SUNNICA ENERGY FARM

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Chapter 10: Landscape and Visual Amenity

Sunnica Ltd

AUGUST 2020

www.sunnica.co.uk

Contents

Tables

Plates

10 Landscape and Visual Amenity

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 This chapter identifies and proposes measures to address the potential impacts and effects of the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors, via a landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA).

10.1.2 The LVIA is undertaken for the construction (winter), year 1 of opening (winter), year 15 post opening (summer) and decommissioning (winter) phases of the Scheme.

10.1.3 Landscape effects relate to changes to the landscape as a resource, including physical changes to the fabric or individual elements of the landscape, its aesthetic or perceptual qualities, and landscape character.

10.1.4 Visual effects relate to changes to existing views of identified visual receptors ('people'), from the loss or addition of features within their view due to the Scheme.

10.1.5 The chapter focuses mainly on a preliminary assessment of the potential 'significant' effects of the Scheme identified based on the current design and assessment work, i.e. those effects assessed as major or moderate (adverse or beneficial). However, all effects (significant and not significant) are provided in Appendices 10-7 and 10-8, which should be read in combination with this chapter.

10.1.6 The LVIA has been undertaken by Chartered Landscape Architects with extensive experience in LVIA of solar developments.

10.1.7 The LVIA has also been undertaken with reference to the ***Cultural Heritage***, ***Biodiversity***, ***Arboriculture*** and ***Glint and Glare Assessments***, which should be read in combination with this chapter.

10.1.8 The following figures accompany this chapter in Volume 3:

- Figure 10-1: LVIA Study Area
- Figure 10-2: Topography and Watercourses
- Figure 10-3: Designations
- Figure 10-4: Public Rights of Way and Other Access
- Figure 10-5: National Character Areas
- Figure 10-6: Regional East of England Landscape Character Areas
- Figure 10-7: County Landscape Character Areas
- Figure 10-8: Norfolk and South Brecks Landscape Character Areas
- Figure 10-9: Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Figure 10-10: Local Landscape Character Areas
- Figure 10-11a-f: Zones of Theoretical Visibility

- Figure 10-12a-j: Visual Receptor Plans
- Figure 10-13: Visual Receptor Plan – Location of Type 4 Visualisations
- Figure 10-14a: Landscape Masterplan – Sunnica East and West
- Figure 10-14b: Landscape Masterplan – Cable Route and Burwell Substation
- Figures 10-20 to 10-83: Type 1 Annotated Photographs
- Figures 10-90 to 10-97: Type 4 Visualisations.

10.1.9 Please note that Figure numbering 10-15 to 10-19 and 10-84 to 10-89 are not used within this chapter.

10.2 Legislation and Planning Policy

10.2.1 The relevant national, county, local and neighbourhood planning policies relevant to landscape and visual amenity are summarised below and outlined in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10A***.

National

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN1), designated 2011

10.2.2 EN1 (Ref 10-1) sets out the Government's policy for the delivery of major energy infrastructure, to help deliver the Government's climate change objectives, by clearly setting out the need for new low carbon energy infrastructure to contribute to climate change mitigation and will be an 'important and relevant consideration' in the Secretary of State's ('SoS') determination of consent in respect of the Scheme. With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10A***, paragraphs relevant to landscape and visual amenity are:

- Paragraph 1.7.2, which outlines *"that new energy infrastructure is likely to have some negative effects on landscape/visual amenity…and the impacts on landscape/visual amenity will sometimes be hard to mitigate"*.;
- Paragraph 1.7.11, which outlines *"the principal area in which consenting new energy infrastructure in accordance with the energy NPSs is likely to lead to adverse effects which cannot always be satisfactorily mitigated is in respect of landscape and visual effects."*;
- Paragraphs 4.5.1 to 4.5.3, which outline the requirements of high-quality design include the aesthetic, functionality, fitness for purpose and sustainability. They explain that good design can be *"in terms of siting relative to existing landscape character, landform and vegetation",* but that ultimately *the "nature of much energy infrastructure development will often limit the extent to which it can contribute to the enhancement of the quality of the area.";*
- Paragraphs 5.9.5 to 5.9.8, which set out the requirements for a landscape and visual impact assessment, that projects need to be *"designed carefully, taking account of the potential impact on the landscape…"*, such that the design aim *"should be to minimise harm to the landscape, providing reasonable mitigation where possible and*

appropriate..." and that *"virtually all nationally significant energy infrastructure projects will have effects on the landscape*.";

- Paragraph 5.9.14, which sets out the importance of landscape character assessments in LVIAs and that local landscape designations should not be used as a reason for refusal;
- Paragraphs 5.9.15 to 5.9.18, which set out that schemes are likely to be visible and have visual effects, and that the *"IPC* [now Secretary of State] *should consider whether the scheme has been designed carefully…"*, including whether any *"adverse impact is temporary, such as during construction, and/or whether any adverse impact on the landscape will be capable of being reversed in a timescale that the IPC considers reasonable."*; and
- Paragraph 5.9.22 which outlines methods for minimising adverse effects, including *"siting of infrastructure, colours and materials, landscaping schemes and building design."*

NPS for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN3), designated 2011

10.2.3 EN3 (Ref 10-2) provides the primary basis for decisions by the Secretary of State on applications it receives for the categories of nationally significant renewable energy infrastructure identified within it. As these categories, and the criteria within them, do not include or relate to solar (or their related infrastructure) projects in the current version of the NPS, this NPS is not relevant to the landscape and visual assessment for the Scheme.

NPS for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN5), designated 2011

10.2.4 EN5 (Ref 10-3) provides the primary basis for decisions taken by the SoS on applications it receives for the categories of nationally significant electricity networks infrastructure included within it. Although EN-5 does not refer directly to solar projects some aspects of the Scheme involve electricity networks infrastructure (such as the transformers, on site substations, cabling and the Burwell Substation Extension). With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10A***, paragraphs relevant to landscape and visual amenity are:

- Paragraph 2.2.5, which requires applicant to consider the local landscape, topography and screening when considering the locations of substations;
- Paragraph 2.8.9, which requires consideration of the landscape in which electrical networks infrastructure will sit (such as cabling) when determining whether or not it should be undergrounded;
- Paragraph 2.8.11, which focuses on new planting for screening and reducing the visual impacts for receptors.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), adopted 2019

10.2.5 The NPPF (Ref 10-4) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied, and the environmental role of sustainable development. With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10A***, paragraphs relevant to landscape and visual amenity are:

- Paragraph 98, regarding protecting and enhancing Public Rights of Way (PRoW) and opportunities for better facilities and new linkages;
- Paragraph 118, regarding planning policies taking opportunities to achieve net environmental gains – such as developments that would enable new habitat creation or improve public access to the countryside;
- Paragraph 127, which requires development to function well and add to the overall quality of the area, are visually attractive and sympathetic to local character and setting;
- Paragraph 128, which focuses on design quality and engagement with local planning authorities and communities;
- Paragraph 130, outlining that permission should be refused for poor design, which fails to take opportunities for improving the character of an area;
- Paragraph 131, which requires great weight to be given to applications which are outstanding or innovative design and promote high levels of sustainability;
- Paragraph 148, which states that the planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate;
- Paragraph 170, with planning policies and decisions contributing to and enhancing the natural and local environment;
- Paragraph 171, which requires Plans to distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value and take a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and Green Infrastructure; and
- Paragraph 180, which states planning policies and decisions should ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment.

National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)

10.2.6 NPPG ‘Natural Environment’ (Ref 10-5) sets out the benefits of landscape character assessments and the importance of considering Green Infrastructure in the early stages of schemes.

10.2.7 The stated relevant LVIA considerations for ground mounted solar set out in the NPPG are:

- *“The deployment of large-scale solar farms can have a negative impact on the rural environment, particularly in undulating landscapes. However, the visual impact of a well-planned and well-screened solar farm can be properly addressed within the landscape if planned sensitively.*
- *Particular factors a local planning authority will need to consider include:*

- *That solar farms are normally temporary structures and planning conditions can be used to ensure that the installations are removed when no longer in use and the land is restored to its previous use;*
- *The proposal's visual impact, the effect on landscape of glint and glare (see guidance on landscape assessment) and on neighbouring uses and aircraft safety;*
- *The extent to which there may be additional impacts if solar arrays follow the daily movement of the sun;*
- *The need for, and impact of, security measures such as lights and fencing;*
- *The potential to mitigate landscape and visual impacts through, for example, screening with native hedges; and*
- *The approach to assessing cumulative landscape and visual impact of large scale solar farms is likely to be the same as assessing the impact of wind turbines. However, in the case of ground-mounted solar panels it should be noted that with effective screening and appropriate land topography the area of a zone of visual influence could be zero."*

Local

East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (ECLP), 2015

10.2.8 The ECLP (Ref 10-11) sets out a blueprint for the future growth of East Cambridgeshire and is the main basis for making decisions on planning applications in the district. Two key issues for East Cambridgeshire are:

- *"Retaining distinctiveness and character; and*
- *Climate change and green infrastructure."*

10.2.9 The ECLP strategic objectives include ensuring new development is high quality and reflects local character and protects and enhances the quality and local distinctiveness of the natural, historic and built environment.

10.2.10 The ECLP Chapter 6: Environment and Climate Change references the County Council's 'Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines' (1991), which are reviewed in the published landscape character assessment section of this LVIA.

10.2.11 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10A***, relevant ECLP policies are:

- ENV 1: Landscape and settlement character, which requires development to demonstrate how they will create positive and complementary relationships with existing development and protect, conserve and where possible enhance landscape features, visually sensitive skylines, key views from settlements and public amenity and access;
- Policy ENV 2: Design, which requires development to be designed to a high quality, relating well to existing features, making efficient use of land, retaining important features and views and protect public rights of way;

- Policy ENV 6: Renewable energy development, which supports renewable energy unless their wider environmental, social and economic benefits would be outweighed by significant adverse effects in relation to visual landscape impact and key views;
- Policy ENV 11: Conservation Areas, which sets out requirements for high quality design and the use of Conservation Area Appraisals to inform design proposals;
- Policy ENV 15: Historic Parks and Gardens, which states that development proposals which would have a detrimental impact on the character, setting and amenity of a Historic Park or Garden will not be permitted; and
- Policy COM 5: Strategic Green Infrastructure does not permit proposals which would cause loss or harm to existing Green Infrastructure.

East Cambridgeshire District Council Renewable Energy Development (Commercial Scale) Supplementary Planning Document, (EC RED), 2014

10.2.12 The EC RED (Ref 10-12) sets out East Cambridgeshire District Council's approach to renewable energy proposals, focusing on larger '*standalone*' renewable energy schemes which are of a commercial scale.

10.2.13 The EC RED states that '*benefits*' of renewable energy are a reduction of carbon emissions and environmental benefits, including creating new habitats.

10.2.14 EC RED paragraph 3.1 states:

"The visual impacts on the landscape as a result of renewable energy development will come about as a result of changes in the available views through intrusion or obstruction and whether these views may be improved or reduced. Applicants will need to consider the impacts of renewable energy development on these landscapes and existing views within the district…"

10.2.15 EC RED paragraph 3.2 states:

"Solar farms can change the character of an area particularly where sites are likely to be more visible e.g. located in a hilly area."

10.2.16 The stated matters applicants must consider within an application are:

- *"*Impacts *upon views;*
- *Ely Cathedral;*
- *Associated buildings and infrastructure;*
- *Cumulative landscape and visual impacts;*
- *Mitigation measures; and*
- *Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, including associated studies which are covered in the review of published landscape character assessments."*

East Cambridgeshire District Council Design Guide, SPD, 2012

10.2.17 The East Cambridgeshire District Council Design Guide (Ref 10-13) sets out prescribed rules that should be adhered to, unless material considerations indicate otherwise and focuses attention on the design issues that will be assessed when determining applications.

10.2.18 In terms of landscape matters, the East Cambridgeshire District Council Design Guide adapts the Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines, which are reviewed within this LVIA. Achieving landscape goals for development include:

- *"Consider existing important views from roads, paths and public areas;*
- *Paying particular attention to the edges of new development;*
- *Consider using hedges and woodlands as screening;*
- *Reflect the local landscape character through the choice of appropriate native species;*
- *Seek opportunities for creative habitat enrichment; and*
- *Major development schemes should offer environmentally based opportunities as an integral part of the proposal."*

The Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan, Joint Development, Management Policies Document, 2015

10.2.19 The Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan, Joint Development, Management Policies Document (Ref 10-14) is used in day-to-day planning decisions across the West Suffolk area. With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10A*** relevant LVIA policies are:

- Policy DM2: Creating Places;
- Policy DM5: Development in the Countryside;
- Policy DM8: Low and Zero Carbon Energy Generation;
- Policy DM13: Landscape Features, requiring development to be informed by the Suffolk landscape character assessment that harm to the locally distinctive character is minimised and there is no net loss of characteristic features;
- Policy DM15: Listed Buildings;
- Policy DM19: Development Affecting Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest;
- Policy DM31: Farm Diversification; and
- Policy DM44: Rights of Way, which outlines the importance of gaps between settlements.

Forest Heath Local Development Framework, Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted 2010

10.2.20 The Forest Heath Local Development Framework, Core Strategy Development Plan Document (Ref 10-15) is the principal document that provides the overall strategic vision for the future of the previous area of

Forest Heath to 2026, with the environmental spatial objectives (ENV3) including:

"To promote a diverse range of renewable energy schemes and more energy efficient developments whilst protecting our landscapes and quality of life."

10.2.21 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10A***, the relevant policies are:

- Policy CS2: Natural Environment, which outlines that landscapes and areas of local distinctiveness will be protected and enhancement and expansion will be encouraged via promoting Green Infrastructure and using landscape character assessments to inform development decisions;
- Policy CS3: Landscape Character and the Historic Environment, which requires developments to take into account landscape character assessments, and that all schemes should protect and seek to enhance overall landscape character; and
- Policy CS5: Design Quality and Local Distinctiveness, which requires all new development to be designed to a high quality and reinforce local distinctiveness.

Forest Heath District Council, Accessible Natural Greenspace Study, 2017

10.2.22 The Forest Heath District Council, Accessible Natural Greenspace Study (Ref 10-16) provides evidence on appropriate accessible green space and provision of additional sustainable routes.

Neighbourhood

10.2.23 At the time of undertaking this LVIA, there were no neighbourhood plans for Freckenham, Worlington or Isleham, nor Snailwell or Burwell.

Fordham Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036, 2018

10.2.24 The Fordham Neighbourhood Plan (Ref 10-17) sets out several objectives for Fordham, along with the following relevant policies:

- Policy 2: Character and Design, requiring development to deliver high quality design;
- Policy 4: Maintaining Separation, such that proposals located in areas between Fordham and any neighbouring settlement that would either visually or physically reduce the separation, or sense of separation, will not be supported; and
- Policy 6: Locally Important Views defined in the Plan, whereby development should not obstruct or detract from a Locally Important View; however as demonstrated by the visual appraisal there are none towards the Site, or between the Site and Fordham.

Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2031, adopted 2019

10.2.25 The Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan (Ref 10-18) notes the unique landscape setting which surrounds the town, with Policy NKT2: 'Key Views',

setting out a number of key views across Newmarket; but none of the identified 'key views' are towards the DCO Site.

10.3 Assessment Assumptions and Limitations

10.3.1 This is a preliminary assessment of the likely landscape and visual impacts and effects arising from the Scheme and will be reviewed and updated as required for the DCO Application.

10.3.2 The PEI Report draws upon landscape and visual surveys undertaken between March 2019 and July 2020. Surveys will continue between August 2020 and the submission of the DCO Application, with any updates or revisions included in the ES as required.

10.3.3 All fieldwork has been undertaken from publicly accessible locations; with accompanied visits to the Limekilns and Godolphin Stables. Professional judgement has been used to assess residents' views and views from main roads (i.e. A14), aided by aerial photography and fieldwork observations from the surrounding area.

10.3.4 The LVIA includes a ***High Level Tree Constraints Report*** in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10B***. Additional tree surveys will be undertaken during 2020 and the findings from this work will be reflected in the DCO Application, with the LVIA updated as required.

10.3.5 The assessment is based upon the parameters set out on Figure 3-1 Sunnica East Sites A and B and Figure 3-2 Sunnica West Sites A and B, including in respect to the location and extent of the different aspects of the Scheme (including offsetting and mitigation measures).

10.3.6 Following requests from Landscape Officers from SCC and WSC between January 2020 and March 2020, the following terminology and durations have been used for the landscape and visual assessment. Short term durations are considered to be two years or less; medium term durations are considered to be between two and ten years, and long term durations are considered to be more than ten years. The LPA response (17/02/2020) noted these terms and durations were acceptable.

10.3.7 For the construction phase assessment (based on peak activity in 2023), the assumptions are:

- Construction activity is conservatively assumed to be undertaken across the DCO Site at the same time and during winter, such that existing deciduous vegetation is not in leaf, thereby representing a worst-case assessment scenario;
- The excavation for Cable Route A and Cable Route B has been conservatively assessed that it could be anywhere across the 50 metre (m) wide corridor and the extent of the DCO boundary at the railway crossing. This is because the precise alignment is not yet known. Where required from an environmental constraint or design requirements (i.e. at watercourses, key vegetation and Lodes) boring, micro-tunnelling or moling methods of construction will be undertaken, requiring rigs and associated equipment to install the cable beneath these features;

- The construction phase is assumed to require daily HGV movements to the DCO Site, along with dumper trucks and excavators. The excavated material from the cable route will be stored within the DCO Site boundary;
- The primary laydown and storage areas for the grid connection works will be located adjacent to Burwell sub-station, with temporary gravel access paths along Newnham Drove and Weirs Drove. Other laydown areas are located throughout the DCO Site as illustrated on Figure 3-18a and 3-18b;
- All compound areas will consist of offices, welfare facilities, canteens, storage and waste skips, parking areas and enough space in order to allow the storage, download and turning areas of vehicles. Mobile cranes (i.e. a vehicle with a tall lifting arm) would be required to implement the compounds, i.e. lifting and placing of offices etc. Compounds will store materials as required, with frequent deliveries, rather than stockpiles of materials;
- The perimeter fence around the DCO Site will be implemented early in the construction phase to secure the Site and will consist of a 2m high deer proof fencing. This will also prevent construction activity in proximity to retained vegetation and where required specific tree protection measures will be implemented, including fencing or solid hoardings and construction exclusion zones. This tree protection fencing will be, rendered in a suitable colour to aid their integration in the landscape will then be located adjacent to the perimeter fencing;
- Ground preparation will consist of topsoil stripping and storage, localised ground levelling, implementation of foundations for structures and trenching for wiring. This will be undertaken by standard construction equipment, e.g. diggers, excavators and trucks. This will be followed by the construction of the solar module support structures and then the solar panels will be fixed onto these structures, followed by the construction of the remaining infrastructure, e.g. solar inverters, transformers and switchgears. This activity will require tall lifting equipment, e.g. cranes;
- Topsoil will be spread back across the area with a new native grass seed mix applied along with the planting of the hedgerows and woodland (the ‘Green Infrastructure’);
- The construction phase will be undertaken in accordance with an Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which sets out the best construction practice measures, including to protect retained vegetation, minimise noise and dust, and ensures compounds and stockpiles are kept in a tidy manner; and
- Several PRoW which cross the construction activity (U6006 and W-257/003/0) would be closed during the construction phase whilst others adjacent to the works would remain open.

10.3.8 For the year 1 operation assessment (2025) the assumptions are:

- The Scheme will be operational across all of the DCO Site, the season is winter, and deciduous vegetation will not be in leaf. This therefore reflects a worst-case assessment scenario;

- The solar arrays would be set within an aluminium frame and mounted on a steel rack. The panels would be angled with their highest edge 2.5m above ground level and all panels would be fixed in a south facing orientation and would not rotate to follow the sun;
- The invertors, switchgear and transformers would also be 3m in height and the solar stations would be 3.5m in height;
- The battery energy storage system ('BESS') would be 6m in height;
- The electrical compound would include substations which are 10m in height (with Burwell Sub-station extension at 12m) and control buildings which are 6m in height;
- The proposed landscape design would consist of a native grassland beneath the panels and in areas of ecological enhancement or archaeological mitigation. This grassland would not have fully established at year 1.
- Proposed new native hedgerows would be between 0.6m and 0.8m in height with tree planting between 1m and 3.5m in height dependant on available plants and natural variation in heights;
- All new planting (the 'Green Infrastructure') as per the preliminary the Parameter Plans would be implemented and managed in accordance with the Outline Landscape Ecology Management Plan ('OLEMP'), a draft version of which is included within ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10I***.

10.3.9 For the year 15 operation (2040) assessment the assumptions are:

- The Scheme is operational across all of the DCO Site, the season is summer, such that existing vegetation and new planting is in leaf. As set out in the following methodology section, this accords with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, 2013 (Ref 10-19);
- All new planting would have successfully established, due to the implementation of the draft OLEMP, such that there would be a complete native grassland sward across Sunnica East Site A and Site B and Sunnica West Site A and Site B, including beneath the solar panels, and across the ecological and archaeological mitigation areas; and
- The tree planting would have grown by an assumed 3 metres in height (equating to 20 centimetres per year) to range between 4m and 6.5m in height. New and existing hedgerows would be managed and maintained between 2m and 3m in height.

10.3.10 For the decommissioning assessment (2065) the assumptions are:

- The Scheme is no longer operational, and the solar panels and associated structures and equipment are removed in a manner similar to the construction phase, requiring machinery and localised excavation. The proposed Green Infrastructure, as illustrated on Figures 3-1 and 3-2 would remain, with hedgerows remaining between 2m and 3m in height and new trees between 7m and 9.5m in height; and

- The assessment is undertaken for the winter season with the duration of the decommissioning phase being between 12 and 24 months; and
- Cable Routes A and B would remain below ground, in situ.

10.3.11 Additional assessments of options for the proposed sub-station extension at Burwell and part of the alignment of the route for Cable Route B are included in the landscape and visual assessment. These alternatives are illustrated on Figure 4-5.

10.4 Assessment Methodology

Study Area

10.4.1 With reference to Figure 10-1, the LVIA study area extends 2 kilometres (km) from the DCO Site boundary. Details of the landscape and visual context across this study area are set out in the following baseline sections.

10.4.2 The LVIA study area covers the area which the Scheme may influence in a significant manner. It has been reviewed throughout the design process in response to the iterative design process. The study area will continue to be reviewed for the DCO submission.

10.4.3 Prior to determining the 2km study area, fieldwork was undertaken across a 5km radius around the DCO Site, supported by Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV). The analysis of the landscape and visual baseline across this 5km radius has enabled the study area to be refined and reduced to 2km.

10.4.4 This process, termed the 'Area of Search', identified that the intervening landform, buildings and vegetation beyond 2km from the DCO Site, was such that significant landscape and visual effects would not occur.

