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Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project

Volume 5

**Document 5.3.6B ES Chapter 6 Appendix 6B - Technical Engagement
on Landscape and Visual Assessment**

Final Issue A

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Date	Version	Status	Description / change
01/11/2022	A	FINAL	First Issue

1. Technical engagement on the landscape and visual amenity assessment

Title	Landscape and Visual Consultation Meeting Minutes	
Meeting No.	#1	
Date	01/07/2021	
Location	Online via MS Teams	
Attendees	Role/Organisation	Abbreviation
John Wainwright	Landscape Officer/ North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council	JW
Ruth Hardingham	Planning Manager/ Selby District Council	RH
Mark Williams	Planning Officer/ Harrogate Borough Council	MW
Neil Furber	Landscape Lead/ Wood (now WSP)	NF
James Hunter	Landscape/ Wood (now WSP)	JH
Circulated to the above and:		
Bethany Kington	Consents Officer/ National Grid Electricity Transmission plc ("National Grid")	
Michael Reynolds	Policy Officer/ North Yorkshire County Council	
Michelle Saunders	Officer/ North Yorkshire County Council	
Liz Small	Officer/ North Yorkshire County Council	
Jenny Tyreman	Officer/ Selby District Council	
Nicholas Turpin	Officer/ Harrogate Borough Council	
Stuart Mills	Officer/ Harrogate Borough Council	
Peter Jones	Officer/ Hambleton District Council	
Gareth Arnold	Officer/ City of York Council	
Louise White	Officer/ Leeds City Council	
Kate McAfee	EIA/ Wood (now WSP)	
Rachel Dimmick	EIA Lead/ Wood (now WSP)	
Edward Purnell	Planning/ Wood (now WSP)	
Tom Binzamoussirou	EIA/ Wood (now WSP)	
Sue Birnie	Consents Officer/ Wood (now WSP)	
Matthew Addy	Public Engagement/ Copper Consultancy	

ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
1	<p><u>Introduction/Background</u></p> <p>Prior to the meeting the following information was circulated to all attendees and others on the 25/06/21:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Google Earth files of the Design Freeze 2 of the Project; • Viewpoint locations; • Annotated photography from 29 No. viewpoints (taken March 2021); • Approach to level of detail for visualisations, with reference to TGN 06/19 best practice guidance and highlighting differences proposed between Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) and Environmental Statement (ES) submissions; and • Proposed locations of 6 No. views to be presented as outline wireframe visualisations in the PEIR. <p>The purpose of the meeting was to seek feedback on the viewpoint locations, noting that any additional viewpoint photography would need to be undertaken as part of the ES scope of work in winter 2021/2022 i.e. after the PEIR has been submitted.</p>	
2	<p><u>Proposed Development</u></p> <p>NF described the main components of the Project with reference to the Google Earth file. This included the rationale for the 3km Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) study areas centred on the areas of the development at Monk Fryston, Tadcaster and North-west of York where new infrastructure is proposed. The rationale for scoping out of the LVIA specific parts of the Project comprising minor changes to the Osbaldwick Substation and the reconductoring works between the aforementioned study areas, where changes are confined to minor changes to existing pylons for example, steel reinforcement was explained with reference to the commentary by PINs in the Scoping Opinion.</p>	
3	<p><u>Viewpoint and Visualisation selection</u></p> <p>In commenting on the selection of the 29 annotated photoviews, JW noted overall numbers appeared appropriate and the approach to use wireframes for PEIR and detailed photomontages for the S42 was acceptable.</p> <p>JW commented that some of the viewpoints could be better sited to avoid intervening planting etc. (specific details to be provided by JW). JW also noted his remit was to cover viewpoint selection within North Yorkshire County and Selby District administrative areas and would not comment on viewpoint selection for adjoining Local Planning Authority areas (Leeds and York).</p>	<p>JW and all consultees/Oct 2021</p>


ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
4	<p><u>Cumulative and Mitigation Strategy</u></p> <p>JW highlighted 3 No. other development proposals (2 No. battery storage and 1 No. gas peaking plant) in the vicinity of the Monk Fryston Substation that need to be considered in the design of the landscape mitigation strategy and cumulative assessment.</p> <p>NF noted that these developments would be considered in the outline cumulative assessment and landscape mitigation strategy in the PEIR. Given that the other development proposals are all in the planning system but currently undetermined, it is likely that the ES LVIA (to be submitted in 2022) would include a more detailed cumulative assessment and more advanced landscape mitigation strategy. This work would reflect any changes, in the intervening period, to the status of those development proposals.</p> <p>JW requested that the multi-functional benefits of the mitigation strategy should be clear and there should be no conflicting principles between ecology and landscape.</p> <p>JW requested that information will be needed in the mitigation strategy on how soils stripped from temporary construction compounds would be stored and how areas would be reinstated to the same agricultural quality as the baseline.</p>	<p>NF – cut off dates TBC as part of the PEIR and ES</p>
5	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>To be confirmed based on any further feedback from consultees on updated PEIR viewpoint selection rationale and ZTV (to be issued by NF in July 2021) and outline wireframe visualisations (to be issued by NF in August 2021). Any feedback on this material will be required from consultees by the end of October 2021 in order that it can potentially be accounted for in any additional site visits from November 2021 onwards (the earliest any additional or alternative photography can be obtained following leaf fall).</p>	<p>NF – TBC</p>

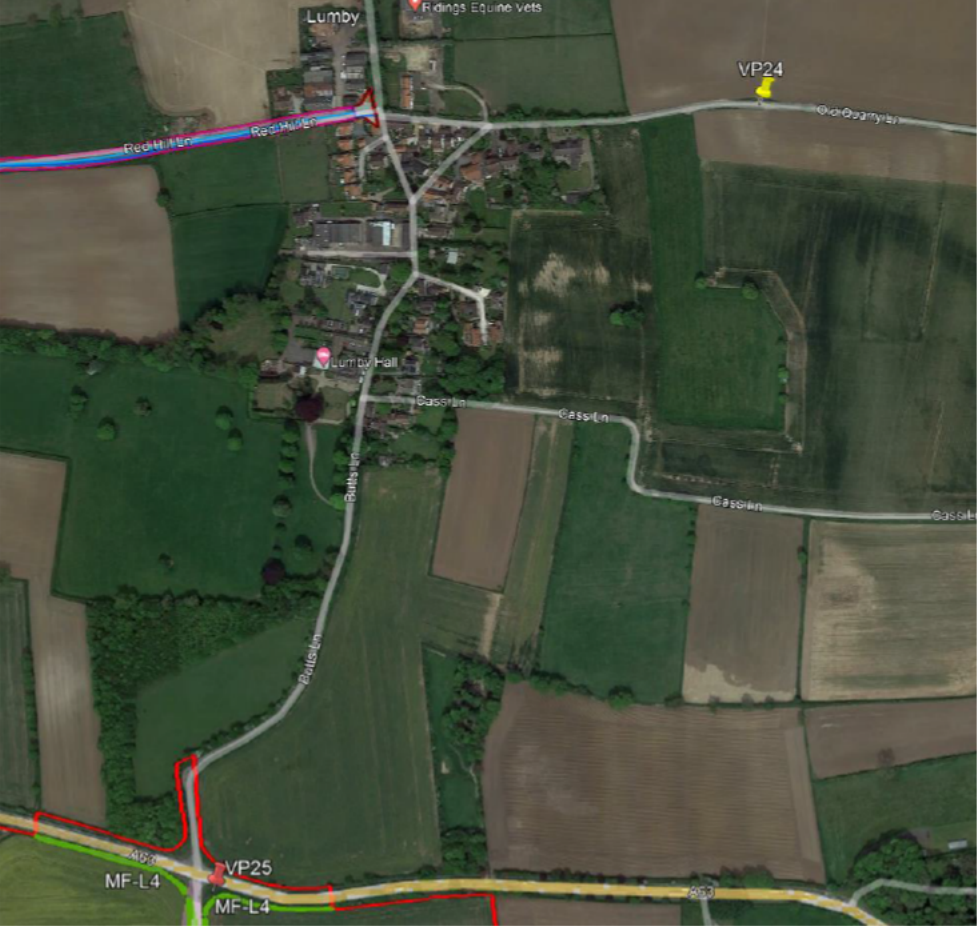
Title	Landscape, Visual and Arboricultural Consultation	
Meeting Nos	#2	
Date	21/02/2022	
Location	Online via MS Teams	
Attendees	Role/Organisation	Abbreviation
John Wainwright	Landscape Officer/North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council	JW
Michael Reynolds	Policy Officer/North Yorkshire County Council	
Mike Park	Planning Officer/Harrogate Borough Council	
Mark Baldry	Development Project Officer/York City Council	
Seamus Corr	Landscape Office/Leeds City Council	
Mark Williams	Planning Officer/ Harrogate Borough Council	
Jenny Tyreman	Planning Manager/ Selby District Council	
Bethany Kington	Project Manager/National Grid	BK
Sue Birnie	Consents Officer /National Grid and Wood	SB
Neil Furber	Landscape lead/Wood (now WSP)	NF
James Hunter	Landscape/Wood (now WSP)	
Andy Wakefield	Arboricultural lead/AECOM	AW
Circulated to the above and:		
Ruth Hardingham	Planning Manager/ Selby District Council	
Michelle Saunders	Officer/North Yorkshire County Council	
Liz Small	Officer/North Yorkshire County Council	
Nicholas Turpin	Officer/ Harrogate Borough Council	
Stuart Mills	Officer/ Harrogate Borough Council	
Peter Jones	Officer/ Hambleton District Council	
Gareth Arnold	Officer/ City of York Council	
Louise White	Officer/ Leeds City Council	
Rachel Dimmick	EIA Lead/Wood (now WSP)	
Edward Purnell	Planning/Wood (now WSP)	
Matthew Addy	Public Engagement/Copper Consultancy	
ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
1	<u>Introduction/Background</u> Purpose of meeting was to discuss feedback received on the 16/12/2021 from North Yorkshire County Council covering the PEIR	

ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
	landscape and visual chapters and comments on the loss of trees and mitigation.	
2	<p><u>Landscape and Visual Chapter comments</u></p> <p>NF responded to JW comments that the LVIA PEIR was too complex and difficult to follow with too many cross references and figures. NF stated that the LVIA was in effect three LVIA given the three discrete study areas. The requirement to follow latest best practice guidance and DCO level scrutiny would by nature produce an LVIA that will be lengthy and complex in places. Notwithstanding the limitations around simplifying the LVIA for the ES (particularly in the light of further information also being requested by JW), the following will be explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential to combine plans and/or show multiple information on the same plan e.g. viewpoints, different ZTV and receptor locations. However too much information on a single plan may reduce clarity for the reader; and • Any unnecessary cross referencing will be reviewed, although these references are often advised by lawyers to assist the reader and ensure regulatory compliance. <p>Following the discussion, JW acknowledged there may not be an easier way to present the information but it should be investigated.</p> <p>JW request for updated google earth files for the ES scheme. NF confirmed that the current design changes being considered would only make very small changes to the landscape and visual considerations and would not affect the location of viewpoints – consequently NF noted that the previous google earth files issued to consultees in conjunction with the plans contained in the PEIR are deemed adequate for any additional responses at this stage including for the purposes of viewpoint selection.</p> <p>JW’s written request for topographical survey information on landscape plans was clarified. JW considered that proposed levels around substations should be provided that are sufficient to understand how the level of effects had been determined in the LVIA e.g. bunding heights and slope profiles in conjunction with mitigation planting. NF noted that full mitigation details would be a condition to any DCO.</p> <p>JW concerns on cumulative development at Monk Fyston including battery storage schemes. NF/BK/SB acknowledged these developments, and they would be included in the cumulative assessment at ES stage. Agreement on the list of schemes to be considered and potentially included in the cumulative assessment would be sought from all Local Planning Authorities. Not all schemes</p>	NF (as part of ES)

ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
	<p>may be selected for the cumulative LVIA as best practice guidance (GLVIA 3) advocates a proportionate approach and inclusion of schemes where there is the potential for significant cumulative landscape and visual effects.</p> <p>JW concerns on future development that may apply in light of the Yorkshire Green Energy Enablement (GREEN) Project (“the Project” or “Yorkshire GREEN”). BK/SB noted that guidance from PINs on cumulative impact assessment will be followed¹.</p> <p>JW requirement for assessment on impact on Green Belt. NF confirmed this was not a landscape consideration (i.e. not part of the LVIA). SB noted that input from landscape architects would be included on the contribution to visual openness in a separate document (Green Belt Assessment, which will form part of the Planning Statement) of the impact of the Project on the Green Belt.</p> <p>JW confirmed that the approach to the proposed use of ZTVs as an initial guide to visibility, supported by written analysis of visibility recorded in the field was acceptable. JW confirmed that no plans illustrating ‘accurate visual envelopes’ are expected to be produced and NF noted that would not be a proportionate requirement and is not covered in GLVIA3 best practice guidance.</p>	
3	<p><u>Viewpoint and Visualisation selection</u></p> <p>NF asked consultees for specific feedback on the viewpoints proposed at PEIR (none was provided on the call). NF described the proposed changes to the Viewpoints 9 and 24 which were agreed in principle by JW. The revised locations for these views are provided in the screen grab plan extracts below.</p> <p>Viewpoint 9 –Other Route with Public Access close to the Cable Sealing End Compound as indicated on the extract below (relocated from the PEIR location on Corban Lane to the east where intervening planting would restrict views of the Project).</p>	<p>Input needed by 10-03-22</p>

¹ Planning Inspectorate (2019). Advice Note Seventeen: Cumulative effects assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects (Version 2). (online) Available at: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/advice-note-17/> (Accessed October 2022).

ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
	 <p data-bbox="220 1294 1182 1406">Viewpoint 24 – relocated to the end of a public footpath at the junction with Old Quarry Lane northeast of Lumby (to replace VP24 from the PEIR located on the A162 that fell outside the ZTV).</p>	

ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
	 <p>Post meeting note: We also seek agreement on the proposed strategy for preparation of photomontages and photowires and plan to prepare all visualisations in accordance with TGN 06/19 published by the Landscape Institute and split as follows:</p> <p><u>Type 3 Photomontages</u> – where the main focus is the new overhead lines and/or substations. This would apply to Viewpoints 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30. Year 1 and also Year 15 views indicating mitigation planting would be prepared where this planting is visible.</p> <p><u>Type 3 Photowires</u> - where the main focus in the smaller cable sealing end compounds. This would apply to Viewpoints 9, 10, 11, 12, 19, 20, 21 and 22.</p> <p>Due to need to capture winter photography we require any feedback on viewpoint locations and visualisation types by 10/03/22 at the latest otherwise we will need to assume for the purpose of the ES that all viewpoint locations in the PEIR, the proposed amendments to Viewpoints 9 and 24 and the type of visualisation to be produced are acceptable to consultees.</p>	

ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
4	<p><u>Arboricultural impact and Mitigation Strategy</u></p> <p>AW outlined the tree losses identified at PEIR were high level estimates of maximum losses and that subsequent minor changes to the Project to minimise arboricultural impacts were currently underway. In addition, detailed tree surveys would identify if any areas of tree planting impacted by the scheme could be coppiced/pollarded to enable long-term retention.</p> <p>NYCC noted canopy cover loss as 15,033m² in their consultation response but as stated in the PEIR the figure is 154,033m². This is an assumed typo on NYCCs part and was clarified on the call by AW.</p> <p>AW highlighted the opportunity to address species diversity and resilience as part of the mitigation scheme e.g. Ash dieback.</p> <p>AW confirmed that the Arboricultural Chapter as part of the ES will identify tree protection zones in accordance with BS 5837 (2012) and an Arboricultural Method Statement will be produced to identify how sensitive works near retained trees are to be carried out. Mitigation may include ground protection, coppicing, crown reduction and /or pollarding to minimise losses. Also opportunities for replanting where trees would not conflict with easements of new infrastructure.</p> <p>AW- where trees can't be retained then standing deadwood may be an option with ecological benefits as opposed to complete removal and clearance.</p> <p>AW stated future growth in relation to the overhead line to be 0.55cm per year.</p> <p>AW described the tree survey approach would be via field survey where landowner access can be agreed otherwise would adopt national Lidar data set to define likely tree parameters together with field observations from publicly accessible locations or nearby land where access granted.</p> <p>Canopy loss reported in PEIR is 154,033m² but could be influenced/increased by reconductoring and important to note that due to coppicing/pollarding this won't necessarily be an outright loss – further detail to be provided in the ES.</p> <p>JW confirmed that in line with Development Plan policy that he would not wish to see any net loss of trees.</p>	<p>AW (as part of ES)</p>

