Springwell Solar Farm

Environmental Statement

Volume 1
Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual

APFP Regulation 5(2)(a)

Planning Act 2008

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

EN010149/APP/6.1
November 2024
Springwell Energyfarm Ltd

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10. Landscape and Visual

10.1. Introduction

10.1.1. This chapter presents an assessment of likely significant effects arising from the construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning of the Proposed Development on the landscape and on visual amenity. A full description of the Proposed Development is provided within **Environmental Statement (ES) Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

10.1.2. This chapter is supported by the following figures presented in **ES Volume 2 [EN010149/APP/6.2]**:

- **Figure 10.1: Landscape study area, context and designations**
- **Figure 10.2: Landscape character areas**
- **Figures 10.3a-d: Visual receptors**
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- **Figure 10.23: RVAA property plan – 1-2 Ashby Lodge Cottage**
- **Figure 10.24: RVAA property plan – Toll Bar Cottage**
- **Figure 10.25: RVAA property plan – Lupus Lair**
- **Figure 10.26: RVAA property plan – 1-4 Thompson Bottom**
- **Figure 10.27: RVAA property plan – Gorse Hill Farm**
- **Figure 10.28: RVAA property plan – Gorse Hill Bungalow**

10.1.3. This chapter is supported by the following appendices presented in **ES Volume 3 [EN010149/APP/6.3]**:

- **Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology and Assessment Criteria**
- **Appendix 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal**
- **Appendix 10.3: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal**
- **Appendix 10.4: Viewpoint Analysis**
- **Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment**

10.1.4. This chapter is also supported by annotated baseline photographs and photomontages presented in **ES Volume 4 [EN010149/APP/6.4]**.

10.1.5. This chapter should be read in conjunction with the following assessment chapters presented in **ES Volume 1** [**EN010149/APP/6.1]**:

- **Chapter 7: Biodiversity**
- **Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage**
- **Chapter 13: Population**
- **Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport**
- **Chapter 16: Cumulative Effects**

10.1.6. This chapter and associated appendices constitute a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and have been prepared in accordance with the principles established in published best practice, namely the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* (GLVIA3) **[Ref. 10-1]** and associated technical guidance notes including those published by the Landscape Institute (referenced as appropriate – see **Section 10.2**).

10.1.7. This chapter considers the likely significant effects upon:

- landscape fabric;

- landscape character; and
- visual receptors including residential, transport and recreational receptors.

10.1.8. Although linked, landscape and visual effects are considered separately. Landscape effects derive from changes in the landscape fabric, which may result in changes to landscape character, whereas visual effects are the effects of these changes as experienced by people (visual receptors).

10.1.9. In considering effects on landscape fabric, this chapter considers the removal or addition of elements such as vegetation in relation to landscape change, but the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on biodiversity is considered in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 7: Biodiversity [EN010149/APP/6.1].**

10.1.10. Likewise, this chapter considers cultural heritage assets in so much as they contribute to landscape character and its perceived value (for example, Conservation Areas are treated as areas where the character and views are valued). However, the assessment of effects of the Proposed Development on the setting of cultural heritage receptors is considered in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 9: Cultural Heritage [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

10.2. Legislative framework, planning policy and guidance

10.2.1. This assessment has been undertaken with regard to the following legislation, policy and guidance.

10.2.2. It should be noted that this chapter does not assess the compliance of the Proposed Development against relevant planning policy. Such an assessment is presented in the **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]**.

Legislation

- Council of Europe Landscape Convention, 2000 **[Ref. 10-2]**;
- The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) (England) Regulations, 2012 **[Ref. 10-3]**; and
- The Hedgerow Regulations, 1997 **[Ref. 10-4]**.

National planning policy

- Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (NPS EN-1) **[Ref. 10-5]** provides the basis for decisions regarding nationally significant energy infrastructure. Section 4.6 sets out assessment principles relating to environmental and biodiversity net gain, Section 4.7 concerns criteria for

good design in energy infrastructure and Section 5.10 concerns landscape and visual matters relating to energy infrastructure;

- National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (NPS EN-3) **[Ref. 10-6].** Section 2.5 provides a consideration of good design for energy infrastructure, Section 2.10 relates to solar photovoltaic generation and paragraphs 2.10.93 to 2.10.101 specifically relate to the landscape and visual impacts of solar generation;
- National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (NPS EN-5) **[Ref. 10-7]**. Section 2.9 relates to the applicant assessment and addresses landscape and visual matters relating to electricity networks infrastructure; and
- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) **[Ref. 10-8]**. Sections 12 and 15 are of relevance to this chapter. Consultation on the proposed reform to the NPPF ended on the 24 September 2024. The **Planning Statement [EN010149/APP/7.2]** considers both the current and consulted NPPF.

Local planning policy

- Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (2018 - 2040) [**Ref. 10-9**]. Policies S5 (Development in the Countryside), S14 (Renewable Energy), S16 (Wider Energy Infrastructure), S53 (Design and Amenity), S59 (Green and Blue Infrastructure Network) and S66 (Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows) are all of relevance to landscape and visual matters.

Guidance

- Planning Practice Guidance: Natural Environment **[Ref. 10-10].** Paragraphs 008, 036 and 037 are relevant;
- Planning Practice Guidance: Design – Process and Tools **[Ref. 10-11].** Paragraph 001 is relevant;
- Planning Practice Guidance: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy **[Ref. 10-12].** Paragraphs 005, 007 and 013 are relevant;
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Third Edition) (GLVIA3) **[Ref. 10-1]**;
- Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition **[Ref. 10-13]**;
- Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals **[Ref. 10-14]**;
- Technical Guidance Note 02/21: Assessing landscape value outside national designations **[Ref. 10-15]**;

- Technical Guidance Note 02/19: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment **[Ref. 10-16]**;
- Technical Guidance Note 04/20: Infrastructure **[Ref. 10-17]**;
- An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-18]**;
- An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment **[Ref. 10-19]**;
- Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects: Advice on Cumulative Effects Assessment **[Ref. 10-20]**; and
- National Design Guide **[Ref. 10-21]**.

10.3. Stakeholder engagement

10.3.1. **Table 10.1** provides a summary of the stakeholder engagement activities undertaken outwith the EIA scoping process in support of the preparation of this assessment as well as detailing the matters raised, how such matters have been addressed, and where they have been addressed in the ES.

10.3.2. **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.3: Scoping Opinion Response Matrix [EN010149/APP/6.3]** presents the responses received via the Scoping Opinion and the Applicant's responses to each matter raised.

10.3.3. Appendix A-4, J-1, J-2 and K-3 of the of the **Consultation Report [EN010149/APP/5.1]**, which is submitted in support of the DCO Application, sets out the feedback received during non-statutory, statutory and targeted consultation and how regard has been afforded by the Applicant to each matter raised..

10.3.4. The principal consultees in relation to landscape and visual matters have been North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council. The district and county councils jointly appointed an external landscape consultant (AAH Consultants) to act on their behalf in relation to landscape and visual matters. Therefore, consultation with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council has taken place primarily through AAH Consultants.

10.3.5. An initial meeting was held with North Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and AAH Consultants on 01 June 2023. This was followed by a joint site visit on 13 June 2023 attended by the Applicant and AAH Consultants. Following this, the Applicant wrote to AAH Consultants with a proposed shortlist of viewpoints for the Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR).

10.3.6. On 29 June 2023, a technical memorandum prepared by AAH Consultants (AAH TM02) was sent to the Applicant with preliminary comments on the suggested shortlist of assessment viewpoints. A meeting was held on 03 July 2023 between the Applicant and AAH Consultants to review the list

and look at the baseline photography from potential viewpoint locations. The Applicant subsequently wrote to AAH Consultants on 17 July 2023 with a final proposed list of assessment viewpoints for inclusion in the PEIR. AAH Consultants responded again by means of a technical memorandum (AAH TM03) dated 15 August 2023 confirming that the viewpoints proposed for the PEIR were considered acceptable and that no additional viewpoints were required.

10.3.7. On submission of the PEIR and during the statutory consultation period, the Applicant met again with North Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and AAH Consultants on 08 February 2024 to discuss the published PEIR documentation and answer any questions.

10.3.8. On behalf of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council, AAH Consultants provided a consultation response at statutory consultation that focused on the PEIR dated 19 February 2024 (AAH TM04). A follow up meeting was held with North Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and AAH Consultants on 04 April 2024 to provide an update on the project and to discuss the content of the statutory consultation response to the landscape and visual preliminary assessment in the PEIR.

10.3.9. A further meeting was also held on 19 June 2024 specifically to discuss the viewpoint and photomontage locations for inclusion in the ES.

10.3.10. On 26 June 2024 the Applicant engaged North Kesteven District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and AAH Consultants on the final proposed list of viewpoint locations and photomontages for inclusion in the ES. AAH Consultants responded on 10 July 2024 with another technical memorandum (AAH TM05) confirming that the viewpoint selection was appropriate. Following further correspondence between the Applicant and AAH Consultants, it was confirmed in correspondence dated 11 July 2024 that the photomontage locations were agreed.

Table 10.1 Summary of stakeholder engagement

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	Initial meeting on 01 June 2023 and site meeting on 13 June 2023; multiple exchanges of email correspondence between 29 June 2023 and 11 July 2024; meetings to discuss content of the ES on 04 April 2024 and 19 June 2024;	North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council requested that the assessment viewpoints and photomontage locations for the LVIA be agreed with themselves.	There has been extensive liaison with AAH Consultants in relation to the viewpoint and photomontage locations. Confirmation of agreement to the final selection was provided by AAH Consultants on behalf of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council on 11 July 2024.	Visualisations relating to the viewpoints agreed with AAH Consultants can be found in **ES Volume 4 [EN010149/APP/6.4]** and discussion of the change at each viewpoint can be found in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.4: Viewpoint Analysis. [EN010149/APP/6.3]**
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 3 (AAH TM03) dated 15 August 2023. AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024;	Requested that all viewpoint photography should be taken in accordance with *LI TGN 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals.* **[Ref. 10-14]**	All viewpoint photography has been undertaken in accordance with this best practice guidance note. A clear methodology for production of the visualisations has been presented in this chapter.	Confirmation that photography has been undertaken in accordance with this guidance note and a detailed methodology for the photography is provided in **ES Volume 3,**

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
		Requested that a methodology for the visualisations be provided.		**Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010149/APP/6.3].**
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 3 (AAH TM03) dated 15 August 2023;	The study area for the LVIA was discussed in early meetings and AAH TMO3 confirmed that the study areas proposed were appropriate subject to justification being presented in the LVIA and confirmation of there being no significant effects beyond these distances.	Justification for the agreed study area is set out in this LVIA together with a confirmation that there would be no significant landscape and visual effects beyond the study area adopted.	The LVIA study area is discussed in **Section 10.4** of this chapter.
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council	AAH technical Memorandum 3 (AAH TM03) dated 15 August 2023.	Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) described in the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-23]** were discussed in early meetings and AAH	Justification for scoping LCA 6 and LCA 13 has been provided in this chapter.	LCAs are discussed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.3]**

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
(via AAH Consultants)		TMO3 confirmed that LCA 6 (Lincoln Cliff) and LCA 13 (Fenland) could be scoped out subject to inclusion of a brief statement in the LVIA that recognises their proximity to the Order Limits and justification for their exclusion being presented in the LVIA.		and **Section 10.5** of this chapter. Justification is provided for scoping LCA 6 and LCA 13 out of the LVIA.
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024; meetings to discuss content of the ES on 04 April 2024 and 19 June 2024	The location of the proposed National Grid Navenby Substation has evolved over the course of the project and has been discussed at several meetings. In AAH TM04 it was requested that a cumulative assessment be undertaken with the National Grid Substation. At a meeting on the 04 April 2024 a scoping opinion for the Navenby Heath BESS	Cumulative assessment has been undertaken with the proposed National Grid Navenby Substation and the proposed BESS development in this ES.	Cumulative effects with the National Grid Navenby Substation and the proposed BESS development are presented in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 16: Cumulative effects [EN010149/APP/6.1].**

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
		project (application reference: 23/0390/EIASCO) was brought to the Applicant's attention and it was requested that this also be considered in a cumulative assessment.		
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024;	In the PEIR published at statutory consultation, a series of different options were put forward for various elements of the Proposed Development. It was requested that the ES clearly set out the parameters of the development, such as heights and locations of elements that have been used in the assessment, and the assessment be	The ES provides greater clarity on the location and heights of different elements of the Proposed Development. The assessment (including all visualisations) has been based on a reasonable worst-case scenario adopting parameters which are clearly explained in the ES. The approach to optionality is also set out in the ES.	A detailed description of the Proposed Development is included in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1].** The approach to optionality adopted in this assessment is outlined in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA**

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
		based on a 'worst-case' scenario.		**[EN010149/APP/6.1].** The assumptions on which this LVIA has been based are discussed in **Section 10.4** of this chapter.
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024; meetings to discuss content of the ES on 04 April 2024 and 19 June 2024	Comments in response to the PEIR raised concern about the potential impact on landscape character in the vicinity of and views from the A15. Following the PEIR stage, options for mitigating views from the A15 including views of the Springwell Substation, Main Collector Compound and BESS were discussed with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council including options for hedgerows along the A15	Following PEIR, there is greater clarity on the required footprint of the Springwell Substation, Main Collector Compound and BESS. Through the design process the Applicant has located these elements of the Proposed Development on the western side of Springwell West in Field Tb2 as far as possible from the A15. Green infrastructure parameters have been established to provide embedded landscape and visual mitigation.	The rationale for the layout and design is presented in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**. The green infrastructure proposed is illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. The effects on landscape character and visual amenity in

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
		and more substantial screening and earthworks in Field TB02.		the vicinity of the A15 are assessed in **Section 10.9** of this chapter.
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024; meetings to discuss content of the ES on 04 April 2024 and 19 June 2024	North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council sought clarification on the extent of overhead lines and the potential effect on landscape and visual amenity.	Connecting towers and an overhead line connection associated with the National Grid substation were originally considered within the Order Limits at non-statutory consultation and in the Scoping Report, however it is confirmed that no overhead lines are now proposed within the Order Limits.	A detailed description of the Proposed Development is included in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1].**
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024; meetings to discuss content of the ES on 04	Comments on the PEIR raised concern about the height of proposed fencing around the Solar PV development and requested a reduction from the 3m	The height of fencing around the Solar PV development across the majority of the Order Limits has been reduced to 2.5m high and it is confirmed that this will be timber post and wire mesh 'deer-proof fencing'. More	A detailed description of the Proposed Development is included in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development**

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
	April 2024 and 19 June 2024	maximum height set out in the PEIR. Concern was also raised about the height of proposed CCTV and it was requested that consideration be given to reducing the height of these from the 5m proposed in the PEIR.	secure fencing is required around the Springwell Substation, Main Collector Compound, BESS and Satellite Collector Compounds. The Satellite Collector Compounds and BESS would be surrounded by 2.75m high security fencing which would comprise steel rails attached to horizontal-running rails connected to vertical steel joints. The Springwell Substation and main collector compound would be surrounded by mesh fencing comprising a mesh fence up to 2.75m in height with a pulse monitoring security system up to 3.4m height inside the mesh fence. A 4m high noise attenuation barrier would be erected around the BESS. Within the Springwell	**Description [EN010149/APP/6.1].**

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
			Substation compound (amongst taller structures) there would be 6m high absorbent barriers around the transformers. Pole-mounted internal-facing closed circuit television (CCTV) systems would be installed at a height 1.5m above the Solar PV modules around the perimeter of the Solar PV field.	
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024;	AAH TM04 requested that details of vegetation removal be provided in the ES.	Vegetation removal is outlined in the ES and plans showing vegetation removal are provided. A tree survey to BS:5837 has been undertaken.	Plans showing vegetation removal are contained in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.11: Vegetation Removal Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. The results of the tree survey are presented in the arboricultural impact assessment

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
				presented in **ES Volume 3**, **Appendix 7.12 [EN010149/APP/6.3]**
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024; meeting to discuss content of the ES on 04 April 2024	Enhancements to recreation, amenity and green infrastructure have been discussed and AAH TM04 requested that these be maximised.	Opportunities for recreational, amenity and green infrastructure enhancements have been considered and incorporated into the Proposed Development.	The recreational and amenity enhancements and the green infrastructure embedded in the Proposed Development is illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2].**
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024;	AAH TM04 requested that planning policy discussed in the LVIA be updated to take account of any recent amendments to policy/guidance.	The policy and guidance referenced in the LVIA has been updated where necessary.	Planning policy and guidance relevant to this chapter is summarised in **Section 10.2** of this chapter.

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024; meeting to discuss content of the ES on 04 April 2024	AAH TM04 requested that the Applicant justify the buffers applied and raised initial concern about new landscaping 15m either side of PROWs. This was discussed further in a meeting to explain the rationale for the proposal.	Detailed consideration has been given to the design response with regards to new mitigation planting and its relationship with PROWs. The response is bespoke to different parts of the Site but has been justified in **Design Approach Document** [**EN010149/APP/7.3**].	The design of the Proposed Development including green infrastructure proposals is set out in **Design Approach Document** [**EN010149/APP/7.3**].
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024; meeting to discuss content of the ES on 04 April 2024	It was requested that the LVIA reports in a greater level of detail than covered in the descriptions for LCA 7 and LCA 11 of the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-23]**.	The LVIA considers the key characteristics of LCA 7 and LCA 11 as reported in published assessments but then provides additional observations in order to provide a greater level of detail to inform the baseline.	A detailed description of the landscape baseline is set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.2 : Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.3].**
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH	It was requested that the LVIA not report effects on landscape character with reference to the LCA ‘as a	This approach has been adopted and effects on landscape character are reported with reference to the	Effects on landscape character are

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
(via AAH Consultants)	TM04) dated 19 February 2024; meeting to discuss content of the ES on 04 April 2024	whole' but rather consider effects on the part of the LCA in which the Proposed Development is located.	landscape character within the study area rather than the wider LCA units.	assessed in **Section 10.9** of this chapter.
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024;	AAH TM04 requested that reference be made to *The Historic Character of The County of Lincolnshire* **[Ref. 10-24].**	Reference to this document has been made in establishing the baseline landscape character.	This document is discussed in a detailed description of the landscape baseline set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.3].**
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024;	The PEIR reported that users of the A15 were of 'low' sensitivity to change in the view. AAH TM04 requested that the A15 be reclassified and that receptors are described as	A further discussion of visual sensitivity relating to users of the A15 is presented in this LVIA. In this ES, users of the A15 have been reclassified as	The visual sensitivity of users of the A15 is discussed in **Section 10.9** of this LVIA.

Consultee	Dates of engagement	Summary of matters raised	How this matter has been addressed	Location of where this matter is addressed in the ES
	meeting to discuss content of the ES on 04 April 2024	more susceptible to changes in the view. Further discussion established that the main concern was the number of people who use the A15 which is high rather than the susceptibility of road users *per se*.	being of medium/low sensitivity to change in the view.	
North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (via AAH Consultants)	AAH technical Memorandum 4 (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024;	AAH TM04 confirmed that overall the methodology and assessment criteria were acceptable but requested that where 'moderate' effects are considered to be 'not significant' a brief justification be provided.	Where 'moderate' effects are deemed to be 'not significant' in this chapter a clear justification has been provided.	The assessment of landscape and visual effects is contained within **Section 10.9** of this chapter.

10.4. Approach to the assessment

Study area

10.4.1. GLVIA3 **[Ref. 10-1]** recommends that the study area for consideration of landscape effects should *"include the site itself and the full extent of the wider landscape around it which the proposed development may influence in a significant manner"* (paragraph 5.2). It also recommends that LVIA should consider the area from which the proposed development will potentially be visible but that the emphasis *"must be on a reasonable approach which is proportional to the scale and nature of the proposed development"* (paragraph 6.2).

10.4.2. The Scoping Report **(ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]),** proposed that the LVIA adopt a study area to include a 3km offset from the Solar PV development and a 5km offset from the Springwell Substation and National Grid Substation (including connecting towers of up to 60m in height) which at that time were anticipated to be a constituent part of the Springwell Solar Farm proposal. The same study area was proposed with further justification in the PEIR although the National Grid Substation no longer formed part of the Springwell Solar Farm proposal assessed in the PEIR.

10.4.3. A technical memorandum from AAH Consultants on behalf of North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council (AAH TM04) dated 19 February 2024 stated that the narrative and justification provided in the PEIR for the proposed landscape and visual study area was *"reasonable"* but encouraged a review of the study area at the ES stage once final details of the Proposed Development were known and requested that the LVIA provide *"a clear statement on the justification for the extent of the final study area used"*. A justification for the adopted study area is set out below.

10.4.4. The study area for the LVIA has been informed through a combination of Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) analysis and site work. A series of ZTVs for different elements of the Proposed Development are presented in **ES Volume 2 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** as follows:

- **Figures 10.5a-d: Solar PV standard ZTV;**
- **Figures 10.6a-d: Solar PV detailed screening ZTV;**
- **Figures 10.7a-c: Satellite Collector Compound ZTVs;**
- **Figure 10.8: Siting zone for BESS ZTV; and**
- **Figure 10.9: Siting zone for Springwell Substation and Main Collector Compound ZTV**

10.4.5. The standard ZTVs for the Solar PV modules, presented in **ES Volume 2, ES Figures 10.5a-d [EN010149/APP/6.2]** take account of the screening effect of blocks of woodland and buildings but not hedgerows or other vegetation in the landscape. 'Ground truthing' (ie on site surveys), found that these ZTVs greatly exaggerated the potential visibility of the Solar PV modules in the surrounding landscape. Due to the relatively flat topography of the landform for many kilometres around the Proposed Development it was found that hedgerows and other vegetation in the landscape, which is not captured in this particular ZTV model, would greatly further restrict and limit actual visibility of the Solar PV modules.

10.4.6. The detailed screening ZTVs for the Solar PV modules presented in **ES Volume 2, ES Figures 10.6a-d [EN010149/APP/6.2]** are more informative and take account of the screening effect of all vegetation over 2.5m in height. Whilst these ZTVs still do not take account of some localised features such as vegetation below 2.5m in height, ground truthing of this set of plans found that, within 1-2km at least, they consistently provided a more accurate depiction of potential visibility of the Solar PV modules. It was also observed however that in this relatively flat landscape, beyond 1-2km, even these plans tended to exaggerate the potential visibility of the Solar PV modules.

10.4.7. The detailed screening ZTVs for the Solar PV modules presented in **ES Volume 2, ES Figures 10.6a-d [EN010149/APP/6.2]** show that beyond 3km, there would be very little theoretical visibility of these elements of the Proposed Development. When tested in the field, site work established categorically that beyond 3km, there would be no discernible view of the Solar PV modules from any location including the small, isolated locations beyond 3km where the ZTVs suggest some theoretical visibility.

10.4.8. Several visualisations presented in **ES Volume 4 [EN010149/APP/6.4]** (notably Viewpoints 20, 30, 33, 37, 39 and 40) illustrate the view from distances over 2km from the Solar PV modules and demonstrate that there would be barely any visibility of these elements of the Proposed Development even at this distance.

10.4.9. A comparison of the ZTVs for the Satellite Collector Compounds presented in **ES Volume 2, ES Figures 10.7a-c [EN010149/APP/6.2]** with the detailed screening ZTVs for the Solar PV modules presented in **ES Volume 2, ES Figures 10.6a-d [EN010149/APP/6.2]** reveal that these elements of the Proposed Development would not increase the extent of visibility beyond that identified for the Solar PV modules and therefore increasing the size of study area to account for these elements is not required.

10.4.10. The ZTV for the Springwell Substation and Main Collector Compound presented in **ES Volume 2, ES Figure 10.9 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** demonstrates that beyond 5km, there would be very little theoretical

visibility of these elements of the Proposed Development. When tested in the field, site work established categorically that beyond 5km, there would be no discernible view of the Springwell Substation or Main Collector Compound from any location including the few locations beyond 5km where the ZTVs suggest some theoretical visibility.

10.4.11. Several visualisations presented in **ES Volume 4, Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** (notably Viewpoints 33, 37, 38 and 39) illustrate the view from distances over 2km from the Springwell Substation and demonstrate that there would be barely any visibility of these elements of the Proposed Development even at this distance.

10.4.12. A comparison of the ZTV for the BESS presented in **ES Volume 2, Figures 10.8 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** with the ZTV for the Springwell Substation and Main Collector Compound presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.9 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** reveals that these elements of the Proposed Development would not increase the extent of visibility beyond that identified for the Springwell Substation.