10.4.5 The Area of Search identified that from:

- Land to the north of West Row and Mildenhall, the intervening vegetation and landform meant that the DCO Site would not be visible, and any perception of the Scheme would not significantly alter the character of the landscape, particularly in the context of Mildenhall airfield;
- Land to east of Red Lodge, the DCO Site would not be visible due to the extent of coniferous woodland and flat landform, which screen longer distance views and any perception of the Scheme would not significantly alter the landscape character, due to the influence of Red Lodge and associated road networks;
- Land between Fordham and Isleham, to the west of the B1104, the elevated landform along the alignment of the B1104 would screen views towards the Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B and that any perception of the Scheme would not significantly alter the landscape character due to the dominance of the large scale open field patterns and flat landform;
- Land to the south of B1506, to the east of Newmarket, including Kentford and Moulton, the undulating landform and extent of mature woodland would screen the Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West

Site B. As such, any perception of the Scheme would not significantly alter the landscape character, given this part of the study area is crossed by the A11, A14 and Newmarket to Ipswich railway line and is dominated by the 'stud' landscape;

- Land to the north of West Fen and Burwell Fen, across Wicken and Soham, the Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B, including the excavation for the Cable Routes would not be visible. This is due to the intervening landform and vegetation. Any perception of the construction phase of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension and Cable Route A and B would be in the context of the extent of pylons already crossing Burwell Fen and connecting to Burwell sub-station; and
- Land to the south of Reach, due to the distance from the Site the Scheme would not be visible and that any perception of the construction phase of the Burwell National Grid Substation Extension would be in the context of the existing infrastructure.

10.4.6 With these areas between 2km to 5km scoped out, the study area for likely significant effects is considered to be representative and propionate in focusing on a 2km area from the boundary of the DCO Site.

Sources of Information

Desktop Research

10.4.7 The following section summarise the publications which have been considered in the desktop research:

- Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTVs), aerial photography, historic mapping and OS Explorer Ely and Newmarket no.226;
- Relevant national energy policies, planning policy and planning practice guidance, and relevant Suffolk and Cambridgeshire landscape and visual amenity related policies;
- Natural England, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire published landscape character assessments; and
- Local village design guides and conservation area statements.

Surveys

10.4.8 As noted, fieldwork has been undertaken between March 2019 and July 2020. These surveys have reviewed the desktop analysis, verified the statements within the published landscape character assessments, analysed the landscape character and ascertained the likely visibility of the Scheme by identifying visual receptors.

LVIA Impact Assessment Methodology

10.4.9 The LVIA PEI Report methodology is set out in full in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***, along with the methodology for the ZTVs and the verifiable views (photomontages).

10.4.10 The LVIA PEI Report methodology is derived from the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition (GLVIA3), 2013 (Ref 10-19). The photomontage methodology is derived from the Landscape

Institute's TGN 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, 2019 (Ref 10-20).

10.4.11 The landscape and visual assessment has been undertaken for each of the separate site areas, e.g. Sunnica East Site A, followed by an assessment of the DCO Scheme as a whole, i.e. a combined assessment. The difference between the assessments are that the individual assessment is assessing the impact of only Sunnica East Site A on a landscape character area or a person's view, whereas the combined assessment is assessing the impact of all aspects of the DCO Scheme on a landscape character area or a person's view. Both the individual and combined assessments are based on the same landscape and visual receptors and follow the same methodology set out below.

10.4.12 In accordance with GLVIA 3, the landscape assessment identifies the existing physical fabric or individual features of the landscape, including patterns of land use, land cover and aesthetic and perceptual qualities. The landscape assessment identifies published landscape receptors and where necessary identifies local landscape character areas to add further detail to the published studies. These landscape receptors are then assessed in terms of their landscape value and susceptibility to change (based on the criteria presented in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***), to determine their sensitivity to the Scheme. Landscape receptor sensitivity is defined as either high, medium, low or very low based on the combination of the landscape value and landscape susceptibility, as set out in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***.

10.4.13 In accordance with GLVIA 3, the visual assessment relates to the potential changes to existing views from identified receptors e.g. residents, public rights of way users or motorists, as a result of the addition or loss of features to their existing view. The visual receptors are identified via fieldwork and similarly assessed in terms of the value of their view and their susceptibility to change (as set out in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***), to determine their sensitivity to the Scheme. Visual receptor sensitivity is defined as either high, medium, low or very low, based on the combination of value and susceptibility, as set out in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***.

10.4.14 With the landscape and visual receptors established, the magnitude of impact (change) resulting from the Scheme is assessed in relation to each receptor for the assessment phases (i.e. construction, operation year 1 and year 15 and decommissioning). The magnitude of impact considers the size and scale, duration and reversibility of the Scheme and is determined upon a scale of high, medium, low, very low and none, as set out in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***. In addition, consideration is also given to the conclusions of the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, which is included in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 16A***.

10.4.15 In accordance with GLVIA 3, the construction phase assessment considers the construction activities and the location of construction equipment, access and hauls routes; the type of machinery being used and the position and scale and working areas. The construction phase is assessed at winter,

when existing deciduous vegetation is not in leaf to soften or screen views and therefore represents a worst-case assessment scenario.

10.4.16 The year 1 of opening assessment considers the location, scale and design of the Scheme structures, access and traffic, changes in land use and planting, as set out above in the assumptions section. In accordance with GLVIA 3, the year 1 opening assessment is undertaken at winter, to represent a worst-case assessment scenario.

10.4.17 The year 15 post opening assessment is based on the same parameters as the year 1 assessment, but with the establishment of the proposed planting and in summer, to reflect the seasonal change. This assumes that the planting is taller, and vegetation is in leaf (as set out in the assumptions section) and is in accordance with GLVIA 3. As such, the Scheme may be less visible, due to softening or screening of views.

10.4.18 The decommissioning phase of the Scheme is based on all the Scheme structures (i.e. solar panels, solar stations) being removed and the proposed landscape planting and permissive access routes remaining. Cable Routes A and B would also remain in situ- below ground. The assessment is undertaken for winter.

10.4.19 For all of the above phases, the relationship between the sensitivity of the receptor and the magnitude of impact is used to inform the judgement on the significance of effect for each receptor.

10.4.20 Table 10-1 is used as guide to inform the LVIA judgement on the significance of effect. This judgement process and terminology is specific to LVIA and therefore differs from the methodology of other EIA topics.

Table 10-1: Guide to the Landscape and Visual Significance of Effect

Sensitivity of Receptor	***Magnitude of Impact***				
	High	***Medium***	***Low***	***Very Low***	***None***
High	Major	Major / Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor / Negligible	Neutral
Medium	Major / Moderate	Moderate / Minor	Minor / Negligible	Negligible	Neutral
Low	Moderate	Minor	Minor / Negligible	Negligible / Neutral	Neutral
Very Low	Minor	Negligible	Negligible / Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

10.4.21 With reference to the above table, major and moderate effects are ‘significant’. Effects of minor, negligible and neutral are ‘not significant’.

10.4.22 Where Table 10-1 allows for two levels of significance (e.g. major / moderate or minor / negligible) professional judgement has been used on a case by case basis to determine the appropriate level of significance.

10.4.23 Where professional judgement considers that the assessment of significance of effect should differ from the guide in Table 10-1, then a reasoned justification is provided in the assessment narrative.

Relationship to Residential Amenity Visual Assessment

10.4.24 The LVIA assesses the potential visual effects to different types of visual receptor, including residential receptors, i.e. private views, and agreed representative viewpoints via discussions with SCC and WSC Landscape Officers.

10.4.25 With reference to the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 2/19: 'Residential Visual Amenity Assessment' (Ref 10-21), the Residential Visual Amenity Threshold (RVAT) is considered as to whether:

"the effect of the development on Residential Visual Amenity of such nature and / or magnitude that it potentially affects 'living conditions' or Residential Amenity."

10.4.26 The RVAT guidance is based upon a 'four' stage approach. Stages 1 to 3 accord with the above LVIA methodology, whereby, in line with GLVIA 3, visual receptors are identified, along with the magnitude of impact and the significance of effect.

10.4.27 The fourth step is a more detailed examination of residential properties, where appropriate, when the highest 'significance of effect' levels are identified via stages 1 to 3. Although, as stated by the guidance, there are no '*hard and fast rules'* as to making a judgement on RVAT.

10.4.28 The methodology has therefore allowed for residential receptors at year 15, i.e. post the establishment of the proposed mitigation whom are predicted to experience significant adverse effects, being subject to a RVAT. However, as set out in the following assessment, no significant adverse effects are predicted to residential receptors at year 15 and therefore a RVAT is considered not to be required.

10.5 Stakeholder Engagement

10.5.1 The LVIA consultation to date has included meetings and exchanges of correspondence with Landscape Planning Officers, Rights of Way and Access Officers from SCC and WSC and representatives of the Ramblers, the Jockey Club and Godolphin Stables. There will be ongoing engagement with statutory consultees, which will be reported in the ES.

10.5.2 The LVIA consultation as of July 2020 is outlined in Table 10-2 below.

Table 10-2 Main matters raised during consultation

Consultee	*Main matter raised*	*How has the concern been addressed*	*Location of response in chapter*
The Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion, April 2019			
Planning Inspectorate	The extent of the study area being determined by the likely impacts	The submission sets out the Area of Search and why the 2km study area is	Refer to the Assessment Methodology

Consultee	*Main matter raised*	*How has the concern been addressed*	*Location of response in chapter*
Scoping Opinion	and effects rather than being set at 2km	appropriate for this Scheme.	section in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	The ES should clearly set out the assumptions for the assessment years including the height of new planting	The assumptions for heights of new planting and assessment years have been set out in the assumptions section.	Refer to the assumption section in this chapter.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	The assessment should consider likely impacts to local landscape character and the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment and the Brecks Special Qualities report	The Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment and the Brecks Special Qualities report have been reviewed as part of the baseline and the respective landscape character areas and characteristics have been assessed in the landscape assessment for all phases of the Scheme.	Refer to the published landscape character assessment baseline in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D*** and ***10E***, the assessment of landscape effects and ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Agreement of the study area and relevant representative and illustrative viewpoints for assessment with relevant consultation bodies, Assessment to include visitors to and residents of Chippenham Hall and its registered park and garden	Correspondence with the Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council between January 2020 and March 2020 has agreed visual receptors and representative viewpoints and that the extent of the study area would be set out in the LVIA.	Refer to the visual assessment and ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, which includes an assessment of visitors and residents of Chippenham Hall Registered Park and Garden, via viewpoint 31.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Agreement with stakeholders of the photomontages (including methodology) and relevant representative viewpoints and consideration of producing images at Year 5. ES to include details of	Correspondence with the Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council between January 2020 and March 2020 has agreed photomontages and representative viewpoints, which will reflect the year 1 and year 15 assessment phases for the ES. A year 5	Several draft Visually Verifiable Views and photomontages are provided in the PEI Report along with a methodology (***PEI Report***

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
	photomontage methodology.	assessment has not been undertaken and therefore images have not been produced for the year 5 scenario as this would not reflect the assessment scenario's (year 1 and year 15) and is considered neither representative nor necessary, given there would be little change from the year 1 assessment due to the assumed growth rates of the new planting. The Year 1 scenario presents a more conservative assessment of early Scheme impacts than a Year 5 scenario.	***Volume 2: Appendix 10C***) with all images being presented in the ES.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Assessment of the effects on landscape features should include the loss of any existing trees, hedgerows, and other vegetation.	The effects on landscape features, including loss of trees, hedgerows and other vegetation, has been considered in the landscape assessment.	Refer to the landscape baseline, landscape effects and ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Mitigation to include for tree loss; with design setbacks at Sunnica East from roads and areas of public access and that the potential for enhancement of field boundaries to provide greater connectivity in landcover patterns at the Sunnica East Site should also be considered	Mitigation for tree loss has been included for, via new hedgerow and tree planting and landscape buffers have been located adjacent to public access areas and roads.	Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2 and the embedded mitigation section of the LVIA and the draft OLEMP (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10I***).
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	The selective use of quotations from GLVIA 3, defining significance and the terms *'undue consequences'* and the description of 'High' within Table 10-3 and the reference to visitors and heritage assets	Quotations have been used where appropriate and the term *'undue consequences'* is taken directly from GLVIA 3. Visual receptors include visitors and the landscape methodology accounts for Conservation Areas.	Refer to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C:*** LVIA Methodology which sets out that 'undue consequences' means 'negative changes'.

Consultee	*Main matter raised*	*How has the concern been addressed*	*Location of response in chapter*
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Residential Visual Amenity Assessment (RVAA)	The RVAA is included in the assessment methodology should it be required where a residential receptor is predicted to experience significant adverse effects at year 15 of operation. However, as set out in the following assessment, none of the residential receptors are predicted to experience a significant adverse effect at year 15 and therefore a RVAA is considered not to be required.	Refer LVIA Methodology stated in this chapter.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Reporting the significance of effects to all receptors (significant or not significant)	The assessment has been undertaken for a 2km study area and reports effects which are significant and not significant.	Refer ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***: for landscape effects and ***Appendix 10H***: for visual effects for the results of the assessment on all receptors and section 10.8 for reporting on where potential significant effects were identified.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Inclusion of landscape and visual effects within the cumulative assessment	The cumulative assessment includes landscape and visual effects.	Cumulative assessment.
Planning Inspectorate Scoping Opinion	Clarity of the locations of viewpoints on plans	Viewpoint plans have been produced at several scales to enable the locations to be clarified and in accordance with the GLVIA 3.	Refer to Figures 10-12a to 10-12j.
Statutory Consultee Response to Scoping Opinion, April 2019			
ECDC	Assessment of impacts to trees, photomontages	The effects on landscape features, including trees has been considered in	Refer to the landscape baseline,

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
	undertaken for winter conditions, year 1, 5 and 15 and without landscaping	the landscape assessment. As further studies, including a more detailed tree survey are undertaken, these findings will be updated for the ES. The photomontages illustrate the year 1 and year 15 assessments and includes the landscaping as this forms an embedded part of the Scheme. To illustrate these years without the planting would not be representative. A year 5 assessment has not been undertaken as it is considered that the year 1 and year 15 are proportionate and in line with GLIVA 3. An assessment at year 5 would not provide any additional effects from those assessed in the Year 1 scenario given the assumed small growth rates of new planting.	landscape effects, ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** for landscape effects and effects on visual receptors.
ECDC	Additional viewpoints at A14/A11 junction, adjacent Warren Towers, Moulton Road, PRoW to the west of Sunnica West Site, PRoW to the north of the Sunnica East Site and Weirs Drove, Burwell. Agreement of LVIA methodology	These additional viewpoints have been included. The methodology is presented in the PEI Report, following responses to the Scoping Report which supported the methodology (SCC / WSC I.D. 324, 325 and 326).	Visual assessment and ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***: LVIA Methodology.
ECDC	Inclusion of a Glint and Glare assessment	The stand-alone Glint and Glare Assessment has been reviewed and considered in the assessment of the landscape and visual effects.	Refer to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment*** and ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***: Landscape Effects and ***Appendix 10H***: Visual

Consultee	*Main matter raised*	*How has the concern been addressed*	*Location of response in chapter*
			Effects and section 10.8.
Forestry Commission	Confirmation of no ancient woodland within the Scheme	With reference to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report***, there is no ancient woodland in the Scheme.	Refer to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report*** (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10B***).
Ministry of Defence	Glint and Glare assessment	The stand-alone Glint and Glare Assessment has been reviewed and considered in the assessment of the landscape and visual effects.	Refer to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment*** and ***Appendix 10G***: Landscape Effects and ***Appendix 10H***: Visual Effects and section 10.8.
National Grid	Request for slow and low growing species adjacent to and under overhead lines	This will be reviewed as part of the iterative design process.	Refer to the draft OLEMP (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10I***).
Natural England I.D. 245 and 246	Support of landscape character assessment and request for local landscape character areas and a visual assessment. Agreement on LVIA methodology.	Published landscape character assessments have been reviewed with the respective landscape character areas being included within the assessment. A local landscape character assessment has also been undertaken to add additional information to the published studies and the local effects. The methodology is presented in the Appendix.	Refer to the baseline section, ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D***: Local Landscape Character Areas, ***Appendix 10C***: LVIA Methodology and ***Appendix 10G***: Landscape Effects and section 10.8.
Natural England	Detailing of mitigation measures, alternatives and cumulative assessments	The mitigation measures have been set out in the chapter and are set out on the preliminary Parameter Plans (Figures 3.1 and 3.2) and are	Refer to the embedded mitigation section and

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
		included in the OLEMP. The alternatives are set out in ***Chapter 4***. A cumulative assessment has been undertaken in respect of landscape and visual matters.	the cumulative assessment.
Natural England	Incorporation of measures to improve access, Green Infrastructure and incorporation of Local Authority Green Infrastructure strategies. Assessment of impacts to public access, visual amenity and reference to relevant Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Following the review of published assessments and GI strategies (as set out in the baseline) the mitigation measures have been set out in the chapter and include a Green Infrastructure strategy set out in the preliminary Parameter Plans (Figures 3.1 and 3.2) and the OLEMP. The LVIA assesses effects on visual amenity, including recreational users of PRoW. The assumption is that the existing PRoW would be closed during the construction phase, but all PRoW would remain as existing during the operation phase, along with proposed new permissive paths. Therefore there would be no adverse impacts to public access.	Refer to the baseline, embedded mitigation section and landscape and visual effects tables (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***10H***).
Public Heath England	Siting and design of new PRoW to ensure access across the life course of the Scheme and that the mitigation plans should identify the design principles or standards that will be adopted and any support for community engagement to promote use of these assets to local communities	New permissive routes have been included as part of the Green Infrastructure design and are set out in the preliminary Parameter Plans (Figures 3.1 and 3.2. As set out in the LVIA assumptions, existing PRoW within the DCO boundary would be temporarily closed to facilitate the implementation of the Scheme, but all existing routes would be open during the operational phases.	Refer to Figures 3-1 and 3-2.
Suffolk County Council (SCC)	Site specific plans for managing biodiversity and future	A draft Outline Landscape and Ecology Management Plan (OLEMP) is	Refer to the landscape assessment

Consultee	*Main matter raised*	*How has the concern been addressed*	*Location of response in chapter*
/ West Suffolk Council (WSC)	management plans, including identifying impacts, landscape and biodiversity enhancements	submitted with the PEI Report and an outline LEMP will be submitted with the DCO Application. Impacts have been identified within the landscape assessment, which include enhancements to existing tree belts, e.g. The Avenue, permissive access and landcover.	and ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***: Landscape Effects.
SCC / WSC	Reference to the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment and Brecks Special Qualities Report	These published assessments have been reviewed within the baseline section of the LVIA and the respective landscape character areas included in the landscape assessment. The recommendations of these studies have informed the iterative design process and the embedded mitigation.	Landscape baseline, landscape assessments, ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D***: Published Landscape Character Assessments and ***Appendix 10G***: Landscape Effects.
SCC / WSC	Value of pine lines	The value of the pine lines has been noted and considered in the assessment of landscape sensitivity. Their importance has also been considered in the design of the Scheme, with all structures offset from pine lines.	Refer to the landscape baseline, embedded mitigation section and Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2.
SCC / WSC	LVIA methodology is broadly acceptable with expectation to agree representative and illustrative viewpoints and their methodology	The methodology is set out in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C*** and viewpoints (including the methodology for illustration as either Type 2 or Type 4 images) have been agreed via discussions with the Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council.	Refer to the LVIA methodology, ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***: LVIA Methodology.
SCC / WSC	Cumulative impacts to be included in the assessment	Cumulative impacts have been included in the assessment.	Refer to the Cumulative

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
			Assessment section.
SCC / WSC	Assessment on residential receptors in respect of the Lavender Test	The Lavender Test relates to wind farms and residential amenity. The LVIA assesses the impact on residential receptors as set out in the methodology, which is considered appropriate to address residential visual amenity, including consideration of RVAA methodologies.	Refer to the methodology section, ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***.
SCC / WSC	Mitigation and compensation measures, landscape enhancements and an exemplar scheme in minimising landscape harm	The mitigation, compensation measures and enhancements are embedded in the preliminary Parameter Plans and the draft OLEMP.	The embedded mitigation section and the Figure 3-1 and 3-2.
SCC / WSC	Glint and Glare Assessment	The stand-alone Glint and Glare Assessment has been reviewed and considered in the assessment of the landscape and visual effects.	Refer to the ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 16A, Glint and Glare Assessment*** and ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***: Landscape Effects and ***Appendix 10H***: Visual Effects.
ECDC	Reference to the 'Devil's Dyke'	The Devil's Dyke (or the Devil's Ditch) has been included in the landscape baseline description as well as recreational users of it being considered in the visual assessment.	Refer to the landscape baseline and the assessment of visual receptors.
ECDC Tree Officer	Impacts to trees and details of mitigation measures	At this stage a ***High Level Tree Report*** has been undertaken which sets out initial mitigation measures, which are included for in the CEMP and draft OLEMP. Further tree surveys will be	Refer to the ***High Level Tree Report*** (***Appendix 10B***)

Consultee	*Main matter raised*	*How has the concern been addressed*	*Location of response in chapter*
		undertaken and submitted as part of the ES, as well as being reflected in the ES LVIA.	
Ramblers (Newmarket and District Group)	Detailing of routes either within the Scheme or in proximity to it	New permissive routes are included in Figures 3-1 and 3-2. These figures also demonstrate that existing routes are retained. Figure 10-4 also illustrates the existing public rights of way in and surrounding the DCO Site.	The new routes have been considered in terms of their improved recreational value to the landscape. Refer to Figure 3-1 and 3-2 for the alignment of the new routes.
Suffolk County Council, West Suffolk Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and East Cambridgeshire District Council Responses to Landscape and PRoW Meeting, November 2019			
SCC / WSC	Ground truthing for the 2km study area and receptors beyond 2km, including Chippenham House Registered Park and Garden, Newmarket Gallops and Devils Dyke Scheduled Ancient Monument	The PEI Report sets out the Area of Search and why the 2km study area is appropriate via ground truthing of fieldwork across a 5km area around the DCO boundary during winter months.	Refer to the methodology section. The assessment includes Chippenham House RPG and the Devils Dyke.
SCC / WSC .	Acceptability of GLVIA3, requirement for a detailed methodology, requirement for a RVAA and need for time period definitions and planting growth rates	The acceptability of GLVIA 3 is noted. RVAA is included for within the methodology, but as set out in the methodology section, it is considered not to be required due to no significant adverse effects to residential receptors at year 15. The period definitions have been provided for new planting growth rates.	Refer to the assumption section for the planting growth rates.
SCC / WSC	Cumulative landscape and visual effects, intra project effects between the different parcels of solar arrays and the sequential impacts	A cumulative intra project assessment has been undertaken with all relevant parts of the Scheme considered in the judgement of potential effects. A cumulative assessment with other	Refer to the landscape effects (***Appendix 10G***), visual effects

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
		projects has also been undertaken.	(***Appendix 10H***).
SCC / WSC	Concern over the location and direction of field of view on plans, with viewpoints requiring information and a detailed methodology for the photomontages	Plans have been updated in response to these comments which provide additional information for this PEI Report stage.	Figures 10-12a to 10-12j.
SCC / WSC	Additional viewpoints locations	The additional viewpoints have been included in the assessment.	Visual assessment section ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10F*** and ***10H***.
SCC / WSC	Reference to Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan Joint Development and Management Policies Document' Policy DM13; 'Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks'	These policies have been reviewed as part of the landscape baseline.	Refer to the policy section
SCC / WSC	Details of 'landscape buffers'	Details have been set out in the assumptions section for the landscape buffers and are set out on the preliminary Parameter Plans (Figures 3.1 and 3.2) and are included in the OLEMP.	The planting proposals are illustrated on Figure 3-1 and 3-2 and should be read in combination with the draft OLEMP (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10I***)
SCC / WSC	Query on whether the red line boundary provides sufficient space for construction and operational activity	The Site boundary provides sufficient space for the construction and operational activity.	Refer to ***Chapter 3: Scheme Description***
SCC / WSC	Detailed site information, including on trees and hedgerows	At this stage a ***High Level Tree Report*** has been undertaken which sets out initial consideration of the trees. Further tree surveys will be undertaken and	Refer to the ***High Level Tree Report*** (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10B***)

Consultee	Main matter raised	How has the concern been addressed	Location of response in chapter
		submitted as part of the ES, as well as being reflected in the ES LVIA.	
SCC / WSC	Draft Landscape and Ecology Management Plan is required	A draft LEMP will be submitted with the PEI Report and an Outline LEMP with the DCO Application.	Refer to the assumptions section.
SCC / WSC	Details on landscape mitigation and boundaries and recreation access	Details are provided in the embedded mitigation section and are set out on the preliminary Parameter Plans (Figures 3.1 and 3.2).	Refer to the assumption section.
SCC / WSC	Neither sufficient nor sufficiently accurate information presented for us to agree how the viewpoints should be illustrated at this time	Viewpoints have been selected and are illustrated in accordance with the Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 06/19.	Refer to the LVIA Methodology ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***.
SCC / WSC	A narrative on the overall effects of the proposals on each village and identifying within each village how the effects might vary	A local landscape character assessment has been undertaken to assess the likely impacts and effects on the villages. This has been undertaken by a local landscape character assessment of the villages and identifying their sensitivity to the Scheme.	Refer to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10E***: Local Landscape Character Assessment ***Appendix 10G***.
SCC / WSC	Feedback on 8 photomontages / photo wires to be produced for the PEI Report	The location of the photomontages has been agreed with the LPAs.	Refer to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***: LVIA Methodology.
Suffolk County Council Landscape Officers, West Suffolk Council Landscape Officers and Suffolk County Council Area Rights of Way Officer Response to AECOM Memo 14th February 2020			
SCC / WSC	PEI Report viewpoints 1, 3, 4, 6 and 14b are acceptable with changes required to location 7a, 10a and N4C.	These viewpoints are included in the PEI Report along with the required changes.	Refer to Visual Baseline ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10F*** and Visual Assessment

Consultee	*Main matter raised*	*How has the concern been addressed*	*Location of response in chapter*
			Appendix 10H.
SCC / WSC	Viewpoints are generally acceptable with amendments required to N4B, 16, 27O and 27N.	These viewpoints are included in the PEI Report along with the required changes.	Refer to Visual Baseline ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10F*** and Visual Assessment ***Appendix 10H***.
SCC / WSC	The methodology for visual representation needs to reference more clearly how and where it relates to Visual Representation of Development Proposals LI TGN 06/19 (see all of 3)	The Type 1 annotated photographs and Type 4 photowires and photomontages will be produced in accordance with LI TGN 06/19	Refer to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***.
SCC / WSC	The viewpoint numbering needs to be comprehensively revised	The viewpoint numbering has been revised, so as to be sequential from east to west	Refer to Visual Baseline ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10F*** and Figure 10-12.
Landowners across the DCO Scheme			
Landowners of land across Sunnica East Site A and Site B and Sunnica West Site A and Site B	Presentation and agreement of the proposed Scheme, Green Infrastructure and access arrangements.	Feedback and comments have been incorporated into Figure 3-1 and 3-2.	Refer to Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2.

