

B1 Bicker to Wyberton Settled Fen



Landscape Character Description

Bicker to Wyberton Settled Fen is located to the west of Boston town. It is bounded by *Frampton to Fosdyke Settled Fen* to the south east and east, South Holland District boundary to the south west and New Hammond Beck and *Holland Reclaimed Fen* to the north. At its eastern tip it abuts the outskirts of Boston town.

This area is underlain by Jurassic clays which are overlain by Terrington Beds of marine deposits, and tidal creek and river deposits. These are in turn overlain by a mix of fertile calcareous and typical alluvial gley soils with one small isolated area of stagnogley soils near Kirton Holme. It forms part of the fertile and subtly raised arc of Siltlands or Townlands just inland from The Wash.

The area is generally flat but with some localised undulations created by saltern mounds, such as those found to the south and east of Bicker. Views are generally open with big skies and wide horizons. However settlements and their associated trees and shelterbelts provide some localised visual enclosure. Landmark views include those to Bicker windfarm (outside the area), Boston Stump, and to church towers and spires within the area.

This is clearly a continually evolving working agricultural landscape. This is evident with the mix of styles and ages of farm dwellings, buildings, sheds and associated horticultural glasshouses, packing sheds and food processing plants found scattered across the area. There are also some new recreational sites which include the golf course at Kirton Holme and a small leisure complex with fishing ponds on the outskirts of Boston town.

There is a strong pattern of relatively large scale, winding roads infilled by a geometric field pattern of predominantly arable fields. The diverse mix of crops grown here include wheat, beet, brassicas, potatoes and maize. In addition there are occasional fields grazed by sheep.

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Generally tree cover is sparse with occasional isolated deciduous trees on field boundaries and a limited number of hedgerows. Short rows of poplar and coniferous shelter belts are a repeated element within the landscape around dwellings and farmsteads. Many settlements are set within mature plantings of mixed ornamental trees. Small areas on the outskirts of Boston have been planted with young trees as amenity woodland forming part of the Boston Woods Project.

The settlement pattern consists of widely spread villages with farmsteads and dwellings scattered in between. There are also occasional field buildings and infrequent scattered ruins of traditional farm cottages which are likely to have been originally built for farm workers. There has been settlement in this area since before medieval times. Villages such as Bicker were originally harbours on sea inlets which have since silted up.

Generally the style and age of buildings are mixed throughout the area. This is also reflected within and on the outskirts of and within villages with incremental housing developments contributing to the ongoing evolution of the character of many villages. Notable amongst these are the Swedish style timber houses reportedly built in the nineteen forties and fifties in Bicker and the colourful homes which have been built more recently on the expanding outskirts of the village.

The area is rich in visible heritage features which include scattered Listed Buildings, Wyberton Park, the remains of the nearby Swineshead Abbey with its earthworks and dyings, and the saltern mounds around Bicker. There are also medieval moated earthworks at Manwarings and at Wybert's Castle just outside Boston town. There are also several designated village Conservation Areas.

A relatively large scale organic network of winding minor roads and tracks is bisected by two busy A roads, the A16(T) and A52, which radiate out from Boston town. These A roads are linked by the A17 which runs west from King's Lynn towards Newark. Many commercial developments such as motels, car sales and retail parks, can be found alongside these major

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roads, especially towards the outskirts of Boston town. There are very few public rights of way and those which do exist only form localised links around villages and between small settlements.

The predominantly rural character of this area is more influenced by urban features on the south eastern outskirts of Boston with a scattering of industrial units which straddle the character area boundary with Boston town. There are also views to a landfill site in *Welland to Haven Reclaimed Saltmarsh* and to tall cranes working in Boston port on the Haven. In addition, there are several rows of large scale pylons which converge on the town. The remaining urban edge of Boston is mostly well defined by residential housing developments that back onto arable agricultural land. The village of Wyberton also extends out into intact farmland and due to infill housing developments appears to be merging with Boston town. These urban influences are limited to this locality and overall this character area can be described as an intact working rural landscape which is peaceful in parts but not particularly remote.

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Forces for Change

- Expansion and modernisation of the infrastructure associated with intensive agriculture.
- New sustainable housing on the edge of Bicker village.
- Countryside and Environmental Stewardship Schemes, are affecting the appearance of buffer strips around arable fields edges and dyke vegetation, through changed farming and management practices.
- Boston Woods Project with small areas of newly planted amenity woodland.
- Views to Bicker windfarm outside the character area.
- Urban expansion on the outskirts Boston town including leisure, residential, industrial and commercial developments which could in future merge with outlying settlements.
- Housing development over the last decade expanding villages such as Swineshead.

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Landscape Sensitivity

Bicker to Wyberton Settled Fen is a fairly distinctive and intact working landscape with some detractors. The open and flat landscape with shelterbelts and settlements provides a low level of visual enclosure over much of the area. These are unlikely to help to screen future changes to the landscape to the moderate number of sensitive viewers in the area. There is a higher than average potential for reducing landscape and visual impacts in this area as described below.

Any development should be designed to fit the existing pattern, scale and component elements of this agricultural landscape to fit with its evolving character. Location of future developments should also take advantage of the few existing screening elements and not further visually clutter the landscape. Location of future developments should be concentrated around existing settlements or developments near to the main roads to prevent any further loss of the rural landscape. At the same time developments should be designed to avoid the reduction of the openness of views by merging developments or the planting of large screening belts. Further merging of settlements with Boston town would result in further loss of the rural landscape.