10.4.13. The study area for this assessment has therefore been set as a 3km offset from any siting zones for elements up to 6m in height. This includes all the siting zones for Solar PV modules, Satellite Collector Compounds and BESS. The study area has been extended where necessary to 5km from the siting zone for structures up to 12m in height which includes the proposed location of the Springwell Substation and Main Collector Compound.

10.4.14. This study area is considered proportionate and adequate to identify all non-negligible effects on landscape and visual receptors.

10.4.15. The study area adopted for the assessment of effects on landscape and visual amenity is illustrated on **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.1: Landscape study area, context and designations [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.

Scope of the assessment

10.4.16. The scope of this assessment has been established throughout the EIA process and design of the Proposed Development. Further information can be found in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010149/APP/6.1]**.

10.4.17. This section provides an update to the scope of the assessment from that presented in the EIA Scoping Report, located in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and re-iterates/updates the evidence base for scoping matters in or out following further iterative assessment and ongoing consultation.

Receptors/matters scoped into the assessment

10.4.18. **Table 10.2** presents the receptors/matters that are scoped into the assessment reported within this ES, together with appropriate justification.

Table 10.2 Receptors/matters scoped into further assessment

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification
Landscape Character Area 7 (LCA 7): Limestone Heath and Landscape Character Area 11 (LCA 11): Central Clays and Gravels (North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-23]**)	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Springwell Solar Farm extends across these two LCAs and there would be large scale change in parts of both of these areas. The Scoping Opinion presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2 [EN010149/APP/6.3]** confirmed that these LCAs should be scoped into the assessment.
Users of the A15 and B1191	Construction, operation and decommissioning	A large volume of traffic passes along these two roads which have an open view across different parts of the Site. Receptors are generally not of high sensitivity, but the views are likely to be experienced by large numbers of people from these two roads. The Scoping Opinion presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2 [EN010149/APP/6.3]** confirmed that these routes should be scoped into the assessment.
Users of the PRoWs and minor road network which passes through and within 3km of the Site (including the Spires and Steeples Trail and the Stepping Out walks)	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Users of the PRoWs and local road network are likely to be some of the most sensitive visual receptors. There would theoretically be views of the Proposed Development from locations along these routes up to a maximum of 3km from the Site. The Scoping Opinion presented in **ES Volume 3,**

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification
		Appendix 5.2 [EN010149/APP/6.3] confirmed that these routes should be scoped into the assessment.
Residents and visitors to the villages of Scopwick, Kirkby Green, Blankney and Ashby de la Launde	Construction, operation and decommissioning	The Scoping Request presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** suggested that these settlements would be scoped in to the assessment. Since then, the Proposed Development has been refined and it has been established that there would be no greater than a negligible view of any element of the Proposed Development from any of these settlements. North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire Council however requested that the location of these settlements be acknowledged in the LVIA and justification be provided for not undertaking a full assessment of effects on them. **Section 10.5** of this chapter therefore acknowledges these settlements and provides a brief analysis of the likely visual impact as justification for not providing a detailed assessment in **Section 10.5**.
Residents of the barracks at RAF Digby	Construction, operation and decommissioning	The Scoping Request presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** suggested that RAF Digby would be scoped in to the

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification
		assessment. Since then, the Proposed Development has been refined and the Solar PV development has moved much further away from the residential properties. There would be no greater than a negligible view of any element of the Proposed Development from any of these settlements. North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire Council however requested that this settlement be discussed in the LVIA. **Section 10.5** of this chapter therefore acknowledges RAF Digby and provides a brief analysis of the likely visual impact as justification for not providing a detailed assessment in **Section 10.5**.
Isolated farmsteads and residential properties	Construction, operation and decommissioning	The residents of isolated properties in the surrounding landscape are likely to be some of the most sensitive visual receptors. There would be a variety of views of the Proposed Development from several properties scattered throughout the study area and these are addressed in this chapter. A detailed Residential Visual Amenity Assessment for those properties closest to the Proposed Development and which are likely to be most affected is presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3].** The Scoping Opinion presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2:**

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification
		Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3] confirmed that these receptors should be scoped into the assessment.

Receptors/matters scoped out the assessment

10.4.19. **Table 10.3** presents the receptors/matters that are scoped out the assessment, together with appropriate justification.

Table 10.3 Receptor/matters scoped out of further assessment

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification
Lincolnshire Wolds AONB	Construction, operation and decommissioning	This AONB is situated over 20km from the Site and there would be no intervisibility at this distance. The Scoping Opinion presented in **Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]** agreed with this approach.
Lincoln Cliff Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) designation	Construction, operation and decommissioning	The AGLV is a west facing scarp slope, orientated north-south and located over 3km to the west of the Site. The Scoping Opinion presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]** agreed with this approach but requested that it be demonstrated there is *'no intervisibility with reference to photos from field work or other appropriate evidence'*. Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 2, Figures 10.6 to 10.9 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and demonstrate that there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from this AGLV.
All Landscape character areas (LCAs) in the North Kesteven	Construction, operation and decommissioning	The Scoping Opinion presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]** agreed with this approach but requested the

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification
Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-23]** with the exception of LCA 7: Limestone Heath and LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels		*'ZTV should be reviewed with the final scheme and presented in the ES to demonstrate that there is no intervisibility'*. Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 2, Figures 10.6 to 10.9 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and demonstrate that there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from other character areas to the west. Although the ZTVs indicate some 'theoretical visibility' of the proposed Development within LCA 13 to the east, site work has established that the Proposed Development would not be discernible from any location within this character area. Effects on all LCAs other than LCA 7: Limestone Heath and LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels would be negligible.
View from Metheringham, Bloxham, Digby, Dorrington, Ruskington, Leasingham, Cranwell, RAF Cranwell, Wellingore and Navenby and other settlements along the A607	Construction, operation and decommissioning	The Scoping Opinion presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]** requested that *'the ES should demonstrate there is no intervisibility, otherwise the potential effects on views and visual amenity within the ZTV where significant effects are likely to occur should be assessed.'* Updated ZTVs are presented in **ES Volume 2, Figures 10.6 to 10.9 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and demonstrate that there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development from within any of these settlements. Whilst the ZTVs suggest 'theoretical visibility' may extend up the edge of some of these settlements, site work has concluded that in each case, there would be no view from these distant settlements due to intervening distance and hedgerows or other vegetation. Any glimpses of the Proposed Development would be distant, filtered and barely discernible. In each case the effects would be negligible and

Receptor/matter	Phase	Justification
		would fall well short of a likely significant effect.
PRoW and local roads beyond 3km from the Site	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Updated ZTVs in **ES Volume 2, Figures 10.6 to 10.9 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** demonstrate extremely limited theoretical visibility beyond 3km. Extensive site work has not identified any location beyond 3km where there would be a view of the Proposed Development. Any glimpses beyond this distance would be negligible and would fall well short of a likely significant effect. The Scoping Opinion presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]** agreed with this approach.
Users of the rail network, specifically section between Metheringham and the level crossing on the B1191	Construction, operation and decommissioning	Due to the transitory nature of people using the railway, receptors are considered to be of medium/low sensitivity and any views of the Proposed Development would be brief and would fall well short of a likely significant effect. These receptors were proposed to be scoped out of further assessment within the EIA Scoping Report presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and the Scoping Opinion presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]** agreed with this approach.

Establishing baseline conditions

Data sources to inform the EIA baseline characterisation

10.4.20. The following data sources have been used to understand the existing landscape and visual baseline conditions:

- Ordnance Survey maps at various scales;
- Online Aerial Photography;

- National Character Area (NCA) Profile 47 - Southern Lincolnshire Edge **[Ref. 10-22]**;
- North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-23]**;
- The Historic Character of the County of Lincolnshire – English Heritage Project No 4661 - The Historic Landscape Character Zones **[Ref. 10-24]**;
- Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2012-2036 **[Ref. 10-9]**; *and*
- Scopwick and Kirkby Green Neighbourhood Plan 2021 – 2036 **[Ref. 10-25]**.

10.4.21. The electronic working copy of the Lincolnshire Definitive Rights of Way map was last accessed on 25 July 2024 at the following web address: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/coast-countryside/public-rights-way.

10.4.22. Recreational walks and trails in North Kesteven including the Spires and Steeples Trail, the Ridge and Furrows Trail and a series of circular 'Stepping Out Walks' are promoted locally. The published description of these walks can be viewed at the following web address: [redacted]

Site visits/surveys

10.4.23. Extensive field work has been undertaken by the Applicant's Landscape Architects between July 2022 and June 2024. This has included numerous visits to the Site and surrounding areas in both summer and winter months.

10.4.24. Viewpoint photography, presented in **ES Volume 4 [EN010149/APP/6.4]**, was captured on multiple dates between February 2023 and June 2024.

10.4.25. All the public rights of way (PRoW) within the Site and the LVIA study area have been walked by the Applicant's Landscape Architects on multiple occasions.

10.4.26. Visits were also made by the Applicant's Landscape Architects to 31 individual residential properties over five days in February and March 2023. The purpose of the visits was to fully understand the visual amenity experienced by the nearest residents to the Proposed Development. Further information, including whether properties were viewed internally or just observed from outside, is detailed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

Approach to design flexibility

10.4.27. The Project Parameters, as outlined in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, **ES Volume**

3, Appendix 3.1: Project Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.3] and the parameter plans presented in **ES Volume 2, Figures 3.1 – 3.4 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** set out the reasonable 'worst-case' parameters for the Proposed Development. There is no flexibility in the design that would affect this assessment because the assessment of likely significant landscape and visual effects has assumed the reasonable worst-case scenario in relation to potential visibility.

10.4.28. **Chapter 5: Approach to the EIA [EN010149/APP/6.1]**, sets out those elements of the Proposed Development for which optionality is present within the design.

10.4.29. The reasonable 'worst-case' that has been assessed in this landscape and visual chapter for the Proposed Development is outlined within **Table 10.4**.

Table 10.4 Reasonable worst-case assessed for landscape and visual

Project element	Reasonable worst-case scenario that has been assessed
BESS Springwell Substation and Main Collector Compound	This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location and height of the BESS and Springwell Substation as outlined in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1 and Figure 3.2 [EN010149/APP/6.2]**, to ensure a worst-case has been assessed.
Balance of Solar System (BoSS) – Inverters	The inverters which form part of the BoSS would comprise either string inverters which are placed underneath the Solar PV modules or central inverters which are sited at regular intervals amongst the Solar PV modules. A hybrid option of both options is embedded into the design and considered for the assessment. The detailed list of each field and inverter type is detailed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 3.1: Project Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and will be secured by the Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]. This assessment has assumed the use of central inverters to ensure a worst-case has been assessed.
Construction Compounds	This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location of the construction compounds as identified in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.10: Primary and Secondary Construction Compounds [EN010149/APP/6.2].**
Satellite Collector Compounds	This assessment has considered the maximum parameters for the location and height of the Satellite Collector Compounds as outlined in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.1 and**

Project element	Reasonable worst-case scenario that has been assessed
	3.2 [EN010149/APP/6.2], to ensure a worst-case has been assessed.
Internal access tracks	This assessment has assumed that internal access tracks could be located anywhere within the Order Limits but that any breaks in hedgerows would be limited to those locations shown in ES Volume 2, **Figure 3.11: Vegetation Removal Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2].**
Cable Routes	This assessment has assumed that cable routes could be located anywhere within the Order Limits but that any breaks in hedgerows would be limited to those locations shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.11: Vegetation Removal Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2].**

Assessment assumptions

10.4.30. In terms of the height of the different elements of the Proposed Development, the assessment assumes all development will be at the maximum possible height indicated on **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.2: Height Parameters Plan [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. For example, where the aforementioned plan indicates development of Proposed Development up to 3.5m in height, the assessment assumes development at 3.5m in height and where the plan indicates a siting zone for elements up to 12m in height, the assessment assumes that development could be 12m in height anywhere within this zone. This approach inevitably results in a slight over-estimation of landscape and visual effects.

10.4.31. In terms of the green infrastructure parameters, the assessment of landscape and visual effects assumes that the strategic planting shown on **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]** is primary and embedded landscape mitigation and secured within the **Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (oLEMP) [EN010149/APP/7.9]**. It assumes that narrow strips of strategic planting constitute new hedgerow planting and that the broader strips of strategic planting constitute new woodland planting.

10.4.32. The assessment assumes that all new structural planting would consist of native, indigenous species and wherever possible of local provenance. It also assumes that all new planting would establish successfully and that any failures/defects would be replaced.

10.4.33. For the purposes of assessing landscape and visual effects, the following assumptions have been made about the growth rate of newly planted hedgerows and trees:

- Newly planted hedgerows and woodland/shrub will be planted as young transplants or 'whips'. In Year 1 after construction the planting stock would typically be approximately 0.6m to 0.8m high and contained within tree protected tubes.
- Hedgerows in Year 10 will be 3.5m in height. This makes an assumption that the plants do not put on much growth in the first planting season and then put on an average of 0.4m growth each subsequent year. This means that all new hedgerows are considered to be at full maturity in Year 10 and are maintained at 3.5m by ongoing management.
- New woodland/scrub planting established as transplants will be 4m in height as it is not maintained at a lower height as is the case for hedgerows.
- Where hedgerow trees are planted as taller specimens or where mature stock is planted elsewhere it is assumed that the trees will be planted as extra heavy standards and in Year 1 these will have a height of 3m to 3.5m. By Year 10, it is assumed that these trees will have a height of approximately 6m.
- Except where vegetation is managed at a specific height (e.g. hedgerows) it is assumed that trees and scrub will continue to grow naturally over the operational life of the Proposed Development and beyond.

10.4.34. In terms of vegetation removal, a worst-case assumption has been made that all vegetation shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.11: Vegetation Removal Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]** would be removed. It is assumed that all other woodland, tree and hedgerow vegetation within the Order Limits would be retained.

10.4.35. It has been assumed that, where necessary and appropriate for the mitigation of landscape and visual effects, any hedgerows adjoining a siting zone for Solar PV development, Satellite Collector Compound, BESS or Springwell Substation will be repaired/improved with new planting to infill gaps. It has also been assumed that any hedgerows adjoining a siting zone for Solar PV development, Collector Compound, BESS or Springwell Substation would be maintained at a minimum of 3.5m in height. This is secured within the **oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9].**

10.4.36. It is assumed that a detailed Landscape and Ecology Management Plan based on the **oLEMP** [**EN010149/APP/7.9]** would be implemented and this would cover the establishment and long-term management of all new structural planting as well as other habitats.

10.4.37. The assessment of the landscape and visual impact of construction traffic has been based on the assumptions set out in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1]**,

alongside the traffic routing and future baseline traffic values derived in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 14: Traffic and Transport [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. It has been assumed that there would be access points into the site at each of the locations shown on **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.4: Construction and Operational Access Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2].**

Assessment methodology and criteria

10.4.38. This section provides a summary of the methodology adopted for the assessment of potential likely significant landscape and visual effects. Full details of the assessment methodology, including detailed assessment criteria, are provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

10.4.39. In accordance with GLVIA3 **[Ref. 10-1]**, the significance of landscape and visual effects is determined by considering in tandem the sensitivity of landscape and visual receptors (landscape elements, landscape character areas, landscape designations and groups of people who may be affected by changes in visual amenity) and the magnitude of effect arising from the Proposed Development.

Landscape and visual sensitivity

10.4.40. Sensitivity (described as 'high', 'medium' or 'low') is judged by combining component judgements about the value and susceptibility of the receptor, as illustrated in **Table 10.5** and **Table 10.6** below. An explanation of how susceptibility and value has been determined is provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. Detailed susceptibility and value criteria for landscape receptors are established in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.3: Landscape Sensitivity Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.3]** whilst detailed visual susceptibility and value criteria are set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

10.4.41. Intermediate assessments of value or susceptibility may be applied (e.g. high/medium, medium/low or national/regional, regional/community). Likewise, when combining susceptibility and value to determine sensitivity, an intermediate assessment is adopted where overall sensitivity is judged to lie between levels. In all instances, professional judgement is employed. **Table 10.5** and **Table 10.6** below should not be interpreted rigidly to give a specific answer. Note that equal weighting is attributed to susceptibility and value when determining overall landscape sensitivity but that a greater weight is intentionally attributed to the susceptibility of the visual receptor than to value. This is in recognition of the fact that relatively few views are specifically recognised through designation or cultural reference but acknowledges that value associations may still influence visual sensitivity.

Table 10.5 Landscape sensitivity criteria

Value		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
	National	High	High/Medium	Medium
	Regional	High/Medium	Medium	Medium/Low
	Community	Medium	Medium/Low	Low

Table 10.6 Visual sensitivity criteria

Value		Susceptibility		
		High	Medium	Low
	National	High	High/Medium	Medium
	Regional	High/Medium	High/Medium	Medium/Low
	Community	High/Medium	Medium	Low

Landscape and visual magnitude of effect

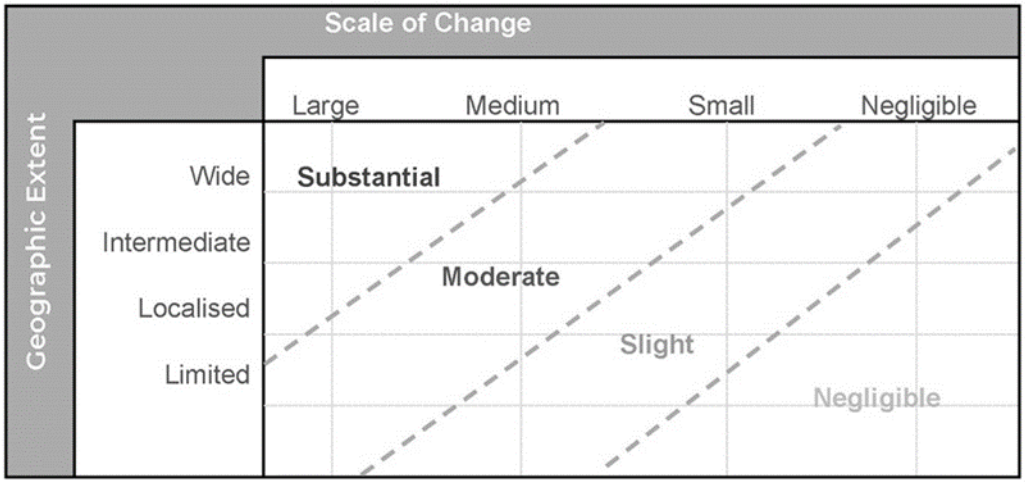
10.4.42. The magnitude of effect arising from the Proposed Development (described as 'substantial', 'moderate', 'slight' or 'negligible') is assessed in terms of its scale, geographic extent of the area or receptor that is influenced and its duration.

10.4.43. Scale of change (expressed as 'large', 'medium', 'small' or 'negligible') is the first and primary factor in determining magnitude. Geographical extent and duration of the effect are modifying factors to the overall magnitude judgement, which may be higher if the effect is particularly widespread and/or long lasting, or lower if it is constrained in geographic extent and/or timescale.

10.4.44. The diagrams presented below in **Plate 10.1** illustrate in outline how these two modifying factors are considered in a two-stage process. A judgement is first formed about the scale of the change to the landscape or visual receptor. The geographic extent of the effect is then considered as a modifying influence in the first part of **Plate 10.1** (Stage 1).

10.4.45. The result or outcome of Stage 1 is then considered again in relation to the duration of the effect as illustrated in the second part of **Plate 10.1**. The outcome of Stage 2 is the overall magnitude of effect judgement reported in the assessment. **Plate 10.1** is not intended to be interpreted rigidly as a chart to provide definitive answers; professional judgement is employed as appropriate to arrive at an overall judgement on the magnitude of effect. A definition of the terms used in the diagrams in **Plate 10.1** is provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010149/APP/6.3].**

Stage 1 - Modifying Influence of Geographic Extent on Magnitude of Effect



Stage 2 - Modifying Influence of Duration on Magnitude of Effect

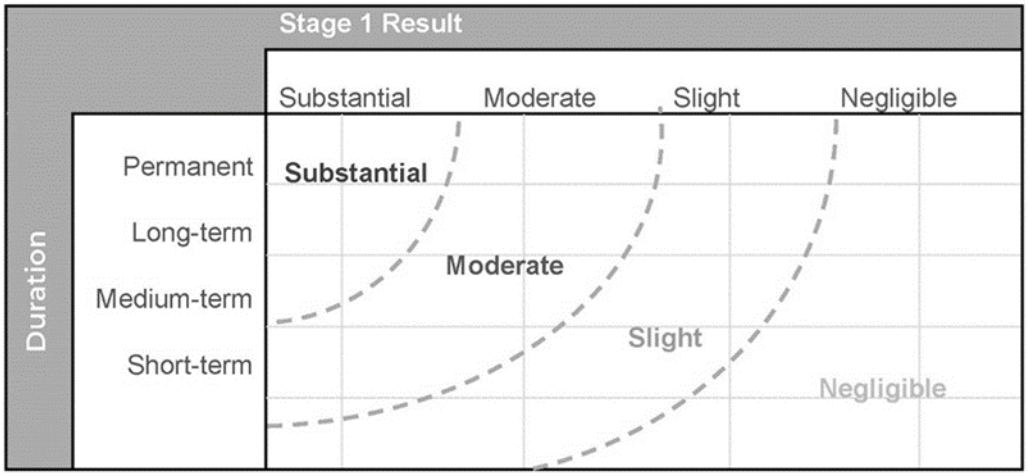


Plate 10.1: Combining scale of change, extent and duration to determine magnitude of landscape and visual effects

10.4.46. Where magnitude of effect (or other judgements) is judged to lie between levels, an intermediate assessment is adopted and is expressed as e.g. 'moderate/slight'.

Landscape and visual significance of effects

10.4.47. The significance of a landscape or visual effect is assessed through professional judgement, combining the sensitivity of the receptor with the predicted magnitude of effect, as summarised in **Table 10.7**. **Table 10.7** is not used as a prescriptive tool and illustrates the typical outcomes, allowing for the exercise of professional judgement.

Table 10.7 Significance of effect criteria

		Magnitude of effect			
		Negligible	**Slight**	**Moderate**	**Substantial**
Receptor sensitivity	**Low**	Negligible	Minor	Moderate/ Minor	Moderate
	Medium	Minor/ Negligible	Moderate/ Minor	Moderate	Major/ Moderate
	High	Minor	Moderate	Major/ Moderate	Major

10.4.48. Effects classified as ‘major’ or ‘major/moderate’ are considered to be significant.

10.4.49. Effects classified as ‘moderate/minor’, ‘minor’, ‘minor/negligible’ or ‘negligible’ significance are considered to be not significant.

10.4.50. Moderate effects lie somewhere in the middle of the range of effects identified. Within the meaning of this term in the assessment there is a spectrum of effects ranging from those tending towards a major/moderate effect (significant) to those tending towards a moderate/minor effect (not significant). ‘Moderate’ effects may therefore be either significant or not significant depending on where they fall on this spectrum. Where ‘moderate’ effects are predicted, professional judgement is applied to determine whether the effect is significant or not ensuring that the potential for significant effects to arise has been thoroughly considered and justification is provided for the judgement reached as appropriate. Clarification 3 (5) of Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note LITGN-2024-01: Notes and Clarifications on Aspects of Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Third edition **[Ref. 10-13]** recognises this as an appropriate approach to identifying significant effects in LVIA.

Nature of effects

10.4.51. Landscape and visual effects can be beneficial or adverse and, in some instances, may be considered neutral in nature. Neutral effects are those which overall are neither adverse nor beneficial but may incorporate a combination of both. Whether an effect is beneficial, neutral or adverse is identified based on professional judgement.

10.4.52. Changes to rural landscapes involving construction of utilitarian objects of a large scale are generally considered to be adverse. In this assessment it has been assumed that where new infrastructure is introduced into the landscape or views, this would generally constitute an adverse effect.

Residential visual amenity assessment

10.4.53. With respect to visual impact, the focus of a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is on public views and public visual amenity. Residential Visual Amenity Assessment is a stage beyond Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and focuses exclusively on private views and private visual amenity and may be used by the decision-maker when weighing potential effects on residential amenity against other material considerations.