Title	Landscape and Visual Consultation	
Meeting Nos	#3	
Date	19/04/2022	
Location	Online via MS Teams	
Attendees	Role/Organisation	Abbreviation
John Wainwright	Landscape Officer/North Yorkshire County Council and Selby District Council	JW
Michael Reynolds	Policy Officer/North Yorkshire County Council	MR
Mike Parkes	Planning Officer/Harrogate Borough Council	MP
Seamus Corr	Landscape Office/Leeds City Council	SC
Bethany Kington	Project Manager/National Grid	BK
Neil Furber	Landscape lead/Wood (now WSP)	NF
Circulated to the above and:		
Jenny Tyreman	Planning Manager/ Selby District Council	
Mark Williams	Planning Officer/ Harrogate Borough Council	
Mark Baldry	Development Project Officer/York City Council	
Sue Birnie	Consents Officer /National Grid and Wood	
Ruth Hardingham	Planning Manager/ Selby District Council	
Michelle Saunders	Officer/North Yorkshire County Council	
Liz Small	Officer/North Yorkshire County Council	
Nicholas Turpin	Officer/ Harrogate Borough Council	
Stuart Mills	Officer/ Harrogate Borough Council	
Peter Jones	Officer/ Hambleton District Council	
Gareth Arnold	Officer/ City of York Council	
Louise White	Officer/ Leeds City Council	
Rachel Dimmick	EIA Lead/Wood (now WSP)	
Edward Purnell	Planning/Wood (now WSP)	
James Hunter	Landscape/Wood (now WSP)	
Andy Wakefield	Arboricultural lead/AECOM	
Matthew Addy	Public Engagement/Copper Consultancy	

ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
1	<u>Introduction/Background</u> The purpose of meeting was to discuss draft designs prepared by the project engineers of the landform around the substations at Monk	

ID	Topic/Discussion	Action/Due by
	<p>Fryston and Overton prior to design freeze w/c 18/04/22 and landscape mitigation proposals close to the Tadcaster CSEC.</p> <p>Work in progress plans were presented on the call with a brief discussion on the drivers behind the outline landscape strategy in order to receive any comments from the consultees.</p>	
2	<p><u>Landscape and Visual Mitigation Strategy</u></p> <p>JW commented that the draft mitigation proposals presented by NF on the call generally provided good opportunities for mitigation planting provided the earth mounding was not over engineered and compacted. JW drew attention to the failure of much of the planting on the bund to the north of the existing Monk Fryston substation that has not established well and consists of sporadic Hawthorn in grass.</p> <p>NF explained that the draft proposals for the revised earthwork would be different to the existing earthworks as the increased width with a flatter top would encourage woodland establishment with appropriate soil handling techniques, noting native woodland would be specified on the flatter top and the more free-draining conditions on 1:3 perimeter slopes of the earthworks would be more suited to native scrub including Hawthorn.</p> <p>JW was keen to secure existing planting to the south of Monk Fryston (post meeting note: this has been secured with revised Order limits).</p> <p>JW mentioned the setting of the listed building of Monk Fryston Lodge and that planting between the proposed substation and the edge of the existing woodland around the Lodge could be reinforced with further planting. NF noted that intervisibility from the Lodge was limited at ground floor level by orientation of the building relative to the Project and by intervening buildings and mature tree cover. Limited upper floor views would be heavily restricted by existing tree cover, although additional tree planting associated with the Project could help to reinforce this existing screening.</p> <p>JW noted that reinstatement of farmland would need to ensure BMV status was maintained.</p> <p>NF circulated work in progress landscape mitigation plans and cross sections to John Wainwright following the meeting.</p>	NF

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