The overall landscape character sensitivity of *Bicker to Wyberton Settled Fen* is considered to be **moderate**. There may be less sensitive areas on the immediate outskirts of Boston due to the urban influences, but site specific assessments would be required to confirm this.

above broad distinctions within South Holland District. These are classified as *Landscape Character Types*, as follows:

- The Settled Fens Landscape Character Type
- The Peaty Fens Landscape Character Type
- The Wash Marshes Landscape Character Type

The essential characteristics of these Landscape Character Types are summarised below. This model of field assessment follows that used in the Salisbury Plain Army Training Estate Landscape Character Assessment carried out for Defence Estates by ERM.⁸

4.4 The Settled Fens Landscape Character Type

Topography: flat

Dominant Land Cover and Landscape Elements:

Buildings: farms, masts, poles, pylons, industrial, commercial, settlements, urban

Heritage/vernacular: buildings, country houses, field systems, ecclesiastical

Farming: hedges, fields, fences, arable, market gardening, orchards

Woodland and trees: deciduous, mixed, shelterbelts, hedgerows, orchards, clumps and alien coniferous screens

Hydrology: rivers, drainage channels, ditches

Communication: roads, railways, airfields, pylons, masts.

Description:

Predominantly flat topography, dissected by main roads, rivers, drainage channels and drainage ditches often on raised banks (1-3m). Primarily nucleated settlements with associated mature trees. Church spires and towers often rise above the mature vegetation to provide prominent landmark features. Medium to large fields with intensive market garden crops. Locally strong hedgerow elements. Views are restricted or foreshortened by shelterbelts and woodland or mature hedgerows.

This contributes to a sense of enclosure with a more open feel between settlements. The main visual detractors are the 440kV and 132 kV overhead lines on towers, electricity sub stations and power stations and urban fringe visual clutter (dominated by light industry and glasshouse horticulture).

Note that within the larger settlements, there are no views of adjacent fenland and this introspective quality reduces the awareness of place within the wider fenland landscape.

Key characteristics: flat landform, nucleated settlements with mature vegetation and church spires; organic lines dominate, e.g. winding roads

Condition: average, but ranges from good (farmland) to poor (urban fringe clutter)

Visual Assessment criteria:

Pattern: strong

Scale: medium-large

Texture: textured⁹

⁸ *Ibid.*, p.31

⁹ Texture is determined by land cover, e.g. trees, hedges and crop types and their scale or size within the landscape

Colour: muted-colourful¹⁰

Complexity: diverse

Remoteness: active

Unity: fragmented

Form: curved

Enclosure: open-enclosed

Perception:

Security: comfortable

Stimulus: bland

Tranquillity: vacant

Pleasure: pleasant

Architecture:

New-build around traditional (medieval-Victorian) core, with the church as the primary node. Building materials are predominantly brick and a combination of brick and stone. The settlement form is primarily nucleated, interspersed with some linear settlement.

Three representative photographs of the Settled Fens Landscape Character Type are shown below.

The Settled Fens Landscape Character Type



Gosberton church viewed over open fields

¹⁰ Colour is the dominant colour of the constituent elements, e.g. fields, built form

STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE CAPACITY STUDY
SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT, LINCOLNSHIRE



Sutton Bridge power station viewed from the A17



Power distribution infrastructure south of Holbeach

5 The Peaty Fen Landscape Character Type

Topography: flat

Dominant Land Cover and Landscape Elements:

Buildings: farm, mast, poles, settlements, farmsteads

Heritage: vernacular buildings, field systems

Farming: fields, fences, arable

Woodland and trees: deciduous and alien coniferous screens

Hydrology: rivers, drainage channels, drainage ditches

Communication: roads, railways, navigable rivers, masts or poles

Description:

Flat topography dissected by long straight roads, rivers, drainage channels and drainage ditches, often on raised banks (1-3 metres high). Predominantly linear settlement. Large scale, extensive views, and largely uninterrupted skyline. A sense of openness/exposure. A strong linear pattern, defined by geometric arable fields of cereal and root crops, bounded by drainage channels or drainage ditches (not as intensive of Settled Fen).

Key characteristics: flat landform, geometric/linear fields, linear settlement and isolated farmsteads with associated shelterbelts

Condition: good

Visual assessment criteria:

Pattern: strong

Scale: large

Texture: textured

Colour: muted

Complexity: simple

Remoteness: vacant

Unity: interrupted

Form: straight

Enclosure: open

Perception:

Security: comfortable

Stimulus: bland

Tranquillity: vacant

Pleasure: pleasant

Architecture:

New-build and traditional mixture. Building materials are predominantly brick and a combination of brick and stone

Settlement form: predominantly linear.

Three representative photographs of the Peaty Fens Landscape Character Type are shown below.