10.6 Baseline Conditions

10.6.1 This section provides:

- A description of the landscape baseline across the 2km study area;
- An initial analysis of the landscape features within the DCO Site;
- The visual amenity in relation to views of the DCO Site; and
- A summary of the sensitivity of the landscape and visual receptors.

10.6.2 This section should be read in combination with the ***PEI Report Volume 2 Appendices 10A, 10B, 10C 10D, 10E*** and ***10F***, which set out the relevant policy, methodologies which inform the conclusions reached and published

landscape character areas, local landscape character areas and visual baseline descriptions in full.

Landscape Baseline

2km Study Area

10.6.3 With reference to Figure 10-1, the LVIA study area extends up to 2km from the proposed DCO Site boundary.

10.6.4 The northern part of the study areas extends around Isleham and to the north of the River Lark, where it continues broadly parallel with the river to the south of Mildenhall and the southern edge of Mildenhall Woods. Within this section of the study area are the villages of Freckenham, Worlington and Barton Mills to the west of the A11 and Red Lodge, to the east of the A11.

10.6.5 The central part of the study area extends across the northern edge of Newmarket, covering the Limekilns gallops and the A14 and Newmarket railway line. From Newmarket the study area extends northwards to Chippenham, Snailwell and Fordham and eastwards to Kentford and Kennett.

10.6.6 The western part of the study area extends from Landwade to the north and west of Burwell, including West Fen and Burwell Fen and to the south of Reach, to cover part of the Devil's Dyke.

Landform and watercourses

10.6.7 With reference to Figure 10-2 the northern part of the study area is characterised by extensive areas of low lying and flat landform between 0-5m AOD.

10.6.8 The central part of the study area is characterised by undulating and elevated land between Chippenham Park and the east of Newmarket, up to 85m AOD.

10.6.9 The western part of the study area is characterised by flat land, situated between 0-5m AOD, with localised ridges or engineered watercourses (Lodes) which result in a more varied localised pattern to the landform.

10.6.10 To the north of the River Lark the landform rises very gradually with West Row and land around Mildenhall and Mildenhall Airbase situated around 10m AOD.

10.6.11 To the north of Isleham and adjacent to the River Lark, the landform remains flat and low lying at around 5m AOD. The course of the River Lark is gently meandering, with an engineered section diverted at Isleham Marina, to the north of Isleham.

10.6.12 The landform falls from the edge of Isleham, to form a flat tract of land between 0-5m AOD, before rising to Fordham at 10m AOD, whilst remaining generally flat at Freckenham. There is a narrow tract of elevated land, rising to 17m AOD between Isleham Road and Beck Road in this tract of land, which visually separates Fordham from Isleham and Freckenham.

10.6.13 Between Freckenham and Worlington, the landform is generally flat at around 10m AOD. To the north of Worlington the landform falls gently towards the River Lark and Barton Mills at 5m AOD. To the south-east of Barton Mills, the landform rises across Cherry Hill to 35m AOD, which forms an elevated tract of land to the east of A11.

10.6.14 The Lee Brook is a tributary of the River Lee and flows to the east of Isleham, between the river and Freckenham recreation ground. To the south-west of Freckenham the landform remains generally flat at around 10m AOD adjacent to the course of the Lee Brook, before rising to 15m AOD at Chippenham and Chippenham Fen.

10.6.15 The landform across Chippenham and Chippenham Park is at 20m AOD and forms a localised ridgeline extending to the south of Snailwell. To the north of Snailwell, the landform is undulating, falling towards the River Snail, before rising towards the southern edge of Fordham.

10.6.16 To the south of Snailwell and Chippenham Park, the landform falls southwards to the A14 and Newmarket railway line, before rising to 85m AOD, across Warren Hill and Chippenham Hill, to the east of Newmarket.

10.6.17 To the east of Newmarket, Landwade Park and Kentford, are located across the lower parts of Chippenham Hill and Church Hill respectively and either side of the River Kennet. The landform across this part of the study area is gently undulating between Kentford Heath and Red Lodge, at 15m AOD to 25m AOD.

10.6.18 In the western part of the study area, there are extensive tracts of flat and gently undulating landform across West Fen, which extends between Landwade and Burwell. There are also several large waterbodies and ponds within Landwade, associated with the watercourse flowing from St. Wendred's Well, to the south of the A14.

10.6.19 As West Fen transitions into Burwell Fen, the landform across this part of the study area is flat and low lying between 0m and 5m AOD, but there is localised variation as it rises to the north-east of Burwell, forming a ridgeline at 15m AOD.

10.6.20 An extensive network of linear ditches extends across this part of the Broads, around Reach and Burwell, including Reach Lode and Burwell Lode, which connect their respective settlements to the River Cam.

10.6.21 Within Burwell, the Burwell Lode connects to the Catch Water Drain which flows along the north-west edge of the village of Burwell.

10.6.22 To the south of Reach is the Devil's Ditch, an 11km long raised linear earth bank.

Settlement Pattern

10.6.23 With reference to Figure 10-1, the settlement pattern across the study area is strongly related to the landform and watercourses, with villages located on localised areas of elevated land or at river crossings. ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D*** provides more detail on the individual settlements as part of the local landscape character assessment (LLCA).

10.6.24 Freckenham is situated at the junction of Elms Road, Mildenhall Road and Mortimer Lane, approximately 1.9km from Fordham and 2.2km from Isleham. Freckenham is the smaller settlement in comparison with Fordham and Isleham, concentrated either side of the Lee Brook and with the Church of St. Andrew in the south-east part of the village.

10.6.25 Fordham and Isleham are approximately 2.6km from one another and connected via Isleham Road. Isleham is situated adjacent to the B1104 (Station Road), Church Street and West Street. The eastern edge of Isleham is locally known as 'East End'. The Church of St. Andrew is in the central part of Isleham, adjacent to Church Street. This church is visible when travelling along Beck Road, between Isleham and Feckenham.

10.6.26 Fordham is a linear village pattern, extending mainly west to east adjacent to the B1102, with a smaller concentration of properties either side of the River Snail and the junction with Snail Road.

10.6.27 Worlington is approximately 2.1km to the north-east of Freckenham and is a linear village, extending adjacent to Freckenham Road and Worlington Road. Red Lodge is to the east of the B1085, approximately 3km from Freckenham.

10.6.28 Chippenham is a linear village, situated adjacent to the B1085. Chippenham Lodge and Chippenham Stud are located to the east of the B1085, with Chippenham Hall and Chippenham Park to the south of village.

10.6.29 Newmarket is the main settlement in the study area, located to the south of the A14. Newmarket is a nucleated settlement, concentrated around the junction of the main road networks.

10.6.30 Kennett's small-scale residential land uses are clustered around the junction of Station Road and The B1085 and extend intermittently adjacent to Station Road to Kennett Station, to the north of the A14.

10.6.31 Burwell is the largest settlement in the western part of the study area, extending broadly north to south between Broads Road and the B1102. The western part of Burwell extends to the Catch Water Drain and The Weir's Drove Track, which connects with Burwell Road to provide access westwards to Reach.

10.6.32 There are intermittent properties adjacent to the B1102, between Burwell and Fordham, including a low number of individual farms across West Fen; however overall the settlement pattern is sparse.

Transport Routes

10.6.33 As noted above, there is a hierarchy of road networks across the study area, with many of the B roads providing the only routes between villages. These reflect the historic road patterns via their straight alignments and narrow widths.

10.6.34 The main roads are across the southern part of the study area, with the A14 extending between Newmarket and Exning and to the south of Kennett via the junction of the A1304, A14 and A11. The A1304 extends from this junction into the centre of Newmarket.

10.6.35 Between the A1304 and the A14 are several railway lines which converge at Chippenham Junction. These lines extend southwards into Newmarket and northwards across the Broads to Soham. These main roads and railway lines are located across the gallops of The British Riding School and cross the valley floor between Newmarket and Chippenham.

10.6.36 The B1102 extends between Burwell, Fordham and Freckenham. To the east of Freckenham the road extends to Worlington (Mildenhall Road / Freckenham Road). The B1104 (Station Road) extends from the south of Isleham to Chippenham and intersects with the B1102 to the west of Freckenham.

10.6.37 Other roads are the Isleham Road / Fordham Road, between the central part of Fordham and south-west edge of Isleham. Beck Road extends from the south-east edge of Isleham, crossing the Lee Brook via Beck Bridge, to connect with a relatively elevated staggered junction adjacent to Fourways Farm. To the north of this junction the road continues to West Road (Ferry Lane), crossing the River Lark via Jude's Ferry Bridge. To the east of this junction the road continues to Worlington and to the south of the junction the road connects with Mildenhall Road.

10.6.38 Elms Road connects the A11 to Freckenham. Bridge End Road and Badlingham Road both connect to Elms Road. Bridge End Road is a short route, which comes to a dead end adjacent to the A11. Badlingham Road continues through Badlingham to Chippenham.

10.6.39 Chippenham is situated adjacent to the B1085, which extends between Fordham and the A11. To the east of the A11, the B1085 continues southwards to Kennett, Kentford and Moulton. Chippenham Road connects Chippenham with Snailwell to the south-west, where it connects with Snailwell Road, which extends between the A142 and Newmarket.

10.6.40 From Kentford, the B1506 extends westwards to Newmarket, where it connects with the A1304.

10.6.41 In the western part of the study area, the A142 extends from Newmarket to the south of Fordham Abbey, where it diverts to the west of Fordham to connect with the B1102.

10.6.42 Former transport routes across the study area are still evident from the alignment of vegetation and road networks. This includes the dismantled railway between Isleham and Worlington, resulting in the B1104 rising in height to cross the former railway line to the south of Isleham and at the junction of Ferry Lane and Beck Road.

Land Use

10.6.43 The main land use across the study area is intensive agriculture, characterised by geometric fields of varying sizes often divided by drainage ditches and vegetation.

10.6.44 To the north of the River Lark, agricultural land uses extend across the northern part of the study area to Mildenhall, before the land use changes to extensive tracts of woodland to the east of Mildenhall.

10.6.45 To the north of Isleham, the agricultural field pattern is smaller in scale than between Isleham and Freckenham, along with intermittent small-scale farms and small scale sewage works adjacent to Fen Bank Road. Also adjacent to Fen Bank Road is Isleham Marina, which consists of moorings and residential properties bordering the River Lark.

10.6.46 To the north of Elms Road, agricultural land uses extend from Freckenham to Worlington and Barton Mills, interspersed with pig farming and plantations to the north and south of Mildenhall Road / Freckenham Road and to the north of Elms Road.

10.6.47 At the eastern edge of this tract of land, and in proximity to the A11, is Worlington Quarry and Bay Farm solar farm. The Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Club are to the south-east of Worlington, between Golf Links Road and the remains of a dismantled railway line.

10.6.48 Between Freckenham, Isleham and Fordham, the large-scale field pattern is interspersed by several reservoirs at Lee Farm, adjacent to the Lee Brook and small scale plantations, including to the south of Isleham at Isleham Local Nature Reserve.

10.6.49 Agricultural land uses continue to the north-west of Red Lodge to Freckenham. The field pattern is geometric, although the scale of the fields varies, with larger scale fields to the south of the River Kennet and around Badlingham, with smaller, rectangular fields to the north of the River and adjacent to Elms Road, several of which are divided by pine lines. There are several reservoirs within this agricultural land use, consisting of engineered embankments.

10.6.50 Agricultural land uses continue between Red Lodge and Kennett, along with several individual farms and residential properties. Red Lodge's residential land uses are predominantly to the east of the B1085. To the north of Red Lodge's residential area there are employment and commercial land uses at King Warren Business Park, to the south of the A11.

10.6.51 Whilst agricultural land uses continue between Chippenham and Red Lodge, there are also leisure land uses including karting tracks adjacent to the A11 and B1085 and retail and commercial land uses at La Hogue Farm. To the east of the A11 and La Hogue Farm, Waterhall Farm and Dane Hill Farm are individual farms with associated residential and farm buildings.

10.6.52 Chippenham Park, which is to the south of Chippenham, is an estate consisting of landscaped grounds, bordered by mature woodland and Chippenham Hall.

10.6.53 To the west of Chippenham Park, agricultural land uses and Chippenham Fen are located between Fordham Abbey and Chippenham. Chippenham Fen consists of a National Nature Reserve characterised by undrained semi-natural fen and woodland.

10.6.54 To the south of Fordham Abbey and adjacent to the A142 is the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory and Snailwell industrial estates and business parks, characterised by large scale warehouse and extensive areas of hardstanding.

10.6.55 There are also industrial estates in the northern part of Newmarket, along with business parks and residential land uses, located to the south of the A14, between the B1103 and the A142.

10.6.56 Equestrian land uses principally border Newmarket, with the British Riding School situated between the A14 and Newmarket railway line to the north-east of Newmarket. These equestrian land uses are characterised by open and extensive grassed fields, studs, exercise tracks and training grounds. These studs and training grounds include:

- The Limekilns, consisting of a triangular parcel of land between the A1304 and Well Bottom road;
- The Railway Field and Sandy Gallop between the A1304, Newmarket railway line and A14; and
- The Gallops, extending from the north of the A14 to border Snailwell.

10.6.57 In the western part of the study area, agricultural land uses extend between Reach and Burwell, consisting of small to medium scale geometric fields. This small-scale field pattern continues to the north of Burwell, until the plains of Wicken Fen, where the field size is larger and more open in character. The field pattern is crossed by several waterways (Lodes), including Burwell Lode.

10.6.58 Burwell Substation is situated to the west of Burwell, adjacent to Newnham Drove, with a smaller substation to the east of West Drove. The Burwell Substation consists of tall transformers and associated structures, and pylon towers extend northwards from the Substation, across Burwell Lode and West Fen. There is also a small-scale business park and sewage works to the north of Burwell, adjacent to Broads Road.

Vegetation Patterns

10.6.59 The agricultural land use results in a generally ‘open’ character to the landscape, although there are notable areas of vegetation, in terms of field boundaries, roadside and residential garden vegetation and woodland blocks, such that the vegetation patterns are varied across the study area.

10.6.60 With reference to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report*** and Figure 10-3, there is no ancient woodland within the DCO Site, nor are there veteran trees.

10.6.61 The published landscape character assessments make reference to the ‘pine lines’, which are former pine shelterbelts and plantations which were planted in the 18th and 19th centuries to divide and enclose fields, as the pine trees established successfully in the poor soils. Today, the ‘pine lines’ are linear rows of tall pine trees, as shown in Plate 10-1.

Plate 10-1: The Pine Lines

10.6.62 To the north of Isleham, the vegetation cover increases adjacent to the River Lark, with mature trees within Isleham Marina, 'The Fen' woodland at the conflux of the Lee Brook and the River Lark, and woodland belts to the south of Mildenhall, adjacent to the River Lark.

10.6.63 Within Freckenham, woodland blocks extend adjacent to Elms Road, Mildenhall Road and to the north of North Street, such that the northern and eastern parts of the village are far more vegetated than the western part, adjacent to Fordham Road.

10.6.64 This pattern of woodland extends between Elms Road and Worlington, including around Worlington Quarry. The Royal Worlington and Newmarket Golf Course is also well vegetated, with mature trees dividing the fairways and bordering the course.

10.6.65 The vegetation cover is less extensive between Freckenham and Isleham, forming the western part of the Sunnica East Site. As such there is a more open character to this part of the study area. Many of the field boundary and roadside hedgerows are in varying condition, with extensive gaps along their length. The main vegetation tracts bordering Isleham are adjacent to the Lee Brook, Mortimer Lane and at Isleham Local Nature Reserve.

10.6.66 Between Freckenham and Chippenham, the vegetation patterns relate to the watercourses, with bankside vegetation adjacent to the Lee Brook and the River Kennett. The fields between Badlingham and properties on Bridge End Road are also divided by narrow tree belts, including pine lines, which are also present through parts of Red Lodge.

10.6.67 Within Chippenham Park, there are clumps of woodland and mature trees adjacent to The Canal, within Ash Wood and Gilford Woods to the west of Chippenham Hall. The pattern of individual trees and woodland blocks

continues to the east of Chippenham Park, across Chippenham Lodge and Chippenham Stud, whilst the surrounding fields are open in character.

10.6.68 To the south of Chippenham Park, there are several plantations across the fields forming the Sunnica West Site A, with Foxburrow Plantation bordering a reservoir and Coachroad and Hundred Acre Plantations bordering the Lodge and southern entrance to Chippenham Park.

10.6.69 The Avenue consists of a mature intermittent linear tree belt extending from the north side of the A14 to the A1304. The linear form of this tree belt across the racing school training grounds is reflected in the mature linear hedgerows adjacent to the A1304, the B1506 and The Gallops. The embankments bordering the A14 and A11 are also generally well vegetated, with occasional breaks in the vegetation patterns in proximity to overhead bridges or road crossings.

10.6.70 From the northern edge of Newmarket, woodland blocks extend from the A14 towards Snailwell business park and industrial estates.

10.6.71 Within Fordham, the principal vegetation tracts extend through the central part of the village, adjacent to the River Snail, to Fordham Abbey Woods.

10.6.72 The main concentration of vegetation between Burwell and Fordham is at Landwade, with mature woodland blocks around Landwade Hall and along the unnamed watercourse to Exning.

10.6.73 Both Reach and Burwell, in the western part of the study area, are generally well vegetated via residential gardens and roadside vegetation bordering the road networks around the villages.

10.6.74 There is a block of woodland in the south-west part of Burwell, with mature tree belts extending adjacent to Newnham Drove and around Burwell Substation, while mature vegetation extends intermittently adjacent to the Catch Water Drain to Burwell Lode.

10.6.75 There is mature garden vegetation across the north-west part of Burwell, with a narrow block of woodland between the northern edge of Burwell and the business park and sewage works adjacent to Broads Road.

10.6.76 In relation to vegetation patterns along specific roads across the study area:

- The A14 trunk road is bordered by mature trees as it extends around Newmarket, with a woodland block at the junction with the A142. Tree belts continue adjacent to the A14 until The Avenue, where the vegetation along the north side of the road is intermittent lower scrub and ruderal grassland across the cut slopes. The junction with the A11 is densely wooded, with tree belts and intermittent trees along both sides of the A14 towards Kentford;
- The A11 trunk road is bordered by mature woodland at the junction with the A1304, but the extent of roadside vegetation decreases on the north side of the A11 as it crosses around the A14. From the junction, the roadside vegetation consists of intermittent trees until the junction with La Hogue Road, where tree belts then extend to Red Lodge. To the north of Red Lodge the roadside vegetation is more intermittent,

with tracts of ruderal grassland and individual trees, until the River Lark and Mildenhall, where there is extensive woodland;

- The A1304, between Newmarket and the A14, is bordered by high hedgerows on both sides of the road for its entire length. This continues until the junction with the A11 and A14 where the vegetation pattern changes to mature woodland. There are occasional breaks within the roadside hedgerows to enable equestrian access between the training grounds;
- The B1102 between Burwell and Fordham are predominantly open in character, being bordered by fields. There are hedgerows and intermittent trees in proximity to Newmarket railway line;
- The B1506, between Newmarket and Kentford is bordered by high hedgerows on both sides of the road. There are occasional breaks in the hedgerows to enable equestrian access. There are also alternating blocks of woodland adjacent to the road, with mature woodland on the south side of the road on the approach to Newmarket and on the north side of the road on the approach to Kentford;
- The B1102, between Freckenham and Worlington (Mildenhall Road / Freckenham Road) is bordered by mature trees within Freckenham. Beyond the village the B1102 is bordered by hedgerows and trees, which extend either side of the junction with Ferry Lane. Hedgerows continue along the west side of the B1102 from the junction with Ferry Lane, with pine lines adjacent to the east side of the road. The height and density of the hedgerows increases on the approach to Worlington, with the roadside vegetation including mature trees;
- The B1102, between Freckenham and the B1104 is bordered by hedgerows and mature garden vegetation within Freckenham. This abruptly ceases at the edge of the village, such that the road is bordered by a few intermittent trees. At the approach to the junction with the B1104 the roadside vegetation increases with a hedgerow along the south side of the B1102; and
- The B1104, between Isleham and the B1102 is bordered by intermittent hedgerows within Isleham along the east side of the B1104 and mature garden vegetation along the west side of the road. As the B1104 rises over the dismantled railway the road is bordered by tall hedges. However, the vegetation cover decreases substantially along the east side of the remainder of the road to the B1102, with a few intermittent hedgerows, whilst the hedgerow pattern along the west side of the road is more consistent.