10.4.54. Landscape Institute Technical Guidance Note 02/19 (TGN 2/19) **[Ref. 10-15]** notes that:

"*Changes in views and visual amenity are considered in the planning process. In respect of private views and visual amenity, it is widely known that, no one has 'a right to a view" and "It is not uncommon for significant adverse effects on views and visual amenity to be experienced by people at their place of residence as a result of introducing a new development into the landscape. In itself this does not necessarily cause particular planning concern. However, there are situations where the effect on the outlook/visual amenity of a residential property is so great that it is not generally considered to be in the public interest to permit such conditions to occur where they did not exist before*."

10.4.55. A detailed Residential Visual Amenity Assessment is presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and considers whether the visual effects on residential visual amenity are of such a nature or magnitude that they may need to be considered in the overall balance of 'Residential Amenity' or 'Living Conditions.' The methodology for the Residential Visual Amenity Assessment is set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3].**

Distances

10.4.56. Where distances are given in this chapter, these are approximate distances between the nearest above ground feature of the Proposed Development based on **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.2: Height Parameters Plan [EN010149/APP/6.2]** (not the Site boundary) and the nearest part of the receptor in question unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Visual aids

10.4.57. Zone of Theoretical Visibility maps (ZTVs) have been generated using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) principally to assist in identifying areas where visibility of the Proposed Development would not occur. These also assist in viewpoint selection and to identify areas from where part or all of the Proposed Development may be visible.

10.4.58. The ZTVs illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figures 10.5 to 10.9 [EN010149/APP/6.2]** are based on a number of variants to illustrate different levels of potential visibility: A standard screening ZTV takes account of buildings and significant blocks of woodland in the landscape; whilst a detailed screening ZTV uses LIDAR data to provide the most detailed review of visibility.

10.4.59. The following ZTVs in **ES Volume 2** have been prepared to help illustrate the potential visibility of different elements of the Proposed Development:

- **Figures 10.5a-d: Solar PV standard ZTVs**
- **Figures 10.6a-d: Solar PV detailed screening ZTVs**
- **Figure 10.7a-c: Satellite Collector Compound ZTVs**
- **Figure 10.8: Siting zone for BESS ZTV**
- **Figure 10.9: Siting Zone for Springwell Substation and Main Collector Compound ZTV**

10.4.60. Annotated photographs of the existing view at all assessment viewpoints as well as photomontages from a selection of viewpoints are provided in **ES Volume 4 [EN010149/APP/6.4]**. The method of visualisation selected has been informed by Landscape Institute Technical Note 06/19 **[Ref. 10-14]**, with annotated photographs being the most appropriate visualisation type.

10.4.61. The methodology for production of the ZTVs and the visualisations is described in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

10.5. Environmental baseline

Existing baseline

10.5.1. The following section presents a summary of the baseline conditions for the receptors scoped into further assessment, as detailed within **Table 10.2** above. A detailed description of the baseline landscape resource is set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.3].**

10.5.2. **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010149/APP/6.2]** illustrates the landscape context for the Proposed Development, including the location of local landscape designations. The three land parcels (Springwell East, Central and West) fall across a broad and undulating plateau and dip slope which falls gradually eastwards from the A607 between Grantham and Lincoln towards the Lincolnshire Fens. Landform across the plateau is relatively gentle. Part of the plateau has a history of use for airfields and RAF

airbases (for example RAF Digby). Modern large scale arable farming now sits alongside an older, sparse settlement pattern of small scale hamlets and isolated farmsteads.

10.5.3. Vegetation structure and the degree of enclosure created by hedgerows, woodland blocks and tree groups is variable. The landscape is notably more open in the west near the A15 and more enclosed in the east around Scopwick, Blankney and Kirkby Green.

Landscape designations

10.5.4. No part of the Site or its immediately surrounding context falls within a statutorily designated landscape. The nearest National Park or National Landscape (formerly known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) to the Site is the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape, located more than 20km to the north-east and this would not be affected by the Proposed Development. As noted in **Table 10.3** above, the Lincolnshire Wolds National Landscape has been scoped out of further assessment.

10.5.5. There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the study area; the nearest is located just over 6.5km to the north-west. Again, there would be no visibility of the Proposed Development at this distance.

10.5.6. There are also no local landscape designations covering any part of the Site. The nearest local designation is the Lincoln Cliff Area of Great Landscape Value; an escarpment west of and parallel to the A607 between Grantham and Lincoln. This Area of Great Landscape Value is illustrated on **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.1: Landscape and Visual Methodology and Assessment Criteria [EN010149/APP/6.2]** and is located approximately 3km to the west of Springwell West. There would be no view of the Proposed Development from the Lincoln Cliff Area of Great Landscape Value and as noted in **Table 10.3** above, this local designation has been scoped out of further assessment.

Landscape character

10.5.7. Several published studies have informed this assessment. The primary descriptions of baseline landscape character are contained within:

- *National Character Area*[1] *(NCA) Profile 47 - Southern Lincolnshire Edge* **[Ref. 10-22]**;
- *North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment* **[Ref. 10-23]**;

[1] A National Character Area (NCA) is a national subdivision of England based on a combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity and economic activity. There are 159 National Character Areas and they follow natural, rather than administrative, boundaries.

10.5.8. The following document which provides an additional layer of time depth analysis regarding the historic character of the landscape has also been reviewed:

- *The Historic Character of the County of Lincolnshire – English Heritage Project No 4661 - The Historic Landscape Character Zones* **[Ref. 10-24]**;

10.5.9. At a national level, the Site falls within NCA 47 – Southern Lincolnshire Edge and the majority of the study area also falls within this NCA. Relevant extracts and observations relating to NCA 47 are provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. Whilst the NCA profile provides useful context, the district level character areas described below are defined at a smaller scale and are more appropriate as units for reporting effects on landscape character.

10.5.10. At a district level, the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-23]** identifies four regional Landscape Character Types[2] (LCTs). The Site and the entire study area falls within the Central Plateau LCT.

10.5.11. The LCTs are further subdivided into Landscape Character Sub-Areas[3] (LCAs). Springwell West and Springwell Central fall within LCA 7 - The Limestone Heath LCA whilst Springwell East falls within LCA 11 - The Central Clays and Gravels LCA.

10.5.12. LCA 6 – Lincoln Cliff and LCA 13 – Fens also fall within the study area and lie approximately 3km to the west and 3km to the east respectively of the Site. As noted in **Table 10.3**, site work has established that the Proposed Development would not be discernible from any location within either of these two LCAs and therefore they are not discussed further in this assessment.

10.5.13. Relevant extracts from the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-23]** and an analysis of relevant LCAs is provided in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

10.5.14. The boundaries of the North Kesteven LCAs are illustrated on **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.

10.5.15. Site survey work has identified that there are notable differences in the landscape character across the three identified parcels of land and these

[2] Landscape Character Types are defined as distinct types of landscape that are relatively homogeneous in character (*An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment* [**Ref. 10-18**])
[3] Landscape Character Areas are the unique individual geographical areas in which landscape types occur (*An Approach to Landscape Character Assessment* [**Ref. 10-18**])

reflect the boundaries of the LCAs relatively accurately. Notably, the landscape within Springwell West and Springwell Central is more open with limited mature vegetation structure whereas the landscape within Springwell East is more enclosed with more dense and established vegetation.

Visual Receptors

10.5.16. The primary visual receptors identified within the study area likely to be affected by the Proposed Development are:

- Residents (principally at isolated farmsteads and dwellings);
- Users of PRoW; and
- Users of the local and trunk road network.

10.5.17. Visual receptors within the study area, including the PRoWs and roads referred to in this chapter, are identified in **ES Volume 2, Figures 10.3a-d [EN010149/APP/6.2].** Residential properties referred to in this chapter are shown on **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.10: Residential Property Location Plan [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.

10.5.18. The villages of Scopwick, Kirkby Green and Blankney lie just beyond the Order Limits near Springwell East. The Scoping Request presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** indicated that these settlements would be scoped into the LVIA and the Scoping Opinion in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1:Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** supported this approach. North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council both requested that the LVIA address these settlements for context, given their high sensitivity.

10.5.19. Since submission of the Scoping Request (**ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3])**, and further since Statutory Consultation, the design and layout of the Proposed Development has evolved considerably. The nearest elements of the Proposed Development have subsequently moved notably further away from these settlements.

10.5.20. The ZTVs presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.6: Solar PV Detailed Screening ZTVs [EN010149/APP/6.2]** suggests that theoretical visibility of the Solar PV development extends up to belts of vegetation that surround the northern edges of Scopwick and Kirkby Green and the southern edge of Blankney. It also demonstrates the absence of any visibility within the settlements themselves. Site work has established that the belts of vegetation which surround these settlements, combined with multiple additional layers of intervening hedgerow, would screen any view of the Proposed Development from these settlements. It has therefore been assessed that there would be no view of any element of the

Proposed Development, during construction, operation and maintenance or during decommissioning from any location within these villages.

10.5.21. Scopwick Cemetery, an adjacent park and play area, Blankney Golf Club and a Stepping Out car park at Kirkby Green are all noted as locally sensitive recreational receptor locations within or associated with these settlements. However, site work has again established that, due to intervening vegetation, there would be no view of the Proposed Development from any of these locations.

10.5.22. As there would be no view from any of these three settlements or the sensitive receptor locations noted above, the villages of Scopwick, Kirkby Green and Blankney are not addressed further in this chapter. It is acknowledged that there would be views of the Proposed Development from PRoWs which surround these villages and these are assessed as appropriate within this chapter as part of the discussion of PRoW users.

10.5.23. The Blankney Walks car park and picnic area is also identified as a sensitive recreational receptor location in relatively close vicinity to Springwell East. As there would be some view of the Proposed Development from this location, this receptor location is assessed in this chapter.

10.5.24. The village of Ashby de la Launde lies approximately 1km from the nearest element of the Proposed Development in Springwell West although this part of the Proposed Development would not be visible from the village. The Scoping Request presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** indicated that this settlement would be scoped into the LVIA and the Scoping Opinion in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]** supported this approach. North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council both requested that the LVIA also address this settlement for context given its high sensitivity.

10.5.25. Since Statutory Consultation the Order Limits have been drawn much further away from this settlement and the nearest elements of the Proposed Development have also moved notably further away.

10.5.26. The ZTVs presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.6: Solar PV Detailed Screening ZTVs [EN010149/APP/6.2]** suggest that theoretical visibility of the Solar PV development extends up to Ashby Thorns Plantation on the southern edge of Ashby de la Launde and also the road leading west from the village towards the B1191. It also demonstrates the absence of any visibility within the settlement itself. Site work has established that this plantation combined with multiple additional layers of intervening hedgerow, would screen any view of the Proposed Development from the residential and communal parts of the settlement. It has therefore been assessed that there would be no view of any element of the Proposed

Development, during construction, operation and maintenance or during decommissioning from any location within this village.

10.5.27. As there would be no view from this settlement, the village of Ashby de la Launde is not discussed further in this chapter. It is acknowledged that there would be distant views of the Proposed Development from PRoWs which surround the village and a brief distant glimpse from the road leading west towards the B1181 (refer to **ES Volume 4, Viewpoint 21 [EN010149/APP/6.4]**). These impacts are addressed as part of the discussion of PRoWs and local roads within this chapter.

10.5.28. The residential barracks of RAF Digby lie immediately adjacent to the Order Limits between Springwell Central and Springwell West. However, no above ground structures are proposed within immediately adjoining fields or within approximately 1km of the main residential barracks in Springwell West. A gentle ridge to the east of the B1181 (Heath Road) together with established woodland separates the residential barracks from Springwell Central. The Scoping Request presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.1: Scoping Report [EN010149/APP/6.3]** indicated that RAF Digby would be scoped into the LVIA and the Scoping Opinion in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 5.2: Scoping Opinion [EN010149/APP/6.3]** supported this approach.

10.5.29. Up until Statutory Consultation the development proposals extended to within 100m south-west of the boundary with RAF Digby and it was previously anticipated that the Proposed Development had the potential to give rise to likely significant effects on this receptor. Following Statutory Consultation however, all of the fields to the immediate south-west of RAF Digby were removed from the proposed Solar PV development and the nearest above ground development in Springwell West would now be approximately 1km to the south-west.

10.5.30. The ZTVs presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.6: Solar PV Detailed Screening ZTVs [EN010149/APP/6.2]** suggest that theoretical visibility of the Solar PV development extends up to the southern and eastern edges of RAF Digby. Site work has established that any glimpses of the Proposed Development would be distant and viewed through the security fencing which surrounds RAF Digby. Any glimpses from the residential barracks within RAF Digby would be negligible and there would be no view of the Proposed Development from the sports fields adjacent to Heath Road during construction, operation and maintenance or during decommissioning. Visual effects on RAF Digby are therefore not discussed further in this chapter.

10.5.1. Elsewhere within the study area, there are isolated residential properties and farmsteads, which are discussed in detail in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

These isolated properties are illustrated on **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.10 [EN010149/APP/6.2].**

10.5.2. A review of the Lincolnshire County Council Definitive PRoW Map has shown several PRoWs in the study area including locally promoted routes. These are identified in **ES Volume 2, Figures 10.3a-d [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. Whilst there is a relatively high concentration of PRoWs in Springwell East, there is a relative sparsity within Springwell West and Springwell Central.

10.5.3. The Spires and Steeples Trail (a regionally promoted recreational walk) runs north to south through Springwell East connecting Blankney and Scopwick.

10.5.4. The Ridge and Furrow Trail (another regionally promoted recreational walk) passes approximately 1km to the west of the Site.

10.5.5. The Viking Way (another regionally promoted recreational walk) passes approximately 2km to the west of the Site.

10.5.6. A series of locally promoted 'Stepping Out' walks connect existing PRoWs. Three of these pass through Springwell East, whilst another passes close to the boundaries of the Site within Springwell Central and Springwell West.

10.5.7. The PRoWs and local roads outlined above are all considered further in this chapter.

10.5.8. Bloxholm Woods layby and Nature Reserve Walk are located adjacent to the Order Limits near Springwell West and users of the PRoW which runs through this local reserve are discussed further in this assessment as part of the discussion of users of PRoWs.

10.5.9. Springwell West and Springwell Central are also openly visible from the A15 trunk road and the B1191 (Heath Road) which runs between the A15 and Scopwick. Other minor roads and country lanes pass through Springwell West but again these are sparse.

10.5.10. There are no tourist attractions or recognised viewpoints within the study area from which the Proposed Development may be visible. There is no view of the Proposed Development from Metheringham Airfield Visitor Centre.

10.5.11. For the purposes of this chapter, the following visual receptor groups have been identified as having the potential to experience visual effects and are assessed further in this chapter. In some cases, these groups encompass multiple footpaths and roads:

- PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green extending up to Blankney Walks Lane in the north and the railway on the eastern boundary of Springwell East (this group includes several 'Stepping Out' walks including the Scopwick Loop, Around Kirkby Green and the Blankney Circuit);
- PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary of Springwell East and the B1189 (including the B1189 itself);
- PRoW between RAF Digby and B1188 (Footpath Rows/5/1);
- PRoWs and lanes between Heath Road, Bloxholm Lane and Green Man Lane extending up to the A15 north of RAF Digby;
- Navenby Lane;
- PRoWs between Bloxholm, Ashby de la Launde and Heath Road;
- Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve Footpath;
- Church Lane, church and properties at Brauncewell;
- PRoWs and lanes south-west between A15 and Brauncewell;
- Minor Roads to Temple Bruer and Thompsons Bottom Farm;
- PRoWs and lanes north-west between A15 and Wellingore Heath including New England Lane and Gorse Hill Lane (this group includes the Navenby and Viking Way Stepping Out Walk);
- Spires and Steeples Trail;
- Ridge and Furrow Trail;
- Viking Way and High Dike;
- A15 trunk road;
- B1191 (Heath Road); and
- B1188 (Lincoln Road).

Future baseline in the absence of the Proposed Development

10.5.12. For the purposes of this assessment, the future baseline has been taken to be the same as the current baseline. Over the lifetime of the Proposed Development, agricultural practices and crops may change resulting in alterations to the baseline arable landscape. Climate change may expediate this change in the landscape; however, such change is difficult to predict with any certainty and it is therefore assumed that the baseline will remain unaltered.

10.6. Mitigation embedded into the design

10.6.1. Potential landscape and visual effects and mitigation measures have been considered from the outset of the Proposed Development. This included

early landscape and visual feasibility appraisal which fed into the site selection. Options appraisals helped to avoid adverse landscape and visual effects where possible and appropriate. Landscape and visual considerations have been one of the critical drivers for design decisions at all stages of the project. An explanation of how landscape and visual matters have been addressed in the design is provided in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**.

10.6.2. This assessment has been based on the principle that measures have been 'embedded' into the design of the Proposed Development to mitigate potential significant effects as far as practicable, for example by the considered placement and height of infrastructure. **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Proposed Development Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]** and **ES Volume 3, Appendix 3.1: Project Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and the **Design Commitments** which form part of the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** identify measures that have been embedded into the design of the Proposed Development.

10.6.3. Of particular relevance to this chapter are the green infrastructure parameters presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3 [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. These identify, amongst other things, areas of proposed structure planting which have been developed to mitigate landscape and visual effects. All of the structure planting shown on these plans is considered to be embedded into the design and forms primary mitigation.

10.6.4. The embedded mitigation relevant to this assessment is detailed in **Table 10.8** below.

Table 10.8 Embedded mitigation relevant to landscape and visual

Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual	Function	Securing mechanism
New hedgerow planting along the western boundary of Fields By28 and Lf04, the southern boundary of Field Lf04 and the northern boundary of Field Lf11.	To soften views and provide medium term screening of views from PRoWs Scop/738/1, Bln/738/1 and Scop/8/2	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
New hedgerow planting along the southern boundary of Field Lf08.	To soften views and provide medium term screening of views from PRoW Scop/7/2	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
New hedgerow planting along the northern boundary	To soften views and provide medium term screening of	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**

Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual	Function	Securing mechanism
of Fields Lf07 and Md01 and along the southern boundary of Fields By22 and By23.	views from PRoWs Scop/1135/3 and Scop/1135/4 as well as Acre Lane.	
New hedgerow planting along the eastern boundary of Field By03, the western boundary of By04 and the northern boundaries of Fields By10 and By11.	To soften views and provide medium term screening of views from PRoWs Bln/740/1 and Bln/4/2.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
New hedgerow planting along the southern boundary of Field By11, the northern boundary of Field By24 and the northern and eastern boundaries of Field By23.	To soften views and provide medium term screening of views from PRoW Scop/1134/1 and a permissive footpath	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
New hedgerow planting along the western boundaries of Fields C8 and C9 and the northern boundary of Field C6.	To soften views and provide medium term screening of views from the Spires and Steeples Trail (PRoWs Scop/737/1 and Bln/737/1)	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
20m width belt of structural native woodland planting along the southern boundary of Field Bk10 and a new hedgerow along eastern boundary of Solar PV development in Field Bk10.	To provide medium term screening of views from Sheffield House, Eastfield and Westfield Cottages.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
20m width belt of structural native woodland planting in the southern corner of Field Bk07.	To provide medium term screening of the Solar PV development and Satellite Collector Compound from Heath Road.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
New hedgerow planting along the southern	To soften views and provide medium term screening of views from PRoW Rows/5/1	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**

Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual	Function	Securing mechanism
boundaries of Fields Rw01 and RW02.	and residential properties at Rowston Top.	
20m width belt of structural native woodland planting along the northern boundary of Field E2 linking existing woodland blocks.	To screen views of the Solar PV development from the south.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
20m width belt of structural native woodland planting along the northern boundary of Field Bcd139 and new hedgerows along the eastern boundary of Bcd139 and along the northern boundary of Bcd139 with Heath Road.	To soften and provide medium term screening of Solar PV development from PRoW Ashl/11/1 which passes through Bloxholm Wood Nature Reserve and also at the layby on Heath Road.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
20m width belt of structural native woodland planting along the western boundaries of Fields Bcd123, Bcd128 and Bcd129 adjacent to Heath Road.	To soften and provide medium term screening of Solar PV development from Heath Road and Peacock Lodge Cottages.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
20m width belt of structural native woodland planting along the eastern and southern boundaries of Field Bcd118.	To soften and partially screen views of Solar PV development from Slate House Cottages.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
20m width belt of structural native woodland planting along the northern boundary of Field Bcd099.	To soften and partially screen views of Solar PV development from Ashby Lodge Cottages.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
20m width belt of structural native woodland planting along the western boundaries of Fields	To soften and provide medium term screening of Solar PV development from	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**

Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual	Function	Securing mechanism
Bcd082, Bcd094, Bcd098, Bcd102 and Bcd106.	Thompson Bottom and New England Lane.	
New hedgerow planting along the southern boundary of Field Bcd094 and the northern boundary of Bcd098.	To soften views and provide medium term screening of views from Warren Lane.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
New Hedgerow planting/infill hedgerow planting along the eastern boundaries of Fields Tb2, Bcd082, Bcd094, Bcd098, Bcd102, Bcd106, Bcd114, Bcd127, W1 and W2 and along the western boundaries of Fields Bcd099, Bcd107, Bcd115, Bcd128, Bcd138 and E1.	To soften and provide some screening of the Solar PV development and Springwell Substation from the A15.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
20m width belt of structural native woodland planting along southern and western boundaries of Field Tb2.	To soften and partially screen the BESS and Springwell Substation in views from the south and west.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
Earthworks (up to 5m in height) and a minimum 20m width belt of structural native woodland planting along the eastern edge of the BESS and Springwell Substation in Field Tb2.	To soften and partially screen the BESS and Springwell Substation in views from the A15 and Toll Bar Cottage/Lupus Lair.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
Structural planting will consist of native and indigenous species and wherever possible be of local provenance.	To ensure that new planting complements existing habitats and reflects local landscape character.	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**
Grassland open fields and margins with wildflower throughout the Site as	Embedded primarily for biodiversity purposes but would also have the dual	**oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]**

Embedded mitigation measures relevant to landscape and visual	Function	Securing mechanism
shown on **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3 [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.	function of restoring a more mixed pattern of land use and returning landcover to a more visually varied pattern.	
Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will be offset at least 15m from existing woodlands and at least 10m either side from all existing hedgerows.	To protect and retain existing trees and hedgerows exception where removal is identified in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.5 [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.	**Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**
Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will not be constructed through existing hedgerows or across ditches where practicable.	To protect and retain existing trees and hedgerows exception where removal is identified in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.5 [EN010149/APP/6.2]**.	**Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**
Perimeter fencing surrounding the Solar PV development will be offset at least 15m from either side of existing and proposed statutory PRoW.	To maintain the visual amenity of users of PRoW.	**Design Commitments [EN010149/APP/7.4]**

10.6.5. The new planting proposals outlined in **Table 10.8** above respond directly to specific guidelines in the *North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment* **[Ref. 10-23]**.

10.6.6. In relation to LCA 7 - The Limestone Heath the *North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment encourages:*

- *"Replacement hedgerow planting where these have been lost or degraded.*
- *Habitat friendly limestone grass management regimes should be investigated."*

10.6.7. In relation to LCA 11 - The Central Clays and Gravels the *North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment encourages:*

- *"Replacement hedgerow planting where these have been lost or degraded.*
- *An increase in grassland and pasture would help to restore a more mixed pattern of land use, returning to a more visually varied and traditional landscape."*

10.7. Assessment of likely effects (without additional mitigation)

10.7.1. This section outlines the likely effects that have been identified in relation to landscape and visual amenity during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning, in the absence of additional mitigation.

10.7.2. It should be noted that successful implementation and long term maintenance of the embedded mitigation outlined in **Table 10.8** (which comprises mainly of new hedgerow and structure planting) relies on implementation of additional mitigation measures. The new planting outlined in **Table 10.8** would not establish or survive in the long term and achieve its intended purpose without maintenance and management as set out in the **oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9].** Therefore, this section presents a hypothetical worst-case scenario where the new planting does not establish or achieve its intended purpose.

10.7.3. Likewise, in the absence of additional mitigation measures during construction/decommissioning, it is impossible to say with any certainty what the impact on existing landscape fabric (including woodland, trees and hedgerows) might be.

10.7.4. However, these are unrealistic scenarios as the additional mitigation set out in **Section 10.8** will be secured and therefore the assessment in this section is brief with the more realistic and detailed assessment of likely significant effects on landscape and visual amenity being presented in **Section 10.9** below.