The Peaty Fens Landscape Character Type



Crowland Abbey and Radar Tower viewed across a stretch of Peaty Fen

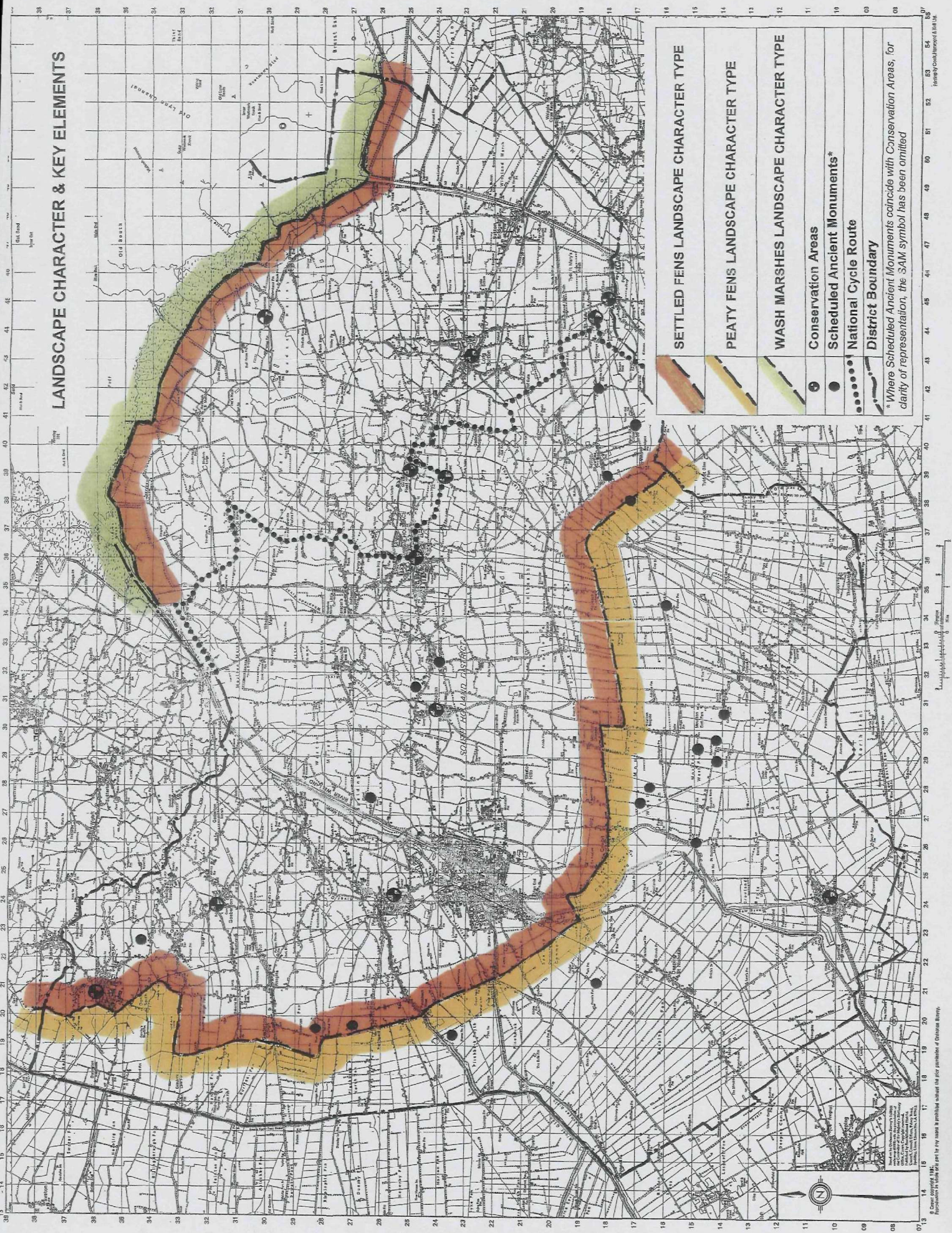


Deeping St Nicholas viewed over Peaty Fen from Cowbit



Peaty Fen landscape near Sandygate Farm, south west of Sutton St James

LANDSCAPE CHARACTER & KEY ELEMENTS



SETTLED FENS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE

PEATY FENS LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE

WASH MARSHES LANDSCAPE CHARACTER TYPE

Conservation Areas

Scheduled Ancient Monuments*

National Cycle Route

District Boundary

*Where Scheduled Ancient Monuments coincide with Conservation Areas, for clarity of representation, the SAM symbol has been omitted

Appendix 4: Effects on Landscape Character

The landscape of the Study Area					
Boston Borough Council landscape character areas A1: Holland Reclaimed Fen and B1: Bicker to Wyberton Settled Fen					
South Holland District Council landscape character types Peaty Fens, and Settled Fens					
South Kesteven District Council landscape character area Fenlands					
Susceptibility to Change: Low		Lower	↔	Higher	Value: Low to Medium
Scale	Large scale, open and exposed landscape. Views are typically broad and expansive. Vegetation, vehicles, buildings and other structures are all scale indicators. Coarse grain	■			• No landscape designations; • Cross-Britain Way long-distance route; • Public rights of way network is sparse. Those routes that are present tend to be lengthy; • Scattered designated heritage interest; • South Forty Foot Drain is a locally designated wildlife site; • 'Big skies'
Pattern/ Complexity	A simple pattern of arable fields on a very flat, low-lying landform. A consistent pattern of land cover. Regular, geometric shaped fields, subdivided by linear drainage features and by straight roads. Wind turbines, pylons and overhead transmission lines are further linear features. Vegetation cover also tends to be regular in shape (linear hedgerows and regular shaped tree belts/ small woodlands)	■			
Development/ Human Influence	Ongoing human influences are obvious. Contemporary agricultural activities. Bicker wind farm. Two major electricity substations. Viking Link interconnector under construction. Vicarage Drove solar farm consented. Artificial drainage channels. Utilitarian farm buildings. Engineered flood embankments. The contemporary fenland landscape is the result of direct human intervention to drain former wetlands. An ongoing trend to accommodate electricity generation and supply infrastructure is evident	■			
Connections with adjacent areas	A transition into the more settled surrounding landscapes is evidenced by a relatively gradual change in the pattern of vegetation cover and built development. Current construction activity is prominent, but the landscape is generally remote and quiet.	■			
Visual Interruption	There are few screening features. Those which are present include scattered blocks of woodland, and the embankments along the South Forty Foot Drain, which provide very effective screening of views within the flat landscape		■		
Sensitivity: Low					
The landscape of the Study Area is large scale, open and exposed. The influence of electricity generation and supply infrastructure, including renewable energy, is well established. The pattern of the landscape is simple and consistent. Regular geometric and linear influences predominate, both in term of land cover itself, and in terms of the scattered built features. Human influence and activities are obvious. The openness of the landscape means that changes within it are likely to be widely apparent. Susceptibility to change is low.					
There are no landscape designations present. The Cross-Britain Way long-distance route runs across the Study					