Public Rights of Way and Other Public Access

10.6.77 PRoW references have been derived from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) on-line mapping (Ref 10-22) and the Suffolk County Council on-line Definitive Map (Ref 10-23).

10.6.78 With reference to Figure 10-4 the extent of PRoW across the study area is varied due to the land uses, with large tracts of land, particularly across the central part of the study area and between Fordham, Isleham, Worlington and Freckenham with no designated PRoW routes.

10.6.79 PRoW (footpath) W-398/030/0 follows the alignment of the River Lark and to the east of Mildenhall becomes the Lark Valley Path promoted route, in the northern part of the study area.

10.6.80 Within Isleham, PRoW (bridleway) 136/2 extends across the northern part of the settlement to Waterside. To the north of Isleham, PRoW (footpath) 136/3 extends from Waterside to Fen Bank Road.

10.6.81 Within Freckenham, PRoW (footpath) W-257/008/0 extends between Elms Road and the Church of St. Andrew. PRoW (bridleway) W-257/002/0, W-257/002/X and W-257/007/0 extend between the centre of Freckenham and Becks Road. However, there is no footway along Becks Road to Isleham.

10.6.82 To the east of Freckenham, PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0 extends between Elms Road and the B1102. PRoW (bridleway) 257/010/0 extends from Freckenham, along Elms Road, to an unclassified road (U6006). U6006 extends northwards from Elms Road to Worlington and is a publicly accessible route, including for equestrians and also extends southwards along Badlingham Road.

10.6.83 There is access between Badlingham Road and the A11 via PRoW (footpath) 257/003/0. PRoW (footpath) 585/005/0 crosses the overbridge above the A11 to provide access to the western edge of Red Lodge.

10.6.84 In the central part of the study area, PRoW (bridleway) 49/7 extends from Chippenham to the River Kennett.

10.6.85 PRoW (footpath) 92/16 extends southwards from Fordham towards Chippenham Fen. PRoW (footpath) 204/1 and 49/1 extend between Snailwell and Chippenham Fen

10.6.86 PRoW (bridleway) 204/5 extends from Snailwell to the Avenue, to the east of Godolphin Gallops. The route then crosses the A14 and Chippenham Junction railway line and continues along the Avenue to the A1304. There are no designated PRoW routes between the Avenue and Chippenham Park, nor between The Avenue and Kennet. PRoW (footpath) 49/7 extends around the eastern edge of Chippenham and Chippenham Lodge Stud.

10.6.87 To the west of Landwade, Howlem Balk track (PRoW (byway) 35/15) and Haycroft Lane (PRoW (byway) 35/16) extend from North End to Burwell.

10.6.88 There are several PRoW (footpaths) between the southern edge of Burwell and Reach Road, along with a PRoW (bridleway) along part of the north-west edge of Burwell, adjacent to the Catch Water Drain.

10.6.89 There is also public access adjacent to Reach Lode and Burwell Lode, as well as Newnham Drove, adjacent to Burwell sub-station and Hightown Drove, which extend across Burwell Fen, between Reach and Burwell. To the north of Burwell Lode, there are several PRoW across West Fen, either along drove routes or access tracks.

10.6.90 There are many PRoW around Reach with two examples being the Straight Drove track and 7km linear track of the Devil's Ditch (PRoW (footpath) 191/10).

Designations

10.6.91 With reference to Figure 10-3, neither the study area, nor the DCO Site, is covered by any statutory landscape designations (e.g. National Parks or Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty).

10.6.92 With reference to the ***Cultural Heritage chapter*** there are several Conservation Areas across the study area (but none within the DCO boundary):

- Isleham Conservation Area, within the central part of the village;
- Freckenham Conservation Area, within the central part of the village, including St. Andrews Church and the motte and bailey in the southern part of the village;
- Chippenham Conservation Area, within the central part of the village;
- Fordham Conservation Area, within the central part of the village, to the east of the River Snail;
- Snailwell Conservation Area, within the central part of the village;
- Newmarket Conservation Area, across the north-east part of the town; and
- Burwell, with Burwell High Town Conservation Area in the southern part of the village and Burwell North Street Conservation Area in the north-west part of the village and extending to border part of the Catch Water Drain.

10.6.93 Chippenham Hall, in the central part of the study area, is a Grade II listed registered park and garden (Historic England list UID: 1000615), which includes a 19th century pleasure ground. The description for the park includes:

"the park is completely enclosed by a red-brick park wall… The main entrance to Chippenham Park is from the village on the northern boundary… The main C18 entrance drive, now (1999) disused, enters the park c 4.3km south of the Hall, off the A11 Bury Road on the northern outskirts of Newmarket… The drive, lined with beech (both drive and trees now (1999) partially lost), runs straight for c 3.2km until it reaches the park wall."

10.6.94 With reference to the ***Cultural Heritage chapter***, there a many listed buildings and scheduled monuments across the study area including:

- The Church of St. Andrew and the Priory Church of St. Margaret of Antioch (both Grade I) in Isleham;
- Grade II* lodges and gatehouses to the south of Chippenham Park;
- The Manor House (Grade II), Freckenham;
- The Church of St. Andrew (Grade II), in Freckenham;
- The Hall (Grade II) Queen Anne Revival Country House within Chippenham Park; and
- Devil's Dyke – Reach to Woodditton.

10.6.95 With reference to the ***Ecology Chapter***, there are many SSSI and CWS across the study area, including Chippenham Fen, Breckland, Devil's Dyke and Worlington Golf Course. The relevant ecological designations within the DCO Site are:

- Worlington Heath County Wildlife Site (CWS) and Badlingham Lane CWS, within the north-west part of Sunnica West Site B;
- Snailwell Grasslands and Woods CWS in the western part of Sunnica West Site B; and
- Havacre Meadows and Deal Nook CWS which is crossed by Grid Connection Route A.

Published Landscape Character Assessments and Related Studies

10.6.96 The study area is covered by published landscape character assessments and related studies at national, regional and county levels.

10.6.97 Local planning authorities use published landscape character assessments as part of their planning policy evidence base and the published assessments often provide specific guidance or recommendations on managing landscape change.

10.6.98 The following section summarises the relevant LCA within the study area and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D*** which sets out the relevant matters of the published assessments in detail.

National Level Published Landscape Character Assessments

Natural England National Character Area (NCA) 46: The Fens

10.6.99 With reference to Figure 10-5, NCA 46: The Fens (Ref 10-24) extends from the western part of the study area, around Reach and West Fen to Isleham and the River Lark in the northern part of the study area.

10.6.100 In relation to the Scheme, the north-west edge of the Sunnica East Site A is in NCA 46: The Fens.

10.6.101 Relevant key characteristics of NCA 46: The Fens are that is a flat, expansive and low-lying wetland landscape, with extensive vistas to horizons and huge skies, such there is a sense or remoteness to the landscape.

10.6.102 The published study also notes that NCA 46: The Fens is a landscape where agricultural uses are constantly changing and that:

"Development on settlement margins can be particularly damaging, creating visual intrusion and resulting in the loss of surrounding landscape features and increasing the risk of coalescence…

10.6.103 Climate change is a noted 'drivers for change' within the landscape, relating to flooding and soil erosion:

"the Government's commitment to increasing energy from renewable sources means there is likely to be continued pressure to accommodate such schemes…;

existing rural landscape features should be protected, and positive management of those features lost or under threat should be encouraged. Restoration of hedgerows on the clay islands should be a priority."

10.6.104 Statements of Environmental Opportunity (SEO) include improving recreational access and conserving, managing and enhancing the Fens landscape. Stated 'Landscape opportunities' include:

"Expand the total area of semi-natural habitat and increase connectivity to allow adaptation to climate change…;

Protect the long views and open expansive unwooded character of the landscape and work to visually mitigate the impact of large structures including unsympathetic buildings and energy infrastructure that are highly visible in this flat landscape; and

Make use of village and town design statements and conservation area appraisals for informing future development proposals. Encourage design that minimises visual impact on local landscapes."

Natural England NCA 85: The Brecks

10.6.105 With reference to Figure 10-5, NCA 85: The Brecks (Ref 10-25) extends from the River Lark to the eastern part of Freckenham and to the south of Red Lodge.

10.6.106 In relation to the Scheme, Sunnica East Site B, Cable Route A (between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B) and to Heath Plantation are in NCA 85: The Brecks.

10.6.107 The relevant key characteristics of NCA 85: The Brecks are that is a largely open, gently undulating and low-lying landscape, which is predominantly arable land, consisting of regular field layouts, often defined by Scots pine or hedgerows.

10.6.108 SEO for NCA 85: The Brecks include "conserving and enhancing landscape character and the historic environment; securing multiple benefits from infrastructure options through the provision and management of high quality green infrastructure networks and developing opportunities for access and outdoor recreation."

10.6.109 The 'Landscape Change' section notes that there has been some loss of the characteristic pines in the rows and belts, due to the fact that many of these trees are now in decline or senescent. Without planned and targeted replacement, their loss results in the erosion of landscape character. Additionally, the:

"NCA has seen an increase in in-field farming associated structures such as animal housing pens and infrastructure buildings connected with specialist pig farms, intensive indoor and outdoor poultry rearing sheds, new water storage reservoirs and the wide-scale use of large irrigation equipment. The use of plastic crop mulches has also seen an increase, changing the character of the landscape when in use."

10.6.110 Stated 'drivers for change' include increasing the size and connectivity of priority habitats, creating more resilient habitats and landscapes, including woodland cover and Green Infrastructure opportunities for access.

10.6.111 Stated 'landscape opportunities' including planting of Scots pine lines; ensuring new development enhances the landscape and secures multiple benefits through the provision of Green Infrastructure; reduces the impact of development on tranquillity and conserves and enhances the landscape character, including views to and from churches and other vernacular buildings.

Natural England NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk

10.6.112 With reference to Figure 10-5, NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk (Ref 10-26) extends across Burwell, Newmarket, Chippenham Park and Fordham, to the southern edge of Isleham and the western part of Freckenham.

10.6.113 In relation to the Scheme, most of Sunnica East Site A, the southern part of Cable Route A, all of Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B and Cable Route B and Burwell Sub-station are within NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk.

10.6.114 Relevant key characteristics of NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk are that it is a rolling landscape, mostly in arable production and with sparse tree cover. The dykes are key archaeological features, with settlement focused in small towns and villages. The published study notes that around Newmarket are historically important horseracing land uses and that the stud farms:

"impose a distinctive geometric, enclosed and manicured pattern to the landscape."

10.6.115 SEO for NCA 87: Anglian Chalk include "conserving and promoting landscape and settlement character, open views, people's enjoyment of the area and the enhancement of green infrastructure."

10.6.116 Stated 'Landscape Change' include settlement expansion, replacement of agricultural land uses via horse paddocks and golf courses and the encroachment of the Newmarket 'stud' landscape.

10.6.117 Stated 'Landscape Opportunities' include the protection of character and integrity of the rural landscape; conserving key views to and from landmarks; minimising the visual impact and effects of development and conserving, enhancing and creating new public access infrastructure and linkages.

Summary of NCA Landscape Sensitivity

10.6.118 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D***, the landscape sensitivity for these NCAs has been assessed as high. This is due to their cultural and historic association and national value.

Regional Level Published Landscape Character Assessments

East of England Landscape Framework

10.6.119 With reference to Figure 10-6, the study area is covered by the Framework (Ref 10-27) Landscape Character Type (LCT) Lowland Village Chalklands and LCT Forested Estate Sandlands.

LCT Lowland Village Chalklands

10.6.120 LCT Lowland Village Chalklands covers most of the study area, extending as a narrow tract of land between Reach and Mildenhall, via the north of Newmarket.

10.6.121 In relation to the Scheme, most of Sunnica East Site A, the eastern part of Sunnica East Site B, most of Sunnica West Site A, all of Sunnica West Site B and part of Cable Route B would be in the LCT.

10.6.122 LCT Lowland Village Chalklands is described as:

"Low lying, but gently rolling arable landscape, dissected by small streams, with a distinctive pattern of nucleated villages and a patchwork of woodlands and shelterbelts…

historic stone churches in nucleated villages act as local landmarks."

10.6.123 Views within LCT Lowland Village Chalklands are described as:

"an open landscape with long distance views."

LCT Forested Estates Sandlands

10.6.124 LCT Forested Estate Sandlands covers the north-east part of the study area, between Freckenham, Worlington and Red Lodge.

10.6.125 In relation to the Scheme, the central part of Sunnica East Site B Cable Route A and the northern part of Sunnica West Site A are in LCT Forested Estate Sandlands.

10.6.126 LCT Forested Estates Sandlands is described as:

"This is a relatively simple landscape comprising extensive areas of conifer plantations, arable land and some remnant heaths, reflecting the underlying sandy soils. Scots Pine shelterbelts and 'pine lines' are defining characteristics."

10.6.127 Views within LCT: Forested Estate Sandlands are described as:

"This landscape has a 'blocky' structure, resulting from the mix of conifer plantations and open land, which creates a strong visual contrast between confinement in the forested areas and open space in the wide expanses of arable farmland."

LCT Planned Peat Fen

10.6.128 LCT Planned Peat Fen extends across the western and northern parts of the study area, between Burwell and the River Lark.

10.6.129 In relation to the Scheme, the northern edge of Sunnica East Site A, most of Cable Route B and the Burwell Sub-station are in LCT Planned Peat Fen.

10.6.130 LCT Planned Peat Fen is descried as:

"A flat, low lying and sparsely populated landscape characterised by dark peaty soils, a grid like pattern of large arable fields bounded by drainage ditches and wide views to distant, often dramatic skies."

Summary of LCT Sensitivity

10.6.131 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D***, the sensitivity of the LCT has been assessed as medium, due to their regional value, areas of settlements and infrastructure along with a variety of land uses.

County Published Landscape Character Assessments

Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (Suffolk LCA)

10.6.132 With reference to Figure 10-7, the Suffolk LCA (Ref 10-28), which extend into Cambridgeshire, identifies several Landscape Types (LT) across the study area.

LT Estate Sandlands

10.6.133 LT Estate Sandlands cover parts of the northern and eastern sections of the study area, between Freckenham and Worlington, Chippenham and Red Lodge and Kennett and Kennett End.

10.6.134 In relation to the Scheme, the central part of Sunnica East Site B, most of Cable Route A and the northern part of Sunnica West Site A are within LT Estate Sandlands.

10.6.135 The relevant key characteristics of LT Estate Sandlands are:

- "*Flat or very gently rolling plateaux of free-draining sandy soils;*
- *Strongly geometric structure of fields enclosed in the 18th & 19th century; and*
- *Characteristic 'pine lines' especially, but not solely, in the Brecks."*

10.6.136 The visual experience is noted as including long views, but with little variation due to the planned nature of the landscape.

10.6.137 Key forces for change include the expansion of settlements and associated infrastructure. Land management guidelines for the LT Estate Sandlands are:

- *"Reinforce the historic pattern of regular boundaries;*
- *Restore, maintain and enhance the pattern of locally distinctive 'pine lines';*
- *Restore, maintain and enhance the network of tree belts and pattern of small plantations found across much of this landscape type; and*
- *Develop opportunities for locally distinctive species such as the rare Brecks plants."*

LT Rolling Estate Chalklands

10.6.138 LT Rolling Estate Chalklands extend centrally across most of the study area, covering Reach, Burwell, parts of West Fen, the land between Newmarket and Freckenham and across to Isleham, Worlington and Barton Mills.

10.6.139 In relation to the DCO Site, the Scheme is located across LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, most of Sunnica East Site A, the eastern part of Sunnica East Site B, most of Sunnica West Site A, all of Sunnica West Site B, part Cable Route A and the western part of Cable Route B are in the LT.

10.6.140 The relevant key characteristics of LT Rolling Estate Chalklands are:

- *"Very gently rolling or flat landscape…;*
- *Dominated by large scale arable production;*
- *"Studscape" of small paddocks and shelterbelts;*
- *Large uniform fields enclosed by low hawthorn hedges;*
- *Shelter belt planting, often ornamental species;*
- *A "well kept" and tidy landscape; and*
- *Open views."*

10.6.141 The visual experience is described as:

"The feel of this landscape is one of open space with long views, which is emphasised by the straight roads and regimented pattern of belts and hedges. However, where the "studscape" is most apparent, belts of trees and woodland planting confine the views."

10.6.142 The condition is noted as:

"This is a largely tidy and well-kept landscape that has been maintained by the income from farming the good soil and the horse racing industry. However, the expansion and suburbanisation of villages is eroding the local character."

10.6.143 With regards to landscape sensitivity and change, the study notes that for this typology:

"Unless there is a "studscape" of tree belts and small enclosures, much of this landscape has long open views. Therefore, large buildings in the open countryside can be prominent. However, such changes can be accommodated with suitable planting that is consistent with the character of the landscape."

10.6.144 Key forces for change include settlement expansion, changes in land management and leisure as a driving force in the economy.

10.6.145 Land management guidelines include reinforcing field boundaries and increasing plantations and chalk grassland.

LT Settled Fenlands

10.6.146 LT Settled Fenlands extend over the western part of the study area, to the north of Reach and Burwell and across parts of West Fen and over the northern part of the study area, along the course of the River Lark and Lee Brook.

10.6.147 In relation to the Scheme, the northern part of Sunnica East Site A, part of Cable Route B and the Burwell Substation extension are in LT Settled Farmlands.

10.6.148 The relevant key characteristics of the LT are:

- *"Flat landscape of peaty soils;*
- *Piecemeal enclosure of open common fen;*

- *Small, narrow fields that are divided by straight, water-filled drains;*
- *Small poplar plantations and occasional Scots Pine belts;*
- *Smaller scale farming than in the Planned Fenlands; and*
- *Comprehensively settled with farmsteads often forming clusters."*

10.6.149 The visual experience of the typology is described as:

"The pattern of smallish fields and numerous farmsteads give a more 'lived in' feel to this landscape, which contrasts with the larger-scale fields and more isolated farmsteads of the planned fenlands to north, although the difference may not be obvious unless both landscapes are visited."

10.6.150 The condition is noted as:

"The array of small farms, with business parks and a golf course mixed in, as well as caravan sites, gives the droves and hamlets a busy air, which contrasts with the openness and isolation of the deeper fen areas. There are also greater development pressures and settlement expansion breaking down the pattern of plotlands and backyard farming."

10.6.151 With regards to landscape sensitivity and change, the study notes that for this typology:

"Although this is also a large-scale landscape, the tree cover, the mixed agriculture and the more complex pattern of settlement means that the Settled Fenlands feel more "lived in" than the Planned Fenlands."

10.6.152 Key forces for change include large-scale agricultural buildings in the open countryside and changes in land uses.

10.6.153 Development management principles for changes in agricultural land use note:

"the flat landform and use of existing and new tree lines can be effective in mitigating much of the visual impact."

10.6.154 Land management guidelines for the area include restoration and maintenance of shelterbelts and tree lines, habitat diversity and safeguarding archaeological remains.

Summary of LT Sensitivity

10.6.155 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D***, the sensitivity of these LT has been assessed as ranging between medium and high. This is due to the predominantly arable and pig farming land use, characterised by small to medium scale fields, along with settlements and infrastructure being present.

Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines (CLG)

10.6.156 With reference to Figure 10-7, the CLG (Ref 10-29) covers the western part of the study area, with different character areas to those identified in the Suffolk LCA, which also covers this part of Cambridgeshire.

Area 2 Chalklands

10.6.157 Area 2 Chalklands covers the western part of Reach and Burwell, including parts of Burwell Fen and West Fen.

10.6.158 In relation to the Scheme, part of Cable Route B and the Burwell Sub-station is in Area 2 Chalklands.

10.6.159 Area 2 Chalklands is described as:

"a broad-scale landscape of large fields, low mechanically trimmed hedges and few trees. The eastern part of this area has a number of woodlands and shelter belts which help to break up the long distant views and give some form and character."

10.6.160 The principles for landscape improvement and management within Area 2 Chalklands include planting new woodlands, hedgerows and shelterbelts, as well as the management and creation of chalk grassland.

10.6.161 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D***, the sensitivity of Area 2 is assessed as medium.

Area 8 Fenlands

10.6.162 Area 8 Fenlands is also in the western part of the study area, covering most of Burwell Fen and West Fen.

10.6.163 In relation to the Scheme, part of Cable Route B crosses Area 8 Fenlands.

10.6.164 A noted characteristic of Area 8 Fenlands is that:

"In the expansive open landscape isolated agricultural buildings, farmsteads and loose-knit villages are often prominent against a background of a constantly changing sky where vast cloudscapes provide drama and visual delight."

10.6.165 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D***, the sensitivity of Area 8 is assessed as medium.

Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment

10.6.166 The Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment (Ref 10-30) describes the distinctive character of the Brecks and supports the positive management of the area.

10.6.167 With reference to Figure 10-8, the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment focuses on Landscape Character Types (LCT) within the Brecks, covering the north-east part of the study area.

Landscape Character Types Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic

10.6.168 Landscape Character Type Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic is in the northern part of the study area, extending between Freckenham, Worlington and the A11.

10.6.169 In relation to the Scheme, most of Sunnica East Site B is within this Landscape Character Type, along with Cable Route A (between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B) and to Heath Plantation.

10.6.170 The distinctive landscape characteristics include:

- *"Flat or gently sloping plateaux underlain by chalk, but with free-draining sandy soils;*
- *Large scale mosaic of lowland heath, mixed farmland, conifer plantations, broadleaf woodland and tree belts;*
- *Belts of contorted Scots pine form a striking silhouette against the fields, defining the Brecks;*
- *Strongly geometric structure of fields, tree belts, roads and tracks; and*
- *Virtually no villages, but a dispersed pattern of farmsteads, hamlets and estates."*

10.6.171 The 'present landscape character' description includes:

"In the 20th century the widespread use of irrigation has transformed the agricultural potential of the land and irrigated vegetable crops form part of the agricultural mosaic. Pig farming is also common and often visually prominent…

This is a relatively open and very extensive landscape, with long views which are always framed by pine lines and plantations. The straight roads are busy noisy corridors of movement, but away from the roads the landscape feels remote and peaceful, with a touch of wilderness at times.

The landscape has a richly textured, colourful and rather unkempt character – the smooth, cultivated arable fields contrast with the rough textures of the bracken strewn verges and pine lines alongside. Arable fields predominate, but intensive pig farming and some poultry farming also forms part of the land cover mosaic. The changing patterns and textures of the crops, meadows and verges contributes to the colourful character of the landscape.

Overall the diverse and historic pattern of heath, fields, plantations and pine rows and the rich sense of history stretching right back to Neolithic times, combine to make the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic an exceptionally distinctive and evocative landscape."

10.6.172 Valued components of the landscape include:

"The diverse pattern of land uses and varied backdrop of woodland and tree belts ensures that, from a visual point of view, this landscape can generally accommodate change, through carefully designed woodland planting. However, the wild character and perceived remoteness of the open heaths is sensitive to landscape change; any built development, signage or fencing could be visually intrusive in this natural landscape. The pine lines are also important and sensitive landscape features because they are the most distinctive characteristic of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic, instantly recognisable as representing the Brecks."