Construction

10.7.5. In the absence of additional mitigation, there would be potential for significant effects to arise on landscape character and visual amenity during construction.

10.7.6. Significant effects on landscape character would potentially occur up to 2km from the Order Limits across LCA 7 - The Limestone Heath LCA and 1km within LCA 11 - The Central Clays and Gravels LCA.

10.7.7. Significant effects on visual amenity would also potentially be experienced by residential receptors, users of PRoW and road users up to 2km from the Order Limits.

Operation (including maintenance)

10.7.8. In the absence of additional mitigation, there is the potential for likely significant effects to arise on landscape character and visual amenity during operation (including maintenance).

10.7.9. Significant effects on landscape character would potentially occur up to 2km from the Order Limits across LCA 7 - The Limestone Heath LCA and 1km within LCA 11 - The Central Clays and Gravels LCA.

10.7.10. Significant effects on visual amenity would also potentially be experienced by residential receptors, users of PRoW and road users up to 2km from the Order Limits.

Decommissioning

10.7.11. In the absence of additional mitigation, there is the potential for likely significant effects to arise on landscape character and visual amenity during decommissioning.

10.7.12. Significant effects on landscape character would potentially occur up to 2km from the Order Limits across LCA 7 - The Limestone Heath LCA and 1km within LCA 11 - The Central Clays and Gravels LCA.

10.7.13. Significant effects on visual amenity would also potentially be experienced by residential receptors, users of PRoW and road users up to 2km from the Order Limits.

10.8. Additional mitigation

Construction

10.8.1. Construction of the Proposed Development will be undertaken in accordance with the principles established in the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010149/APP7.7]** and the **Outline Construction Transport Management Plan (oCTMP) [EN010149/APP/7.8]**.

10.8.2. The **oCEMP [EN010149/APP7.7]** will ensure that construction is undertaken in a sensitive manner with regard to the existing landscape fabric within the Site. It will ensure that all existing hedgerows, trees and woodland will be retained and protected during construction (except where removal is indicated on the vegetation removal plans shown in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.11: Vegetation Removal Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]**). It will also ensure that construction compounds maintain a neat and tidy

appearance and that any temporary construction lighting is operated in accordance with an agreed scheme.

10.8.3. The **oCTMP [EN010149/APP/7.8]** will ensure that construction vehicle movements will be routed in accordance with the agreed strategy and avoid landscape and visual effects on additional receptors.

10.8.4. The soil resource within the Site will be managed during construction in accordance with the principles established in the **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010149/APP/7.11]**. This will ensure that the soils are suitable following construction for establishment of the habitats proposed including the strategic planting proposed for mitigation of landscape and visual effects.

Operation (including maintenance)

10.8.5. During the operational phase of the Proposed Development, existing and newly established habitats and planting will be maintained in accordance with the principles established in the **oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9].**

10.8.6. The **oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]** will ensure, amongst other things, that any defective planting is replaced during the establishment period defined in the **oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9]** and that all new planting establishes successfully by year 10. It will ensure that existing and new hedgerows (once established) will be maintained at a minimum height of 3.5m for the duration of the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

Decommissioning

10.8.7. Decommissioning of the Proposed Development will be undertaken in accordance with the principles established in the **Outline Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan (oDEMP) [EN010149/APP/7.13]**.

10.8.8. The **oDEMP [EN010149/APP7.13]** will ensure that decommissioning is undertaken in a sensitive manner, providing root protection as appropriate to the existing and retained vegetation within the Order Limits. It will ensure that existing and established hedgerows, trees and woodland will be retained and protected during decommissioning (except where removal is required to facilitate decommissioning). It will also ensure that decommissioning compounds maintain a neat and tidy appearance and that any temporary lighting is operated in accordance with an agreed scheme.

10.8.9. The soil resource within the Site will be managed during decommissioning in accordance with the principles established in the **Outline Soil Management Plan (oSMP) [EN010149/APP/7.11]**. This will ensure that the soils are suitable following decommissioning for maintenance of the

habitats established including the strategic planting proposed for mitigation of landscape and visual effects.

10.9. Assessment of residual effects (with additional mitigation)

10.9.1. This section outlines the likely significant residual effects that have been identified in relation to landscape and visual amenity during construction, operation (including maintenance) and decommissioning, taking account of the additional mitigation proposed in **Section 10.8** above.

Sensitivity of Receptors

Sensitivity of Landscape Receptors

10.9.2. In order to inform the assessment of likely significant effects on landscape character, a landscape sensitivity appraisal has been undertaken considering the various landscape susceptibility and value criteria, which combine to determine landscape sensitivity to the type of development proposed. The appraisal draws upon observations contained within National Character Area Profile 47 **[Ref. 10-22]** and the North Kesteven Landscape Character Assessment **[Ref. 10-23]** (as summarised in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.3]**) as well as observations made in the field during the baseline assessment of landscape character. The two LCAs considered in this assessment extend considerably beyond the study area. The conclusions regarding landscape sensitivity therefore relate specifically to the tract of the LCAs within the study area.

10.9.3. The full landscape sensitivity appraisal is presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.4: Viewpoint Analysis [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. The principal findings of the appraisal are summarised below in **Table 10.9**.

Table 10.9 Summary of landscape sensitivity

Character Area	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
LCA 7 - Limestone Heath	Medium	Community	Medium/Low
LCA 11 - Central Clays and Gravels	Medium/Low	Regional/Community	Medium/Low

Sensitivity of Visual Receptors

10.9.4. For the purposes of this chapter, visual receptor groups have been identified. **Table 10.10** below identifies the sensitivity of the visual receptor groups.

Table 10.10 Summary of visual receptor sensitivity

Visual Receptors	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green extending up to Blankney Walks Lane and the railway on the eastern site boundary (including several 'Stepping Out' walks)	High	Community/Regional	High/Medium
PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189	High	Community	High/Medium
PRoW between RAF Digby and B1188 (Footpath R5/1)	High	Community	High/Medium
PRoWs and lanes between Heath Road, Bloxholm Lane and Green Man Lane extending up to the A15 north of RAF Digby	High	Community	High/Medium
Navenby Lane	Medium	Community	Medium
PRoWs between Bloxholm, Ashby de la Launde and Heath Road	High	Community	High/Medium
Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve Footpath	High	Regional	High/Medium
Church Lane, church and properties at Brauncewell	High	Community	High/Medium
PRoWs and lanes south-west between A15 and Brauncewell	High	Community	High/Medium

Visual Receptors	Susceptibility	Value	Sensitivity
Minor Roads to Temple Bruer and Thompsons Bottom Farm	Medium	Community	Medium
PRoWs and lanes north-west between A15 and Wellingore Heath including New England Lane and Gorse Hill Lane	High	Community	High/Medium
Spires and Steeples Trail	High	Regional	High/Medium
Ridges and Furrows Trail	High	Regional	High/Medium
Viking Way and High Dike	High	Regional	High/Medium
A15 trunk road	Medium/Low	Community	Medium/Low
B1191 (Heath Road)	Medium	Community	Medium
B1188	Medium	Community	Medium

10.9.5. In the PEIR, users of the A15 were reported to be of low susceptibility to change in views, to be of community value and therefore to be of low sensitivity to the type of development proposed. North Kesteven Council and Lincolnshire Council requested that this appraisal be reconsidered to reflect the large number of people who use the route.

10.9.6. Users of trunk roads such as the A15 are often assessed to be of low susceptibility reflecting the transient nature of the view, the high speed at which views are experienced, the fact that the focus of drivers should be on the traffic ahead and the fact that the views from the road tend to be of secondary importance to the user when compared to its primary function of getting from A to B as quickly as possible.

10.9.7. It is acknowledged that the A15 carries a large volume of traffic, and many people experience views of Springwell West from this route. It is important to appreciate that it is the people using the road who are the receptors not the road itself and the number of people using the route does not influence the susceptibility of the individual receptor travelling along it. Nevertheless, in response to the request from North Kesteven Council and Lincolnshire Council and in order to acknowledge the large number of receptors who

would experience the view from the A15, the susceptibility of these receptors has been increased in this assessment to be Medium/Low.

10.9.8. The view experienced by users of the A15 is still assessed to be of community value. There are no specific values attached to the route. It is not recognised as a scenic route and does not pass through any landscape designation. The route passes through a pleasantly agrarian landscape but one which is essentially intensively farmed and does not have any special qualities that elevate its value above other rural areas in Lincolnshire.

10.9.9. Therefore the sensitivity of users of the A15 in this chapter is assessed to be Medium/Low.

Viewpoint Analysis

10.9.10. In order to inform the assessment of magnitude and significance of residual effects on landscape character and visual amenity, viewpoint analysis has been undertaken for a total of 40 assessment viewpoints.

10.9.11. As noted in **Table 10.1**, the assessment viewpoint locations were agreed with North Kesteven District Council and Lincolnshire County Council to represent the main landscape and visual receptors found in the study area.

10.9.12. A plan illustrating the location of the assessment viewpoints is presented in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.4: Viewpoint locations [EN010149/APP/6.2].** The assessment viewpoints are also illustrated on all subsequent ZTVs figures.

10.9.13. Annotated baseline photographs are presented for each assessment viewpoint in **ES Volume 4 [EN010149/APP/6.4]** to illustrate the existing view and the likely extent of the Proposed Development within the view. Year 1 and Year 10 photomontages have also been prepared for 13 of the viewpoints. These are also presented in **ES Volume 4 [EN010149/APP/6.4]**.

10.9.14. A detailed analysis of the scale of landscape and visual change at the assessment viewpoint locations during the construction, operational (including maintenance) and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development is presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. The assessment of effects during the construction phase assume a reasonable worst case scenario at the specific viewpoint whenever that occurs during construction. The effects during the operational (including maintenance) phase are assessed in Year 1 after construction and again in Year 10 by when it is assumed that all new mitigation planting (including hedgerows

and trees) will have established. A summary of the findings is presented in **Table 10.11** below.

10.9.15. The viewpoint analysis considers only the scale of landscape and visual change at the assessment viewpoints. The wider extent of landscape and visual effects (beyond the individual viewpoint considered), and its duration, are not captured in the viewpoint analysis (as a single fixed viewpoint cannot capture extent or duration). As detailed in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.3]**, scale, extent and duration are all factors in the overall judgement on magnitude of change. Therefore, judgements on magnitude of change and overall level of effect and significance are provided in the subsequent description of effects during construction, operation and decommissioning.

Table 10.11 Viewpoint Analysis Summary

Vpt	Location	Visual Scale of Change			Landscape Scale of Change		
		Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational	Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational
1	B1189 Moor Lane, Blankney	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
2	Junction of Bln/4/3, Bln/4/2 and Bln/738/1	Medium	Medium	Small/Negligible	Medium	Medium/Small	Small/Negligible
3	Junction of Scop/738/1 and Scop/8/1	Large	Large	Medium/Small	Large	Large	Medium/Small
4	Scop/7/2 at junction with Scop/7/1	Medium	Medium	Small/Negligible	Medium	Medium/Small	Small/Negligible
5	Scop/7/1 at junction with B1191	Small/Negligible	Small/Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
6	Junction of Scop/1135/4 and Acre Lane	Large	Large	Medium	Large	Large	Medium

Vpt	Location	Visual Scale of Change			Landscape Scale of Change		
		Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational	Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational
7	Permissive path between Scop/1134/1 and Bln/4/2	Large	Large	Medium	Large	Large	Medium
8	Bln/4/2	Large	Large	Medium	Large	Large	Medium
9	Scop/3/1 at junction with Main Street, Scopwick	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
10	Spires and Steeples Trail junction with Trundle Lane - North of Scopwick	Large/Medium	Small	Negligible	Large/Medium	Small	Negligible
11	B1188 junction with Bloxholm Lane	Medium	Small/Negligible	Negligible	Medium	Small/Negligible	Negligible
12	Spires and Steeples Trail	Large	Large/Medium	Small/Negligible	Large	Large/Medium	Small/Negligible

Vpt	Location	Visual Scale of Change			Landscape Scale of Change		
		Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational	Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational
13	Blankney Stepping Out car park picnic area	Large/Medium	Large/Medium	Small/Negligible	Large/Medium	Large/Medium	Small/Negligible
14	Blankney Walks Lane near Brickyard Cottage	Small/Negligible	Small/Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
15	B1191 western edge of Scopwick	Medium	Small	Small	Medium	Small	Small
16	Footpath Rows/5/1 west of Sheffield House	Medium/Small	Medium/Small	Small/Negligible	Medium/Small	Medium/Small	Small/Negligible
17	Footpath Rows/5/1 north of The Maltings	Large	Large	Small	Large	Large	Small
18	Heath Road (B1191) near Digby Quarry	Large	Small	Small	Large	Small	Small

Vpt	Location	Visual Scale of Change			Landscape Scale of Change		
		Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational	Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational
19	Scopwick Heath Restricted Byway Scop/12/2	Medium	Small	Small	Medium	Small	Small
20	Main Street, west of junction with B1188, Lincoln Road	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
21	Main Street, Ashby de la Launde	Small	Small	Small/Negligible	Small	Small	Negligible
22	Junction of Heath Road (B1191) and Navenby Lane	Medium	Small	Small	Medium	Small	Small
23	Heath Road at Slate House Farm	Medium	Medium	Small	Medium	Medium	Small/Negligible
24	Bloxholm Wood Nature Reserve layby	Large	Large	Medium	Large	Large	Medium
25	Ashl/11/1 in Long Plantation	Small	Small/Negligible	Negligible	Small	Small/Negligible	Negligible

Vpt	Location	Visual Scale of Change			Landscape Scale of Change		
		Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational	Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational
26	Church Lane, north of All Saints' Church, Brauncewell	Small	Small	Small	Small	Small/Negligible	Small/Negligible
27	Junction of A15 and local road west of Dale Farm	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium/Small	Medium/Small	Medium/Small
28	North of junction of A15 and Church Lane	Large	Large	Medium/Small	Large/Medium	Large/Medium	Small
29	A15 at junction with Warren Lane	Large	Large	Medium	Large	Large	Medium
30	A15 on the line of Restricted Byway Temp/1/1	Medium/Small	Small	Small	Medium/Small	Small/Negligible	Small/Negligible
31	Junction of Brau/10/1 and Long Lane	Small/Negligible	Small/Negligible	Small/Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Vpt	Location	Visual Scale of Change			Landscape Scale of Change		
		Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational	Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational
32	Temple Road east of Temple Bruer	Small/Negligible	Small/Negligible	Small/Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
33	The Viking Way / High Dike south of Temple Road	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
34	Junction of New England Lane and Warren Lane	Small	Small/Negligible	Small/Negligible	Small	Negligible	Negligible
35	Warren Lane near Thompsons Bottom	Large	Large	Medium	Large	Large	Medium
36	New England Lane	Large/Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium	Medium/Small	Medium/Small
37	Heath Lane east of Vine House	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
38	Wellingore playing fields	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible
39	Green Man Road east of Navenby	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible	Negligible

Vpt	Location	Visual Scale of Change			Landscape Scale of Change		
		Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational	Construct/ Decom	Year 1 Operational	Year 10 Operational
40	The Heath adjacent to Four Winds Farm	Medium	Medium/Small	Medium/Small	Medium/Small	Small	Small

Construction

10.9.16. The overall construction period including commissioning would last up to 48 months although in most locations, active construction works would only be visible for a much shorter duration than this after which there would be a period of much less intensive commissioning which would not give rise to significant landscape or visual effects.

10.9.17. It is evident from the assessment presented in the subsequent sections of this chapter that there is no notable intervisibility between the three parts of the Site (Springwell East, Central and West). In practice this means that any static visual receptors identified in this assessment would only have a view of construction in either Springwell East, Central or West; not any two or three of these at the same time. Users of the B1188 (Heath Road) may potentially experience views of construction access in Springwell Central in the same journey as having views of construction works in Springwell West but this would be a very short term effect.

10.9.18. Active construction work in the vicinity of Springwell Substation and the BESS may extend for longer than 24 months and the primary construction compounds may be in use for over 24 months but otherwise for the purposes of this assessment it is assumed that localised construction effects would last no longer than 24 months and are therefore short term effects. Where effects would last between 24 and 48 months these are treated as medium term effects in the assessment and identified as such where relevant.

Effects on landscape fabric during construction

10.9.19. The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid blocks of woodland and the **Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP) [EN010149/APP7.7]** would ensure that these important features of the landscape fabric would remain unaffected during construction.

10.9.20. Construction of the Proposed Development would require the removal of various lengths of existing hedgerow including some which contain hedgerow trees as illustrated and tabulated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.11: Vegetation Removal Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. Full details of the hedgerows affected are set out in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 7.12 Arboricultural Impact Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]**. The total length of hedgerow removal would be up to 1,249m. The hedgerow removal would typically be in sections of 5m to 30m and scattered throughout the Order Limits. Longer lengths of hedgerow removal (over 30m in length) would be required to facilitate highway works on the A15, the B1191 (Heath Road) and Heath Lane. Whilst in total this is a notable length of hedgerow, when considered in the context of the Order Limits as

a whole, it is a small proportion of the total length of hedgerows in the study area.

10.9.21. New hedgerows would be replanted in most of the locations where it is removed including alongside highways works and across cable corridors (the exception would be where operational access into fields needs to be maintained). In addition, extensive new hedgerow and structural planting would be planted in accordance with **ES Volume 2, Figure 3.3: Green Infrastructure Parameters [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. The total length of new hedgerow (over 15km) and structural woodland planting (approximately 16ha) proposed within the Order Limits would far exceed by many multiples the amount removed during construction. In the short term during construction however, there would be a small scale of change to the fabric of the landscape in terms of hedgerow and tree cover. The underlying pattern and structure of the landscape would remain largely unchanged.

10.9.22. All of the fields impacted by the Proposed Development including construction activities are currently in arable use. There is no permanent vegetation cover in these fields and as such there would be no effect on permanent landcover within these fields during construction.

10.9.23. No other discernible features of the existing landscape fabric would be affected during construction.

10.9.24. The sensitivity of the existing hedgerows in the landscape is variable across the Order Limits given that some are in better condition than others. However, taken collectively the sensitivity of the hedgerows in the study area is assessed to be high. There would be small scale change over a wide area and for a short duration resulting in a slight magnitude of effect.

10.9.25. Therefore, there is likely to be a **moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape fabric, which is considered to be **significant**.

Effects on landscape character during construction

10.9.26. Effects during the construction phase on landscape character would arise from:

- short-term change of farmland to a construction site including the formation of temporary construction compounds (with associated temporary night time lighting) and access tracks;
- increased vehicular movement and personnel in the landscape delivering and erecting the component parts of the Proposed Development;
- highways works and management;
- underground cable installation;
- changes to landscape fabric resulting from vegetation removal; and

- the incremental increase in the in-situ infrastructure comprising the Proposed Development.

10.9.27. Based on the viewpoint analysis summarised in **Table 10.11**, the following observations can be made regarding the scale of landscape change across the study area during construction:

- Large scale change in landscape character would occur across all fields in which components of the Proposed Development are being constructed or installed. This is an unavoidable consequence of construction as fields temporarily become a construction site.
- Large, medium and small scale change in landscape character would also be experienced in various directions surrounding the fields in which construction takes place. With distance from the construction activities, the scale of change in landscape character would incrementally decrease and in certain directions the screening effect of established vegetation would reduce the distance over which effects would be experienced. For example in Springwell East, dense vegetation along the eastern boundary of the Site and along Trundle Lane would notably reduce the distance over which construction effects on landscape character would be experienced to the east and south of Springwell East.
- In the vicinity of Springwell West, large scale change in landscape character would be experienced up to approximately 500m in all directions. Elsewhere large scale change in landscape character would extend no further than approximately 200-300m from any construction activity.
- In the vicinity of Springwell East and Central, medium scale of change in landscape character would not extend beyond 500m of any construction activity. In the vicinity of Springwell West medium scale of change in landscape character would not extend beyond a maximum of 1km from any construction activity.
- In the vicinity of Springwell East and Central, small scale of change in landscape character would not extend beyond 1km in any direction from any construction activity. In the vicinity of Springwell West small scale change in landscape character would not extend beyond a maximum of 1.5km from any construction activity. Beyond these distances any effects on landscape character would be negligible.

Effects on LCA 7: Limestone Heath during construction

10.9.28. The entirety of Springwell Central and Springwell West lie within LCA 7: Limestone Heath as illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.2: Landscape Character Areas [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. Assessment Viewpoints 15 to 20 surround Springwell Central whilst Viewpoints 21 to 40 surround Springwell West but all fall within this LCA.

10.9.29. Whilst the landscape is generally very open, its gentle landform combined with a relatively low profile form of development (in terms of verticality) across most of Springwell Central and Springwell West would ultimately limit the extent of construction effects on landscape character within LCA 7: Limestone Heath.

10.9.30. Any discernible effects on landscape character during construction within LCA 7: Limestone Heath would be restricted to a tract of the wider LCA defined as follows:

- from Heath Lane in the north to just south of Dunston Pit Plantation and extending west of the A15 as far as Wellingore Heath, Temple Bruer and Brauncewell;
- to the east of the A15, potentially extending up to Heath Road as far as RAF Digby;
- on the eastern side of Heath Road extending up to a series of plantations to the east (Bloxham Woods, Ashby Thorns, Rowston Covert); and
- across the tract of land between RAF Digby, Scopwick, the B1188 and Rowston Covert.

10.9.31. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the site and the incremental installation of new Solar PV development, Satellite Collector Compounds, BESS, Springwell Substation and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use.

10.9.32. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site and therefore there would be a short period of relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape. This would be more noticeable in Springwell Central than in Springwell West where baseline tranquillity is influenced by existing heavy traffic movement along the A15.

10.9.33. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.9.34. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.9.35. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks, highway works and cable routes, most existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.9.36. The extent of metallic and glass structures installed during construction would evidently be far greater than exists in the landscape at present and this is addressed as part of the consideration of operational phase effects.

10.9.37. There would therefore be no impact on skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views during construction and notably no impact on the character of the surrounding villages (Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green).

10.9.38. The large and medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a relatively wide extent of LCA 7: Limestone Heath and would be short term in duration (medium term in the localised vicinity of Springwell Substation and BESS) resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.39. The sensitivity of LCA 7: Limestone Heath has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, during construction, with reference specifically to the tract the following tract there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**:

- from Heath Lane in the north to just south of Dunston Pit Plantation and extending west of the A15 as far as Wellingore Heath, Temple Bruer and Brauncewell;
- to the east of the A15, potentially extending up to Heath Road as far as RAF Digby;
- on the eastern side of Heath Road extending up to a series of plantations to the east (Bloxham Woods, Ashby Thorns, Rowston Covert); and
- across the tract of land between RAF Digby, Scopwick, the B1188 and Rowston Covert.

10.9.40. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tightly defined tract of LCA 7: Limestone Heath would be **not significant**.

Effects on LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels during construction

10.9.41. The entirety of Springwell East lies within LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels as illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.2: Landscape Character Areas [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. Assessment Viewpoints 1 to 14 surround Springwell East and fall within this LCA.

10.9.42. A combination of gentle landform (which is almost flat within Springwell East) and a mature established vegetation structure would serve to restrict the extent of effects during construction on landscape character within LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels.

10.9.43. Within the Order Limits and immediately surrounding them in Springwell East, there would be a large to medium scale of change to landscape

character reducing to small beyond a maximum distance of 500m from any construction activity.

10.9.44. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from construction activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the site and the incremental installation of new Solar PV development, a Satellite Collector Compound and ancillary infrastructure such as deer-proof fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use.

10.9.45. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and construction movements across the Site and therefore there would a short period of relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.9.46. Construction would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.9.47. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced during construction would not be notably different from those already present.

10.9.48. Whilst several breaks in hedgerows would be formed during construction to accommodate access tracks and cable routes, the vast majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.9.49. The extent of metallic and glass structures installed during construction would evidently be far greater than exists in the landscape at present and this is addressed as part of the consideration of operational phase effects.

10.9.50. The construction activity would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but as the landscape is relatively flat and well vegetated no long distance views would be affected.

10.9.51. In places the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoWs would have an appropriate offset.

10.9.52. Whilst the woodland blocks which surround Springwell East are visible from a wider extent of the landscape the fields within which the Proposed Development would be located are relatively discrete and therefore there is limited intervisibility with adjoining tracts of the landscape. There would therefore be no impact on skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views during construction and notably no impact on the character of the surrounding villages (Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green).