Area, reflecting a localised but nationally promoted recreational interest. Generally however there are few public rights of way, although those that are present tend to be relatively long. Designated heritage interest is scattered and concentrated in the settlements towards the eastern edge of the Study Area. There is local wildlife interest along the South Forty Foot Drain. The openness of the landscape, and the 'big skies' that are present are a notable perceptual quality. Value is low to medium. Overall, sensitivity is low.	
Size/ Scale of Effect: • Introduction of solar panels and associated infrastructure; • A limited increase in the established influence of electricity generation and supply infrastructure; • The Proposed Development would accord with the ongoing trend for electricity generation and supply infrastructure to be located in this part of the Lincolnshire; • The new planting proposals would provide screening in the medium and long term; • New native hedgerow and new native woodland belts, and new species-rich grassland would enhance biodiversity; • Localised increase in the level of enclosure within the landscape, as result of the proposed new planting, reflecting current trends to enclose electricity infrastructure	Geographical Extent: • Concentrated in the central part of the Study Area; • No change west of the South Forty Foot Drain, with the associated embankments screening views.
Duration: • Long-term	Reversibility: • Reversible (40-year lifespan)
Magnitude: Small to Medium The Proposed Development would introduce solar panels and associated infrastructure into the Site. The influence of electricity generation and supply infrastructure is well established within the Study Area, and the Proposed Development would result in a limited increase in this influence. Change would accord with the trend for such development to be located locally. In the medium and longer term, the planting of new hedgerows and woodland belts would provide visual screening, and the influence of the new structures would therefore reduce. The new planting and new species-rich grassland would enhance biodiversity locally. The new planting would also increase the level of enclosure within the landscape locally, reflect current trends to enclose electricity infrastructure.	
Significant Effect: No A minor to moderate level of effect would occur. Electricity generation and supply infrastructure, including renewable energy, is an established influence locally, and there is a clear trend for further such development to be located locally (e.g. consented Vicarage Drove solar farm, and the proposed Little Hale Fen solar farm). The Proposed Development would accord with this trend. There would be some localised change in character, particularly initially as the new solar panels and associated features are introduced. As new planting establishes, the new structures would be increasingly well screened. There would be some localised loss of openness due to the new planting (reflecting current trends to enclose infrastructure) but change from baseline would be limited. Effects would not be significant.	
Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial: Initially the presence of the Proposed Development would be adverse. As the landscape proposals become established, these would have a beneficial effect	

Appendix 5: Effects on Viewpoints

Viewpoint 1: Friest Lane, Bicker Grid Ref: 522233, 337203 View looking west from minor road (no through road) at the edge of Bicker. The southern side of the road is lined with mature trees. The northern side of the road is open, and clear views are available across the flat landscape to the Bicker wind turbines. Pylons are also clearly visible in the same field of view as the turbines. Similar views are available from the properties to the north of the viewpoint.	
Susceptibility to Change: High - Residents. - Direct views	Value: Medium to High - No landscape designations; - A typical view westwards from Bicker; - People tend to value the views from their properties.
Sensitivity: High The viewpoint reflects the views available to residents in the nearby properties. Views are direct from rear windows and rear gardens. Susceptibility to change is high. The viewpoint is not subject to any landscape designations. It reflects typical views available looking westwards from Bicker, i.e. it is a community view, as opposed to simply representing views from a small number of properties. Additionally, people tend to value the views from their properties. Value is medium to high. Overall, sensitivity is high.	
Size / Scale of Effect: Scale of Change in view: - The Proposed Development would be introduced towards the rear of the view; - Between 20% and 40% of the development is predicted to be visible initially - The new structures would be seen in the same field of view as the more prominent Bicker wind turbines; - There would be a very limited and incremental increase in the influence of built development; - As proposed new planting establishes, visibility would reduce; - The foreground and middle ground of the view would be unaffected. Degree of contrast / integration: Electricity generating/ supply infrastructure, including renewables, is clearly visible Nature of the View: A clear and unencumbered view	Geographical Extent: Angle: Direct Distance to Proposed Development: 1.28km Extent of area over which changes would be visible: Viewpoint and adjacent properties
Duration: Long-term.	Reversibility: Reversible (40 year lifespan).
Magnitude: Small The Proposed Development would be introduced into the rear of the view and would be seen in the same field of view as the Bicker wind turbines which would remain far more prominent due to their height and blade movement. Between 20% and 40% of the	

development is predicted to be visible initially. The presence of the new structures would result in very limited and incremental increase in the influence of built development upon the view. The foreground and middle ground of the view would be unaffected, and the view would remain predominantly open.

As proposed perimeter planting establishes, visibility would reduce, with less than 20% of the development predicted to be visible after five years.

Significant Effect: No

A minor level of effect would occur. The Proposed Development would be a background feature in a view where electricity generation and supply infrastructure is already clearly visible on the western skyline. There would only be a very small scale increase in the influence of such development as a result of the new structures. The nature of the view would not change appreciably from baseline. Effects would not be significant.

Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial:

The effects of the Proposed Development, whilst very limited, would be adverse

Viewpoint 2: Day's Lane, Northorpe Grid Ref: 520805, 336792 View north across the fens from the edge of Northorpe. The view is across a flat landscape, occasionally broken up by vegetation. The Bicker wind turbines and electricity pylons are prominent skyline structures. Similar views are available from the properties to the rear.	
Susceptibility to Change: High - Residents. - Direct views	Value: Medium to High - No landscape designations; - A typical view northwards from the village; - People tend to value the views from their properties.
Sensitivity: High The viewpoint reflects the views available to residents in the nearby properties. Views are direct from main windows and front gardens. Susceptibility to change is high. The viewpoint is not subject to any landscape designations. It reflects typical views available looking northwards from Northorpe, i.e., it is a community view, as opposed to simply representing views from a small number of properties. Additionally, people tend to value the views from their properties. Value is medium to high. Overall, sensitivity is high.	
Size / Scale of Effect: Scale of Change in view: - The Proposed Development would be introduced into the middle ground of the view; - Between 60% and 80% of the development is predicted to be visible initially; - Some of the new structures located further to the west would be screened from view by existing vegetation cover; - Existing pylons and wind turbines would remain prominent skyline structures; - The development would be visible over a relatively wide field of view, but would not be especially prominent due to distance from the view and the low height of the proposed structures; - There would be a limited and incremental increase in the established influence of infrastructure; - In the medium and longer term, proposed perimeter landscape would provide considerable screening once established, and only 20%-40% of the development is anticipated to be visible after approximately five years Degree of contrast / integration: Electricity generating/ supply infrastructure, including renewables, is clearly visible	Geographical Extent: Angle: Direct Distance to Proposed Development: 445m Extent of area over which changes would be visible: Approx. 300m stretch of road and adjacent properties

• Nature of the View: A clear and unencumbered view	
Duration: Long-term.	Reversibility: Reversible (40 year lifespan).
Magnitude: Small to Medium The Proposed Development would be added to the middle ground of the view looking north from the viewpoint. Between 60% and 80% of the development is predicted to be visible initially. Some of the new structures would be located further to the west and these would be screened from view by intervening vegetation cover. The existing pylons and Bicker wind turbines would remain prominent features on the northern skyline. Whilst extending over a wide field of view, the Proposed Development would be far less prominent than these existing features, due to the low height of the new structures and the distance of these from the Viewpoint. The presence of the new structures would result in a limited and incremental increase in the well-established influence of electricity generation and supply infrastructure on the view. In the medium and longer term, once proposed new perimeter planting establishes, this would provide considerable screening, and visibility would reduce to between 20% and 40% of the development by approximately five years after planting.	
Significant Effect: No A minor to moderate level of effect would occur. There would be some incremental increase in the influence of built development upon the view as a result of the Proposed Development. However, the nature of the view, namely across open fields towards electricity generation and supply infrastructure would remain similar to baseline. The new structures would be background features and would not be prominent. Effects would not be significant.	
Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial: The effects of the Proposed Development would adverse	

Viewpoint 3: Northorpe Road/ Cross Britain Way Grid Ref: 520111, 336755 View north from the road side, adjacent to a field drain. The Cross Britain Way long-distance route follows this section of Northorpe Road. The view is across the flat fenland fields. A group of conifer trees around a property to the north contrasts with the typically flat horizon. The Bicker wind turbines are prominent skyline features, as are the line of pylons that run east from the wind farm.	
Susceptibility to Change: High • Walkers; ○ The views available will be the main reason for any journey	Value: High • No landscape designations; • Promoted long-distance recreational route
Sensitivity: High The viewpoint reflects the views available to walkers. These views will be the main reason for a journey to take place, and as such susceptibility to change is high. The viewpoint is not subject to any landscape designations. It is located along a promoted long-distance walking route and hence has a clear recreational/ amenity function. Value is high. Overall, sensitivity is high.	
Size / Scale of Effect: • Scale of Change in view: ○ The Proposed Development would be introduced towards the rear of the view; ○ Between 60% and 80% of the development is predicted to be visible initially; ○ The new structures would be seen in a view including the more prominent electricity pylons and Bicker wind turbines; ○ The development would be visible over a relatively wide field of view, but would not be especially prominent due to distance from the view and the low height of the proposed structures ○ There would be an incremental increase in the influence of built development; ○ Over time, as new perimeter planting establishes, the new structures would be largely screened from view. In the medium and longer-term approximately 20%-40% of the development is predicted to be visible; ○ The foreground and middle ground of the view would be unaffected. • Degree of contrast / integration: Electricity generating/ supply infrastructure, including renewables, is clearly visible	Geographical Extent: • Angle: Direct • Distance to Proposed Development: 342m • Extent of area over which changes would be visible: Approx. 500m stretch of road

• Nature of the View: A clear and unencumbered view. Transient from moving vehicles	
Duration: Long-term.	Reversibility: Reversible (40 year lifespan).
Magnitude: Small to Medium (initially) Small (medium and longer-term) The Proposed Development would be introduced towards the rear of the view. Between 60% and 80% of the development is predicted to be visible initially. The new structures would be added to a view that already includes the more prominent electricity pylons and Bicker wind turbines. Whilst extending over a wide field of view, the Proposed Development would be far less prominent than these existing features, due to the low height of the new structures and the distance of these from the Viewpoint. There would be an incremental increase in the influence of built development. The foreground and middle ground of the view would be unaffected by the changes and would remain open. In the medium and longer term, once proposed new perimeter planting establishes, this would provide considerable screening, and visibility would reduce to between 20% and 40% of the development by approximately five years after planting	
Significant Effect: No A minor to moderate level of effect would occur initially. The Proposed Development would result in a limited increase in the well-established influence of built development in the background of the view. The nature of the view, looking across flat low-lying farmland towards electricity generation and supply infrastructure, would not change. The new structures would be located towards the rear of the view and would not be prominent. Effects would not be significant. In the medium and longer term, a minor level of effect would occur. Proposed perimeter landscaping would provide considerable screening of the new structures. There would be an increase in the amount of vegetation cover visible. Effects would not be significant.	
Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial: The effects of the Proposed Development would be adverse.	

Viewpoint 4: Public bridleway Doni/16/2**Grid Ref:** 517897, 337883

View looking east from the bridleway that follows the South Forty Foot Drain. There are two separate routes, one at the level of the watercourse and one along the top of the embankment immediately to the east, both of which show signs of regular use. Viewpoint photography was taken from the top of the embankment to give a worst case of visibility. The view is over the adjacent fields, with the Bicker wind turbines visible at close range, and electricity pylons also clearly visible beyond these. Construction activity associated with the Viking Link convertor is a prominent feature. Views to the west are restricted by the embankment on the opposite side of the watercourse.