10.6.173 The published study concludes the condition of the Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic is moderate to poor and the 'landscape character sensitivity' is described as:

"The diverse patchwork of fields, heath, woodland and tree belts provides a robust visual structure for accommodating landscape change. Areas that are managed for biodiversity are in good condition, many historic features are overgrown, the pine lines are deteriorating, and the uniform age structure makes this locally distinctive feature vulnerable to change."

10.6.174 'Visual sensitivity' is described as:

"Long views are always framed by woodland blocks and/ or pine lines but there is nevertheless a long depth of view. Some areas of heathland are exceptionally open. Overall the landscape feels moderately open, and most areas have good opportunities to mitigate the visual impact of landscape change."

10.6.175 The published study states:

"The diverse pattern of land uses and varied backdrop of woodland and tree belts ensures that, from a visual point of view, this landscape can generally accommodate change, through carefully designed woodland planting."

10.6.176 Relevant aspects of the '*landscape strategy*' relating to new development or conversion of farmland include:

"Avoid or minimise the visual impact of new development in views across or adjacent to natural heathland, where such changes could detract from the natural, wild character of the heathland landscape which is increasingly scarce."

10.6.177 The 'new infrastructure development' guidance includes:

"Extend existing woodlands and tree belts with new planting that is carefully designed to screen the abrupt slopes and access roads that are associated with new storage reservoirs. Extensive new planting will be required to integrate this form of infrastructure within this relatively open arable landscape;

There may be opportunities to create valuable dry heathland habitats on bare ground and newly constructed embankments, provided locally sourced substrate with impoverished soils is used; and

Ensure new hedgerows are planted alongside new or altered roads in order to reduce the perceived scale of road developments and integrate with the existing network of rectilinear boundaries. Blocks of woodland should extend right up to the edge of roads in places, creating 'pinch-points along the roads and adding variety to local views."

10.6.178 From the above and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D***, the sensitivity of LCT Brecks Arable Heathland Mosaic is assessed as high.

Landscape Character Type Low Chalk Farmland

10.6.179 With reference to Figure 10-8, the Low Chalk Farmlands covers a small part of the north-east part of Sunnica East Site B.

10.6.180 The published study notes that the Low Chalk Farmland is an area of flat or very gently sloping farmland, characterised by medium to large scale arable fields which are often interspersed with woodland.

10.6.181 The stated landscape sensitivities include wooded skylines and in relation to visual sensitivity, the published study states:

"Elsewhere the gateway views from settlements and rural roads are particularly vulnerable to change."

10.6.182 From the above and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10D***, the sensitivity of LCT Low Chalk Farmland is assessed as medium.

Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

10.6.183 The Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (Ref 10-31) is designed to assist in shaping and co-ordinating the delivery of Green Infrastructure in the county and the creation of new landscapes through development.

10.6.184 With reference to Figure 10-9 the strategic network is separated into six areas, with the following relevant to the study area:

- Area 4: Eastern Towns and Fens – covering the northern part of the study area but none of the Scheme;
- Area 5: Chippenham Fen – covering most of Sunnica West A and parts of Cable Route A and Cable Route B. The strategy has an emphasis in reversing the decline in biodiversity and that there are significant opportunities for improving and maintaining the fen landscape in respect of contributing to landscape character; and
- Area 6: Cambridge and Surrounding Areas – covering the western part of the study area, and parts of Cable Route B and Burwell Sub-station. There is a particular emphasis on 'heritage', opening up land for nature conservation and creating economic opportunities for the local community.

The Brecks' Special Qualities

10.6.185 The Brecks Special Qualities (Ref 10-32) analyses and articulates what is meant by 'The Brecks'. In relation to the Scheme, the Sunnica East Site B and most of the Cable Route A are in The Brecks.

10.6.186 Relevant landscape patterns include:

- *"Large scale fields and blocks of farmland;*
- *Belts of Scots Pine and conifer plantations;*
- *Villages concentrated on the sides of valleys;*
- *Very strong sense of history (time depth) due to barrows, roads, warren banks, field systems and parklands; and*
- *an 'oddly empty' landscape."*

10.6.187 Guidelines for the 'oddly empty' character of the Brecks include:

- *"Retain the characteristic dispersed pattern of settlement;*
- *Avoid linear roadside development; and*

- *Recognise and promote the value of extensive tranquil, undisturbed areas of countryside."*

10.6.188 Guidelines for the 'heathland mosaic' character include:

- *"Retain, conserve and enhance valuable lowland heathland habitats;*
- *Extend and connect core heathland habitats wherever possible; and*
- *Conserve and manage rare fluctuating meres and pingos."*

10.6.189 Guidelines for the 'pine lines' include:

- *"Conserve all the remaining historic Brecks pine lines; and*
- *Initiate sustainable management of the pine lines, with a programme of replanting."*

10.6.190 Guidelines for the 'hidden history' character include:

"Conserve the setting and integrity of historic features so that they are visible and easily interpreted as part of the distinctive local character of the Brecks."

Conservation Area Appraisals

10.6.191 At the time of undertaking the PEI Report in August 2020, there were no Conservation Area Appraisals for Isleham, Worlington, Badlingham and Snailwell.

10.6.192 Conservation Area Appraisals for Barton Mills, Freckenham, Burwell and Newmarket were reviewed.

10.6.193 The Freckenham Conservation Area Appraisal, 2010, (Ref 10-33) includes the following key characteristics of the village:

- *"Village on the fen edge; and*
- *Church Tower provides a landmark seen from the south."*

10.6.194 The Freckenham Conservation Appraisal notes views from the southern part of the Conservation Area, around Beacon Mound and views of St. Andrews Church from the cemetery, Church Lane and the meadows to the west of the church.

10.6.195 The Burwell North Street Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document (Ref 10-34) analysis the townscape character of the Conservation Area on a street by street basis. The Conservation Area Document notes that the 'key views' are 'up and down' the streets. There are no key views identified towards the DCO Site.

10.6.196 The Burwell High Town Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document (Ref 10-35) similarly identifies the streets and buildings within Conservation Area. The 'key views' include locations within the Conservation Area, from which the surrounding countryside is visible.

Neighbourhood Level

Village Design Guides

10.6.197 At the time of undertaking this assessment, there were no village design guides for villages in proximity to the DCO Site, i.e. Isleham, Freckenham and Worlington.

Local Landscape Character Areas defined by the Applicant

10.6.198 To provide an additional level of detail to the above published studies the LVIA field work has identified local landscape character areas (LLCA) across the study area.

10.6.199 These LLCA are illustrated on Figure 10-10 and their key characteristics are set out in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10E*** along with their sensitivity. In summary, the LLCA consist of:

- Small villages, often concentrated around road junctions and separated from one another by fields, such that the road networks provide the main methods of travelling through the landscape and perception of transitioning between the villages;
- Agricultural fens, characterised by open field patterns, generally low vegetation cover and limited public access. The condition of the field hedgerows varies with the 'pine lines' forming a notable feature of the skyline;
- Larger villages and market towns located at the junction of the main roads and infrastructure networks;
- Conservation Areas, most often located within the larger villages and characterised by churches, which form visible landmarks from the surrounding areas;
- Ecological fens, where the ecological value is designated by national nature reserves;
- Registered Park and Gardens; and
- Horse racing, characterised by manicured training grounds, gallops and stables and trees and hedgerows in good condition.

10.6.200 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10E***, the value of the LLCA mainly ranges between medium and high. This is due to the fen landscapes, Conservation Areas and registered park and gardens being of regional importance, cultural and ecological association and locally characteristic features such as the 'pine lines' as illustrated by Figure 10-3.

10.6.201 The susceptibility of the LLCA mainly ranges between low to high. The low susceptibility is due to many developed areas or fields without landscape features such that development could be accommodated. The high susceptibility is due to Conservation Areas, or defined 'stud' landscapes, with limited ability to accommodate change.

10.6.202 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10E***, the combination of the value and susceptibility results in the sensitivity of the LLCA ranging between low to high.

The DCO Site Level Landscape Character

Sunnica East Site A Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.203 With reference to the DCO Site plan, the Sunnica East Site A extends to the west of Ferry Lane and covers 222.4ha.

10.6.204 The landform across the Sunnica East Site A is predominantly flat, situated at around 10m AOD.

10.6.205 The Sunnica East Site A does not cover any of the settlements in the study area. Isleham is approximately 0.5km to the north-west and Freckenham is approximately 0.6km to the south of Sunnica East Site A, at its closest point.

10.6.206 The land use across the Sunnica East Site A is agricultural, based around Lee Farm, with either arable or pig pens, consisting of large scale fields which are open in character.

10.6.207 To provide additional detail to the landscape character and land use within the Sunnica East Site A and with reference to Figure 3-1, parts of the Sunnica East Site A have been divided into the following parcel references (E):

- E01 to E04 are in the north-west of the Sunnica East Site A. The Fen woodland forms the northern boundary and the reservoirs and access track at Lee Farm form the southern boundary. The Lee Brook forms the western boundary and an intermittent hedgerow tree group form the eastern boundary. The fields are open in character with hedgerows between E03 and E04;
- E05 forms the north-west part of the Sunnica East Site A, between Beck Road and the Lee Brook. E05 consisting of several fields which are open in character. There are a few individual trees along the southern edge of E05, adjacent to Beck Road and a small woodland block adjacent to the Lee Brook in the south-east part of E05;
- E06 to E07 form the west part of the Sunnica East Site A, located to the south of Beck Road, between the dismantled railway line and to the south of Beck Bridge. The fields are open in character, although the northern and western edges of E06 are bordered by intermittent hedgerows. PRoW W-257/007/7, W-257/002/X and W-257/002/0 crosses the eastern edge of E07, crossing between Beck Bridge and Mortimer Lane;
- E08 to E10 are in the north-west of the Sunnica East Site A, to the south of E03 and E04 and reservoirs and access track to Lee Farm. Ferry Lane forms the eastern boundary to E08 and E10, with Beck Road forming the southern boundary to E09 and E10. The elevated junction of Beck Road and Ferry Lane forms the south-east boundary to E10. The fields are open in character, although there is a hedgerow along the southern edge of fields E09 and E10 and hedgerows and trees along the eastern edge of E10, which extend to a small woodland block bordering the elevated junction of Beck Road and Ferry Lane; and

- E33 is located between the reservoirs at Lee Farm and Ferry Lane and is contiguous with E04, which forms the northern boundary and E08 which forms the southern boundary.

10.6.208 With reference to **Figure 10-4**, Beck Road is predominantly open in character, being bordered by fields. There are intermittent hedgerows around the junction with Sheldrick's Road and the dismantled railway. There is block of mature woodland adjacent to Beck Bridge, which transitions to hedgerows along both sides of the road until the elevated junction with Ferry Lane.

10.6.209 With reference to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report*** (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10B***) Ferry Lane, between Freckenham and West Row, is bordered by mature woodland on the east side of the lane at the junction with the B1102. From Freckenham, both sides of the lane are bordered by hedgerows, which extend into a row of mature trees. To the north of these trees, the vegetation patterns return to hedgerows, with some gaps and taller scrub and young trees at the elevated junction with Beck Road. To the north of the junction the lane is bordered by hedgerows, until the junction with the access road to the reservoirs by Lee Farm, where the lane to West Row is bordered by intermittent hedgerows and mature trees including Scots pine, particularly along the eastern side of the lane.

10.6.210 The Sunnica East Site A is crossed by the following PRoW:

- PRoW (footpath) W-257/007/7, W-257/002/X and W-257/002/0 which cross the eastern edge of E07, between Beck Road and Mortimer Lane.

10.6.211 As set out above, the Sunnica East Site A is not covered by any statutory landscape designations; neither is it covered by any Conservation Areas and nor does it contain any listed buildings.

10.6.212 With reference to GLVIA 3, the PRoW across E07 provides a recreational value, but the remainder of Sunnica East Site A is not publicly accessible. There are no rare landscape features across Sunnica East Site A, nor any sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to road networks and Lee Farm, which consists of several large scale silos and associated farming equipment. The proximity to these features also reduces the tranquillity across Sunnica East Site A. The agricultural fields are a common land use and the combination of their generally flat landform and low lying position enables the perception of vegetated skylines, or buildings in Isleham and Freckenham when travelling along Becks Road.

10.6.213 The landscape value of Sunnica East Site A is therefore assessed as 'local'.

10.6.214 As fields which are open in character and in part bordered by roadside hedgerows or vegetation adjacent to the Lee Brook, the susceptibility to change is assessed as medium.

10.6.215 The combination of the local value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Sunnica East A having a medium sensitivity..

Sunnica East Site B Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.216 With reference to the DCO Site plan, the Sunnica East Site B extends to the east of Freckenham Road and to the south of Elms Road and covers 322.7ha

10.6.217 The landform across Sunnica East Site B is generally flat, although there is also localised variation at the north-east edge, where the landform adjacent to the A11 rises up to 20m AOD, across the lower slopes of Chalk Hill.

10.6.218 The Sunnica East Site B does not cover any of the settlements in the study area, although borders the southern and eastern edges of Worlington. Red Lodge is approximately 0.4km to the east and Badlingham is approximately 0.5km to the south-west.

10.6.219 The land use across the Sunnica East Site B is predominantly agricultural, as either arable of pig farming. The field pattern is a combination of large to smaller scale fields, which are generally geometric or planned in form. Whilst the fields themselves are open in character, the intervening pine lines or hedgerows along the boundaries of the fields results in a wooded context to the Sunnica East Site B.

10.6.220 To provide additional detail to the landscape character and land use within the Sunnica East Site B and with reference to Figure 3-1, parts of the Sunnica East Site B have been divided into the following parcel references (E):

- E11 and E12 are located in the western part of the Sunnica East Site B, between the B1102 and U6006. The fields are open in character and bordered to the east by pig farming and Surprise Hill woodland and residential properties to the north, adjacent to the B1102;
- E13 to E18 are to the east of U6006, extending to Elms Road, which forms the southern boundary to E16 and E18. The eastern boundary to E13-E18 consists of fields and woodland blocks, including mature woodland around Worlington Quarry. The fields within E13-E18 are small in scale, rectangular in form and divided by mature tree belts;
- E19 to E22 are to the south of Elms Road, forming the southern part of the Sunnica East Site B. Similar to E13 to E18, the fields are smaller in scale, rectangular in form and divided by mature tree belts, including Scots pine and a small reservoir. Residential land uses adjacent to Bridge End Road form the eastern boundary to E19 to E22, with PRoW W-257/003/0 forming the southern boundary to E19 and E22;
- E23 is a small parcel of land which is open in character, located between E11 and to the north of U6006;
- E24 to E25 are two larger scale fields to the west of Newmarket Road. Both fields are open in character and divided by a vegetated access track to pig farms and woodland belts which form the western boundary;
- E26 to E29 are four fields to the east of Worlington Road at the north-east part of the Sunnica East Site B. Each field is broadly the same, being small in scale and square in form. E26 to E29 are divided by mature vegetation such that they are well enclosed in relation to the

wider landscape. There is small mature tree clump within the central part of E29; and

- E30 to E32 form the north-east part of the Sunnica East Site B, located to the south of Golf Links Road and with the A11 forming the eastern boundary. A rectangular block of mature woodland forms the southern boundary to E30 and E32, across the rising ground at the base of Chalk Hill. E30 is rectangular in form and divided from E31 and E32 by a narrow tree belt, with all parcels open in character.

10.6.221 With reference to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report*** (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10B***), the main tree species within the Sunnica East Site B include hybrid black poplar (*Populus × canadensis*), white poplar (*Populus alba*), oak (*Quercus* sp.), Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), common beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Corsican pine (*Pinus nigra*).

10.6.222 Across the southern part of the Sunnica East Site B there are several semi mature pine plantations and a large linear groups of pine and poplar which denote field boundaries. These groups also contain a number of large broadleaf woodlands, consisting of predominantly oak and beech mixed with occasional pine. There are no likely veteran or ancient trees within the Sunnica East Site B.

10.6.223 Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham is bordered by hedgerows and intermittent trees, including pine trees on the south side of the road and mature woodland belt on the north side of the road between the A11 and Bridge End Road. Between Bridge End Road and Badlingham Road, Elms Road is bordered by tall hedgerows on both sides of the road, although the condition is varied, such that are gaps in the hedgerows and around the access gates to fields. At the junction with Badlingham Road the hedgerow pattern is more intermittent with intermittent trees, such that there is a more open character to this part of Elms Road, until mature tree belts on the north side of Elms Road demarcate the edge of Freckenham.

10.6.224 The Sunnica East Site B is crossed by the following PRoWs:

- U6006 extends from Elms Road to Worlington, across the eastern part of the Sunnica East Site.
- PRoW W-257/003/0 forms the southern edge to the Sunnica East Site B, to the south of E19 and E22.

10.6.225 As set out above, the Sunnica East Site B is not covered by any statutory landscape designations; neither is it covered by any Conservation Areas, nor does it contain any listed buildings.

10.6.226 With reference to GLVIA 3, U6006 provides a recreational value, but the remainder of Sunnica East Site B is not publicly accessible. The agricultural fields are a common land use, although the vegetation patterns, including the pine lines are noted as features in the published landscape character assessments. The landscape value of Sunnica East Site A is assessed as local.

10.6.227 As fields which are open in character and bordered or divided by tree belts or vegetation, the susceptibility to change is assessed as ‘medium’.

10.6.228 The combination of the local value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Sunnica East Site B having a medium sensitivity.

Sunnica West Site A Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.229 With reference to the DCO Site plan, the Sunnica West Site A is in the central part of the study area, to the north-east of Newmarket and covers 459.8ha.

10.6.230 The Gallops forms the western boundary to the Sunnica West Site A. Fields, woodland blocks, Chippenham Park and the B1085 form the northern boundary; fields to the west of Kennett form the eastern boundary and the A14 forms the southern boundary.

10.6.231 There are two unnamed watercourses which flow across the Sunnica West Site A. The first, flows across around the edge of Chippenham Park and across the northern part of the Sunnica West Site A. The second flows between the A11 and The Willows, to the south of Dane Hill Farm, via Halfmoon Plantation.

10.6.232 The landform across the Sunnica West Site A is gently undulating. At the western edge of the Sunnica West Site A the landform rises from the A14, at 30m AOD, to 40m AOD before falling back to Chippenham Road at 35m AOD. In contrast, the landform falls very gradually across the central part of the Sunnica West Site A, from the junction of the A14 and A11 at 25m AOD, to the edge of Chippenham Park, at 20m AOD. Similarly, in the eastern part of the Sunnica West Site A, the landform falls from La Hogue Farm, at 30m AOD, northwards towards the unnamed stream bordering Chippenham Park at 20m AOD, whilst remaining generally flat across Dane Hill and Halfmoon Plantation to the south, at 30m AOD.

10.6.233 The Sunnica West Site A does not directly border any settlements. Chippenham is approximately 1km to the north of the northern part of the Sunnica West Site A; Kennett is approximately 0.8km to the east of the eastern part of the Sunnica West Site A and the eastern edge of Newmarket is approximately 1.5km to the south-west of the Sunnica West A Site.

10.6.234 Part of the B1085 forms the northern edge of the main part of the Sunnica West Site A. The A11 separates the eastern part of the Sunnica West Site A. Chippenham Road and Golf Links Road form the north-west and north-east boundaries of the Sunnica West A Site respectively.

10.6.235 The land use across the Sunnica West A Site is agricultural, consisting of small to medium scale fields. The field pattern to the north of the A14 is more geometric than the fields to the south of the A11. There are several small wooded plantations and woodland belts within the fields.

10.6.236 To provide additional detail to the landscape character and land use within the Sunnica West Site A and with reference to Figure 3-1, parts of the Sunnica West Site A have been divided into the following parcel references (W):

- W03 forms the north-west part of the Sunnica West Site A, situated between the Gallops and Foxborrow Plantation. W03 consists of four small square fields, situated across the relatively elevated and rising

land to the south-east of Snailwell. The fields are open in character due to the land use, but the fields are bordered by woodland blocks along the western and southern edges and a narrow tree belt along the eastern edge which connects with Foxburrow Plantation. The western edge of the W03 is adjacent to PRoW 204/5;

- W04 and W05 form the western part of the Sunnica West Site A and are adjacent to The Avenue. Both W04 and W05 are geometric in form and open in character due to their land use, although there is a mature woodland belt along the western edge of W04, which PRoW 204/5 crosses adjacent to W03;
- W06 to W12 are located centrally within the Sunnica West Site A and consist of smaller scale geometric fields divided by hedgerows. Sounds Plantation extends between W06 and W07 and there is also a rectangular woodland block between W08 and W10. La Hogue Road crosses the eastern edge of W10, W11 and W12;
- W13 to W14 form the north-east part of the Sunnica West Site A, extending between Chippenham Park and the A11, adjacent to the south side of the B1085;
- W15 to W16 form the eastern part of the Sunnica West Site A, between the A11 and A14. W15 consists of several fields, which are open in character, whereas W16 is a single smalls scale field, situated between Dane Hill Farm and Half Moon Plantation; and
- W17 is a rectangular field in the central part of the study area, situated in the centre of W06 to W12. The field is open in character and bordered by hedgerows and tree belts, with Sounds Plantation forming the western boundary. There are also several agricultural barns adjacent to the southern edge of W17 and W17 is crossed by telegraph poles.

10.6.237 With reference to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report*** (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10B***), the trees within the Sunnica West Site A are semi mature to mature in age. The main species include Scots pine, Corsican pine, common beech, sycamore, common oak, common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and crack willow (*Salix fragilis*).

10.6.238 At the western side of Sunnica West Site A field boundaries consist of large linear pine, beech, willow and sycamore. At the eastern side of Sunnica West Site A, within the grounds of La Hogue Farm are several high value mature oak trees surrounding the entrance of the farm shop, whilst at the rear of the farm shop there are two veteran status trees.

10.6.239 Around Dane Hill Farm the fields are bordered mainly by moderate quality tree groups dominated by oak, aspen (*Populus tremula*), beech and field maple. Within this groups are three large mature individual native black poplar (*Populus nigra*) trees, which as a species are rarely distributed across Britain.

10.6.240 Other vegetation patterns include mature trees adjacent to The Avenue and adjacent to the watercourse which flows through Half Moon Plantation, to the south of Dane Hill Farm.

10.6.241 The Sunnica West Site A is not covered by any statutory landscape designations, nor is it within a Conservation Area. The Avenue in the western part of the Sunnica West Site A is part of the Grade II Chippenham Hall Park and Garden designation.

10.6.242 With reference to GLVIA 3, Sunnica West Site A is not publicly accessible and therefore does not provide any recreational value. There are no rare landscape features across Sunnica West Site A, although the mature woodlands are more valued landscape features. There is no sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to the A14 and similarly these features reduce the tranquillity across the Sunnica West Site A. The agricultural fields are a common land use. The landscape value of Sunnica West Site A is therefore assessed as local.

10.6.243 As fields which are open in character and with areas of woodland and hedgerows, the susceptibility to change is assessed as 'medium'.

10.6.244 The combination of the local value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Sunnica West Site A having a medium sensitivity.

Sunnica West Site B Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.245 The Sunnica West Site B is also located in the central part of the study area, approximately 1.5km to the north-west of the Sunnica West Site A and to the north of Snailwell. The Sunnica West Site B covers 68.8ha.

10.6.246 Mature woodland, extending from Chippenham Fen forms the northern boundary to the Sunnica West Site B. Fields form the eastern boundary, part of Snailwell Road forms the southern boundary and a woodland block and the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory form the western boundary.