10.9.53. The large and medium scale change identified above would be experienced over an intermediate extent of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels and would be short term in duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.54. The sensitivity of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, during construction, with reference specifically to the tract of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels between the railway which defines the eastern boundary of Springwell East; the B1188 to the west; Blankney Walks Lane to the north; and Trundle Lane and PRoW Scop/739/1 to the south there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tightly defined tract of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels would be **not significant**.

Effects on visual amenity during construction

10.9.55. Effects during construction on visual receptors would typically arise from views of:

- temporary construction compounds;
- highways work and management;
- the movement of vehicles and delivery of components to Site;
- the movement of plant and personnel within the
- site installing the Proposed Development; and
- the incremental increase in the in-situ infrastructure comprising the Proposed Development.

Residential properties

10.9.56. A residential visual amenity assessment has been undertaken and the detailed findings are presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3].** This focusses only on operational phase effects. The residential visual amenity assessment is discussed further below in relation to the operational phase. Where significant operational phase effects are identified in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** it can be assumed that likely significant effects would also occur during construction.

10.9.57. In addition to the properties identified in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** it is assessed that there would also be significant visual effects at the following properties during construction**:** The Windmill and Scopwick Mill on Heath Road, 5 Thompsons Bottom and 6-7 Thompsons Bottom on Warren Lane.

10.9.58. In total, it is assessed that the residents of 31 dwellings would experience **significant** visual effects during construction.

PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green extending up to Blankney Walks Lane and the railway on the eastern Site boundary

10.9.59. Viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** all lie within this receptor group. Between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green there are many PRoWs, some of which are promoted as circular routes including The Blankney Circuit, The Scopwick Loop and Around Kirkby Green. PRoWs between Scopwick and Blankney also form part of the Spires and Steeples Trail (effects on this linear recreational trail are addressed separately below).

10.9.60. During construction, works associated with the Proposed Development in Springwell East would be at least partially visible from many of these PRoWs. In some cases, activity would be highly prominent as the routes pass through and immediately adjacent to key areas of activity.

10.9.61. Existing mature hedgerows and blocks of woodland would provide some localised screening and filtering of construction from certain parts of the routes. Notably, Trundle Lane acts as a robust visual barrier to views from PRoWs to the south of this route.

10.9.62. During construction, there would be a large or medium scale of change across a wide extent of the PRoW network between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green. Towards the periphery of this tract of the landscape, the scale of change would typically be small. This would be experienced for a short term duration resulting in a substantial magnitude of effect.

10.9.63. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **major** adverse effect on views from PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green, which is considered to be **significant**.

PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189

10.9.64. Viewpoint 1 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this group of receptors. A robust tree belt runs along the line of the Metheringham to Sleaford railway which acts a strong visual barrier to views across Springwell East from the land east of the railway. As such there would be no more than occasional heavily filtered glimpses (mainly in winter months only) of construction activity associated with the Proposed Development from the footpaths between the railway and the B1189. Close to the B1189 any visual change would become almost indiscernible.

10.9.65. There would be a small to negligible scale of change over a localised extent of the PRoW network for a short term duration in this tract of the landscape and this would result in a slight/negligible (tending towards negligible) magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.66. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189, which is considered to be **not significant**.

PRoW between RAF Digby and B1188 (Footpath R5/1)

10.9.67. Viewpoints 16 and 17 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie on this PRoW which runs between the B1191 (Heath Road) at RAF Digby and the B1188 near Sheffield House and crosses a low ridge to the immediate south of Springwell Central.

10.9.68. The western part of the footpath passes to the immediate south of Fields Rw01 and Rw02 in which there would be construction activity. The eastern part of the footpath is set slightly further back from Fields Bk05 and Bk10 and existing mature hedgerows would largely screen views of construction in these fields.

10.9.69. During construction, there would be a large scale of change in views over an intermediate length of the footpath and a medium/small scale of change extending across the remainder of the route. The change would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.70. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the scale of change in the professional opinion of the assessor, tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

PRoWs and lanes between Heath Road, Bloxholm Lane and Green Man Lane extending up to the A15 north of RAF Digby

10.9.71. Viewpoint 19 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this group which principally includes PRoWs Scop/1/1, Scop/2/1 Scop12/1, Scop/12/2, Scop/13/1 and Temp/1/1, Bloxham Lane and Green Man Lane (eastern side of the A15). These routes cross the open Scopwick Heath and have clear views of RAF Digby.

10.9.72. Where the PRoWs cross the eastern edge of Scopwick Heath close to Heath Road, there would be glimpses of construction beyond a low ridge to the south of Heath Road in Fields Bk04, Bk06, Bk15, Bk08, Bk09 and Bk11.

10.9.73. Where PRoW Temp/1/1 approaches the A15 there would be distant glimpses of construction associated with Springwell Substation in Springwell West but this would be much less prominent that the traffic on the A15 and pylons across the landscape which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.74. There would be no discernible view of the construction activities from either Bloxholm Lane or Green Man Lane or the central section of this network of PRoWs (PRoW Scop/1/1 or Scop/1/2).

10.9.75. During construction, there would be a small scale of change in views over a localised section of the PRoW network in this group and a negligible scale of change extending across the remainder of the route. The change would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.76. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **minor** adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Navenby Lane

10.9.77. Viewpoint 22 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this road which runs between the B1191 (Heath Road) at Ashby de la Launde and Toll Bar Cottage on the A15.

10.9.78. Construction of Solar PV development would be visible in Fields Bcd093, Bcd096 and Bcd097 which lie immediately adjacent to this road. A secondary construction compound is also proposed in Field Bcd093. These fields (unlike much of the rest of Navenby Lane) have roadside hedgerows which filter views across them.

10.9.79. During construction there would be a large scale of change along a localised section of Navenby Lane and a medium to small scale of change along the reminder of the route. This would be experienced over a short term duration resulting in a moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.80. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this road, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the sensitivity of the road is at the lower end of medium and the magnitude of

effect is at the lower end of moderate. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

PRoWs between Bloxholm, Ashby de la Launde and Heath Road

10.9.81. Viewpoint 21 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this receptor group which includes PRoW Ashl/3/1, Ashl/2/1 and Main Street through Ashby de la Launde.

10.9.82. From Ashl/3/1, there would be glimpses of construction associated with Solar PV development in Springwell West beyond Heath Road and Slate House Farm (mostly at a distance of over 500m) but this would be broken up by small blocks of woodland in the intervening landscape.

10.9.83. During construction, there would be a medium/small scale of change along a localised section of PRoW Ashl/3/1 but only small to negligible scale of change along the remainder of the routes in this group. This would be experienced over a short term duration resulting in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.84. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from this grouping of routes, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve Footpath

10.9.85. Viewpoint 25 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this PRoW (Ashl/11/1) which runs between the B1191 (Heath Road) south of Peacock Cottages through Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve, Long Plantation and Ten Acre Plantation towards Bloxholm.

10.9.86. The western part of the footpath nearest the B1191 passes to the immediate north of Field Bcd139 in which there would be construction activity including a secondary construction compound. The footpath is set slightly into the woodland and in summer months, from this western part of the footpath, there would be some intermittent screening of construction in this field but in winter months there would be relatively open views of the construction compound. From further east along the footpath as it runs through Long Plantation and Ten Acre Plantation, any construction would be largely screened by a mature hedgerow along the eastern boundary of this field. Upon entering Ten Acre Plantation there would be no view of any construction.

10.9.87. During construction, there would be a large scale of change in views along a localised section of the footpath but only a small or negligible scale of change along the remainder and the greater part of the route.

10.9.88. The change during construction would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.89. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the sensitivity of the footpath (particularly the values associated within it) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

Church Lane, church and properties at Brauncewell

10.9.90. Viewpoint 26 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this receptor group which includes a church, several properties and a minor road serving them south of Springwell West.

10.9.91. The western part of Church Lane which leads off the A15 runs to the immediate south of Field E1. There would be filtered views of construction activity from this section of the lane. Further east along the lane, close to the church and properties, there would be only very small glimpses towards the construction in Field E1 and this would be seen in the context of existing large pylons which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.92. During construction, there would be a medium scale of change in views along a localised section of Church Lane but only a small or negligible scale of change within this wider receptor group. This would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.93. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from Church Lane, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect is at the lower end of moderate. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

PRoWs and lanes south-west between A15 and Brauncewell

10.9.94. Viewpoint 31 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this receptor group which includes

PRoWs Brau/8/1 and Brau/10/1 as well as several PRoWs and a lane south of Brauncewell Quarry.

10.9.95. Mature vegetation around the quarry would screen the construction activity from the PRoWs and the lane to the south of it. There would however be open views of construction activity in Field W1 and Tb5 from Brau/8/1 as it passes immediately adjacent to these fields. There would also be more distant views from Brau/10/1 although Moor Wood and the vegetation around Brauncewell Quarry would partially screen the construction activity.

10.9.96. Where there are views of the construction activity it would be seen in the context of traffic on the A15 and existing high voltage overhead electricity lines and pylons which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.97. There would be a large or medium scale of change in view across an intermediate extent of this network of footpaths but a negligible scale of change in view across several of the routes.

10.9.98. This would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.99. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this network of PRoWs, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as these routes are relatively distant from settlement and next to the A15 which is a detractor to the visual amenity experienced along them. The Proposed Development would be most visible in those locations where the presence of the A15 is most evident. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

Minor Roads to Temple Bruer and Thompsons Bottom Farm

10.9.100. Viewpoints 29, 34 and 35 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie within this receptor group which includes Warren Lane (which runs from the A15 to Thompsons Bottom and the Church of St John the Baptist) and also Temple Road (which runs from the A15 to Temple Bruer).

10.9.101. Warren lane passes between Fields Bcd094 and Bcd 098 in which construction activity associated with Solar PV development would be visible. Temple Road passes between Fields W1, Tb5, Tb3, Tb4 and Bcd127 where again construction activity would be visible.

10.9.102. Construction would be openly visible and highly prominent from the eastern section of Warren Lane up to Thompson Bottom Cottages but beyond this to the west there would be no discernible view of construction. Construction would also be clearly visible over the top of hedgerows along

Temple Road but as it turns away westwards from the Proposed Development, there would be no discernible view due to screening from roadside vegetation.

10.9.103. During construction there would be a large scale of change in view across an intermediate extent of these two roads but a small or negligible scale of change in view along the routes further west. This would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.104. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on views from these two roads, which is considered to be **significant**.

PRoWs and lanes north-west between A15 and Wellingore Heath including New England Lane and Gorse Hill Lane

10.9.105. Viewpoints 34, 36 and 40 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie within this receptor group which includes New England Lane, Gorse Hill Lane, Gorse Lane, The Heath and PRoWs Wlgr/3/1, Wlgr/3/2, Wlgr/2/3 and Wlgr/2/4.

10.9.106. Springwell Substation and BESS compound would be located in Field Tb2 and, during construction this would be a key area of construction activity.

10.9.107. There would be a large scale of change in view along an intermediate extent of Gorse Hill Lane, New England Lane and Wlgr/2/3 (within a distance of no more than 500m to 1km of the Springwell Substation and BESS compound). Beyond this distance, the scale of change in view would be small or negligible. The change during construction would be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.108. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **major/moderate adverse** effect on views from the network of footpaths and lanes immediately north-west of the Springwell Substation, which is considered to be **significant**.

Spires and Steeples Trail

10.9.109. Viewpoints 10 and 12 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie on this recreational trail which passes through the Order Limits in Springwell East from Blankney in the north to Scopwick in the south. The trail passes immediately adjacent to Fields C6, C8 and C9 in which there would be construction activity. The primary construction compound for Springwell East would also be located

in Field C8 and a temporary construction access would cross the trail to the south of Brickyard Plantation.

10.9.110. Due to the absence of an existing hedgerow between the trail and these fields there would be open views of construction activity for the duration of the construction phase.

10.9.111. There would be a large scale of change in views over a limited section of the trail on either side of Brickyard Plantation and a medium scale of change extending across a further localised part of the trail northwards as far as Hall Farm and southwards up to Trundle Lane. Beyond this length of the trail however there would be no view of the construction activity. In total there would be views or glimpses of construction along a maximum 1km length of this 43km trail. This would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.112. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from the Spires and Steeples Trail, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the sensitivity of the trail (particularly the values associated within it) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

Ridges and Furrows Trail

10.9.113. Viewpoint 31 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this trail which at its closest lies approximately 300m to the west of Springwell West beyond Brauncewell Quarry but otherwise mostly passes at least 1km to the south-west of the Proposed Development.

10.9.114. There would be some views of construction activity associated with the Solar PV development in the southern part of Springwell West from a short length of the route between Brauncewell and Brauncewell Quarry but here the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the quarry in the foreground and the A15. Beyond this section of the route, any distant glimpses of the construction activity would be very infrequent, heavily filtered and almost indiscernible.

10.9.115. There would be a small scale of change over a limited section of the route and a negligible scale of change in a few other limited sections of the route for a short term duration and this would result in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.116. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor** adverse effect on views from the Ridges and Furrows Trail, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Viking Way and High Dike

10.9.117. Viewpoint 33 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this trail which at its closest lies over 2.5km to the west of the nearest construction activity in Springwell West. Any distant glimpses of the construction from this route would be very infrequent, heavily filtered and almost indiscernible at this distance.

10.9.118. There would be a negligible scale of change over a very limited section of the route for a short term duration and this would result in a negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.119. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from the Viking Way and High Dike, which is considered to be **not significant**.

A15 trunk road

10.9.120. Viewpoints 27, 28, 29 and 30 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie on this trunk road which runs from Lincoln to Sleaford and carries a large volume of traffic.

10.9.121. Approaching the Site from the north, construction associated with Springwell Substation would potentially first be glimpsed as the road crosses a low ridge close to the junction with Green Man Lane (approximately 2km to the north of Springwell Substation) before the road then drops into a dip and rises across another low ridge at the access to Temple High Grange Farm (just under 1km to the north of Springwell Substation). At this distance, glimpses of construction would form a small component of the view partly due to some screening by Gorse Covert.

10.9.122. Construction activity would become increasingly prominent on the approach to Springwell Substation and then the road would pass adjacent to construction works throughout Springwell West for approximately 4.5km during which time there would initially be open and unrestricted views.

10.9.123. Approaching the Site from the south, construction activity would first be seen on crossing over the crest of a low ridge near the minor road turning to Dale Farm (approximately 900m to the south of Field W1). Beyond Church Lane the road would then passes through Springwell West for approximately 4.5km during which time there would again initially be open and unrestricted views of construction activity.

10.9.124. During construction, there would be a large or medium scale of change in the view along a wide extent of the route between the turning for Temple High Grange Farm in the north and the minor road turning to Dale Farm in the south (a distance of approximately 6.5km). Beyond this section of the road there would be a negligible scale of change in the view. This would be experience over a short term duration (medium term in the localised vicinity of Springwell Substation and BESS) resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.125. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from the A15, which in this case and in recognition of the large number of people who would experience this effect is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the volume of receptors who would experience the view is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

B1191 (Heath Road)

10.9.126. Viewpoints 15, 18, 22, 23 and 24 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** all lie on this road which runs between the A15, Scopwick and Kirkby Green and ultimately continues towards Timberland. As the route passes through RAF Digby, Scopwick and Kirkby Green views are typically contained to these settlements but in between there are open or filtered views across adjoining fields.

10.9.127. At the western end of the B1191 close to the A15, construction activity would be prominent across Fields Bcd123, Bcd 128, Bcd 129, Bcd138 and Bcd139 which all lie immediately adjacent to the road.

10.9.128. Beyond Slate House Farm when travelling in an easterly direction, there would then be no greater than a negligible scale of change in view for the next 3km.

10.9.129. Between RAF Digby and Scopwick, there would also be a large scale of change in view along a short section of the road where a new highway access would be formed and there would be glimpses of some construction activity associated with Solar PV development in Fields Bk04, Bk06, Bk15, Bk08, Bk09 and Bk11.

10.9.130. Between the A15 and the B1188, an increase in construction traffic and vehicle movements would potentially be noticeable. Through Scopwick and eastwards from this village however there would be no view of any construction activity.

10.9.131. Initially in year 1 there would be a large or medium scale of change in the view along an intermediate extent of the route between the A15 and Slate House Farm (a distance of approximately 1.5km) and RAF Digby and Scopwick. Beyond these sections of the road there would be a negligible scale of change in the view. This would be experienced over a short term duration resulting in a moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.132. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from the B1191, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the magnitude of effect (particularly the extent of the road affected) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

B1188

10.9.133. Viewpoints 11 and 20 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** are located on this road which passes west of Springwell East and also east of Springwell Central. Mature hedgerows run along both sides of this road and from the vast majority of it there would be no view at all of any construction activity associated with the Proposed Development.

10.9.134. During construction a new temporary access route would be formed off the B1188 into Springwell East however this and construction traffic using it would only be visible briefly from a short section of the road between Blankney and Scopwick.

10.9.135. During construction there may also be fleeting distant glimpses of the construction activity associated with erection of the Solar PV development in Springwell East and Springwell Central but the Proposed Development would be almost indiscernible at an oblique angle when travelling at speed along the road.

10.9.136. There would be a small scale of change over a very limited section of the road for a short term duration and this would result in a slight/negligible (tending towards negligible) magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, during construction, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from the B1188, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Operation (including maintenance)

10.9.137. Operational effects are assessed at two distinct periods in time; at the completion of construction (year 1) and also at a point in time when it is

assumed that most of the new mitigation planting including hedgerows will have become established (year 10). For the avoidance of doubt the year 1 effects are considered to be medium term effects whilst the year 10 effects are considered to be long term.

Effects on landscape fabric during operation

10.9.138. Once operational, there would be no additional effects on existing landscape fabric over and above those described in relation to the construction phase. However, the effects on landscape fabric which occur during construction would remain throughout the early years of operation. The extent of hedgerow removal is outlined above in relation to the construction phase.

10.9.139. The sensitivity of the existing hedgerows in the landscape has been assessed to be high. Initially, in year 1, there would be small scale change over a wide area and for a medium duration resulting in a slight magnitude of effect.

10.9.140. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there is likely to be a **moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape fabric, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.9.141. By year 10 of operation, the new mitigation planting implemented would have become established and far exceed the amount of hedgerow loss during construction. The new vegetation would make a positive contribution to the landscape fabric. The total length of new hedgerow would be over 15km and the total area of structural woodland planting within the Order Limits as a whole would be approximately 16ha.

10.9.142. By year 10, there would be small scale change over a wide area and for a long duration resulting in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect.

10.9.143. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there is likely to be a **moderate** beneficial effect on existing landscape fabric, which is considered to be **significant**.

Effects on landscape character during operation

10.9.144. Effects during operation on landscape character would typically arise from:

- Introduction of new energy infrastructure into existing agricultural fields including the Solar PV development, the Springwell Substation compound, Satellite Collector Compounds, BESS, internal access tracks, fencing, security measures and ancillary structures;
- Earthworks (up to 5m in height) in the vicinity of Springwell Substation;
- incremental growth of newly established mitigation planting (hedgerows and structural woodland);

- establishment of new wildflower rich grassland in open fields and field margins; and
- regular maintenance visits and operations including habitat management.

10.9.145. During operation (including maintenance), no part of the Proposed Development would be continuously lit as outlined in **ES Volume 1, Chapter 3: Project Description [EN010149/APP/6.1]**. No permanent effects on nighttime character are therefore anticipated.

10.9.146. Based on the viewpoint analysis summarised in **Table 10.11**, the following observations can be made regarding the scale of landscape change across the study area during operation (including maintenance):

- Large scale change in landscape character would occur across all fields in which above ground infrastructure is proposed. This is an unavoidable consequence as fields would fundamentally change from agricultural use to Solar PV development, BESS or substation (notwithstanding the fact that there would be grassland open fields and margins with wildflower beneath the Solar PV modules).
- Initially (in year 1) large, medium and small scale change in landscape character would also be experienced in various directions surrounding the fields in which above ground infrastructure is proposed. With distance from the Proposed Development, the scale of change in landscape character would incrementally decrease and in certain directions the screening effect of established vegetation would reduce the distance over which effects would be experienced. For example, in Springwell East, dense vegetation along the eastern boundary of the Site and along Trundle Lane would notably reduce the distance over which effects on landscape character would be experienced to the east and south of Springwell East.
- In the vicinity of Springwell West, large scale change in landscape character would initially (in year 1) be experienced up to approximately 500m in all directions. Elsewhere large scale change in landscape character would initially (year 1) extend no further than approximately 200-300m from the Solar PV development.
- In the vicinity of Springwell East and Central, medium scale of change in landscape character would initially (year 1) not extend beyond 500m of any above ground infrastructure. In the vicinity of Springwell West medium scale of change in landscape character would initially (year 1) not extend beyond a maximum of 1km from any above ground infrastructure.
- In the vicinity of Springwell East and Central, small scale of change in landscape character would initially (year 1) not extend beyond 1km in any direction from any above ground infrastructure. In the vicinity of

Springwell West small scale change in landscape character would initially (year 1) not extend beyond a maximum of 1.5km from any above ground infrastructure. Beyond these distances any effects on landscape character would be negligible even before any new mitigation planting establishes.

- Once mitigation planting has established and existing hedgerows are managed to a height of 3.5m (year 10), the extent of effects on landscape character would reduce further in the landscape surrounding the Site although large scale change in landscape character would inevitably remain across all fields in which above ground infrastructure itself is proposed.
- By year 10, large scale change in landscape character would remain up to approximately 500m from Field Tb2 (where the Springwell Substation and BESS would be located) and less frequently up to 500m from other fields of Springwell West. Elsewhere large scale change in landscape character would occur no further than 100m from above ground infrastructure in either Springwell East or Central.
- By year 10, medium scale change in landscape character would less frequently remain up to 1km from above ground infrastructure in Springwell West but no further than 200m from fields containing above ground infrastructure in Springwell East and Central.
- By year 10, small scale change in landscape character would not extend beyond 500m from Springwell East or Central. In the vicinity of Springwell West small scale change in landscape character would less frequently still extend up to 1.5km from above ground infrastructure. Beyond these distances any effects on landscape character would be negligible.

Effects on LCA 7: Limestone Heath during operation

10.9.147. The entirety of Springwell Central and Springwell West lie within LCA 7: Limestone Heath as illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.2: Landscape Character Areas [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. Assessment Viewpoints 15 to 20 surround Springwell Central whilst Viewpoints 21 to 40 surround Springwell West but all fall within this LCA.

10.9.148. Whilst Springwell Central and Springwell West extend over a relatively large geographical area (over 5km from north to south and 6km from east to west) and there are subtly different influences on landscape character across this tract of the landscape, the principal characteristics of the landscape remain relatively consistent across LCA 7: Limestone Heath.

10.9.149. Key features of this LCA as reflected in the landscape immediately surrounding Springwell Central and West are a gently undulating landform (tending towards flat across much of the Order Limits) and a sparsely populated, open, intensively farmed, arable landscape with wide views to the skyline in all directions. Scattered woodland copses pepper the whole

of the LCA, which although relatively small are prominent features because of the openness of the landscape. There is a slightly more pronounced landform undulation in the vicinity of Springwell Central and RAF Digby has a slightly greater influence on landscape character here. Along the length of Springwell West, the A15 and a high voltage overhead electricity line are highly prominent linear influences in the landscape.

10.9.150. Whilst the landscape is generally very open, its gentle landform combined with a relatively low profile form of development (in terms of verticality) across most of Springwell Central and Springwell West would ultimately limit the extent of effects on landscape character within LCA 7: Limestone Heath.

10.9.151. This is evidenced by the assessment viewpoints which demonstrate that beyond approximately 1km from Springwell West and 500m from Springwell Central, there would be no greater than a small or negligible scale of change on landscape character.

10.9.152. Any discernible effects on landscape character within LCA 7: Limestone Heath would be restricted to a tract of the wider LCA:

- from Heath Lane in the north to just south of Dunston Pit Plantation and extending west of the A15 as far as Wellingore Heath, Temple Bruer and Brauncewell;
- to the east of the A15, potentially extending up to Heath Road as far as RAF Digby;
- on the eastern side of Heath Road extending up to a series of plantations to the east (Bloxham Woods, Ashby Thorns, Rowston Covert); and
- across the tract of land between RAF Digby, Scopwick, the B1188 and Rowston Covert.

