider intensive farmland.
Functional	Limited within the site, although the LWS provides value through the presence of woodland and connections to the Trent corridor.

10.1.47 Elements considered to be of relevance when making judgements on landscape value for LLCA 5c include woodland, including screen planting, around the power station; and areas of restored and/or recolonised habitats that are recognised for both biodiversity and as future green space within the redeveloped site. Balanced against the dominant presence of infrastructure, overall landscape value is assessed to be Very Low.

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