10.6.247 The River Snail flows along the western and southern edges of the Sunnica West Site B, to flow under Snailwell Road. The landform rises from the River Snail to the eastern edge of the Sunnica West Site B, at 15m AOD.

10.6.248 The Sunnica West Site B does not cover any settlements and is located to the north of a trout farm and Snailwell Business Park.

10.6.249 Snailwell Road forms part of the southern boundary to the Sunnica West Site B, extending from the A142 to Snailwell.

10.6.250 The land use across the Sunnica West Site B is agricultural and to provide an additional level of detail, has been divided into the following parcel references:

- W01 consists of several small fields which are divided by individual trees; and
- W02 is a single agricultural field which is open in character and bordered by a woodland belt along its southern edge.

10.6.251 With reference to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report*** (***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10B***), the trees within the Sunnica West Site B are semi mature to mature in age. The main species include common ash, crack willow, hybrid black poplar and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*). Most of the trees were identified as being low to moderate quality.

10.6.252 The Sunnica West Site B is not crossed by any formal PRoW.

10.6.253 The Sunnica West Site B is not covered by any statutory landscape designations.

10.6.254 With reference to GLVIA 3, Sunnica West Site B is not publicly accessible. There are no rare landscape features across Sunnica West Site B, although the River Snail and woodland are more valued features. The proximity to Snailwell Road reduces any sense of remoteness or wildness. The agricultural fields are a common land use. The landscape value of Sunnica West Site B is therefore assessed as local.

10.6.255 As fields which are open in character with hedgerows, the susceptibility to change is assessed as 'medium'.

10.6.256 The combination of the local value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Sunnica West Site B having a medium sensitivity.

Cable Route A Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.257 With reference to the DCO Site plans, Cable Route A is located between the Sunnica East Sites A and B and the southern edge of the Sunnica East Site B and the north-east edge of the Sunnica West Site A.

10.6.258 From parcel E22, as the southern edge of the Sunnica East Site B, the cable route crosses part of the River Kennett, to extend between Heath Plantation and Long Slip woodland, to connect with parcel W13, at the northern edge of Sunnica West Site A.

10.6.259 The landform across Cable Route A is generally flat, at around 20m AOD. To the north of Heath Planation, the landform falls gradually to the River Kennet at 15m AOD, before rising back towards 18m AOD at field E22.

10.6.260 Cable Route A does not cross any settlements. The B1085 crosses the southern edge of Cable Route A and is the only road along the route.

10.6.261 With reference to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report***, most of the trees across Cable Route A are classified as low quality, with the exception of those in Heath Plantation.

10.6.262 PRoW 49/7 crosses the central part of Cable Route A, to the north of Heath Plantation and PRoW W-257/003/0 crosses the northern edge of Cable Route A, at the edge of parcel E22.

10.6.263 Cable Route A does not cross any designated landscapes.

10.6.264 With reference to GLVIA 3, there is a recreational value across Cable Route A, via the PRoW. There are no rare landscape features across Cable Route A, although the River Kennett and its associated vegetation and the woodland blocks are more valued landscape features. There is no sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to road networks in proximity to the route. The agricultural fields are a common land use. The landscape value of Sunnica East Site A is therefore assessed as local.

10.6.265 As fields which are open in character, along with the River Kennett and associated vegetation, the susceptibility to change is assessed as 'medium'.

10.6.266 The combination of the local value and medium susceptibility results in the landscape character of Cable Route A having a medium sensitivity.

Cable Route B Site Level Landscape Character

10.6.267 With reference to the DCO Site plan, Cable Route B extends from the north-west edge of the Sunnica West Site A to Sunnica West Site B and from the western edge of Sunnica West Site B to Burwell sub-station.

10.6.268 From parcel W03, at the north-west edge of Sunnica West Site A, Cable Route A crosses the western edge of Foxburrow Plantation, part of Chippenham Road and a vegetated track to W02, within Sunnica West Site B.

10.6.269 Across this part of Cable Route B, the landform rises across the fields, from the edge of Sunnica West Site A, at 20m AOD to Chippenham Road at 25m AOD. From Chippenham Road, the landform falls gradually towards Sunnica West Site B, at 20m AOD.

10.6.270 This part of Cable Route B does not cross any settlements and is located approximately 1km to the east of Snailwell. The land use across this part of Cable Route B is agricultural, consisting of varying field sizes, which are open in character and bordered by woodland and hedgerows.

10.6.271 With reference to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report***, the vegetation across this part of Cable Route B is assessed as moderate value plantations, with a high value group of beech trees adjacent to Chippenham Road.

10.6.272 From the west of Sunnica West Site B, Cable Route B crosses a small part of the carpark within the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory, Newmarket railway line and the A142, extending to the north of Landwade, across West Fen and to the west of Burwell.

10.6.273 Similarly, this part of Cable Route B does not cover any settlements and crosses a predominantly agricultural landscape, with large scale fields and watercourse (Lodes) across West Fen.

10.6.274 With reference to the ***High Level Tree Constraints Report***, the main tree species across this part of Cable Route B include sycamore, common ash and crack willow. The majority of these trees were assessed as being of low to moderate quality.

10.6.275 Cable Route B is not covered by any statutory landscape designations.

10.6.276 With reference to GLVIA 3, there are no rare landscape features across Cable Route B, although the fens and Lodes are more valued landscape features. There is no sense of remoteness or wildness due to the proximity to road networks, settlements and the extent of overhead pylons across the fens. The proximity to these features also reduces the tranquillity across Cable Route B. The agricultural fields are a common land use. The landscape value of Cable Route B is therefore assessed as regional.

10.6.277 As fields which are open in character, along with Lodes and areas of vegetation, the susceptibility to change is assessed as ‘high’.

10.6.278 The combination of the regional value and high susceptibility results in the landscape character of Cable Route B having a high sensitivity.

Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension Site Level Landscape Character (including the alternative locations)

10.6.279 The Burwell National Grid Sub-station extension is located in the western part of the study area. It predominantly covers the existing Burwell Sub-station compound, which consists of a range of tall electrical equipment, connected to overhead pylons.

10.6.280 Also within the Burwell National Grid Sub-station extension are several small scale fields divided by vegetation and part of Newham Drove. These fields cover both the proposed location for the sub-station and the alternative locations, as set out in the assumptions section.

10.6.281 The Burwell National Grid Sub-station extension is not covered by any statutory landscape designations.

10.6.282 With reference to GLVIA 3 Box 5.1, Burwell National Grid Sub-station compound is not publicly accessible and therefore provides no recreational value. Newham Drove is publicly accessible. There are no rare landscape features and the scenic quality is very low due to the Substation, which similarly negates any sense of remoteness or wildness. The value of the Burwell National Grid Sub-station extension is assessed as limited.

10.6.283 As Burwell Sub-station is an engineered feature, balanced with the open character and vegetation of the fields, its susceptibility to change is 'low'.

10.6.284 The combination of the limited value and low susceptibility results in the Burwell Sub-station and alternative locations having a low sensitivity.

Summary of Landscape Receptors

10.6.285 From the above landscape baseline review, the following tables, Table 10-3 to Table 10-5, set out the landscape receptors and their sensitivity to the Scheme. In line with GLVIA 3 and the methodology in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***, landscape sensitivity is derived from an assessment of landscape value and landscape susceptibility, which is set out in full for each landscape receptor in ***Appendix 10D*** and ***Appendix 10E***.

Table 10-3: Published Landscape Character Receptor Sensitivity

Landscape Receptor	*Landscape Sensitivity*
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)	
NCA 46: The Fens	High
NCA 85: The Brecks	High
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High
Regional East of England Landscape Framework	

Landscape Receptor	*Landscape Sensitivity*
Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium
Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium
Planned Peat Fen	Medium
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment	
Estate Sandlands	High
Rolling Estate Chalklands	High
Settled Chalklands	Medium
Settled Fenlands	Medium
Valley Meadows and Fens	High
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines	
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium
Area 8 Fenlands	Medium
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment	
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High
River Valleys	High
Low Chalk Farmland	Medium

Table 10-4: Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Receptor Sensitivity

LLCA	*Sensitivity*	*LLCA*	*Sensitivity*	*LLCA*	*Sensitivity*
1. Mildenhall Woods	High	16. Herringswell Wooded Farmland	Medium	30. Gazeley	Medium
2. Mildenhall Airfield	Very Low	17. Soham Fen	Medium	31. Gazeley Downland	Medium
3. Mildenhall	Medium	18. Fordham	Medium	32. Blockmoor Fen	Low
4. Barton Mills	High	19. Fordham Abbey	Medium	33. Soham Mere	Low

LLCA	Sensitivity	LLCA	Sensitivity	LLCA	Sensitivity
5. West Row and Thistley Green	Low	20. Snailwell Industrial Estate	Low	34. Soham	Medium
6. West Row Fen	Low	21. Snailwell	High	35. Wicken	High
7. River Lark	High	22. Chippenham Fen	High	36. Burwell Fen	Medium
8. Worlington	Medium	23A. Chippenham	High	37. Reach	Medium
9. Six Acre Covert	Low	23B. Chippenham Park	High	38. Burwell	Medium
10. Isleham	High	24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	39. North Exning	Low
11. East Fen Farmland	Low	25. Kennet	Low	40. Exning	Medium
12. Freckenham	High	26. The Limekilns	Medium	41. Newmarket	High
13. Elms Farmland	Medium	27. Newmarket Studs	Medium	42. Newmarket Heath	High
14. River Kennett	High	28. Kentford	Medium	43. West Fen	Medium
15. Red Lodge	Low	29. Moulton	High	44. Swaffham Prior	High

Table 10-5: DCO Site Landscape Character Sensitivity

DCO Site Area	Landscape Sensitivity
Sunnica East Site A	Medium
Sunnica East Site B	Medium
Cable Route A	Medium
Sunnica West Site A	Medium
Sunnica West Site B	Medium
Cable Route B	High
Burwell Sub-station	Low

Visual Baseline

10.6.286 The first stage of establishing the visual baseline has been a review of ZTVs for the various Scheme components.

10.6.287 The ZTVs are based on 'bare-earth' modelling, which in accordance with GLVIA 3 models the various Scheme components in relation to only the existing landform and without any existing vegetation or buildings.

10.6.288 To add an additional level of detail, a second iteration of ZTVs have also been produced, which include woodland and buildings, so as to provide a more representative modelling, based on the 'reality on the ground'.

10.6.289 The methodology for the ZTVs is set out in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***.

10.6.290 Figure 10-11a demonstrates the bare-earth theoretical visibility of the proposed Scheme across Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B. The bare-earth theoretical visibility is concentrated across these areas, to Isleham, north of the River Lark and to Chippenham. To the west of Chippenham, the theoretical visibility becomes more intermittent, whilst remaining consistent to the south of Chippenham and across the Limekilns.

10.6.291 Figure 10-11b also models the theoretical visibility of the proposed Scheme across Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B, but in contrast to Figure 10-11a includes existing vegetation and buildings. Figure 10-11b demonstrates that the theoretical visibility is substantially reduced across the surrounding landscape, being far more localised between Isleham, the River Lark, Newmarket Road and to the east of Chippenham. Theoretical localised visibility is also indicated at the Limekilns, however as demonstrated by the following visual appraisal, there is no inter-visibility with Sunnica East Site A or Sunnica East Site B.

10.6.292 Figure 10-11c demonstrates the bare-earth theoretical visibility of the proposed Scheme across Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B. The bare-earth theoretical visibility is concentrated across these areas and extends southwards across the Limekilns, until the ridgeline which then reduces the theoretical visibility across the southern part of the study area. The bare-earth theoretical visibility also extends west to Burwell and to the north side of the River Lark.

10.6.293 Figure 10-11d models the proposed Scheme across Sunnica West Site A and B, but with the inclusion of existing vegetation and buildings. In contrast to Figure 10-11c, the ZTV demonstrates that the theoretical visibility is substantially reduced by the existing features. The theoretical visibility remains concentrated across Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B, and between Snailwell and Kennett. The ZTV does not extend across Newmarket, Chippenham, Chippenham Park or nor to Burwell and north of the River Lark.

10.6.294 The second stage of the visual baseline has been via fieldwork, to review both stages of the ZTVs and identify visual receptors. The field work was

undertaken across the study area between March 2019 and July 2020, covering winter and summer months.

10.6.295 With reference to Figure 10-12 and Figures 10-12a to 10-12j, viewpoints have been identified as representative of views including from residents, PRoW users, the Jockey Club, visitors and residents at Chippenham Hall Park and motorists, and at a range of distances from the Scheme, including from residents in proximity to the DCO boundary, where the landscape is part of the setting. There are also several sequential viewpoints along the road networks, as these are often the only public means for views across the landscape, given the limited number of PRoW across parts of the study area.

10.6.296 The location of the viewpoints has been agreed with Suffolk County Council and West Suffolk Council Landscape Officers email, between January 2020 and March 2020.

10.6.297 The following section provides a summary of the winter visual context across the study area in relation to the Scheme and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10F***, which provides a description of each viewpoint (VP). Supporting photography is presented on Figures 10-20 to 10-83.

Visual Baseline of Sunnica East Site A and parts of Cable Route A

10.6.298 To the north of the Sunnica East Site A, VP1, from the banks of the River Lark demonstrates that the northern part of this part of the DCO Site is visible, seen as part of the large-scale field pattern extending to the south of the river. In contrast, to the north-east of The Fen woodland, also adjacent to the River Lark and at Judd's Bridge (VP2), the riverside vegetation and rising landform screens views of the fields across the eastern part of the Sunnica East Site A, but the upper parts of Lee Farm are visible.

10.6.299 The open character of the fields bordering Isleham is demonstrated by VP3, which is taken from the eastern edge of Isleham, along East Fen Road. VP4 from The Ark and VP 5, from Beck Road, also demonstrate the flat and open character of the fields to the south-east of Isleham and that there are close range views of parcels E05 and E06 from the road network. The views also demonstrate there is inter-visibility with residential properties adjacent to the B1104, to the south-west of Isleham and several properties in Freckenham.

10.6.300 From the south-west edge of Isleham, VP6 demonstrates the open character of the fields and the rise in landform along the alignment of the dismantled railway line between the B1104 and Beck Road. The view demonstrates that from the upper storey of residents adjacent to the road, there are views across landscape, including parcels E05 and E06, adjacent to Beck Road.

10.6.301 Continuing southwards from Isleham, along the B1104, VP7 demonstrates that parcels E05 and E06 are visible, due to gaps in the roadside vegetation, although viewed obliquely in relation to the orientation of the motorists.

10.6.302 From the western edge of Freckenham, VP8 demonstrates the open character of the agricultural landscape between Freckenham and Isleham and that parcel E07 is visible. The composition of the view also includes the

Church of St. Andrew and The Ark, such that there is already inter-visibility with buildings in Isleham.

10.6.303 To the north of Freckenham, along PRoW W-257/002/X, VP9 to VP11 demonstrate there are close range views of parcels E05, E06 and E07 to varying degrees along the route. Views also extend to the elevated ridgeline across the B1104, Beck Road, the Church of St. Andrew, The Ark and Lee Farm from VP11.

10.6.304 Parcel E07 is also visible from the residential property at Beck Road, VP11A. Views extend from the east elevation across Beck Road and E05 to Lee Farm.

10.6.305 There are close range views of the northern and southern parts of Sunnica East Site A from Lee Farm, VP12. Views are from all elevations of the property, although the main aspect is considered to be to the south, due to the alignment of the avenue of trees and that views from other aspects include farm buildings, silo's and the reservoir at close range.

10.6.306 VP12A and VP12B demonstrate the views for motorists along Ferry Lane, including at the elevated junction with Beck Road. These views demonstrate that due to the elevated position of the receptor, parcels E01, E04, E08 and E10 to the east of Lee Farm are visible, culminating in a wooded background and The Fen woodland, adjacent to the River Lark, as well as parts of E07, although filtered by intervening vegetation.

10.6.307 To west of Worlington, along the B1102 (Freckenham Road), VP13 demonstrates there are close range views from gaps in the roadside vegetation of part of the location for Cable Route A.

Visual Baseline of Sunnica East Site B and parts of Cable Route A

10.6.308 From along the B1102, VP14 demonstrates that there are close range views of E11 and E12 to the north of the road but that E13 is screened by the intervening field boundaries and pine lines adjacent to U6006, which truncate any longer distance views across the landscape.

10.6.309 These parts of Sunnica East Site A are also visible from rear windows of residents adjacent to B1102 (VP14A), although views are filtered by intervening garden vegetation, including a mature hedge.

10.6.310 From along U6006, VP15 to VP16 are representative of recreational users and equestrian riders. These views demonstrate the changing composition of the views, from truncated views as a result of the mature vegetation adjacent to U6006, views of parcels E12 to close range views across E14 and E23.

10.6.311 VP17 to VP19 demonstrate the range of views from along Elms Road, when traveling between Freckenham and the A11. The views demonstrate that at the eastern edge of Freckenham (VP17) the DCO Site is not visible due to the intervening rising landform and vegetation. There are close range views of parcels E20 and E18 when travelling along Elms Road, due to either breaks in the roadside vegetation for access into the fields, or the gaps in the roadside hedgerows (VP 18). Upon the approach to Freckenham from

the junction with Bridge End Road, the DCO Site is not visible, due to the intervening vegetation.

10.6.312 There are also close range views of parcel E22 and part of Cable Route A from PRoW W257/003/0, due to breaks in the hedgerows, as demonstrated by VP20. In contrast, the field boundary vegetation screens views of the fields covering E19 to E22 when travelling along Badlingham Road, as demonstrated by VP21.

10.6.313 Similarly, views of these fields from residents in Badlingham, adjacent to Badlingham Road, VP21A, are also screened by the intervening hedgerows, although there are views across fields covering part of the Cable Route A, on the north side of the River Kennet.

10.6.314 VP22 and VP23 demonstrate there are close range views of E24 and E25 from Worlington Road, due to the low height of the roadside vegetation and the open character of the fields. Both E24 and E25 are bordered by mature trees which truncate any longer distance views across the landscape and the DCO Site. These fields are also visible at close range for residents at the southern edge of Worlington, VP23A, with views from the rear of the property extending above the boundary wall.

10.6.315 From Golf Links Road, to the east of Worlington, VP24 demonstrates that parcels E26 to E29 are not visible, being screened by mature field boundaries; although parcels E30 and E31 are visible due to breaks in the roadside vegetation, and their slightly elevated position in the landscape, across the lower slopes of Chalk Hill. The view also demonstrates that the woodland across Chalk Hill screens any longer distance views across the landscape.

10.6.316 VP25, also from Golf Links Road demonstrates that parcels E31 and E32 are visible due to the open character of the fields and limited roadside vegetation.

10.6.317 Parcels E30 to E32 are also visible from parts of Newmarket Road and PRoW W-128/002/0 as demonstrated by VP26A. This is due to the intervening open character of the fields and that the rising landform across the southern parts of E30 to E32. However, From the edge of Barton Mills, VP 26B demonstrates that the Scheme is not visible due to the intervening vegetation and landform.

10.6.318 Moving to the western edge of Red Lodge, there are views from residents across the A11 to properties adjacent to Bridge End Road; however, the properties and intervening vegetation screen views of the DCO Site, as demonstrated by VP27.

10.6.319 At the western edge of Red Lodge, the A11 overbridge links Health Farm Road with Bridge End Road and is in an elevated position across the A11. VP28 demonstrates that parcel E21 and E22 are visible, but views are largely filtered by the roadside vegetation.

10.6.320 Moving to the eastern edge of Chippenham, along PRoW 49/7, VP29 demonstrates there are views across the fields covering most of the Cable Route A part of the Scheme.

Visual Baseline of Sunnica West Site A and B, parts of Cable Route A and Cable Route B

10.6.321 VP30 demonstrates that from within Chippenham, the intervening vegetation and buildings screen views of DCO Site. Similarly, the DCO Site is not visible from within Chippenham Park, due to the extent of intervening vegetation, as demonstrated by VP31 and the boundary wall visible in VP32.

10.6.322 Travelling south from Chippenham along La Hogue Road, W10, W11 and W12 and part of Cable Route A are visible for motorists and visitors to La Hogue Farm Shop, due to breaks in the roadside vegetation and their proximity to the road, as demonstrated by VP32 and VP33. Parcel W13 is visible to the north of La Hogue Farm, VP33A, although views are filtered by intervening garden vegetation.

10.6.323 In contrast, for motorists on the B1085, including visitors to the Wild Tracks activity park, parcels W13 and W14 are predominantly screened due to the height of the roadside hedgerows. The exception is when approaching the activity park from the A11 junction, due to the elevated position of the road as demonstrated by VP34.

10.6.324 From along the B1085, to east of the A11, VP35 demonstrates how the density and height of roadside vegetation screens views of W15 and W16. Continuing along the B1085, to Station Road, and residents at the western edge of Kennett, VP36 demonstrates that there are views across W15 and W16 due to gaps in the roadside vegetation and the height of the properties above the vegetation. W15 and W16 are seen in the context of the A11 roadside embankments.

10.6.325 There are close range views of W15 due to breaks in the roadside hedgerows from along Newmarket Road, as demonstrated by VP37. The height of the vegetated embankments of the A11 truncate any longer distance views across the DCO Site. There are also close range views of W15 from the upper floor windows of the property to the west, VP37A, although partially softened by intervening garden vegetation.

10.6.326 From along the A11, views are generally largely softened by density of the mature roadside vegetation. The slightly elevated position of the road does enable views across W15, although largely softened in winter by the roadside trees (VP37B). There are more open views across Sunnica West Site A from the elevated slip road of the A1304, as it connects to the A11, in combination with the intermittent extent of roadside vegetation (VP37C). There are also intermittent views across Sunnica West Site A from the A14, in proximity to the overbridge, due to the gaps in the roadside hedgerows (VP37D). Within these views, the composition of the view consists of fields and mature woodlands, culminating in a vegetated skyline.

10.6.327 Moving towards Newmarket and to a more elevated part of the landscape, VP38, demonstrates that most of the Sunnica West Site A, W05 to W12, is visible from the Limekilns, part of the Jockey Club training grounds. This part of the DCO Site is seen in the context of A14 and the Newmarket railway which cross the valley floor and the mature vegetation along The Avenue. Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B are not visible due to distance and intervening features.

10.6.328 The visibility of Sunnica West Site A varies from along The Avenue. At the southern part of the Railway Field, the mature vegetation bordering the railway screens most of the Sunnica West Site A, as demonstrated by VP39. Sunnica West Site A and B are not visible from along Snailwell Road, at the northern edge of Newmarket, as demonstrated by VP39A.

10.6.329 There are views above the trees of parcels W05, W08 and W11, although these parcels form a small part of the overall composition of the view. Continuing along The Avenue, VP40 demonstrates that parcel W05 is visible, form the A14 overbridge, although seen through the fencing and in the context of the vehicles on the A14.

10.6.330 To the south-east of Snailwell, along PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, VP41 demonstrates there are close range views of W03, and that despite the elevated position of the receptor, views across the wider landscape and DCO Site are truncated by Foxburrow Plantation and the mature vegetation bordering the PRoW. Chippenham Road and the fields to the north of this road are also visible, in relation to the alignment of Cable Route B.

10.6.331 VP42 demonstrates the vegetated character to Chippenham Road due to the linear row of beech trees and that there are close range views of the fields covering Cable Route B.