10.9.153. Notably, there would be no impact on the character of the villages (Ashby de la Launde and RAF Digby) that immediately adjoin this defined tract of the LCA.

10.9.154. Nevertheless, within the Order Limits and surrounding them in Springwell Central and West, there would initially be a large to medium scale of change to landscape character reducing to small beyond a maximum distance of 500m from any above ground infrastructure in Springwell Central and beyond a distance of 1km from any above ground infrastructure in Springwell West.

10.9.155. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in land cover; ostensibly the introduction of new Solar PV development, Satellite Collector Compounds, BESS, Springwell Substation and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. The Solar PV

development would, however, be underlain by wildflower rich grassland maintaining a vegetative ground cover throughout the Site.

10.9.156. The extent of manufactured metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be far greater than exists in the landscape at present but this tract of the landscape is not wild or natural without human influence. It is an intensively farmed, working landscape with some strong built influences such as the A15, overhead powerlines, RAF Digby and occasional utilitarian agricultural buildings.

10.9.157. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced as part of the Proposed Development would not be notably different from those already present.

10.9.158. There would be no discernible impact on landform within Springwell Central or most of Springwell West although some localised and subtle manipulation of the landform in Field Tb2 is proposed to integrate the Springwell Substation and BESS into the landscape and soften its appearance.

10.9.159. Whilst there would be several breaks in hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, and some longer lengths of hedgerow removal alongside roads to facilitate highway works, the vast majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.9.160. The height of the proposed structures would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. Gorse Covert in the vicinity of Springwell Substation provides a backdrop and vertical context for this element of the Proposed Development. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape.

10.9.161. In terms of scale in the landscape more generally, whilst the spread of Solar PV development would be extensive, this is a vast open landscape and this sense of scale would remain.

10.9.162. When experienced at close proximity, the new Solar PV development would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but as the landscape is relatively flat and the Solar PV development is relatively low in profile, when experienced from more than a hundred metres or so away, long distance views would remain where they currently exist.

10.9.163. Once constructed, there would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to existing agricultural operations. It would also be experienced in the context of traffic movement along the A15 and the B1191 Heath Road. There

would therefore be limited impact on movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.9.164. There would therefore be no impact on important or recognised skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views.

10.9.165. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (year 1), the large and medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a relatively wide extent of LCA 7: Limestone Heath and would be medium term in duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.166. The sensitivity of LCA 7: Limestone Heath has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, with reference specifically to the tract of the landscape identified above there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.9.167. A considerable amount of new hedgerow and structural woodland planting is proposed throughout Springwell Central and Springwell West, most notably in the following locations:

- alongside PRoWs;
- on both sides of the A15 and Warren Lane;
- along the northern side of the B1191 Heath Road south of Slate House;
- to the north of Sheffield House, south of Slate House Farm, south of Ashby Lodge Cottages and east of Thompson Bottom Farm; and
- around Springwell Substation and BESS in Field Tb2.

10.9.168. Once established (year 10) this new planting would further restrict the extent of effects on landscape character within LCA 7: Limestone Heath. Furthermore, even where it does not entirely screen the Proposed Development it would notably soften its external appearance and would therefore reduce the scale of landscape change even at close proximity.

10.9.169. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation mix, structure and pattern within the LCA. New planting would follow the grain of existing field boundaries.

10.9.170. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (year 10), and notwithstanding the fact that the scale of landscape change would be less than in year 1, it is likely that large and medium scale change would remain over a relatively wide extent of LCA 7: Limestone Heath and would be long term in duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.171. The sensitivity of LCA 7: Limestone Heath has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, with reference specifically

to the following tract of the landscape there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**:

- from Heath Lane in the north to just south of Dunston Pit Plantation and extending west of the A15 as far as Wellingore Heath, Temple Bruer and Brauncewell;
- to the east of the A15, potentially extending up to Heath Road as far as RAF Digby;
- on the eastern side of Heath Road extending up to a series of plantations to the east (Bloxham Woods, Ashby Thorns, Rowston Covert); and
- across the tract of land between RAF Digby, Scopwick, the B1188 and Rowston Covert.

10.9.172. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tightly defined tract of LCA 7: Limestone Heath would be **not significant**.

Effects on LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels during operation

10.9.173. The entirety of Springwell East lies within LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels as illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.2: Landscape Character Areas [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. Assessment Viewpoints 1 to 14 surround Springwell East and fall within this LCA.

10.9.174. Key features of this LCA as reflected in the landscape immediately surrounding Springwell East are a gently undulating lowland with a mixture of field sizes, generally well kept hedgerows and small copses of broadleaved woodland. This combination of gentle landform (which is almost flat within Springwell East) and a mature established vegetation structure would serve to restrict the extent of effects on landscape character within LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels.

10.9.175. This is evidenced by the assessment viewpoints which demonstrate that beyond the railway which defines the eastern boundary of Springwell East; the B1188 to the west; Blankney Walks Lane to the north; and Trundle Lane and PRoW Scop/739/1 to the south there would be only heavily filtered glimpses of the Proposed Development. Any discernible effects on landscape character within LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels would therefore be restricted to this tightly defined tract of the wider LCA.

10.9.176. Notably, there would be no impact on the character of the villages (Blankney, Scopwick or Kirkby Green) that immediately adjoin this tightly defined tract of the LCA.

10.9.177. Nevertheless, within the Order Limits and immediately surrounding them in Springwell East, there would initially be a large to medium scale of change

to landscape character reducing to small beyond a maximum distance of 500m from any above ground infrastructure.

10.9.178. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from a localised change in landcover; ostensibly the introduction of new Solar PV development, a Satellite Collector Compound and ancillary infrastructure such as deer-proof fencing and CCTV into fields which are currently in agricultural land use. The Solar PV development would, however, be underlain by wildflower rich grassland maintaining a vegetative ground cover throughout the Site.

10.9.179. The extent of metallic and glass structures introduced into the landscape would evidently be far greater than exists in the landscape at present but this tract of the landscape is not wild or natural without human influence. It is an intensively farmed, working landscape with occasional utilitarian agricultural buildings and some existing overhead electricity lines with a railway line along its eastern boundary.

10.9.180. Wide, well-made, crushed stone access tracks are already a feature of this tract of landscape and those introduced as part of the Proposed Development would not be notably different from those already present.

10.9.181. There would be no discernible impact on landform within Springwell East and whilst there would be several breaks in the hedgerows to accommodate new access tracks and cable routes, the vast majority of existing mature broadleaf vegetation (including woodland, hedgerows and trees) would remain undisturbed. The pattern and underlying landscape fabric would therefore remain largely undisturbed.

10.9.182. The height of the proposed structures would be comparable with the existing structure of the landscape in terms of existing hedgerows and trees. In terms of verticality therefore there would be limited impact on the scale of the landscape.

10.9.183. The new Solar PV development would foreshorten some views across adjacent fields but as the landscape is relatively flat and well vegetated no long distance views would be affected.

10.9.184. In places the sense of openness would be reduced somewhat but all PRoWs would have an appropriate offset. Throughout Springwell East, the mass of Solar PV development would be frequently broken up by fields which would be retained in agriculture or wide grass strips. Therefore, the Solar PV development would not be oppressive or overbearing within the landscape.

10.9.185. Once constructed, there would be limited movement within the Site except occasional management activities and this would be comparable to

existing agricultural operations. There would therefore be limited impact on movement and tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.9.186. Whilst the woodland blocks which surround Springwell East are visible from a wider extent of the landscape the fields within which the Proposed Development would be located are relatively discrete and therefore there is limited intervisibility with adjoining tracts of the landscape. There would therefore be no impact on skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views.

10.9.187. Prior to the establishment of mitigation planting (year 1), the large and medium scale change identified above would be experienced over an intermediate extent of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels and would be medium term in duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.188. The sensitivity of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, with reference specifically to the tract of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels between the railway which defines the eastern boundary of Springwell East; the B1188 to the west; Blankney Walks Lane to the north; and Trundle Lane and PRoW Scop/739/1 to the south there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.9.189. A considerable amount of new hedgerow planting is proposed throughout Springwell East, particularly alongside PRoWs, and once established (year 10) these would further restrict the extent of effects on landscape character within LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels. Furthermore, even where it does not entirely screen the Proposed Development it would notably soften its external appearance and would therefore reduce the scale of landscape change even at close proximity to the development.

10.9.190. The new planting would be complementary to the existing vegetation structure within the LCA. Some of the PRoWs which become hedge lined on both sides would reflect the character of existing historic lanes in the landscape such as Trundle Lane.

10.9.191. Following the establishment of mitigation planting (year 10), large scale change would be restricted largely to the immediate fields in which above ground infrastructure is situated and medium scale change identified above would be experienced reduced area.

10.9.192. Large and medium scale landscape change would therefore be restricted to a much more localised extent of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels and would be long term in duration resulting in a moderate residual magnitude of effect.

10.9.193. The sensitivity of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels would still be medium/low. However, in year 10 of operation, with reference specifically to the tract of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels between the railway which defines the eastern boundary of Springwell East; the B1188 to the west; Blankney Walks Lane to the north; and Trundle Lane and PRoW Scop/739/1 to the south there is likely to be a **moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape character which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of the effect (particularly the localised extent of the effect) is judged to have a defining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tightly defined tract of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels would be **not significant**.

Effects on visual amenity during operation

10.9.194. Effects during operation on visual amenity would typically arise from views of:

- new energy infrastructure including the Solar PV development, the Springwell Substation compound, Satellite Collector Compounds, BESS, internal access tracks, fencing, security measures and ancillary structures;
- Earthworks (up to 5m in height) in the vicinity of Springwell Substation;
- newly established mitigation planting (hedgerows and structural woodland);
- new wildflower rich grassland in open fields and field margins; and
- regular maintenance operations including habitat management.

Residential properties

10.9.195. A residential visual amenity assessment has been undertaken and the detailed findings are presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]**.

10.9.196. **Table 10.12** below provides a summary of the likely operational phase effects on visual amenity experienced by the residents of the properties assessed. The assessment considered not only the view from within the property but also its primary curtilage (i.e garden space) and also the impact on views when immediately approaching and leaving the property. The assessment considered the effects in year 1 and also year 10 of the operational phase.

Table 10.12 Summary of operational phase visual effects on residential properties

Property	Effect Year 1	Effect Year 10
Scopwick Low Field Farm, Blankney	Major/moderate (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
Eastfield and Westfield Cottages (2 properties), Rowston	Moderate (**significant**)	Moderate/minor (**not significant**)
Sheffield House, Rowston	Moderate (**not significant**)	Minor (**not significant**)
The Maltings, The Hayloft and The Granary (3 properties) Rowston	Major/moderate (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
Slate House Barn, B1191, Ashby de la Launde	Moderate (**not significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
1-2 Slate House Cottage, B1191, Ashby de la Launde	Major (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
3 and 4 Slate House Cottages, B1191, Ashby de la Launde (2 properties)	Major (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
1 and 2 Peacock Lodge Cottages, Ashby de la Launde (2 properties)	Moderate (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)

Property	Effect Year 1	Effect Year 10
The Old Blacksmiths Cottage (Ashby Lodge), A15, Ashby de la Launde	Major/moderate (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
3 and 4 Ashby Lodge Cottages, A15, Ashby de la Launde (2 properties)	Moderate (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
1-2 Ashby Lodge Cottages, A15, Ashby de la Launde	Major/moderate (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
Toll Bar Cottage, A15, Ashby de la Launde	Major/moderate (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
Lupus Lair, A15, Ashby de la Launde	Moderate (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
1-4 Thompson's Bottom, Temple Bruer (4 properties)	Major (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
Gorse Hill Farm, Wellingore	Major/moderate (**significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)
Gorse Hill Bungalow, Wellingore	Moderate (**not significant**)	Moderate (**not significant**)

10.9.197. The residential visual amenity assessment presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3]** and summarised in **Table 10.12** above focussed on properties within a defined radius of above ground infrastructure specifically in order to identify any potentially 'overbearing' effects on

residential visual amenity**.** The Windmill on Heath Road, 5 Thompsons Bottom and 6-7 Thompsons Bottom on Warren Lane were not assessed in detail in the residential visual amenity assessment as they are located over 200m from any above ground infrastructure and were considered too distant from the Proposed Development for 'overbearing' effects to occur, but it is assessed that residents of these properties would also experience significant visual effects in year 1.

10.9.198. In total, it is assessed that the residents of 25 dwellings would experience **significant** visual effects during year 1 but in most cases by year 10 these effects would reduce in magnitude due to the establishment of mitigation and by year 10 would be **not significant**. In each case where a moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant this is because, in the professional opinion of the assessor, the magnitude of effect (particularly the scale of change) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating and this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect. It is considered likely that **significant** visual effects would remain at the Windmill on Heath Road reflecting the fact that views are available from elevated rooms within the converted mill.

PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green extending up to Blankney Walks Lane and the railway on the eastern Site boundary

10.9.199. Viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** all lie within this receptor group. Between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green there are many PRoWs, some of which are promoted as circular routes including The Blankney Circuit, The Scopwick Loop and Around Kirkby Green. PRoWs between Scopwick and Blankney also form part of the Spires and Steeples Trail (effects on this linear recreational trail are addressed separately below).

10.9.200. Initially, the Proposed Development in Springwell East would be at least partially visible from many of these PRoWs and in some cases the Solar PV development would initially be highly prominent as the routes pass through and immediately adjacent to the infrastructure.

10.9.201. Existing mature hedgerows and blocks of woodland would provide some localised screening and filtering of the Proposed Development from certain parts of the routes and notably Trundle Lane acts as a robust visual barrier to views from PRoWs to the south of this route.

10.9.202. All new above ground infrastructure has been designed to be located at least 15m away from any PRoWs and therefore the new infrastructure would not have an overbearing presence on any PRoW.

10.9.203. Whilst a large amount of the farmland within this tract of the landscape between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green would be occupied by Solar PV development (including a Satellite Collector Compound), proportionately at least as many fields would remain in agricultural use and break up the mass of development. There are relatively few sections of PRoW where the Solar PV development would occupy land immediately adjacent to both sides of the route. Views from the PRoWs would therefore be of a mosaic of solar farm development and arable crop. The new infrastructure would essentially sit within a mature agricultural framework and views would remain primarily rural combining agrarian characteristics with those of a solar farm.

10.9.204. In year 1 there would be a large or medium scale of change across a wide extent of the PRoW network between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green. Towards the periphery of the tract of the landscape, the scale of change would typically be small or negligible. This would be experienced for a medium term duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.205. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on views from PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.9.206. A considerable amount of new hedgerow planting is proposed within Springwell East to soften and screen views of the Solar PV development and it is proposed to maintain existing hedgerows to a height of 3.5m. In combination, and once established, these measures would greatly restrict views of the Proposed Development from most of the PRoWs within this tract of the landscape such that by year 10 only heavily filtered glimpses would remain from most PRoWs (particularly in winter months). In a relatively few locations, Solar PV development would remain clearly visible, however.

10.9.207. The new planting would create some more enclosed routes but these would be comparable to the views experienced along Trundle Lane.

10.9.208. In year 10 there would be a residual large or medium scale of change across localised extents of the PRoW network between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green. Throughout most of this network of PRoWs however, the scale of change would be small or negligible. This would be experienced for a long term duration resulting in a moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.209. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there is likely to be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green, which is considered to be **significant**. In this

case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the sensitivity of the footpath network (particularly the values associated within it) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189

10.9.210. Viewpoint 1 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this group of receptors. A robust tree belt runs along the line of the Metheringham to Sleaford railway which acts a strong visual barrier to views across Springwell East from the land east of the railway. As such there would be no more than occasional heavily filtered glimpses (mainly in winter months only) of the Proposed Development from the footpaths between the railway and the B1189. Close to the B1189 any visual change would become almost indiscernible.

10.9.211. There would be a small to negligible scale of change over a localised extent of the PRoW network for a medium term duration in this tract of the landscape and this would result in a slight/negligible (tending towards negligible) magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.212. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189, which is considered to be **not significant**.

10.9.213. There would be no discernible change by year 10 and therefore effects would remain **not significant**.

PRoW between RAF Digby and B1188 (Footpath R5/1)

10.9.214. Viewpoints 16 and 17 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie on this PRoW which runs between the B1191 (Heath Road) at RAF Digby and the B1188 near Sheffield House and crosses a low ridge to the immediate south of Springwell Central.

10.9.215. The western part of the footpath passes to the immediate south of Fields Rw01 and Rw02 over which there would initially be open views of the Solar PV development. The eastern part of the footpath is set slightly further back from Fields Bk05 and Bk10 and existing mature hedgerows would largely screen views of the Solar PV development in these fields.

10.9.216. The Proposed Development was designed specifically so that it was restricted to one side of this footpath to minimise visual impacts on users

and long distance views to the south would be unaffected by the Proposed Development.

10.9.217. In year 1, there would be a large scale of change in views over an intermediate length of the footpath and a medium/small scale of change extending across the remainder of the route. The change as recorded at year 1 would initially be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.218. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.9.219. Mitigation planting in the form of new hedgerows is proposed along the southern boundaries of Fields Rw01 and Rw02. Once these and other existing hedgerows around the boundary of Fields Bk05 and Bk10 have established to a height of 3.5m there would be no view of the Proposed Development except potentially heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation in winter months but this would be barely discernible.

10.9.220. In year 10 there would be a small/negligible scale of change in views along an intermediate section of the trail over a long term duration resulting in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect.

10.9.221. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there would be a minor adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **not significant**.

PRoWs and lanes between Heath Road, Bloxholm Lane and Green Man Lane extending up to the A15 north of RAF Digby

10.9.222. Viewpoint 19 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this group which principally includes PRoWs Scop/1/1, Scop/2/1 Scop12/1, Scop/12/2, Scop/13/1 and Temp/1/1, Bloxham Lane and Green Man Lane (eastern side of the A15). These routes cross the vast open Scopwick Heath and have clear views of RAF Digby.

10.9.223. Where the PRoWs cross the eastern edge of Scopwick Heath close to Heath Road, there would be glimpses of Solar PV development beyond a low ridge to the south of Heath Road. The very top of Solar PV development in Fields Bk04, Bk06, Bk15, Bk08, Bk09 and Bk11 would just be glimpsed over the ridge and intervening hedgerows. The change in visual amenity would be relatively small in the context of the vast foreground fields and traffic on Heath Road.

10.9.224. Where PRoW Temp/1/1 approaches the A15 there would be distant glimpses of the top of the Springwell Substation in Springwell West but this would be much less prominent than the traffic on the A15 and pylons across the landscape which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.225. There would be no discernible view of the Proposed Development from either Bloxholm Lane or Green Man Lane or the central section of this network of PRoWs (PRoW Scop/1/1 or Scop/1/2).

10.9.226. In year 1, there would be a small scale of change in views over a localised section of the PRoW network in this group and a negligible scale of change extending across the remainder of the route. The change as recorded at year 1 would initially be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.227. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **minor** adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **not significant**.

10.9.228. There would be no discernible change by year 10 and therefore effects would remain **not significant**.

Navenby Lane

10.9.229. Viewpoint 22 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this road which runs between the B1191 (Heath Road) at Ashby de la Launde and Toll Bar Cottage on the A15.

10.9.230. Solar PV development is proposed in Fields Bcd093, Bcd096 and Bcd097 which lie immediately adjacent to this road. These fields (unlike much of the rest of Navenby Lane) have roadside hedgerows which filter views across these fields. There would initially (year 1) be views across these hedgerows of Solar PV development in the adjacent fields and more distant glimpses of the Proposed Development from further east along Navenby Lane. There would also be some glimpses of the top of Springwell Substation to the far north west.

10.9.231. In year 1 there would be a large scale of change along a localised section of Navenby Lane and a medium to small scale of change along the reminder of the route. This would be experienced over a medium term duration resulting in a moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.232. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this road, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the sensitivity of the road is at the lower end of medium and the

magnitude of effect is at the lower end of moderate. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

10.9.233. Once existing hedgerows along Navenby Lane are managed to 3.5m in height, this would restrict views of the Proposed Development in immediately adjacent fields although views from further east and west along Navenby Lane would remain.

10.9.234. In year 10 there would be a medium to small scale of change along localised sections of Navenby Lane. This would be experienced over a long term duration resulting in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.235. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there would be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from this road, which is considered to be **not significant**.

PRoWs between Bloxholm, Ashby de la Launde and Heath Road

10.9.236. Viewpoint 21 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this receptor group which includes PRoW Ashl/3/1, Ashl/2/1 and Main Street through Ashby de la Launde.

10.9.237. With the exception of distant glimpses of the Proposed Development there would be no discernible impact on views from either Ashl/2/1 and Main Street through Ashby de la Launde. From Ashl/3/1, there would be glimpses of Solar PV development in Springwell West beyond Heath Road and Slate House Farm (mostly at a distance of over 500m) but this would be broken up by small blocks of woodland in the intervening landscape.

10.9.238. In year 1 there would be a medium/small scale of change along a localised section of PRoW Ashl/3/1 but only small to negligible scale of change along the remainder of the routes in this group. This would be experienced over a medium term duration resulting in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.239. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this grouping of routes, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect has a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

10.9.240. Once mitigation structure planting along Heath Road and south of Slate House Farm has established, this would further screen the Solar PV development in Springwell West.

10.9.241. In year 10 there would be a small scale of change along a localised section of PRoW Ashl/3/1 but only a negligible scale of change along the remainder of the routes in this group. This would be experienced over a long term duration resulting in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.242. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there would be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from this grouping of routes, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve Footpath

10.9.243. Viewpoint 25 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this PRoW (Ashl/11/1) which runs between the B1191 (Heath Road) south of Peacock Cottages through Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve, Long Plantation and Ten Acre Plantation towards Bloxholm.

10.9.244. The western part of the footpath nearest the B1191 passes to the immediate north of Field Bcd139 in which there would be Solar PV development. The footpath is set slightly into the woodland and in summer months, from this western part of the footpath, there would be some intermittent screening of Proposed Development in this field but in winter months there would initially be relatively open views of the Proposed Development set back by approximately 20m into Field Bcd139. From further east along the footpath as it runs through Long Plantation and Ten Acre Plantation, the Solar PV development in Field Bcd 139 would be largely screened by a mature hedgerow along the eastern boundary of this field. Upon entering Ten Acre Plantation there would be no view of the Proposed Development.

10.9.245. In year 1, there would be a large scale of change in views along a localised section of the footpath but only a small or negligible scale of change along the remainder and the greater part of the route.

10.9.246. The change as recorded at year 1 would initially be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.247. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be

significant as the sensitivity of the footpath (particularly the values associated within it) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. This tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

10.9.248. Mitigation planting in the form of a new structural planting belt is proposed along the northern boundary of Field Bcd139. Once this and other existing hedgerows around the boundary of Field Bcd139 have established to a height of 3.5m there would be no views of the Proposed Development.

10.9.249. In year 10 there would be a negligible scale of change in views along a localised section of the PRoW over a long term duration resulting in a negligible magnitude of effect.

10.9.250. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there would be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from the PRoW, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Church Lane, church and properties at Brauncewell

10.9.251. Viewpoint 26 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this receptor group which includes a church, several properties and a minor road serving them south of Springwell West.

10.9.252. The western part of Church Lane which leads off the A15 runs to the immediate south of Field E1 in which there would be Solar PV development and there would be filtered views of the Proposed Development from this section of the lane. Further east along the lane, close to the church and properties, there would be only very small glimpses towards the Proposed Development in Field E1 and this would be seen in the context of existing large pylons which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.253. In year 1, there would be a medium scale of change in views along a localised section of Church Lane but only a small or negligible scale of change within this wider receptor group.

10.9.254. The change as recorded at year 1 would initially be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.255. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from Church Lane, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect is at the lower end of moderate. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance

of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

10.9.256. Once existing hedgerows around the boundary of Field E1 have established to a height of 3.5m views of the Proposed Development would be largely screened from Church Lane.

10.9.257. In year 10 there would be a small scale of change in views along a localised section of the Church Lane over a long term duration resulting in a slight magnitude of effect.

10.9.258. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there would be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from Church Lane, which is considered to be **not significant**.

PRoWs and lanes south-west between A15 and Brauncewell

10.9.259. Viewpoint 31 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this receptor group which includes PRoWs Brau/8/1 and Brau/10/1 as well as several PRoWs and a lane south of Brauncewell Quarry.

