

Annex C Landscape Sensitivity

The sensitivity of the 'Peaty Fens' LCT/'The Fens' LCA within which the Site is located is assessed below. Landscape sensitivity is not absolute and can only be defined in relation to each development and its location. To assess the sensitivity of a particular landscape it is good practice to consider the value attached to the landscape and its susceptibility to the particular form of change likely to result from the proposed development. Assessment text relates to sensitivity of the landscape receptor as a whole, to the Proposed Development, with additional comments regarding the Site where relevant. The text expands on that provided in the submitted LVA and the criteria below are based on relevant guidance found in Technical Guidance Note 02/21 Assessing landscape value outside national designations (Landscape Institute, 2021) and An Approach to Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (Natural England, 2019).

Factors affecting sensitivity	Lower Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Higher Sensitivity to Solar Energy	Explanation	Judgement
Designated scenic quality	No specific designation	National or regional designation	No specific designation.	Low
Natural Heritage	Low presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	High presence of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	There are no features of ecological or geological / geomorphological interest.	Low
Cultural Heritage	Low presence of archaeology or historical interests	High presence of archaeology or historical interests	As shown at Appendix 5 to the LVA, there are Listed Buildings at Guanock House to the north west, the Church of St Edmund in Sutton St Edmun and at Honeyhill Farmhouse to the south east.	Low
Landscape condition/ quality	Landscape in a poor state of repair with incongruous elements	Landscape fully intact in good condition with limited incongruous elements	The landscape, broadly speaking, appears to be in good condition. The landscape appears well managed as part of its generally intensively farmed regime. There are pylons and overhead lines present crossing through the Site.	Medium
Cultural associations	No strong associations with notable people, events or the arts.	Strong cultural associations with notable people, events or the arts, which contribute to perceptions of natural beauty.	There are no known specific cultural or historic associations with the site or the area surrounding the site.	Low
Distinctiveness	Commonplace elements and features, or the landscape itself. Lacking distinctive and strongly expressed character	Presence of rare elements or features or rarity of the landscape itself. Landscape with a distinctive and clearly expressed character and/or with	The landscape containing the site is not recognised as being particularly rare or unique. At a district level, a similar landscape extends across large parts of the both South Holland and Fenland District.	Low

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	and with no important relationship to a settlement.	an important relationship to a settlement.		
Amenity and recreation	Limited amenity/recreational function where experience of the landscape is important	Well used for recreation where experience of the landscape is important; or forms part of a view that is important to a recreational experience. May contain National Trails or other long distance routes.	PRoW are generally sparse in the Fens, given its broadly agricultural and sparsely settled nature. There are several PRoW within and in the immediate vicinity of the Site. The site and the wider landscape surrounding the site is considered to have some value for recreation.	Medium
Perceptual (Scenic)	Landscape with no particular scenic / visual appeal.	Landscape with strong appeal to the senses, particularly visual.	The landscape around the site is considered to have limited scenic quality. The flat topography and strongly geometric/linear pattern of the landscape combines to make the landscape somewhat monotonous.	Low
Perceptual (Wildness and tranquility)	Busy with evidence of human activity, well-lit.	Remote, peaceful or with a sense of wildness. Dark skies.	Human influences such as roads and built form development are readily apparent in most views. Nevertheless, there is a general absence of noise and movement that give rise to a feeling of relative remoteness and of tranquillity.	Medium
Function	No important blue/green infrastructure function or important relationship with national landscape designation.	Landscape with important blue/green infrastructure function or strong relationship that is important to a national landscape designation.	Ditches flow through the area as part of the fenland drainage system, but limited other landscape function.	Low
Overall Judgement of Landscape Value				Medium/low
Scale	Large scale landscapes where the Proposed Development may be in proportion	Small scale intimate landscapes	Medium to large scale landscape with expansive views.	Low
Landform	Smooth regular flowing, flat or uniform landscapes	Dramatic, rugged and complex landscapes	Flat, uniform landscape.	Low
Openness/enclosure	Open and exposed landscapes	Enclosed and sheltered landscapes	The sense of enclosure in the landscape varies. Generally the landscape is open and there is little sense of enclosure. The sense of enclosure increases	Medium/low

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			greatly where tree belts and woodlands are present. These features together with the local landform curtail more distant views.	
Land cover	Simple or regular landcover (including intensive farming and forestry). Simple and sweeping lines, linear feature and patterns.	Complex, intimate or mosaic cover. Complex or irregular patterns.	The pattern of the landscape is relatively simple and primarily geometric, with drainage channels, roads, woodland/tree belts and fields creating starkly linear forms. Agricultural fields are dominant with some orchards in the vicinity of Gorefield.	Low
Built Environment	Contemporary masts, pylons, industrial elements, buildings infrastructure, settlements	Established, traditional or historic built character	Settlement and human influences are conspicuous in the landscape. Small clusters of residential properties and individual farmsteads are scattered throughout the area. Larger settlements such as Sutton St Edmund are typically strongly linear in form. An overhead high voltage electricity transmission line with associated towers passes through the area and across part of the site. There are views of more distant wind turbines on the far horizon.	Medium
Views and intervisibility	Visually contained and have limited inward or outward views	Extensive views within or of the area with distant horizons.	Extensive views across the open areas of the landscape. Where vegetation occurs such as around farmsteads or along the edge of settlement etc, then the level of intervisibility is greatly reduced.	High/medium
Landscapes that form settings, skylines, backdrops, focal points	Generally low lying landscapes without distinctive landform or horizon	Areas with strong features, focal points that define the setting or skyline	Most skylines are extensive. Some views are foreshortened by the presence of built form and or tree belts/woodland.	Medium/low
Overall Judgement of Landscape Susceptibility				Medium
Overall Judgement of Landscape Sensitivity				Medium to Medium/low