10.6.332 These fields are also visible from properties on the eastern side of Snailwell, as demonstrated by VP43, but not form the northern end of the village, due to the rising landform and intervening vegetation, as demonstrated by VP44. The fields are visible at close range, along with views towards W02 from PRoW (footpath) 204/1, which extends to the north of Snailwell, as demonstrated by VP45.

10.6.333 Moving north from Snailwell, VP46 demonstrates the southern part of W01 is visible from motorists travelling along Snailwell Road, due to breaks in the roadside vegetation, as the road crosses the River Snail. Longer distance views across this part of Sunnica West Site B are truncated by the vegetation across W02.

10.6.334 For motorist travelling in the opposite direction along Snailwell Road, VP47 demonstrates how the course of the River Snail is demarcated by linear belts of vegetation and that the northern part of parcel W01 is visible, seen in the context of the upper parts of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory.

Visual Baseline of Cable Route B and the Burwell National Grid Substation extension

10.6.335 To the south of Fordham Abbey, along Newmarket Road and adjacent to Fordham House, VP48 demonstrates that there are close range views of the location of Cable Route B, across the A142 and Newmarket Road roundabout. For residents in Fordham House, the alignment of Cable Route B is also visible, seen in the context of the A142.

10.6.336 From within Fordham, the DCO Site is not visible due to the generally flat landform and intervening vegetation patterns, including mature woodland bordering Fordham Abbey, as demonstrated by VP49.

10.6.337 Moving to the Landwade, VP50 demonstrates that the fields covering Cable Route B to the north-west of village are visible from Landwade Road. Similarly, there are close range views of the fields across Cable Route B from the B1102, as demonstrated by VP51.

10.6.338 From the northern edge of Burwell, along the Howlem Balk track, VP52 demonstrates the gentle rise in the landform to the north of Burwell, resulting in a localised ridgeline to the east of Broads Road, which truncates views across the Cabe Route B alignment.

10.6.339 From the western edge of Burwell, the upper parts of Burwell Substation and National Grid pylon towers are visible in close range views from motorists on Weir's Drove, as demonstrated by VP53.

10.6.340 Similarly, from publicly accessible routes across Burwell Fen, including Burwell Lode, VP54 and Hightown Drove, VP55, Burwell Sub-station and rows of overhead pylons are visible above the flat fens.

10.6.341 From along Burwell Road, VP56 demonstrates that gaps in the roadside vegetation enable longer channelled views across the low lying landscape, with the upper parts of Burwell Sub-station and National Grid pylon towers also visible.

10.6.342 From the eastern edge of Reach, VP57 demonstrates that garden vegetation and field boundaries also filter and truncate views across the wider landscape, but that the upper parts of Burwell Sub-station are visible.

10.6.343 To the south-east of Reach, VP58, from the Devil's Ditch, demonstrates that the field boundary vegetation results in views often being filtered or channelled. The composition of views is often close range views of fields, recreational or residential land uses in Reach set against a wooded background. National grid pylon towers are visible above this vegetation, extending towards Burwell Sub-station, where the upper parts of transformers and electrical equipment are also visible.

Summary of Visual Receptors

10.6.344 From the above visual baseline, Table 10-6 below summarises the visual receptors and their sensitivity to the Scheme.

10.6.345 In line with GLVIA 3 and the methodology in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***, visual sensitivity is derived from an assessment of visual value and visual susceptibility and is set out for each receptor in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10F.***

10.6.346 The receptors include private residents in relation to the potential requirements of a Residential Visual Amenity Assessment.

Table 10-6: Visual Receptor Sensitivity

Ref	*Viewpoint*	*Visual Receptor*	*Sensitivity*
1	View south-east from PRoW W-398/030/0 Figure: 10-20A and 10-20B	Recreational Users on the River Lark	High

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
2A	View south-west from PRoW W-398/030/0 Figure 10-21A and 10-21B	Recreational Users on the River Lark	High
2B	View south-west from Jude's Ferry Figure: 10-22A and 10-22B	Visitors to Jude's ferry	High
3	View south from East Fen Road Figure: 10-23A and 10-23B	Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	Medium
4	View south-east from The Ark Church Figure: 10-24A and 10-24B	Visitors to the Ark Church	Low
5	View south-east from Beck Road Figure: 10-25A and 10-25B	Motorists on Beck Road	Medium
6	View south-east from B1104, Isleham Figure: 10-26A and 10.26B	Residents adjacent to the B1104	Medium
7	View north-east from the B1104, between Isleham and Freckenham Figure: 10-27A and 10-27B	Motorist on B1104	Low
8	View north from residents at the western edge of Freckenham Figure: 10-28A and 10-28B	Residents in Freckenham	High
9	View north-west from PRoW (footpath) W-257/002/0 (Mortimer Lane, Freckenham) Figure: 10-29A and 10-29B	Recreational users W-257/002/0	Medium
10	View west from PRoW (footpath) W-257/002/X Figure: 10-30A and 10-30B	Recreational users W-257/002/X	Medium
11	View north-west from PRoW (footpath) W-257/002/0 Figure: 10-31A and 10-31B	Recreational users W-257/002/0	High
11A	View east from Beck Road property	Residents of Beck Road	Medium
12	Lee Farm	Residents of Lee Farm	Medium
12A	View north-west from Ferry Lane Figure: 10-32A and 10.32B	Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low
12B	View west from Ferry Lane Figure 10.33A and 10.33B	Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
13	View north from B1102 Figure: 10-34A and 10.34B	Motorists on B1102	Low
14	View south from B1102 Figure: 10-35A and 10.35B	Motorists and Pedestrians on B1102	Low
14A	View south from residents adjacent to the B1102	Residents adjacent to B1102	High
15	View west from U6006 (unclassified road) Figure: 10-36A and 10-36B	Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium
15A	View south-west from U6006 (unclassified road) Figure: 10-37A and 10-37B	Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium
15B	View south-east from U6006 (unclassified road) Figure 10-38A and 10-38B	Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium
16	View north-east from U6006 (unclassified road) Figure: 10-39A and 10-39B	Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium
17	View north-east from Elms Road and PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0 Figure: 1040A and 10-40B	Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0	Medium
18	View north-west from Elms Road Figure: 10-41A and 10-41B	Motorists on Elms Road	Low
19	View north-west from Elms Road Figure: 10-42A and 10.42B	Motorists on Elms Road	Low
20	View north from PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0 Figure: 10-43A and 10-43B	Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	Medium
21	View east from Badlingham Road Figure: 10-44A and 10.44B	Motorists on Badlingham Road	Low
21A	View south-east from Residential Properties adjacent to Badlingham Road	Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	Medium
22	View north-west from Worlington Road Figure: 10-45A and 10.45B	Motorists on Worlington Road	Low

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
23	View north-west from Worlington Road Figure: 10-46A and 10.46B	Motorists on Worlington Road	Low
23A	View south from Queens Hill, Worlington	Residents at Queens Hill	Medium
24	View south from Golf Links Road Figure: 10-47A and 10-47B	Motorists on Golf Links Road and Golfers	Low
25	View south-west from Golf Links Road Figure: 10-48A and 10.48B	Motorists on Golf Links Road	Low
26A	View south-west from PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0 Figure: 10-49A and 10.49B	Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium
26B	View south-west from the southern edge of Barton Mills Figure 10.50A and 10.50B	Recreational users at Barton Mills	Medium
27	View west from the western edge of Red Lodge Figure: 10-51 and 10.51B	Residents in Red Lodge	Medium
28	View north from the A11 overbridge Figure: 10-52A and 10-52B	Recreational users on A11	Low
29	View south-east from PRoW ((footpath) 49/7 Figure: 10-53A and 10-53B	Recreational users on PRoW ((footpath) 49/7	Medium
30	View south-east from Chippenham Figure: 10-54A and 10.54B	Residents in Chippenham	High
31	View south-east from Chippenham Park Figure: 10-55A and 10.55B	Visitors and tourists to Chippenham Park and Chippenham Hall	High
32	View south-west from La Hogue Road, to the south of Chippenham Park Figure: 10-56A and 10.56B	Motorists on La Hogue Road	Medium
33	View north-west from La Hogue Road at the junction with La Hogue Farm Figure: 10-57A and 10.57B	Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Low
33A	View north from La Hogue Farm	Residents at La Hogue Farm	High

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
34	View south-west from the B1085, adjacent the Wild Tracks Centre Figure: 10-58A and 10.58B	Visitors to The Wild Tracks Centre	Low
35	View south from Dane Hill Farm	Residents at Dane Hill Farm	Medium
35A	View south-west from the B1085 Figure 10.59A and 10.59B	Motorists on the B1085	Low
36	View south-west from Kennett Figure: 10-60A and 10.60B	Residents adjacent to Station Road	Medium
37	View north from Newmarket Road Figure: 10-61A and 10.61B	Motorists on Newmarket Road	Low
37A	View east from residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	Medium
37B	View south-east from the A11	Motorist on the A11	Very Low
37C	View north from the A1304/A11 slip road	Motorists on the A1304/A11 slip road	Very Low
37D	View north from the A14	Motorist on the A14	Very Low
38	View north from The Limekilns Figure: 10-62A and 10.62B	Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	High
39	View north-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, The Avenue Figure: 10-63A and 10-63B	Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5	High
39A	View north-west from the northern edge of Newmarket Figure: 10.64A and 10.64B	Residents at the northern edge of Newmarket	Medium
40	View north-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, crossing the A14 Figure: 10-65A and 10.65B	Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, crossing the A14	Low
41	View south-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell Figure: 10-66A and 10.66B	Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5	Medium
42	View north-west from Chippenham Road Figure 10.67A and 10.67B	Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
43	View north-east from the eastern edge of Snailwell Figure: 10-68A and 10.68B	Residents in Snailwell	Medium
44	View from The Street, at the northern edge of Snailwell Figure: 10.69A and 10.69B	Residents in Snailwell	Medium
45	View north from PRoW (footpath) 204/1, north of Snailwell Figure: 10.70A and 10.70B	Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Medium
46	View north from Snailwell Road Figure: 10.71A and 10.71B	Motorists on Snailwell Road	Low
47	View north-east from Snailwell Road Figure: 10.72A and 10.72B	Motorists on Snailwell Road	Low
47A	View north from the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory	Employees	Low
48	View south from Fordham House Figure: 10.73A and 10.73B	Residents in Fordham House	Medium
49	View south from Fordham Figure 10.74A and 10.74B	Residents in Fordham	Medium
50	View north-west from Landwade Road Figure: 10.75A and 10.75B	Recreational users	Medium
51	View south from the B1102 Figure: 10.76A and 10.76B	Motorists on B1102	Low
52	View north from Howlem Farm track (PRoW (byway) 35/15) Figure: 10.77A and 10.77B	Residents adjacent to Howden Farm Track	Medium
53	View west from Weir's Drove, Burwell Figure: 10.78A and 10.77B	Motorist adjacent to Weir's Drove	Low
54	View south-east from Burwell Lode Figure: 10-79A and 10.79B	Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium
55	View east from Hightown Drove Figure: 10.80A and 10.80B	Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium
56	View north-east from Burwell Road, Reach	Motorists on Burwell Road	Low

Ref	Viewpoint	Visual Receptor	Sensitivity
	Figure: 10.81A and 10.81B		
57	View north-east from the Church of St. Etheldreda, Reach Figure: 10.82A and 10.82B	Residents in Reach	Medium
58	View north-east from the Devil's Ditch (PRoW (footpath) 191/10) Figure: 10.83A and 10.83B	Recreational users on the Devil's Ditch	Medium

Future Baseline

10.6.347 In the absence of the Scheme, the future landscape and visual baseline across the DCO Site is anticipated to remain as stated above. The DCO Site would therefore continue to be predominantly agricultural land uses, with vegetation patterns of 'pine lines' or woodland blocks, bordered by roadside hedgerows or fields which are open in character.

10.6.348 In relation to the study area, the land uses and vegetation patterns are also considered to remain, including roadside vegetation adjacent to the A11 and A14, across parts of the Limekilns and Railway Field and across Chippenham Park.

10.6.349 The agricultural, residential, infrastructure and equestrian land uses in proximity to the DCO Site would remain. There would be additional residential and employment land uses in the eastern and northern parts of Red Lodge. There would also be additional residential land uses in Kennett, to the west of Station Road, in proximity to the Sunnica West Site A and parcels W15 and W16. These future baseline receptors are considered to be representative of the identified viewpoints from Red Lodge and Kennett.

10.7 Embedded Design Mitigation

10.7.1 The LVIA has informed the iterative design process, via design principles which respond to the policy requirements, published landscape character assessments and field work analysis, in order to mitigate the likely effects of the Scheme.

10.7.2 LVIA preliminary design principles are included within Figures 3-1 and 3-2 (the preliminary Parameter Plans) and therefore embedded in the design and accounted for in the assessment process.

10.7.3 The LVIA design principles across the Scheme are based on responding positively to the published guidance, including the Statements of Environmental Opportunity identified in section 10.6 by:

- Careful siting of the Scheme in the landscape by the structures being offset from pine lines, vegetation patterns and road networks;
- Conserving landscape, ecology and archaeological features (including below ground) across the DCO Site, including the pine lines; and
- Creating new Green Infrastructure within the DCO Site and in relation to the study area through permissive routes to provide linkages between Freckenham and Isleham and in relation to U6006 and The Avenue.

10.7.4 With reference to preliminary Parameter Plan Figure 3-1, these design principles have been incorporated across the Sunnica East Sites A and B by:

- Siting the primary construction compound, BESS and substation in E33 adjacent to reservoirs and Lee Farm, so that their massing and land uses are perceived in the context of existing infrastructure features and built structures in the landscape. The tonal rendering of shades to integrate the structures within the landscape will help to reduce their perceived overall mass, which would be secured through design principles;
- Siting the BESS and substation in E18 so that it is enclosed and screened by existing woodland along its northern edges and in part by roadside vegetation adjacent to Elms Road to its south-east. The tonal rendering of shades which are suitable to integrate within the landscape will help reduce the perceived overall mass of these structures. Additionally, these land uses and proposed structures are consolidated in proximity to Worlington Quarry and Bay Farm solar farm, so that the cumulative impact of these land uses are localised within the landscape;
- Siting the solar arrays away from Freckenham, Isleham and Worlington to avoid the Scheme resulting in the physical coalescence of settlements, and offset to the west of Beck Road and Freckenham Road;
- Conserving the field boundaries and the vegetation patterns, including the pine lines, overall by offsetting the solar panels from the field edges. This also retains views across the landscape to valued features

including the pine lines in long distance views and vegetation adjacent to the Lee Brook;

- Implementing new woodland and hedgerows, as set out in the OLEMP to aid in visually screening the Scheme and improving the landscape structure, as well as new native grassland mixes beneath the solar panels to improve the range of fauna and increase the biodiversity across the Site in comparison to intensive agriculture, including pig farming; and
- A new permissive route between Freckenham and Isleham and to the south of Worlington, along U6006, to enable increased public access across the landscape and respond positively to published Green Infrastructure strategies.

10.7.5 Other embedded mitigation across the Sunnica East Sites A and B which are shown on Figure 3-1 and are shown in the OLEMP are:

- Parcel E01 – the solar panels are offset from the Fen woodland to the north and by 8m from the Lee Brook to the west. The proximity to the woodland aids in screening views from the wider landscape to the north;
- Parcel E02 – new woodland planting along the eastern edge of the parcel, to reinforce the vegetation structure adjacent to Ferry Lane and screen the panels in longer distance views from the east.
- Parcel E03 – new woodland to the north and south of the parcel, to screen views from the wider landscape to the north and from Lee Farm. The linear form of the woodland reflects the linear form of pine lines within the wider landscape and provides vegetation linkages east to west across this part of the scheme, between the Lee Brook and vegetation bordering Ferry Lane;
- Parcel E04 – as per E03, additional woodland along the northern edge and the eastern edge, adjacent to Ferry Lane, so as to screen the panels and improve the vegetation cover;
- Parcel E05 - the solar panels have been sited back from Beck Road via a landscape buffer of native grassland, to reduce the proximity of the panels to road users, retain views along the road corridor of the churches in Isleham and Freckenham and to retain a perception of travelling through the landscape that separates the settlements;
- Parcel E06 – the proposals are for an area of native chalk grassland, as a positive response to the below ground archaeology and as an opportunity for stone curlew nesting plots;
- Parcel E07 – the solar panels have been sited to the west of PRoW W-257/002/X, so that view for recreational users are retained to the north and south and so that new woodland can be sited between the receptors and the solar panels;
- Parcels E08, E09 and E10 are enclosed by new hedgerows, to screen views of the panels and reinforce existing hedgerow patterns. There is also a proposed area of chalk grassland within E09, above an archaeological mitigation area;

- Parcels E11, E12 and E23 – solar panels have been sited to the south of Worlington and offset from the residential land uses by native chalk grassland. These grassland areas would also provide opportunities for stone curlew mitigation. The County Wildlife Site within E23 has been retained and is proposed for native chalk grassland as an improvement to the land cover compared to the agricultural fields;
- Parcels E12 to E17 – solar panels have been located within the smaller field parcels and offset from the intervening pine lines, so as to retain the field pattern and vegetation cover. The panels have also been offset from U6006, which is retained as a recreational route through this part of the Scheme;
- Parcels E19 to E22 – the solar panels in this part of the Site have also been located within the smaller field parcels, to reflect the landscape pattern and retain the intervening pine lines. New woodland is proposed around the perimeter of the parcels to reduce the visibility from residents adjacent to Bridge End Road and local PRoW, as well as screen the structures and reduce the perception of the Scheme from Badlingham;
- Parcels E24 and E25 – new woodland planting is proposed to the north, east and south of these parcels to screen the structures and reduce the perception of the scheme when travelling along Worlington Road;
- Parcels E26 to E29 – the solar panels have been located within the small scale fields and are offset from the boundary vegetation. This is to retain the landscape pattern and screen the panels from wider views;
- Parcels E30 to E32 – the woodland in the south-east part of the Site and around the field parcels has been retained for visual screening and retaining the vegetation cover. Additional hedgerow and woodland planting are proposed adjacent to Golf Links Road to screen views for motorists and from views from the wider landscape to the north, as well as reduce the perception of the Scheme in relation to Worlington.

10.7.6 With reference to preliminary Parameter Plan Figure 3-2, the design principles have been incorporated across Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B by:

- Siting the primary construction compound and the BESS and substation within W17, so that it is in part adjacent to existing barns and bordered by the mature woodland of Sounds Plantation which aids in screening the structures from the west and in views from the east, their suitable rendering in the context of the woodland, to aid in reducing the perceived overall massing of the structures;
- Conserving the field boundaries and the vegetation patterns by locating the solar panels within the fields and offsetting them from the existing hedgerows and trees. This also retains views across the landscape to valued features including Avenue and plantations; and
- Implementing new woodland and hedgerows to aid in visually screening the Scheme and reflect the vegetation patterns, as well as new grassland mixes beneath the solar panels to improve the range of

fauna and increase the biodiversity across the Site in comparison to intensive agriculture.

10.7.7 Other embedded mitigation across the Sunnica West Site A and B sites which are shown on Figure 3-2 are:

- Parcels W01 and W02 – siting the solar arrays within a small part of W01 and W02, away from Chippenham Fen, the River Snail and Snailwell Road so as to reduce the visibility of the Scheme from motorists and conserve the landscape features of woodland and the river. New native wetland grassland is proposed across these parcels as a positive response to the adjacent RAMSAR site and in response to below ground archaeology;
- Parcel W03 – siting the solar panels between woodland blocks and Foxburrow Plantation and reinforcing the vegetation patterns with new woodland planting to aid in screening this part of the Scheme from the wider landscape and retaining a physical separation from Chippenham Road and Snailwell;
- Parcel W04 – new native chalk grassland across part of the parcel, in response to below ground archaeology. The solar panels have also been sited away from The Avenue so that new woodland can be implemented;
- Parcel W05 – siting the solar panels away from The Avenue so that new woodland can be implemented along the southern edges of the parcel, which would include a higher percentage of evergreen species and a temporary fence to screen views from motorists on the A14;
- Parcels W06 and W07 – new woodland planting to the west of the parcels, to reduce their visibility in longer distance views from The Limekilns, as well as provide new vegetation links across the landscape. The existing woodland between these parcels has also been retained, with panels and associated infrastructure offset from the woodland;
- Parcels W08 and W09 – limiting the extent of the solar panels across these fields, so as to respond positively to below ground archaeology. New native grassland would extend across the archaeological areas, to create a continuous sward of grassland with that which will be present under the panels;
- Parcels W10, W11 and W12 – the extent of the solar panels has been located to ensure a physical separation from the boundary wall of Chippenham Park and Chippenham Hall. New hedgerow and woodland are proposed along the northern edge of these parcels to provide visual screening from La Hogue Road. New woodland is also proposed along the northern edge of W10, to provide visual screening from the same road and reinforce the existing vegetation patterns;
- Parcel W13 – the extent of solar panels has been limited to maximise the physical separation from the southern edge of Chippenham. New native grassland is proposed across the archaeological areas in the western part of W13, along with new hedgerows around the perimeter of the parcel for visual screening and to increase the vegetation cover;

- Parcel W14 – new hedgerows and woodland are proposed around the perimeter of the parcel for visual screening and to improve the vegetation cover in comparison to an agricultural field;
- Parcel W15 and W16 – the solar panels have been offset from the watercourse, along with the retention of the riverside trees and vegetation. New woodland is proposed around the perimeter of the parcels to screen the Scheme, as well as to soften views of the A11 from Kennett and increase the vegetation.

10.7.8 All of the above measures would be maintained in accordance with the LEMP produced in accordance with the Outline LEMP, which will be submitted with the DCO. A draft Outline LEMP is included within the PEI Report submission in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10I***.

10.7.9 Embedded mitigation measures for the construction stage are set out in the CEMP, including measures such as construction exclusion zones in relation to retained vegetation, ensuring a tidy and neat working area, covering stockpiles and storing topsoil in accordance with best practice measures.

10.8 Assessment of Likely Impacts and Effects

10.8.1 The impacts and effects (both beneficial and adverse) associated with the construction, operation year 1, operation year 15, and decommissioning of the Scheme are summarised in the sections below.

10.8.2 The assessments are based on Figures 3-1 and 3-2 (the preliminary Parameter Plans) which include for the embedded mitigation described above.

10.8.3 The following section focuses mainly on the potential likely significant effects (i.e. effects of major or moderate) and should be read in combination with the landscape effects in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and the visual effects in ***Appendix 10H*** which set out the landscape and visual effects in full, covering significant and not significant effects.

10.8.4 The likely impacts and effects are set out in relation to each of the Site areas, i.e. Sunnica East Site A or Sunnica West Site A and in respect of Cable Routes A and B. This is followed by an assessment of the combined effects (intra project effects), i.e. where more than one Site area is within a landscape character area, or a visual receptor has views of more than one Site area.

Construction Phase Assessment (winter)

Sunnica East Site A - Construction Landscape Effects

Sunnica East Site A – Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.5 The construction phase would be located across all of the Sunnica East Site A, covering the fields adjacent to Beck Road, to the west of Ferry Lane and around Lee Farm.

10.8.6 Primary compounds would be located to the east of the reservoirs and Lee Farm (in parcel E33), with excavators, piling machines and vehicles in all parcels across the Sunnica East Site A. The exception would be E06 and a small part of E09, where due to below ground archaeology the construction

activity would reflect agricultural activity in preparing the fields to implement the native grassland.