10.9.260. Mature vegetation around the quarry would screen the development from the PRoWs and the lane to the south of it. There would however be open views of Solar PV development in Field W1 and Tb5 from Brau/8/1 as it passes immediately adjacent to these fields. There would also be more distant views from Brau/10/1 although Moor Wood and the vegetation around Brauncewell Quarry would partially screen the Proposed Development.

10.9.261. Where there are views of the Proposed Development it would be seen in the context of traffic on the A15 and existing high voltage overhead electricity lines and pylons which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.262. There would be a large or medium scale of change in view across an intermediate extent of this network of footpaths but a negligible scale of change in view across several of the routes.

10.9.263. The change as recorded at year 1 would initially be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.264. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this network of PRoWs, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as these routes are relatively distant

from settlement and next to the A15 which is a detractor to the visual amenity experienced along them. The Proposed Development would be most visible in those locations where the presence of the A15 is most evident. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

10.9.265. There would be no discernible change by year 10 and therefore effects would be remain **not significant**.

Minor Roads to Temple Bruer and Thompsons Bottom Farm

10.9.266. Viewpoints 29, 34 and 35 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie within this receptor group which includes Warren Lane (which runs from the A15 to Thompsons Bottom and the Church of St John the Baptist) and also Temple Road (which runs from the A15 to Temple Bruer).

10.9.267. Warren lane passes between Fields Bcd094 and Bcd 098 in which Solar PV development is proposed. Temple Road passes between Fields W1, Tb5, Tb3, Tb4 and Bcd127.

10.9.268. The eastern end of Warren Lane is unvegetated and there are unrestricted open views cross the surrounding fields but beyond the overhead electricity line to the west, the lane is relatively well enclosed and tree lined. Temple Road, whilst relatively open at the junction with the A15, is otherwise hedgerow lined and characterised by an avenue of mature trees.

10.9.269. Solar PV development would initially be openly visible and highly prominent from the eastern section of Warren Lane up to Thompson Bottom Cottages but beyond this to the west there would be no discernible view of the Proposed Development. Solar PV development would also initially be clearly visible over the top of hedgerows along Temple Road as it passes fields containing development but as it turns away westwards from the Proposed Development, there would be no discernible view due to screening from roadside vegetation. Views of the Solar PV development would be seen in the context of heavy traffic movement on the A15 and prominent pylons which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.270. There would initially be a large or medium scale of change in view across an intermediate extent of these two roads but a small or negligible scale of change in view along the routes further west. The change as recorded at year 1 would initially be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.271. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on views from these two roads, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.9.272. New hedgerow planting is proposed along Warren Lane through Springwell West and existing hedgerows along Temple Road would be enhanced and managed at 3.5m in height.

10.9.273. By year 10 the additional screening from this vegetation would largely screen views of the Proposed Development from these two roads although there would potentially be heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation in winter months. There would also remain open views of the Proposed Development at the junctions with the A15 where visibility splays would be maintained. The vegetation would in itself screen long distance views across the landscape from Warren Lane.

10.9.274. By year 10 there would be a medium scale of change in view across a limited extent of these two roads but negligible scale of change in view along the routes further west. The change as recorded at year 10 would be experienced over a long term duration and would result in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.275. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there would be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from these two roads, is considered to be **not significant**.

PRoWs and lanes north-west between A15 and Wellingore Heath including New England Lane and Gorse Hill Lane

10.9.276. Viewpoints 34, 36 and 40 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie within this receptor group which includes New England Lane, Gorse Hill Lane, Gorse Lane, The Heath and PRoWs Wlgr/3/1, Wlgr/3/2, Wlgr/2/3 and Wlgr/2/4.

10.9.277. Whilst there would generally be no view of the Solar PV development from any of these routes, the Springwell Substation and BESS compound would be located in Field Tb2 and, initially, this would be visible to varying degrees from sections of some of these routes.

10.9.278. The Proposed Development would be most highly prominent from the eastern end of Gorse Hill Lane which runs along the northern boundary of Field Tb2. The view from this section of the lane would be fundamentally altered and the Springwell Substation would dominate the view southwards from this location. West of Gorse Hill Covert on this lane however, the Springwell Substation and BESS would quickly become less prominent. Roadside hedgerows and trees would increasingly filter views

of it. Approaching The Heath and along The Heath itself the Proposed Development would be barely discernible except at a few gated field entrances where there are gaps in roadside hedgerows.

10.9.279. Gorse Hill Covert would largely screen the Springwell Substation from Gorse Lane and Wlgr/3/1, Wlgr/3/2 and Wlgr/2/4 and also in part from Wlgr/2/3 although there would be glimpses of the BESS from these locations.

10.9.280. From New England Lane and parts of Wlgr/2/3 the Springwell Substation and BESS would become a clearly identifiable feature beyond an intervening hedgerow at a distance of approximately 300m to 600m. The Springwell Substation and BESS would in all cases be seen in the context of the existing high voltage overhead electricity lines and pylons which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.281. There would initially be a large or medium scale of change in view along an intermediate extent of Gorse Hill Lane, New England Lane and Wlgr/2/3 (within a distance of no more than 500m to 1km of the Springwell Substation and BESS compound). Beyond this distance, the scale of change in view would be small or negligible. The change as recorded at year 1 would initially be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.282. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on views from the network of footpaths and lanes immediately north west of the Springwell Substation, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.9.283. Extensive structure planting is proposed along the western boundary of Springwell West including in Field Tb2. Once established this would further screen the Springwell Substation and BESS although the upper components of both would remain just visible over the top of this ne vegetation.

10.9.284. By year 10 there would be a medium scale of change in view across a localised extent of Gorse Hill Lane, New England Lane and Wlgr/2/3. The change as recorded at year 10 would be experienced over a long term duration and would result in a moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.285. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this network of footpaths and lanes, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude

of effect is at the lower end of moderate when the network of routes is considered as a whole. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

Spires and Steeples Trail

10.9.286. Viewpoints 10 and 12 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie on this recreational trail which passes through the Order Limits in Springwell East from Blankney in the north to Scopwick in the south. The trail passes immediately adjacent to Fields C6, C8 and C9 which would each contain Solar PV development.

10.9.287. Due to the absence of an existing hedgerow between the trail and the Solar PV development in these fields there would initially be open views of the prominent new infrastructure for approximately 250m south of Brickyard Plantation and then again for approximately 150m north of the same plantation. There would also initially be at least some view of Solar PV development in Field C6 for a 250m length of the route when approaching it from north near Hall Farm and glimpses of Solar PV development in Field C9 when approaching it from the south near Trundle Lane.

10.9.288. As part of the Proposed Development, it is proposed to enhance the surfacing along parts of this trail between Blankney and Scopwick.

10.9.289. The Proposed Development was designed specifically so that it was restricted to one side of this trail to minimise visual impacts on users. Notably no views of the churches at Blankney or Scopwick would be interrupted by the Proposed Development.

10.9.290. In year 1, there would be a large scale of change in views over a limited section of the trail on either side of Brickyard Plantation and a small scale of change extending across a further localised part of the trail northwards as far as Hall Farm and southwards up to Trundle Lane. Beyond this length of the trail however there would be no view of the Proposed Development. In total there would be views or glimpses of the Proposed Development along a maximum of 1km length of this 43km trail.

10.9.291. The change as recorded at year 1 would initially be experienced over a medium term duration and would result in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.292. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from the Spires and Steeples Trail, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the sensitivity of the trail (particularly

the values associated within it) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

10.9.293. Mitigation planting in the form of new hedgerows is proposed along the western boundaries of Fields C8 and C9 and along the northern boundary of Field C6. Once these and other existing hedgerows around the boundary of Field C9 have established to a height of 3.5m there would be no views of the Proposed Development except potentially heavily filtered glimpses through this vegetation in winter months but this would be barely discernible.

10.9.294. In year 10 there would be a small/negligible scale of change in views along a localised section of the trail over a long term duration resulting in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect.

10.9.295. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there would be a **minor** adverse effect on views from the Spires and Steeples Trail, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as magnitude of effect (particularly the scale of change) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

Ridges and Furrows Trail

10.9.296. Viewpoint 31 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this trail which at its closest lies approximately 300m to the west of Springwell West beyond Brauncewell Quarry but otherwise mostly passes at least 1km to the south west of the Proposed Development.

10.9.297. There would be some views of the Solar PV development in the southern part of Springwell West from a short length of the route between Brauncewell and Brauncewell Quarry but here the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the quarry in the foreground and the A15. Beyond this section of the route, any distant glimpses of the Proposed Development would be very infrequent, heavily filtered and almost indiscernible.

10.9.298. There would be a small scale of change over a limited section of the route and a negligible scale of change in a few other limited sections of the route for a medium term duration and this would result in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.299. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there is likely to be a **minor** adverse effect on views from the Ridges and Furrows Way, which is considered to be **not significant**.

10.9.300. There would be no discernible change by year 10 and therefore effects would be remain **not significant**.

Viking Way and High Dike

10.9.301. Viewpoint 33 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this trail which at its closest lies over 2.5km to the west of the nearest above ground infrastructure in Springwell West. Any distant glimpses of the Proposed Development from this route would be very infrequent, heavily filtered and almost indiscernible at this distance.

10.9.302. There would be a negligible scale of change over a very limited section of the route for a medium term duration and this would result in a negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.303. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from the Viking Way and High Dike, which is considered to be **not significant**.

10.9.304. There would be no discernible change by year 10 and therefore effects would be remain **not significant**.

A15 trunk road

10.9.305. Viewpoints 27, 28, 29 and 30 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie on this trunk road which runs from Lincoln to Sleaford and carries a large volume of traffic.

10.9.306. The section of the road which passes through the centre of Springwell West has little roadside vegetation (the exceptions being a length of the road south of the B1191 (Heath Road) where there are broken hedgerows and also a belt of screen planting between Toll Bar Cottage/Lupus Lair and Ashby Lodge). The absence of roadside hedgerows appears to be a localised variation to the trend further north and south of the Blankney Estate where roadside hedgerows are typical along the A15. Along the section of the road between Green Man Lane to the north and the B1191 to the south there are therefore unrestricted open views across the large scale intensively farmed arable land either side of the road. The road itself gently undulates along its length occasionally enabling long distance views from the crest of gentle ridges but more restricted views from dips in between.

10.9.307. Approaching the Site from the north, the top of Springwell Substation would potentially first be glimpsed as the road crosses a low ridge close to the junction with Green Man Lane (approximately 2km to the north of Springwell Substation) before the road then drops into a dip and rises across another low ridge at the access to Temple High Grange Farm (just under 1km to the north of Springwell Substation). As demonstrated by Viewpoint 30, even at 1km to the north, glimpses of Springwell Substation would form a small component of the view partly due to some screening by Gorse Covert.

10.9.308. The Proposed Development would become increasingly prominent on the approach to Springwell Substation and then the road would pass through Springwell West for approximately 4.5km during which time there would initially be open and unrestricted views of first the Springwell Substation and BESS and then the Solar PV development.

10.9.309. Approaching the Site from the south, the Proposed Development would first be seen on crossing over the crest of a low ridge near the minor road turning to Dale Farm (approximately 900m to the south of Field W1). Beyond Church Lane the road would then passes through Springwell West for approximately 4.5km during which time there would again initially be open and unrestricted views of first the Solar PV development and then Springwell Substation and BESS.

10.9.310. Along the full length of the A15 which passes through Springwell West, there are prominent pylons and high voltage overhead electricity lines parallel to the road. The Proposed Development would therefore be seen in the context of this existing prominent infrastructure and the road itself which also has a strong visual influence on the existing view.

10.9.311. The Solar PV development was designed to provide an offset of 25m from the road to ensure that the new infrastructure was not overbearing on the road and to enable the retention of long distance views from the road as outlined in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]**. Gaps in the development were also incorporated specifically to break up the array when travelling along the road. Therefore there would notably be no development in Field Bcd082 which lies between the BESS and Bcd094 or between Fields Bcd106 and Bcd114 and Fields Bcd107 and Bcd115. The Springwell Substation and BESS compound were also specifically located with a considerable offset from the A15 and subtle earthworks (up to 5m in height) are proposed between the A15 and Springwell Substation to partially screen the lower lying elements of the compound from the road.

10.9.312. Notwithstanding the above, initially in year 1 there would be a large or medium scale of change in the view along a wide extent of the route between the turning for Temple High Grange Farm in the north and the minor road turning to Dale Farm in the south (a distance of approximately 6.5km). Beyond this section of the road there would be a negligible scale

of change in the view. This would be experience over a medium term duration resulting in a substantial magnitude of effect.

10.9.313. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on views from the A15, which is considered to be **significant**.

10.9.314. A considerable amount of structure planting is proposed around the Springwell Substation and BESS compound and new hedgerows (or improvements to existing hedgerows where they are present) are proposed alongside the A15 for the full length of the road as it passes through Springwell West. The structure planting around the Springwell Substation and BESS compound would complement and extend Gorse Covert whilst the hedgerows would reflect the pattern of roadside hedgerows further north and south along the A15. Additional blocks of structure planting to the west of the Fields Bcd082, Bcd094, Bcd098, Bcd102 and Bcd106 and structure planting to the north of Bcd 099 and east of Bcd 115 are also proposed.

10.9.315. By year 10 this additional mitigation planting would notably soften views of the Proposed Development and in some places screen it but due to the undulating nature of the road, it is likely that in places the Solar PV development and Springwell Substation would remain highly visible.

10.9.316. By year 10 there would be a large scale of change in the view along certain sections of the route as it passes through Springwell West but only a medium or small scale of change in view along much of the route. Beyond the turning for Temple High Grange Farm in the north and the minor road turning to Dale Farm in the south there would be a negligible scale of change in the view. This would be experience over a long term duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.317. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there is likely to be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from the A15, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the volume of receptors who would experience the view is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

B1191 (Heath Road)

10.9.318. Viewpoints 15, 18, 22, 23 and 24 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** all lie on this road which runs between the A15, Scopwick and Kirkby Green and ultimately continues

towards Timberland. As the route passes through RAF Digby, Scopwick and Kirkby Green views are typically contained to these settlements but in between there are open or filtered views across adjoining fields.

10.9.319. At the western end of the B1191 close to the A15, Solar PV development is proposed in Fields Bcd123, Bcd 128, Bcd 129, Bcd138 and Bcd139 which all lie immediately adjacent to the road.

10.9.320. Initially, Solar PV development would be clearly visible in Fields Bcd 128, Bcd138 and Bcd139 along a length of approximately 600m of the road west of Bloxholm Woods (at its western end near the junction with the A15). This section of the road is busy with fast moving traffic and there is no footway to facilitate safe pedestrian use. At the western end of the road, the Solar PV development would be highly prominent and result in a large scale of change in view but it would be seen in the context of existing high voltage overhead power lines and traffic on the A15. East of Bloxholm Woods, and up to Slate House Farm (a further approximately 850m), hedgerows alongside Heath Road would heavily filter views of development in Fields Bcd123 and Bcd 129 (particularly when taking account of the additional growth likely to occur before operation).

10.9.321. Beyond Slate House Farm when travelling in an easterly direction, there would then be no greater than a negligible scale of change in view for the next 3km.

10.9.322. Between RAF Digby and Scopwick the very top of Solar PV development in Fields Bk04, Bk06, Bk15, Bk08, Bk09 and Bk11 would just be glimpsed over the ridge and intervening hedgerows. The change in visual amenity would be small in the context of the foreground fields and traffic on the B1191.

10.9.323. Through Scopwick and eastwards from this village there would be no view of the Proposed Development.

10.9.324. Initially in year 1 there would be a large or medium scale of change in the view along a localised extent of the route between the A15 and Slate House Farm (a distance of approximately 1.5km) and a small scale of change in the view between RAF Digby and Scopwick. Beyond these sections of the road there would be a negligible scale of change in the view. This would be experience over a medium term duration resulting in a moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.325. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there is likely to be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from the B1191, which in this case given that the Proposed Development would mainly be visible at the western end close to the A15 and existing pylons (which are an existing detractor in the landscape) is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has

been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect (particularly the localised extent of the route affected) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

10.9.326. An extensive block of mitigation structure planting is proposed along the northern and southern sides of the B1191 adjacent to Fields Bcd123, Bcd 128, Bcd 129 and Bcd139 and hedgerows are proposed adjacent to Field Bcd138. By year 10 these would substantially screen any view of the Solar PV development along most of this section of Heath Road. At the junction with the A15 there would remain a clear view of the Proposed Development but otherwise there would be only small glimpses (mainly in winter months).

10.9.327. By year 10 there would be a large or medium scale of change in the view along a limited extent of the route near the A15 and a small scale of change in the view between RAF Digby and Scopwick. Beyond these sections of the road there would be a negligible scale of change in the view. This would be experience over a long term duration resulting in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect.

10.9.328. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there is likely to be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from the A15, is considered to be **not significant**.

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10.9.329. Viewpoints 11 and 20 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** are located on this road which passes approximately 300m to the west of any above ground infrastructure in Springwell East and also approximately 300m to the east of any above ground infrastructure in Springwell Central. Mature hedgerows run along both sides of this road and from the vast majority of the road there would be no view at all of the Proposed Development.

10.9.330. In year 1 there may be a fleeting distant glimpse of the Solar PV development in Springwell East whilst travelling past an existing farm access junction near Scopwick House and also at the location where some hedgerow would have been removed for highway access during construction. There may also be a heavily filtered glimpse through roadside hedgerows of Proposed Development in Springwell Central but the Proposed Development would be almost indiscernible at an oblique angle when travelling at speed along the road.

10.9.331. There would be a small to negligible scale of change over a very limited section of the road for a medium term duration and this would result in a

slight/negligible (tending towards negligible) magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.332. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, in year 1 of operation, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from the B1188, which is considered to be **not significant**.

10.9.333. Once mitigation hedgerows have established by year 10, there would be a negligible view of the Proposed Development. Therefore, in year 10 of operation, there is likely to be a **negligible** adverse effect on views from the B1188, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Decommissioning

10.9.334. The decommissioning phase would last up to two years and may be undertaken in phases.

10.9.335. As detailed in **ES Volume 2, Appendix 10.2: Baseline Landscape Character Appraisal [EN010149/APP/6.2]**, the decommissioning phase effects are considered to be short term in duration as they would only be visible in any given location for a maximum of two years.

Effects on landscape fabric during decommissioning

10.9.336. During decommissioning, there would be a negligible impact on existing (or newly established) landscape fabric. Newly established hedgerows would typically not be affected by decommissioning activities. The highway improvements undertaken for construction would also serve the operational requirements and decommissioning and where necessary, replacement hedgerows would have been aligned along the new highway verge taking account of sight lines as necessary. Therefore no additional hedgerow removal would be necessary to facilitate highway works. Removal of cables, where necessary could be undertaken without removal of hedgerows.

10.9.337. By year 40 at decommissioning, there would be small scale change over a wide area and for a long duration resulting in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect.

10.9.338. Therefore, at decommissioning, there is likely to be a **moderate** beneficial effect on existing landscape fabric, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the total extent of new landscape fabric established would make a notable positive contribution to the green infrastructure of the landscape and have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

Effects on landscape character during decommissioning

10.9.339. Effects during the decommissioning phase on landscape character would arise from:

- short-term change of farmland to a decommissioning site including the formation of temporary decommissioning compounds (with associated temporary night time lighting) and access tracks;
- increased vehicular movement and personnel in the landscape dismantling and removing the component parts of the Proposed Development;
- highways management;
- underground cable removal; and
- the incremental decrease in the in-situ infrastructure comprising the Proposed Development.

10.9.340. Based on the viewpoint analysis summarised in **Table 10.11**, the following observations can be made regarding the scale of landscape change across the study area during decommissioning:

- Large scale change in landscape character would occur across all fields in which components of the Proposed Development are being dismantled and removed. This is an unavoidable consequence of decommissioning as fields temporarily become a decommissioning site.
- Large, medium and small scale change in landscape character would also be experienced in various directions surrounding the fields in which decommissioning takes place. With distance from the decommissioning activities, the scale of change in landscape character would incrementally decrease and in certain directions the screening effect of established vegetation would reduce the distance over which effects would be experienced. For example in Springwell East, dense vegetation along the eastern boundary of the Site and along Trundle Lane would notably reduce the distance over which decommissioning effects on landscape character would be experienced to the east and south of Springwell East.
- In the vicinity of Springwell West, large scale change in landscape character would be experienced up to approximately 500m in all directions. Elsewhere large scale change in landscape character would extend no further than approximately 200-300m from any decommissioning activity.
- In the vicinity of Springwell East and Central, medium scale of change in landscape character would not extend beyond 500m of any decommissioning activity. In the vicinity of Springwell West medium scale of change in landscape character would not extend beyond a maximum of 1km from any decommissioning activity.

- In the vicinity of Springwell East and Central, small scale of change in landscape character would not extend beyond 1km in any direction from any decommissioning activity. In the vicinity of Springwell West small scale change in landscape character would not extend beyond a maximum of 1.5km from any decommissioning activity. Beyond these distances any effects on landscape character would be negligible.

Effects on LCA 7: Limestone Heath during decommissioning

10.9.341. The entirety of Springwell Central and Springwell West lie within LCA 7: Limestone Heath as illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.2: Landscape Character Areas [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. Assessment Viewpoints 15 to 20 surround Springwell Central whilst Viewpoints 21 to 40 surround Springwell West but all fall within this LCA.

10.9.342. A combination of gentle landform and a mature established vegetation structure (including that established as part of the Proposed Development) would serve to restrict the extent of effects during decommissioning on landscape character within LCA 7: Limestone Heath.

10.9.343. Any discernible effects on landscape character during decommissioning within LCA 7: Limestone Heath would be restricted to a tract of the wider LCA defined as follows:

- from Heath Lane in the north to just south of Dunston Pit Plantation and extending west of the A15 as far as Wellingore Heath, Temple Bruer and Brauncewell;
- to the east of the A15, potentially extending up to Heath Road as far as RAF Digby;
- on the eastern side of Heath Road extending up to a series of plantations to the east (Bloxham Woods, Ashby Thorns, Rowston Covert); and
- across the tract of land between RAF Digby, Scopwick, the B1188 and Rowston Covert.

10.9.344. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from decommissioning activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the site and the incremental removal of Solar PV development, Satellite Collector Compounds, BESS, Springwell Substation and ancillary infrastructure such as fencing and CCTV from fields which are currently in agricultural land use.

10.9.345. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and decommissioning movements across the Site and therefore there would be a short period of relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape. This would be more noticeable in Springwell Central than in Springwell West where decommissioning

activity would be experienced in the context of existing heavy traffic movement along the A15.

10.9.346. Decommissioning would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland, which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.9.347. There would be no impact on skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views during decommissioning and notably no impact on the character of the surrounding villages (Ashby de la Launde and RAF Digby).

10.9.348. The large and medium scale change identified above would be experienced over a relatively wide extent of LCA 7: Limestone Heath and would be short term in duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.349. The sensitivity of LCA 7: Limestone Heath has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, during decommissioning, with reference specifically to the following tract of landscape there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**:

- from Heath Lane in the north to just south of Dunston Pit Plantation and extending west of the A15 as far as Wellingore Heath, Temple Bruer and Brauncewell;
- to the east of the A15, potentially extending up to Heath Road as far as RAF Digby;
- on the eastern side of Heath Road extending up to a series of plantations to the east (Bloxham Woods, Ashby Thorns, Rowston Covert); and
- across the tract of land between RAF Digby, Scopwick, the B1188 and Rowston Covert.

10.9.350. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tightly defined tract of LCA 7: Limestone Heath would be **not significant**.

Effects on LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels during decommissioning

10.9.351. The entirety of Springwell East lies within LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels as illustrated in **ES Volume 2, Figure 10.2: Landscape Character Areas [EN010149/APP/6.2]**. Assessment Viewpoints 1 to 14 surround Springwell East and fall within this LCA.

10.9.352. A combination of gentle landform (which is almost flat within Springwell East) and a mature established vegetation structure (including that established as part of the Proposed Development) would serve to restrict

the extent of effects during decommissioning on landscape character within LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels.