Susceptibility to Change: High

- Bridleway users;
 - The views available will be the main reason for any journey.

Value: Medium to High

- No landscape designations;
- Public right of way

Sensitivity: High

The viewpoint reflects the views available to bridleway users (walkers and riders). These views will be the main reason for a journey to take place, and as such susceptibility to change is high

The viewpoint is not subject to any landscape designations. It is located along a public right of way, that forms part of a much longer network of routes running along the South Forty Foot Drain. Value is medium to high.

Overall, sensitivity is high.

Size / Scale of Effect:

- **Scale of Change in view:**

- Proposed Development visible towards the rear of the view;
- Between 80% and 100% of the development is predicted to be visible initially;
- The new structures would be far less prominent than the Bicker wind turbines and the Viking Link convertors;
- Over time, as new perimeter planting establishes, this would provide considerable screening. In the medium and longer-term approximately 20%-40% of the development is predicted to be visible;
- Little change to a view defined by the presence of prominent existing infrastructure.

- **Degree of contrast / integration:**

Electricity generating/ supply infrastructure, including renewables, is clearly visible

- **Nature of the View:** A clear and unencumbered view

Geographical Extent:

- **Angle:** Direct
- **Distance to Proposed Development:** 1.42km
- **Extent of area over which changes would be visible:** Approx. 500m stretch of bridleway

Duration: Long-term.**Reversibility:** Reversible (40 year lifespan).**Magnitude: Small**

The Proposed Development would be introduced towards the rear of the view. Between 80% and 100% of the development would be visible initially. The new structures would be

far less prominent than the existing Bicker wind turbines and the Viking Link convertors, both of which are closer to the viewpoint that the Proposed Development would be. In the medium and longer-term, once proposed perimeter landscaping has become established, the new structures would be largely screened from view. There would be little change to a view where existing infrastructure is prominent.

In the medium and longer term, once proposed new perimeter planting establishes, this would provide considerable screening, and visibility would reduce to between 20% and 40% of the development by approximately five years after planting

Significant Effect: No

A minor level of effect would occur. The Proposed Development would be added to a view where existing electricity generation and supply infrastructure is an established and prominent presence. Additional change would be very limited. Effects would not be significant.

Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial:

The presence of the Proposed Development would neither enhance nor detract from the quality of the view. As such, effects would be neutral.

Viewpoint 5: Cowbridge Road Grid Ref: 520708, 338739	
View south from the side of a minor road. The view is across the fenland fields, with occasional tree cover conspicuous set against the flat landform. A block of woodland is clearly visible towards the rear of the view and this woodland is located at the northern boundary of the Site. The Bicker wind turbines and electricity pylons are prominent vertical structures set in the flat landscape. Construction at the Viking Link convertor site is visible in the background of the view. Tree cover is more prevalent in views to the east and north.	
Susceptibility to Change: Medium - Road users; - Have a medium susceptibility to change.	Value: Low to Medium - No landscape designations; - Not a location likely to be visited for any scenic qualities
Sensitivity: Medium The viewpoint reflects the views available to road users. Road users typically have a medium susceptibility to change, and there is nothing at the viewpoint that would raise or reduce this. The viewpoint is not subject to any landscape designations. It is not a location that is promoted to the public or which is likely to be visited for the views available. Value is low to medium. Overall, sensitivity is medium.	
Size / Scale of Effect: Scale of Change in view: - The Proposed Development would be introduced to the middle ground of the view; - Between 60% and 80% of the development is predicted to be visible initially; - The new solar panels and ancillary structures would be visible initially, on either side of the woodland block at the northern boundary of the Site; - The influence of development upon the view would increase; - Over time, as new perimeter planting establishes, this would provide considerable screening. In the medium and longer-term approximately 20%-40% of the development is predicted to be visible; Degree of contrast / integration: Electricity generating/ supply infrastructure, including renewables, is clearly visible Nature of the View: A clear and unencumbered view. Transient from moving vehicles	Geographical Extent: Angle: Oblique to the direction of southbound travel Distance to Proposed Development: 394m Extent of area over which changes would be visible: Approx. 250m stretch of road
Duration: Long-term.	Reversibility: Reversible (40 year lifespan).
Magnitude: Small to Medium (initially) Small (Medium and longer term) The Proposed Development would be added towards the rear views looking south from the road. Between 60% and 80% of the development would be visible initially. The new structures would be located toward the rear of the view. The solar panels and ancillary	

structures would be visible initially, and would occupy a relatively large horizontal proportion of the view. Given their low height, they would not break the skyline. The established influence of development upon the view would increase as a result. Over time, as new perimeter planting establishes, this would provide considerable screening. In the medium and longer-term between approximately 20%-40% of the development is predicted to be visible.

Significant Effect: No

A minor to moderate level of effect would occur initially. The Proposed Development would be visible to the south and there would be an increase in the well-established influence of electricity generation and supply infrastructure upon the view. Effects would not be significant.

In the medium and longer term, a minor level of effect would occur. Proposed perimeter landscaping would largely screen the new structures from view. There would be an increase in the amount of vegetation cover visible in views south from the road. Effects would not be significant.

Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial:

The effects of the Proposed Development would be adverse

Viewpoint 6: Junction of Cowbridge Road with Ing Drove Grid Ref: 521410, 337824	
View looking north-east from the junction of two minor roads. The view is across the flat fenland fields. Tree cover breaks up the predominantly horizontal landform. A property is located to the west of the viewpoint, partially enclosed by vegetation. The Bicker wind turbines and electricity pylons are prominent vertical features. Construction at the Viking Link convertor site is visible in the background of the view to the south-west.	
Susceptibility to Change: Medium - Road users; - Have a medium susceptibility to change.	Value: Low to Medium - No landscape designations; - Not a location likely to be visited for any scenic qualities
Sensitivity: Medium The viewpoint reflects the views available to road users. Road users typically have a medium susceptibility to change, and there is nothing at the viewpoint that would raise or reduce this. The viewpoint is not subject to any landscape designations. It is not a location that is promoted to the public or which is likely to be visited for the views available. Value is low to medium. Overall, sensitivity is medium.	
Size / Scale of Effect: Scale of Change in view: - The Proposed Development would be introduced into the middle ground of the view; - Initially, between 60% and 80% of the development is predicted to be visible; - The proposed new structures would be visible in the open landscape; - Existing pylons and wind turbines would remain prominent skyline structures; - There would be an initial increase in the established influence of infrastructure; - In the medium and longer term, proposed perimeter landscape would largely screen the new structures from view, and after approximately five years visibility would reduce to between 20% and 40% of the development Degree of contrast / integration: Electricity generating/ supply infrastructure, including renewables, is clearly visible Nature of the View: A clear and unencumbered view. Transient from moving vehicles	Geographical Extent: Angle: Direct from westbound travel along Ing Drove. Oblique to north-west bound travel along Cowbridge Road Distance to Proposed Development: 486m Extent of area over which changes would be visible: Approx. 250m stretch of roads either side of the viewpoint
Duration: Long-term.	Reversibility: Reversible (40 year lifespan).
Magnitude: Small to Medium (initially) Small (Medium and longer term) The Proposed Development would be added to the middle ground of the view. Initially, between 60% and 80% of the development would be visible. The new structures would be	

visible to the west within the open landscape. The existing pylons and wind turbines would remain prominent structures on the western skyline. Initially, there would be an increase in the influence of infrastructure upon the view.

In the medium and longer term, proposed perimeter landscaping would largely screen the new structures from view, and after approximately five years visibility would reduce to between 20% and 40% of the development.

Significant Effect: No

A minor to moderate level of effect would occur. The Proposed Development would be visible to the west and there would be some increase in the well-established influence of electricity generation and supply infrastructure upon the view. Nevertheless, views would remain fundamentally open in character. Effects would not be significant. In the medium and longer term, proposed planting at the Site perimeter would once established largely screen the new structures, thereby reducing their particular influence upon the views available. Effects would not be significant.

Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial:

The effects of the Proposed Development would be adverse

Viewpoint 7: Junction of A52 Bicker Road with Day's Lane Grid Ref: 521700, 336655	
View north-west from the roadside adjacent to a residential property. The view is over the adjacent arable field, to a small woodland in the middle ground, and with partial longer views beyond. Electricity pylons are prominent features at short and medium range, and the Bicker wind turbines are also clearly visible on the skyline. Similar views are available from four nearby properties located on the northern side of the A52.	
Susceptibility to Change: High - Residents; - Direct views; - Road users; - Have a medium susceptibility.	Value: Medium - No landscape designations; - Not a location likely to be visited for any scenic qualities; - People tend to value the views from their properties.
Sensitivity: High The viewpoint reflects views available to residents in the adjacent properties. Views are direct from rear windows and from rear garden areas. Susceptibility to change is high. The viewpoint is not subject to any landscape designations, nor is it a location that is promoted to the public or likely to be visited for the views available. Nevertheless, people do tend to value the views from their properties. Value is medium. Overall, sensitivity is high.	
Size / Scale of Effect: Scale of Change in view: - The Proposed Development would be introduced towards the rear of the view, and would be partially screened by intervening vegetation; - Initially, between 20% and 40% of the development is predicted to be visible; - The new structures would be far less prominent than the existing pylons, and would also be less prominent than the Bicker wind turbines; - In the medium and longer term, new perimeter landscaping would largely screen the new structures from view. Less than 20% of the development is anticipated to be visible after approximately five years; - There would be little overall change in view. Degree of contrast / integration: Electricity generating/ supply infrastructure, including renewables, is clearly visible Nature of the View: A clear and unencumbered view. Transient from moving vehicles	Geographical Extent: Angle: Direct from properties. Perpendicular to the direction of travel on the A52. Oblique to westbound travel along Day's Lane Distance to Proposed Development: 969m Extent of area over which changes would be visible: Viewpoint, adjacent properties, and adjacent sections of road
Duration: Long-term.	Reversibility: Reversible (40 year lifespan).
Magnitude: Small The Proposed Development would be introduced towards the rear of the view. Initially, between 20% and 40% of the development is predicted to be visible. Considerable, although partial, screening would be provided by intervening vegetation cover. The new	

structures would be far less prominent than the existing pylons to the north of the viewpoint. They would also be less prominent than the Bicker wind turbines. In the medium and longer term, new perimeter landscaping would largely screen the new structures from view. Less than 20% of the development is anticipated to be visible after approximately five years. Overall, there would be little change in view from baseline.

Significant Effect: No

A minor level of effect would occur. The Proposed Development would be a very limited presence in the background, partially screened by existing vegetation, and where existing structures would remain more prominent. The new structures would be largely screened once proposed perimeter planting establishes. Effects would not be significant.

Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial:

The introduction of the Proposed Development would neither enhance nor detract from the quality of the view. As such, effects would be neutral.

Viewpoint 8: Public footpath Bick/2/1**Grid Ref:** 520318, 338521

View south from public footpath running along the side of Hammond Beck. The view is across the flat fenland landscape, with the Bicker wind turbines and electricity pylons prominent at short range. Construction at the Viking Link convertor site is visible in the background of the view to the south-west. Glimpses of structures at the National Grid Substation are available through the perimeter tree belts. The footpath itself became more overgrown to the south of the viewpoint and was not especially easy to access from the public road network to the north. As such, it is unlikely to be well used.