10.9.353. Within the Order Limits and immediately surrounding them in Springwell East, there would be a large to medium scale of change to landscape character reducing to small beyond a maximum distance of 500m from any above ground infrastructure. The extent of large and medium scale change would be less than during construction due to the additional screening provided by newly established hedgerows as part of the Proposed Development.

10.9.354. The effect on landscape character would arise principally from decommissioning activity including the movement of materials, vehicles and personnel around the site and the incremental removal of Solar PV development, a Satellite Collector Compound and ancillary infrastructure such as deer-proof fencing and CCTV from fields which are currently in agricultural land use.

10.9.355. There would be intermittent periods of relatively intense human activity and decommissioning movements across the Site and therefore there would a short period of relatively large impact on tranquillity experienced in the landscape.

10.9.356. Decommissioning would result in some temporary stockpiles of soil and areas of bare earth, but as this is arable farmland which is cultivated typically on an annual basis, this would not be out of character in this landscape.

10.9.357. There would be no impact on existing vegetation and the pattern and underlying landscape fabric would remain largely undisturbed.

10.9.358. Whilst the woodland blocks which surround Springwell East are visible from a wider extent of the landscape the fields within which the Proposed Development would be located are relatively discrete and therefore there is limited intervisibility with adjoining tracts of the landscape. There would therefore be no impact on skylines, horizons, vistas or long distance views during decommissioning and notably no impact on the character of the surrounding villages (Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green).

10.9.359. The large and medium scale change identified above would be experienced over an intermediate extent of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels and would be short term in duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.360. The sensitivity of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, during decommissioning, with reference specifically to the tract of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels between the railway which defines the eastern boundary of Springwell East; the B1188

to the west; Blankney Walks Lane to the north; and Trundle Lane and PRoW Scop/739/1 to the south there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on existing landscape character, which is considered to be **significant**. Any effects on landscape character beyond this tightly defined tract of LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels would be **not significant**.

Effects on visual amenity during decommissioning

10.9.361. Effects during decommissioning on visual receptors would typically arise from views of:

- temporary decommissioning compounds;
- highways management;
- the movement of vehicles and removal of components from Site;
- the movement of plant and personnel within the site removing the Proposed Development; and
- the incremental decrease in the in-situ infrastructure comprising the Proposed Development.

Residential properties

10.9.362. A residential visual amenity assessment has been undertaken and the detailed findings are presented in **ES Volume 3, Appendix 10.5: Residential Visual Amenity Assessment [EN010149/APP/6.3].** This focusses only on operational phase effects. The residential visual amenity assessment is discussed further above in relation to the operational phase. Most of the properties that would experience significant effects during construction and in the early years of operation would become screened from the Proposed Development over a 40-year period by mitigation planting such that they would not experience significant effects during decommissioning.

10.9.363. It is assessed that the residents of only four properties would experience **significant** visual effects during decommissioning, namely Scopwick Low Field Farm, The Windmill and Scopwick Mill on Heath Road and Gorse Hill Farm.

PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green extending up to Blankney Walks Lane and the railway on the eastern Site boundary

10.9.364. Viewpoints 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** all lie within this receptor group. Between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green there are many PRoWs, some of which are promoted as circular routes including The Blankney Circuit, The Scopwick Loop and Around Kirkby Green. PRoWs between Scopwick and Blankney also form part of the Spires and

Steeples Trail (effects on this linear recreational trail are addressed separately below).

10.9.365. During decommissioning, works associated with removing the Proposed Development in Springwell East would be at least partially visible from many of these PRoWs and in some cases activity would be highly prominent as the routes pass through and immediately adjacent to key areas of the activity.

10.9.366. Existing and newly established mature hedgerows and blocks of woodland would provide some localised screening and filtering of decommissioning from certain parts of the routes and notably Trundle Lane acts as a robust visual barrier to views from PRoWs to the south of this route.

10.9.367. During decommissioning, there would be a large or medium scale of change across a wide extent of the PRoW network between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green. Towards the periphery of this tract of the landscape, the scale of change would typically be small or negligible. This would be experienced for a short term duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.368. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there is likely to be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on views from PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green, which is considered to be **significant**.

PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189

10.9.369. Viewpoint 1 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this group of receptors. A robust tree belt runs along the line of the Metheringham to Sleaford railway which acts a strong visual barrier to views across Springwell East from the land east of the railway. As such there would be no more than occasional heavily filtered glimpses (mainly in winter months only) of decommissioning activity associated with the Proposed Development from the footpaths between the railway and the B1189. Close to the B1189 any visual change would become almost indiscernible.

10.9.370. There would be a small to negligible scale of change over a localised extent of the PRoW network for a short term duration in this tract of the landscape and this would result in a slight/negligible (tending towards negligible) magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.371. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189, which is considered to be **not significant**.

PRoW between RAF Digby and B1188 (Footpath R5/1)

10.9.372. Viewpoints 16 and 17 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie on this PRoW which runs between the B1191 (Heath Road) at RAF Digby and the B1188 near Sheffield House and crosses a low ridge to the immediate south of Springwell Central.

10.9.373. Newly established hedgerows would screen most of the decommissioning activity in Fields Rw01, Rw02, Bk05 and Bk10.

10.9.374. During decommissioning, there would be a small/negligible scale of change in views over an intermediate length of the footpath for a short term duration and this would result in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.375. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there would be a **minor** adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **not significant.**

PRoWs and lanes between Heath Road, Bloxholm Lane and Green Man Lane extending up to the A15 north of RAF Digby

10.9.376. Viewpoint 19 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this group which principally includes PRoWs Scop/1/1, Scop/2/1 Scop12/1, Scop/12/2, Scop/13/1 and Temp/1/1, Bloxham Lane and Green Man Lane (eastern side of the A15). These routes cross the vast open Scopwick Heath and have clear views of RAF Digby.

10.9.377. Where the PRoWs cross the eastern edge of Scopwick Heath close to Heath Road, there would be glimpses of decommissioning beyond a low ridge to the south of Heath Road in Fields Bk04, Bk06, Bk15, Bk08, Bk09 and Bk11.

10.9.378. Where PRoW Temp/1/1 approaches the A15 there would be distant glimpses of decommissioning associated with Springwell Substation in Springwell West but this would be much less prominent that the traffic on the A15 and pylons which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.379. There would be no discernible view of the decommissioning activities from either Bloxholm Lane or Green Man Lane or the central section of this network of PRoWs (PRoW Scop/1/1 or Scop/1/2).

10.9.380. During decommissioning, there would be a small scale of change in views over a localised section of the PRoW network in this group and a

negligible scale of change extending across the remainder of the route. The change would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.381. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there would be a **minor** adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Navenby Lane

10.9.382. Viewpoint 22 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this road which runs between the B1191 (Heath Road) at Ashby de la Launde and Toll Bar Cottage on the A15.

10.9.383. Decommissioning of Solar PV development would be visible in Fields Bcd093, Bcd096 and Bcd097 which lie immediately adjacent to this road. A secondary decommissioning compound is also proposed in Field Bcd093. These fields (unlike much of the rest of Navenby Lane) have roadside hedgerows which filter views across them.

10.9.384. During decommissioning there would be a medium to small scale of change along a localised section of Navenby Lane. This would be experienced over a short term duration resulting in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.385. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there would be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from this road, which is considered to be **not significant**.

PRoWs between Bloxholm, Ashby de la Launde and Heath Road

10.9.386. Viewpoint 21 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this receptor group which includes PRoW Ashl/3/1, Ashl/2/1 and Main Street through Ashby de la Launde.

10.9.387. From Ashl/3/1, there would be glimpses of decommissioning associated with Solar PV development in Springwell West beyond Heath Road and Slate House Farm (mostly at a distance of over 500m) but this would be broken up by small blocks of woodland in the intervening landscape.

10.9.388. During decommissioning, there would be a medium/small scale of change along a localised section of PRoW Ashl/3/1 but only small to negligible scale of change along the remainder of the routes in this group. This would be experienced over a short term duration resulting in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.389. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there would be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from this grouping of routes, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve Footpath

10.9.390. Viewpoint 25 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this PRoW (Ashl/11/1) which runs between the B1191 (Heath Road) south of Peacock Cottages through Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve, Long Plantation and Ten Acre Plantation towards Bloxholm.

10.9.391. Newly established structure planting in Field Bcd139 would screen most of the decommissioning activity in this field.

10.9.392. During decommissioning, there would be a small scale of change in views along a localised section of the footpath and a negligible scale of change along the remainder and the greater part of the route.

10.9.393. The change during decommissioning would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.394. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there would be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from this PRoW, which in this case is considered to be **not significant**.

Church Lane, church and properties at Brauncewell

10.9.395. Viewpoint 26 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this receptor group which includes a church, several properties and a minor road serving them south of Springwell West.

10.9.396. The western part of Church Lane which leads off the A15 runs to the immediate south of Field E1. There would be heavily filtered views of decommissioning activity from this section of the lane. Further east along the lane, close to the church and properties, there would be only very small glimpses towards the decommissioning in Field E1 and this would be seen in the context of existing large pylons which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.397. During decommissioning, there would be a small scale of change in views along a localised section of Church Lane and only a small or negligible scale of change within this wider receptor group. This would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.398. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during construction, there would be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from Church Lane, which is considered to be **not significant**.

PRoWs and lanes south-west between A15 and Brauncewell

10.9.399. Viewpoint 31 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies within this receptor group which includes PRoWs Brau/8/1 and Brau/10/1 as well as several PRoWs and a lane south of Brauncewell Quarry.

10.9.400. Mature vegetation around the quarry would screen the decommissioning activity from the PRoWs and the lane to the south of it. There would however be open views of decommissioning activity in Field W1 and Tb5 from Brau/8/1 as it passes immediately adjacent to these fields. There would also be more distant views from Brau/10/1 although Moor Wood and the vegetation around Brauncewell Quarry would partially screen the decommissioning activity.

10.9.401. Where there are views of the decommissioning activity it would be seen in the context of traffic on the A15 and existing high voltage overhead electricity lines and pylons which are an existing detractor in the landscape.

10.9.402. There would be a large or medium scale of change in view across an intermediate extent of this network of footpaths but a negligible scale of change in view across several of the routes.

10.9.403. This would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.404. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from this network of PRoWs, which is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as these routes are relatively distant from settlement and next to the A15 which is a detractor to the visual amenity experienced along them. The Proposed Development would be most visible in those locations where the presence of the A15 is most evident. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

Minor Roads to Temple Bruer and Thompsons Bottom Farm

10.9.405. Viewpoints 29, 34 and 35 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie within this receptor group which includes Warren Lane (which runs from the A15 to Thompsons Bottom

and the Church of St John the Baptist) and also Temple Road (which runs from the A15 to Temple Bruer).

10.9.406. Newly established hedgerows would largely screen decommissioning activity from Warren Lane and Temple Lane but some views would remain at the two junctions with the A15.

10.9.407. During decommissioning there would be a medium scale of change in view across a limited extent of these two roads but negligible scale of change in view along the routes further west. During decommissioning, the effects would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.408. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there would be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from these two roads, is considered to be **not significant**.

PRoWs and lanes north-west between A15 and Wellingore Heath including New England Lane and Gorse Hill Lane

10.9.409. Viewpoints 34, 36 and 40 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie within this receptor group which includes New England Lane, Gorse Hill Lane, Gorse Lane, The Heath and PRoWs Wlgr/3/1, Wlgr/3/2, Wlgr/2/3 and Wlgr/2/4.

10.9.410. Springwell Substation and BESS compound would be located in FieldTb2 and, during decommissioning this would be a key area of decommissioning activity.

10.9.411. There would initially be a large scale of change in view along an intermediate extent of Gorse Hill Lane, New England Lane and Wlgr/2/3 (within a distance of no more than 500m to 1km of the Springwell Substation and BESS compound). Beyond this distance, the scale of change in view would be small or negligible. The change during decommissioning would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.412. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there would be a **major/moderate** adverse effect on views from the network of footpaths and lanes immediately north-west of the Springwell Substation, which is considered to be **significant**.

Spires and Steeples Trail

10.9.413. Viewpoints 10 and 12 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie on this recreational trail which

passes through the Order Limits in Springwell East from Blankney in the north to Scopwick in the south. The trail passes immediately adjacent to Fields C6, C8 and C9 which would each experience decommissioning activity. The primary decommissioning compound for Springwell East would also be located in Field C8 and a temporary decommissioning access would cross the trail to the south of Brickyard Plantation.

10.9.414. Newly established hedgerows would screen most of the decommissioning activity in Fields C6, C8 and C9 but the access track would be visible.

10.9.415. There would be a medium scale of change in views over a limited section of the trail on either side of Brickyard Plantation and a small scale of change extending across a further localised part of the trail northwards as far as Hall Farm and southwards up to Trundle Lane. Beyond this length of the trail however there would be no view of the decommissioning activity. In total there would be views or glimpses of decommissioning along a maximum 1km length of this 43km trail. This would be experienced over a short term duration and would result in a slight magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.416. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there would be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from the Spires and Steeples Trail, which in this case is considered to be **not significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be not significant as the magnitude of effect (particularly the scale of change taking account of additional screening) is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a moderate/minor effect than a major/moderate effect.

Ridges and Furrows Trail

10.9.417. Viewpoint 31 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this trail which at its closest lies approximately 300m to the west of Springwell West beyond Brauncewell Quarry but otherwise mostly passes at least 1km to the south-west of the Proposed Development.

10.9.418. There would be some views of decommissioning activity associated with the Solar PV development in the southern part of Springwell West from a short length of the route between Brauncewell and Brauncewell Quarry but here the Proposed Development would be seen in the context of the quarry in the foreground and the A15. Beyond this section of the route, any distant glimpses of the decommissioning activity would be very infrequent, heavily filtered and almost indiscernible.

10.9.419. There would be a small scale of change over a limited section of the route and a negligible scale of change in a few other limited sections of the route for a short term duration and this would result in a slight/negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.420. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there is likely to be a **minor** adverse effect on views from the Ridges and Furrows Trail, which is considered to be **not significant**.

Viking Way and High Dike

10.9.421. Viewpoint 33 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lies on this trail which at its closest lies over 2.5km to the west of the nearest decommissioning activity in Springwell West. Any distant glimpses of the decommissioning from this route would be very infrequent, heavily filtered and almost indiscernible at this distance.

10.9.422. There would be a negligible scale of change over a very limited section of the route for a short term duration and this would result in a negligible magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.423. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be high/medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from the Viking Way and High Dike, which is considered to be **not significant**.

A15 trunk road

10.9.424. Viewpoints 27, 28, 29 and 30 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** lie on this trunk road which runs from Lincoln to Sleaford and carries a large volume of traffic.

10.9.425. Approaching the Site from the north, decommissioning works associated with Springwell Substation would potentially first be glimpsed as the road crosses a low ridge close to the junction with Green Man Lane (approximately 2km to the north of Springwell Substation) before the road then drops into a dip and rises across another low ridge at the access to Temple High Grange Farm (just under 1km to the north of Springwell Substation). At this distance, glimpses of decommissioning would form a small component of the view partly due to some screening by Gorse Covert.

10.9.426. Decommissioning activity would become increasingly prominent on the approach to Springwell Substation and then the road would pass adjacent to decommissioning works throughout Springwell West for approximately 4.5km during which time there would initially be open and unrestricted views.

10.9.427. Approaching the Site from the south, decommissioning activity would first be seen on crossing over the crest of a low ridge near the minor road turning to Dale Farm (approximately 900m to the south of Field W1). Beyond Church Lane the road would then passes through Springwell West for approximately 4.5km during which time there would again initially be open and unrestricted views of decommissioning activity.

10.9.428. During decommissioning, there would be a large or medium scale of change in the view along a wide extent of the route between the turning for Temple High Grange Farm in the north and the minor road turning to Dale Farm in the south (a distance of approximately 6.5km). Beyond this section of the road there would be a negligible scale of change in the view. This would be experience over a short term duration resulting in a substantial/moderate magnitude of effect.

10.9.429. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium/low. Therefore, during decommissioning, there is likely to be a **moderate** adverse effect on views from the A15, which is considered to be **significant**. In this case the moderate effect has been assessed to be significant as the volume of receptors who would experience the view is judged to have a determining influence on the overall significance rating. In the professional opinion of the assessor, this tips the balance of significance closer towards a major/moderate effect than a moderate/minor effect.

B1191 (Heath Road)

10.9.430. Viewpoints 15, 18, 22, 23 and 24 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** all lie on this road which runs between the A15, Scopwick and Kirkby Green and ultimately continues towards Timberland. As the route passes through RAF Digby, Scopwick and Kirkby Green views are typically contained to these settlements but in between there are open or filtered views across adjoining fields.

10.9.431. At the western end of the B1191 close to the A15, decommissioning activity would be prominent across Field Bcd138 lies immediately adjacent to the road but new structural planting along Heath Road would screen works in other fields.

10.9.432. Beyond Slate House Farm when travelling in an easterly direction, there would then be no greater than a negligible scale of change in view for the next 3km.

10.9.433. Between RAF Digby and Scopwick, there would be a large scale of change in view along a short section of the road where a new highway access would be formed and there would be glimpses of some decommissioning activity associated with Solar PV development in Fields Bk04, Bk06, Bk15, Bk08, Bk09 and Bk11.

10.9.434. Between the A15 and the B1188, an increase in decommissioning traffic and vehicle movements would potentially be noticeable. Through Scopwick and eastwards from this village however there would be no view of any decommissioning activity.

10.9.435. During decommissioning there would be a large or medium scale of change in the view along a localised extent of the route between the A15 and Slate House Farm (a distance of approximately 1.5km) and RAF Digby and Scopwick. Beyond these sections of the road there would be a negligible scale of change in the view. This would be experience over a short term duration resulting in a moderate/slight magnitude of effect.

10.9.436. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there is likely to be a **moderate/minor** adverse effect on views from the B1191, which is considered to be **not significant**.

B1188

10.9.437. Viewpoints 11 and 20 presented in **ES Volume 4: Landscape Visualisations [EN010149/APP/6.4]** are located on this road which passes west of Springwell East and also east of Springwell Central. Mature hedgerows run along both sides of this road and from the vast majority of it there would be no view at all of any decommissioning activity associated with the Proposed Development.

10.9.438. During decommissioning a new temporary access route would be formed off the B1188 into Springwell East however this and decommissioning traffic using it would only be visible briefly from a short section of the road between Blankney and Scopwick.

10.9.439. There would be a small scale of change over a very limited section of the road for a short term duration and this would result in a slight/negligible (tending towards negligible) magnitude of effect on visual amenity.

10.9.440. The sensitivity of this receptor group has been assessed to be medium. Therefore, during decommissioning, there is likely to be a **minor/negligible** adverse effect on views from the B1188, which is considered to be **not significant**.

10.10. Opportunities for enhancement

10.10.1. Opportunities for environmental enhancement in relation to landscape and visual are detailed in the **Design Approach Document [EN010149/APP/7.3]** and have not been considered within this assessment.

10.11. Monitoring requirements

10.11.1. A programme of monitoring relating to the establishment and maintenance of the mitigation structure planting and new habitats is set out in the **oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9].**

10.12. Difficulties and uncertainties

10.12.1. There have been no difficulties or uncertainties encountered in undertaking the assessment presented in this chapter.

10.13. Summary

10.13.1. A summary of the assessment is presented in **Table 10.13** which, for each receptor, outlines the sensitivity of the receptor, the magnitude and the significance of the effects on those receptors (taking account of any additional mitigation proposed).

10.13.2. As outlined above in **Section 10.11** the only monitoring requirements relevant to landscape and visual amenity would be a programme of monitoring relating to the establishment and maintenance of the landscape mitigation planting and new habitats which is set out in the **oLEMP [EN010149/APP/7.9].**

Table 10.13 Assessment summary

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
Landscape effects				
Landscape fabric (woodland, trees and hedgerows)	Construction	high	slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high	slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high	slight	**Moderate beneficial (+) (D) (LT) (P) Significant**
	Decommissioning	high	slight	**Moderate beneficial (+) (D) (LT) (P) Significant**
LCA 7: Limestone Heath (across a tract of the LCA from Heath Lane in the north to just south of Dunston Pit Plantation and extending west of the A15 as far as Wellingore Heath, Temple Bruer and Brauncewell; to the east of the A15, extending up to Heath Road as far as RAF	Construction	medium/low	substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	medium/low	substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T)**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
Digby; on the eastern side of Heath Road extending up to a series of plantations to the east (Bloxham Woods, Ashby Thorns, Rowston Covert); and across the tract of land between RAF Digby, Scopwick, the B1188 and Rowston Covert)				**Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	medium/low	substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Significant**
	Decommissioning	medium/low	substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
LCA 11: Central Clays and Gravels (across a tract of the LCA between the railway which defines the eastern boundary of Springwell East; the B1188 to the west; Blankney Walks Lane to the north; and Trundle Lane and PRoW Scop/739/1 to the south)	Construction	medium/low	substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	medium/low	substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	medium/low	moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	medium/low	substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
				(-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant
Visual effects				
PRoWs between Blankney, Scopwick and Kirkby Green extending up to Blankney Walks Lane and the railway on the eastern site boundary (including several 'Stepping Out' walks)	Construction	high/medium	substantial	**Major adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Significant**
	Decommissioning	high/medium	substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
PRoWs between the railway on the eastern boundary and the B1189	Construction	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
PRoW between RAF Digby and B1188 (Footpath R5/1)	Construction	high/medium	moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	Substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
	Decommissioning	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
PRoWs and lanes between Heath Road, Bloxholm Lane and Green Man Lane extending up to the A15 north of RAF Digby	Construction	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
Navenby Lane	Construction	medium	moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 1)	medium	moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
	Operation (year 10)	medium	Moderate/slight	**Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	medium	Slight	**Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
PRoWs between Bloxholm, Ashby de la Launde and Heath Road	Construction	high/medium	slight	**Moderate/minor (-) (D) (ST) (T) adverse Not significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	Moderate/Slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	slight	**Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	high/medium	slight	**Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
Bloxholm Woods Local Nature Reserve Footpath	Construction	high/medium	slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	Moderate/Slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	Negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
Church Lane, church and properties at Brauncewell	Construction	high/medium	slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	slight	**Moderate/minor adverse**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
				(-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant
	Decommissioning	high/medium	slight	**Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
PRoWs and lanes south-west between A15 and Brauncewell	Construction	high/medium	moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	Moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	Moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not Significant**
	Decommissioning	high/medium	Moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
Minor Roads to Temple Bruer and Thompsons Bottom Farm	Construction	medium	Substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
	Operation (year 1)	medium	Substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	medium	Slight	**Moderate/minor (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	medium	Slight	**Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
PRoWs and lanes north-west between A15 and Wellingore Heath including New England Lane and Gorse Hill Lane	Construction	high/medium	Substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	Substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	Moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
	Decommissioning	high/medium	Substantial/moderate	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
Spires and Steeples Trail	Construction	high/medium	Moderate/slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	Moderate/slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	high/medium	Slight	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not Significant**
Ridges and Furrows Trail	Construction	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	high/medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not Significant**
Viking Way and High Dike	Construction	high/medium	negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	high/medium	negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 10)	high/medium	negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	high/medium	negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
A15 trunk road	Construction	medium/low	Substantial/moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	medium/low	Substantial	**Major/moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 10)	medium/low	Substantial/moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Decommissioning	medium/low	Substantial/moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
B1191 (Heath Road)	Construction	medium	moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Significant**
	Operation (year 1)	medium	moderate	**Moderate adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 10)	medium	Moderate/slight	**Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T)**

Receptor	Phase	Sensitivity of receptor	Magnitude of effect	Residual effect (with additional mitigation)
Key: + = positive, - = negative, D = direct, I = indirect, ST = short-term, MT = medium-term, LT = long-term, P = Permanent, T = temporary				
				Not significant
	Decommissioning	medium	Moderate/slight	**Moderate/minor adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
B1188	Construction	medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 1)	medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (MT) (T) Not significant**
	Operation (year 10)	medium	Negligible	**Negligible adverse (-) (D) (LT) (T) Not significant**
	Decommissioning	medium	Slight/negligible	**Minor/negligible adverse (-) (D) (ST) (T) Not significant**

10.14. References

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Springwell
Solar Farm

springwellsolarfarm.co.uk

Application Document Ref: EN010149/APP/6.1
Planning Inspectorate Scheme Ref: EN010149