Susceptibility to Change: High

- Walkers;
 - The views available will be the main reason for any journey

Value: Medium

- No landscape designations;
- Public right of way, but unlikely to be well used

Sensitivity: High

The viewpoint reflects the views available to walkers. These views will be the main reason for a journey to take place, and as such susceptibility to change is high.

The viewpoint is not subject to any landscape designations. It is located along a public right of way, but one that shows little signs of use. Value is medium.

Overall, sensitivity is high.

Size / Scale of Effect:

- **Scale of Change in view:**

- The Proposed Development would be introduced immediately south of the viewpoint;
- Initially, 80% to 100% of the development is predicted to be visible;
- The new structures would be conspicuous at close range;
- Existing pylons and wind turbines would remain prominent;
- The influence of development upon the view would increase;
- In the medium and longer term, new perimeter landscaping would largely screen the new structures from view,;
- Approximately five years after planting visibility is anticipated to reduce to between 20% and 40% of the development.

- **Degree of contrast / integration:**

Electricity generating/ supply infrastructure, including renewables, is clearly visible

- **Nature of the View:** A clear and unencumbered view.

Geographical Extent:

- **Angle:** Direct
- **Distance to Proposed Development:** Adj. to boundary
- **Extent of area over which changes would be visible:** Approx. 400m stretch of footpath

Duration: Long-term.**Reversibility:** Reversible (40 year lifespan).**Magnitude:** Medium (initially) Small to Medium (medium and long term)

The Proposed Development would be introduced immediately south of the viewpoint. As such, the new structures would be a conspicuous presence at close range. Initially, 80% to 100% of the development is predicted to be visible. Existing pylons and wind turbines would remain prominent on the southern skyline. The influence of electricity generation and supply infrastructure would increase.

In the medium and longer term, once new perimeter landscaping has become established, this would largely screen the new structures from view. The new planting would increase the degree of enclosure in the view. Visibility would reduce considerably, with approximately 20% to 40% of the development anticipated to be visible after approximately five years.

Significant Effect: Yes (initially) No (medium and longer term)

A moderate to major level of effect would occur initially. The Proposed Development would result in a clear increase in the well-established influence of electricity generation and supply infrastructure upon the view. The foreground of the view would change substantially. Effects would be significant.

In the medium and longer term, a moderate level of effect would occur. As proposed new planting establishes, the new structures would be largely screened from view by approximately five years after the date of planting. The open baseline views across the adjacent fields would be replaced by views of hedgerows at close range. Change would continue to be evident. The influence of development upon the view would reduce, and the influence of vegetation would increase. Effects would not be significant.

Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial:

The effects of the Proposed Development would be adverse.

Viewpoint 9: North Ing Drove/ Cross Britain Way Grid Ref: 518876, 336946	
View north-east from the roadside. The Cross Britain Way long-distance route follows this section of North Ing Drove. The view is across the flat fenland fields. The Bicker wind turbines are prominent skyline features to the north, and electricity pylons are conspicuous to the north-east. Construction activity associated with the Viking Link convertors is very prominent to the north-west.	
Susceptibility to Change: High • Walkers; • The views available will be the main reason for any journey	Value: High • No landscape designations; • Promoted long-distance recreational route
Sensitivity: High The viewpoint reflects the views available to walkers. These views will be the main reason for a journey to take place, and as such susceptibility to change is high. The viewpoint is not subject to any landscape designations. It is located along a promoted long-distance walking route and hence has a clear recreational/ amenity function. Value is high. Overall, sensitivity is high.	
Size / Scale of Effect: • Scale of Change in view: ○ The Proposed Development would be visible to the north-east; ○ Initially, between 80% and 100% of the development is predicted to be visible ○ New structures at the south-western edge of the Site would be clearly evident; ○ The Bicker wind turbines and Viking Link convertors would remain prominent to the north and north-west (out of shot on the viewpoint figure); ○ The influence of development upon the view would increase initially; ○ In the medium and longer term, new perimeter landscaping would largely screen the new structures from view. ○ By approximately five years after planting visibility is anticipated to reduce to between 20% and 40% of the development. • Degree of contrast / integration: Electricity generating/ supply infrastructure, including renewables, is clearly visible • Nature of the View: A clear and unencumbered view. Transient from moving vehicles	Geographical Extent: • Angle: Direct • Distance to Proposed Development: 283m • Extent of area over which changes would be visible: Approx. 500m stretch of road
Duration: Long-term.	Reversibility: Reversible (40 year lifespan).
Magnitude: Small to Medium (initially) Small (medium and longer term) The Proposed Development would be visible located within the open landscape to the north-east of the viewpoint. Initially, between 80% and 100% of the development is predicted to be visible. The new structures at the south-western edge of the Site would be	

the most apparent features. The Bicker wind turbines and Viking Link convertors would remain prominent to the north and north-west (out of shot on the Viewpoint figure). There would be an increase in the influence of development upon the view initially.

In the medium and longer term, new planting at the Site perimeter would largely screen the new structures from view. The influence of vegetation upon the view would increase. By approximately five years after planting visibility is anticipated to reduce to between 20% and 40% of the development.

Significant Effect: No

A moderate level of effect would occur initially. The Proposed Development would result in a limited increase in the well-established influence of electricity generation and supply infrastructure within an open and expansive view, where far more prominent structures are already present. Effects would not be significant.

In the medium and longer term, effects would reduce to minor to moderate. New planting would largely screen the new structures and would reduce their particular influence upon the view. There would be an increase in the influence of vegetation upon the view. Effects would not be significant.

Adverse/ Neutral/ Beneficial:

The effects of the Proposed Development would be adverse.