10.8.7 There would be localised excavation to implement the below ground cables between E05 and E07 and the remainder of the Sunnica East Site A. The implementation of the BESS and substation would require tall lifting equipment and associated machinery.

10.8.8 Fencing around the compound and the Sunnica East Site A would be implemented early within the construction phase, which would also enable the protection of the retained vegetation during the implementation of the remainder of the Scheme, including along the Lee Brook and adjacent to Ferry Lane, Beck Road and Lee Farm.

10.8.9 The construction phase would result in changes to the landcover and landform across Sunnica East Site A, from vegetation clearance, topsoil stripping and localised land levelling. This activity would expose sub-base chalk, altering the tonal colour within the fields, as well raised earth stockpiles and bunds which are uncharacteristic in relation to the flat and open character of the landscape. There would be more localised excavation via trenching within fields for the cable routes, piling for the frames for the solar panels and excavation for the internal road networks within the parcels, as well as the stockpiling of solar panel frames.

10.8.10 Whilst individually the construction equipment and excavation within fields would not be uncharacteristic within an agricultural landscape, the scale and extent of the construction phase would result in a substantial alteration to the landscape character across the Sunnica East Site A, including a reduction in tranquillity.

10.8.11 The magnitude of impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high in relation to substantial change from the construction activity across Sunnica East Site A, which, when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site A - Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.12 The Sunnica East Site A construction activity would be located across NCA 46 The Fens, NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Rolling East Chalklands and LT Settled Fenlands.

10.8.13 These character areas are large in scale and characterised by generally flat to gently undulating landform, agricultural land uses and a range of settlement sizes and associated infrastructure.

10.8.14 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, there would be changes to landform and landcover within these published landscape character areas, as well as localised reductions in tranquillity from the construction activity.

10.8.15 The key features of vegetation or stream corridors (i.e. the Lee Brook) would be retained and protected during the construction phase. Much of the

construction activity would be located in the curtilage of Lee Farm, where there are existing buildings and silos. The extent of the construction activity would also be bound by Beck Road and Ferry Lane overall.

10.8.16 The scale of the construction activity across Sunnica East Site A would be very small in relation to the extent of the published landscape character areas. In combination with the temporary presence of construction activity and that the key landscape features would be protected and retained, the construction phase would result in effects ranging between **negligible adverse and minor adverse**, these are considered not significant.

Sunnica East Site A - Construction Impacts on Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.17 At the local scale and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and Figure 10-10, all of the construction activity would be located within LLCA 11: East Fen Farmland (LLCA 11).

10.8.18 LLCA 11 is characterised by its flat to gently undulating landform, arable land use and open character, such that it is assessed as being of low sensitivity.

10.8.19 The impacts to LLCA 11 would reflect those at the Site level, with changes to common features of fields and a reduction in the tranquillity. The scale and duration of the construction activity would be greater than general farming practices.

10.8.20 However, the construction activity would be located across only part of LLCA 11 and mainly within Lee Farm where there are tall silo's and buildings. The construction activity would retain and protect the key features of Lee Brook and vegetation within Lee Farm. The perception of the construction activity would also be localised due to the undulating landform across the LLCA.

10.8.21 The magnitude of impact is assessed as medium, which results in a temporary **minor adverse** effect; this is considered not significant.

10.8.22 For other LLCA in proximity to Sunnica East Site A, including LLCA 7: River Lark, LLCA 10: Isleham and LLCA 12: Freckenham, the construction activity would not be located within these areas and would not result in any physical changes to the LLCA. The effects are therefore assessed as not significant to these LLCA.

Sunnica East Site A - Construction Visual Effects

10.8.23 The construction activity across Sunnica East Site A would not be visible to all of visual receptors identified in the visual baseline, as demonstrated by the visual appraisal. This is due to the intervening landform, vegetation and distance across and to the DCO Site which would result in a small visual envelope for the construction activity, extending between the River Lark, the southern edge of Isleham, the northern edge of Freckenham and Ferry Lane.

10.8.24 The ground level construction activity across the fields would be visible, seen through the perimeter fencing.

10.8.25 The upper parts of machinery and tall lifting equipment would be visible at close range from motorists travelling along Beck Road and Ferry Lane, as well as visitors to The Ark Church. The tall lifting equipment and construction of the upper parts of the BESS and substation would be visible for recreational users along the River Lark and at Jude's Ferry.

10.8.26 Residents on the southern edge of Isleham and at the western edge of Freckenham would have views of the construction activity adjacent to Beck Road, particularly in parcels E05 to E07, as well as longer distance views of the construction of the upper parts of the BESS and substation and the associated cranes.

10.8.27 There would also be close range views of the construction activity for residents in Lee Farm and Beck Road and recreational users along PRoW 257/002/X, which crosses the eastern edge of E07 and connects with Beck Road.

10.8.28 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium to high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in Table 10-6, result in temporary **major** or **moderate** adverse effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors, as summarised in table 10-7 below:

- VP1 Recreational Users on the River Lark;
- VP2A Recreational Users on the River Lark;
- VP3 Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End;
- VP4 Visitors to the Ark Church;
- VP5 Motorists on Beck Road;
- VP6 Residents adjacent to the B1104;
- VP8 Residents in Freckenham;
- VP9 Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0;
- VP10 Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X;
- VP11 Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0;
- VP11A Residents of Beck Road; and
- VP12 Residents in Lee Farm..

Summary of Construction Effects for Sunnica East Site A

10.8.29 Table 10-7 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***Appendix 10H***. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-7, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-7: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 46: The Fens	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Settled Farmlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas					
7. River Lark	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
10. Isleham	High	Limited alteration to	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
		key characteristics			
11. East Fen Farmland	Low	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
12. Freckenham	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major Adverse	Yes
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
2B. Visitors to Jude's ferry	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Low	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
5. Motorists on Beck Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
7. Motorist on B1104	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor adverse	No
8. Residents in Freckenham	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
9. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor adverse	No
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major adverse	Yes
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	As Above	High	Major adverse	Yes
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	Medium	As Above	High	Major adverse	Yes
12. Residents in Lee Farm	Medium	As Above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
12A. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	As Above	Medium	Minor adverse	No
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
13. Motorists on the B1102	Low	Barely perceptible change to the	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
		composition of the view			

Sunnica East Site B - Construction Landscape Effects

Sunnica East Site B - Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.30 The construction activity would be located across all parcels of Sunnica East Site B, extending between Freckenham Road, Elms Road and Golf Links Road.

10.8.31 There would be changes to landcover and landform across Sunnica East Site B, from vegetation clearance, topsoil stripping and localised levelling. There would be more localised excavation via trenching within fields for the cable routes, piling for the frames for the solar panels and excavation for the internal road networks within the parcels. The construction of the BESS and substation in E18 would require tall lifting equipment and associated machinery.

10.8.32 Whilst individually the construction equipment and excavation within fields would not be uncharacteristic within an agricultural landscape, the scale, and extent of the construction phase would result in a substantial alteration to the landscape character across the Sunnica East Site B, including a reduction in tranquillity.

10.8.33 The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high in relation to the Sunnica East Site B, due to the substantial change, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site B - Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.34 The Sunnica East Site B would be located across NCA 85 The Brecks, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LT Estate Sandlands, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, the Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic and Low Chalk Farmland.

10.8.35 These published areas are characterised by their geometric field patterns, ‘pine lines’ and sparse settlement pattern.

10.8.36 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, whilst there would be changes to landform and landcover within these published landscape character areas, the key features of ‘pine lines’ would be protected via the tree protection measures in the CEMP. The construction activity would be small and localised in relation to the wider extent of the published areas. Due to this, the landscape effects during the construction phase would range between **negligible adverse and minor adverse,** these are considered not significant.

Sunnica East Site B - Construction Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.37 At the local scale and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and Figure 10-10, all of the construction activity would be located across most of LLCA 13: Elms Farmland.

10.8.38 LLCA 13 is characterised by its geometric field patterns, arable and pig farming land uses, 'pine lines', woodland and recreational value.

10.8.39 The impacts to LLCA 13 would reflect those at the Site level, with changes to common features of fields and a reduction in the tranquillity. The scale and duration of the construction activity would be greater than general farming practices.

10.8.40 The key features of 'pine lines', woodland across the base of Chalk Hill and enclosing E26 to E29 would be protected via the tree protection measures in the CEMP and the recreational value of U6006 would be temporary removed, via U6006 being closed.

10.8.41 The changes to landform, landcover and the presence of the construction machinery, balanced with the scale of the activity in relation to the extent of LLCA 13 is assessed as resulting in a high magnitude of impact and a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

10.8.42 For other LLCA in proximity to Sunnica East Site B, including LLCA 8: Worlington, LLCA 9: Six Acre Covert, LLCA 12: Freckenham and LLCA 14: River Kennett, the construction activity would not be located within these areas and not result in any physical changes to the LLCA. The effects are therefore assessed as not significant to LLCA 8, LLCA 9, LLCA 12 and LLCA 14.

Sunnica East Site B – Construction Visual Effects

10.8.43 The construction activity across Sunnica East Site B would not be visible to all of visual receptors identified in the visual baseline. This is due to the intervening landform, vegetation and distance across the DCO Site which would result in a small visual envelope for the construction activity.

10.8.44 Views of the construction activity across Sunnica East Site B would be experienced mainly by motorists, who are passing through the landscape, due to the sparse settlement pattern and limited recreational routes in this part of the DCO Site.

10.8.45 For motorists on the B1102, between Freckenham and Worlington, residents adjacent to the B1102 and at the southern edge of Worlington, the planting of the ecology enhancement areas and new native grassland would be visible at close range. This would be a small change to the composition of the view and reflect views of general farming activities. The construction across E11 and E12 would also be visible for these receptors, consisting of ground level excavation and tall lifting equipment and associated machinery.

10.8.46 Walkers and equestrian riders along U6006, crossing between Worlington and Elms Road, would not have access to the route during construction.

10.8.47 The construction activity would be mainly screened for motorists on Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham due to the roadside vegetation. There would be close range views of activity and tall lifting equipment north and south of the road (in parcels E16, E19, E20 and E21) as well as the cranes at the compound and implementation of the BESS and substation. However, the construction activity would be visible for a short part of the journey along Elms Road.

10.8.48 The construction within parcel E21 would be largely screened by the retained pine lines in relation to views from Elms Road and the construction in E22 would not be visible, due to the lower lying position of this parcel of land in relation to motorist on Elms Road.

10.8.49 PRoW W257/003/0, which is adjacent to E22 would be temporary closed during the construction phase. Therefore, the construction activity would not be visible for recreational users. There would be filtered views of the construction activity in E22 from the A11 overbridge, to the east of E22, due to the elevated position of the receptor. For residents adjacent to Badlingham Road, the ground level construction activity would be screened by the intervening hedgerows, such that there would only be oblique views of tall lifting equipment in E22.

10.8.50 For motorists on Newmarket Road and Golf Links Road, to the west of Worlington, the activity and tall machinery would be visible at certain points along the route, with views across E24 and E25 due to breaks in the roadside vegetation. The activity across E30 to E32 would be screened to a greater degree by the roadside hedgerows, although localised gaps and the intermittent vegetation and the eastern end of the road would enable more open and close range views of the activity and tall lifting equipment; albeit viewed obliquely.

10.8.51 The construction activity in parcels E30 to E32 would also be visible for recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0, to the north of these parcels, due to the gaps in the vegetation adjacent to Golf Links Road and the rising land across the base of Chalk Hill.

10.8.52 The construction activity would not be visible from residents at the western edge of Red Lodge, nor within Barton Mills, due to the intervening residential land uses and vegetation.

10.8.53 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium to high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors identified in Table 10-6, results in temporary **major** or **moderate** adverse effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

- VP14A Residents adjacent to the B1102;
- VP23A Residents at Queens Hill, Worlington; and
- VP26A: PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0.

Summary of Construction Effects for Sunnica East Site B

10.8.54 Table 10-8 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and

should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***10H***. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-8, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-8: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 85 The Brecks	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment					
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Low Chalk Farmland	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas					
LLCA 8 Worlington	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 9 Six Acre Covert	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 12 Freckenham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 13 Elms Farmland	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
LLCA 14: River Kennet	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site B	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
14. Motorists and Pedestrians on B1102	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor adverse	No
14A. Residents adjacent to B1102	High	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
17. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible adverse	No
18. Motorists on Elms Road	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor adverse	No
21. Motorists on Badlingham Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor adverse	No
21A. Residents adjacent to	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Badlingham Road					
22. Motorists on Worlington Road	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor adverse	No
23. Motorists on Worlington Road	Low	As Above	Medium	Minor adverse	No
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
24. Motorists on Golf Links Road and Golfers	Low	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor adverse	No
25. Motorists on Golf Links Road	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor adverse	No
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
28. Recreational users on A11	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Landscape Effects

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.55 The construction activity would be located across all Sunnica West Site A, extending between Chippenham Park road and the B1085, to the north of the A11 and to the south of the A11, between the B1085 and the A14.

10.8.56 Like Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B, the construction activity would commence with the fencing of the area. The early implementation of the fencing and the tree protection measures would retain the vegetation structure across Sunnica West Site A, including The Avenue, Sounds Plantation and Foxburrow Plantation, roadside hedgerows and the tree belts between W15 and W16, thereby protecting these features during the construction phase.

10.8.57 There would be changes to landform and landcover, as a result of the topsoil stripping and localised excavation required for the solar panel, BESS and

substation. The construction compound would be located centrally, within W17, resulting in temporary massing and structures, stockpiles and associated machinery, with HGV vehicles accessing the compound via La Hogue Road.

10.8.58 The construction activity would result in a substantial alteration to the fields across Sunnica West A, its settled character, landcover and tranquillity.

10.8.59 The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high, due to the substantial change, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.60 Sunnica West Site A would be located across part of NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands, LT Estate Sandlands and Suffolk LT Rolling Estate Chalklands. These areas are characterised by undulating landform, vegetation patterns, rural land uses and 'stud landscapes'.

10.8.61 As noted, the key features of vegetation cover would remain, such that alteration to the fields would be to a common landscape feature. The impacts to tranquillity as a result of the construction activity would not impact the wider extent of the published studies. This is due to the construction activity located adjacent to, or in proximity of, the A11, A14 and Newmarket railway lines.

10.8.62 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, whilst there would be changes to landform and landcover within these published landscape character areas, the scale of the construction activity, in relation to the wider extent of these areas, would small and localised. Therefore, the landscape effects to the published landscape character areas during the construction phase of Sunnica West Site A would range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**, these are considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Impact to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.63 At the local scale and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and Figure 10-10, all of the construction activity would be located across LLCA 24 Hundred Acre Plantation.

10.8.64 LLCA 24 is characterised as an arable landscape, interspersed with broadleaf plantations and a medium scale field pattern, situated across gently undulating landform.

10.8.65 As the construction activity would be located across part of LLCA 24, there would be a partial loss to the field pattern from the changes to landform, and the presence of the construction machinery. The construction phase is predicted to result in a medium magnitude of impact and a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

10.8.66 For LLCA in proximity to LLCA 24, the construction activity would not be located in LLCA23A: Chippenham, LLCA23B: Chippenham Park and LLCA

25: Kennett. This, and the consideration that any perception of the construction activity (i.e. noise) would be limited, means that the Scheme is considered not to result in significant effects to these LLCA.

10.8.67 For LLCA 26: The Limekilns, the construction activity across Sunnica West Site A would also be separated from the 'stud' landscapes by the A14 and railway line, which are also considered to negate any perception of noise during the construction phase. The perception of the construction phase in the context of the movement along these infrastructure corridors would alter the setting of the LLCA, compared to the settled character of fields, but it is considered that the Scheme would not result in significant effects to LLCA 26.

Sunnica West Site A - Construction Visual Effects

10.8.68 The construction activity across Sunnica West Site A would not be visible to all of visual receptors identified in the visual baseline. This is due to the location of most of the fields within a localised valley between Chippenham and Newmarket, intervening vegetation and distance across the DCO Site, such that the visual envelope is localised.

10.8.69 From within Chippenham and Chippenham Park, the construction activity would not be visible across Sunnica West Site A, due to the intervening buildings, mature woodland and boundary wall along the edge of the Park.

10.8.70 However, for motorists travelling along La Hogue Road, between Chippenham Park and the A11, including visitors to La Hogue Farm shop and residents, the upper parts of machinery within W10, W11 and W12 would be visible, including the cranes and construction of the upper parts of the BESS and substation. Compared to views of the fields and woodland plantations, the construction activity would be an extensive change to the view for motorists along part of La Hogue Road.

10.8.71 There would also be close range views of the construction activity within W13 and W14 for motorists along the B1085 and residents at La Hogue Farm. In contrast, to the south of the A11, the roadside hedgerows and intervening vegetation would screen views of the construction within W15 and W16 for motorists.

10.8.72 The construction activity within W15 and W16 would be visible from the upper storey rear elevation for residents at Dane Hill Farm. There would also be views of the implementation of the panels, including machinery and tall lifting equipment for residents adjacent to Station Road, Kennett, but at a further distance in comparison to views from Dane Hill Farm. Construction activity in the southern part of W15 would also be visible at close range for motorists travelling along Newmarket Road and residents adjacent to W15, but largely screened in views from the A11. The construction across parts of Sunnica West Site A would be visible for motorists on the A11/A1304 slip road and short part of the A14, in proximity to the overbridge, due to the gaps in the roadside vegetation.

10.8.73 Due to the elevated position and open character of The Limekilns gallops, receptors at this location would also have views of the construction across W03 to W12. Similarly, to the north of the Limekilns, for recreational users on The Avenue, the construction activity across W05 to W12 would be

visible from the Railway Field and overbridge across the A14 to varying degrees.

10.8.74 The construction across this part of Sunnica West Site A in views from the Limekilns would be seen beyond and in the context of the A14 and Newmarket railway line which already introduce movement and vehicles within the composition of the view. However, the scale, extent and duration of the construction phase would be an extensive change to the view in relation to the settled character of the fields to the north of the A14.

10.8.75 Recreational receptors along PRoW 204/5, between The Avenue and Chippenham Road, would also have close range views of the activity adjacent to W03 and W04. Much of this route is bordered by mature vegetation, such that views are screened and channelled. However, in proximity to Chippenham Road, there would be close range and open views of the machinery and tall equipment above the intervening vegetation around W03 and similarly for motorists on this road, the upper parts of construction machinery in W03 would also be visible.

10.8.76 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium to high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors, as identified in Table 10-6, results in temporary **major** or **moderate** adverse effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

- VP32 Motorists of La Hogue Road;
- VP33 Visitors to La Hogue Farm;
- VP33A Residents at La Hogue Farm;
- VP36 Residents adjacent to Station Road;
- VP37A Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road;
- VP38 Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns; and
- VP41 Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell.

Summary of Construction Effects for Sunnica West Site A

10.8.77 Table 10-9 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***10H***. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-9, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-9: Summary of Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site A Construction Phase

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 23A Chippenham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 23B. Chippenham Park	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Major Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 25: Kennett	Low	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 26. The Limekilns	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Low	As above	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
33A. Residents at La Hogue Farm	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
34. Visitors to The Wild Tracks Centre	Low	As above	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
35. Residents at Dane Hill Farm	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
36. Residents adjacent to Station Road	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
37. Motorists on Newmarket Road	Low	As Above	Medium	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
37A. Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	High	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
39. Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
40. Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, The A11	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
41. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major Adverse	Yes
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site B - Construction Landscape Effects

Sunnica West Site B - Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.78 Sunnica West Site B consists of W01 and W02, to the north of Snailwell Road. The construction activity within W01 and W02 would consist of excavation, trenching, machinery and the associated vehicles and general activity.

10.8.79 The excavation for the solar panels would be offset from the River Snail and the riverside vegetation, as well as from the vegetation bordering Chippenham Fen, via the ecology enhancement zones. However, as stated

in the assumptions, there would be small scale construction activity within this zone to implement ecological measures for sowing native grassland.

10.8.80 The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high, due to the substantial change, which when considered alongside have medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Sunnica West Site B – Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessment

10.8.81 The construction activity at Sunnica West Site B would be located within NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands.

10.8.82 The construction activity would be located in a part of these published landscape character areas which is already characterised by roads, rail and large industrial estates.

10.8.83 Whilst the construction activity would result in localised changes to surface landform and landcover and a reduction in tranquillity, the scale and duration of the construction phase would be small in relation to the wider extent of the published landscape character areas. Therefore, the landscape effects are assessed as **negligible adverse**, these are considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site B – Construction Impacts on Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.84 At the local level, the construction activity would be located across part of LLCA 24: Hundred Acre Plantation, which is consist of fields, woodland and undulating landform.

10.8.85 The key features of the River Snail, woodland and hedgerows would be protected during the construction phase by the construction activity for the panels being located centrally within Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.86 There construction effects are assessed as **minor adverse**; this is considered not significant due to the small scale and short duration of the construction activity associated with Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.87 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, the effects to adjacent LLCAs are considered not to be significant. This is due to the construction activity not being located in the adjacent LLCA's and any perception of activity in LLCA 24 would not alter key characteristics.

Sunnica West Site B – Construction Visual Effects

10.8.88 Machinery and tall lifting equipment would be visible above the intervening hedgerows for recreational users along PRoW 204/1, to the east of the Sunnica West Site B site.

10.8.89 Construction within W01 and W02 would be briefly visible from parts of Snailwell Road, due to breaks in the roadside vegetation, specifically when crossing the River Snail, due to the more open character of the roadside verges at this location.

10.8.90 The woodlands and tree belts across the wider landscape would screen the construction activity across Sunnica West Site B from residents in Fordham and Snailwell, such that the extent of visibility of the construction activity would be small and localised.

10.8.91 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the magnitude of impact is assessed as medium, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors identified in Table 10-6 results in a temporary **moderate adverse** effect (and thus significant) for the following visual receptor:

- VP45 Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1.

Summary of Construction Effects for Sunnica West Site B

10.8.92 Table 10-10 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***10H***. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-10, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase

Table 10-10: Summary of Magnitude of Construction Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					

LLCA 24 Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site B	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
46. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
47. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Cable Route A – Construction Landscape Effects

Cable Route A – Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.93 As stated in the assumptions, the assessment is based on all of the 50m wide Cable Route being excavated, with associated machinery, including boring equipment to enable the route to pass beneath vegetation, roads and watercourses.

10.8.94 The excavation for Cable Route A would extend from the southern edge of Sunnica East A and extend across agricultural fields to the B1085. The alignment of the excavation would pass between the River Kennett and its bankside vegetation and between several retained woodland blocks, including Heath Plantation.

10.8.95 Due to the excavation, hoarding and presence of construction machinery, there would be changes to landform and landcover within the land covered by Cable Route A. The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high in relation to Cable Route A, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a temporary **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

Cable Route A – Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.96 Cable Route A would be located across NCA85 The Brecks, NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands and LT Estate Sandlands, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands and Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic.

10.8.97 The scale and duration of the construction phase of Cable Route A, in combination with the key landscape features of vegetation and the River Kennett remaining would not alter the key characteristics of the published studies. Therefore, Cable Route A is assessed as resulting in a range of **negligible adverse** to **minor adverse** landscape effects, these are considered not significant.

Cable Route A – Construction Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.98 At a local scale, Cable Route A would cross LLCA 11: East Fen Farmland, between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B. Cable Route A would also cross LLCA 14: River Kennett and LLCA: 24 Hundred Acre Plantation between Sunnica East Site B and Sunnica West Site A.

10.8.99 For these LLCA, the scale of the construction activity would be localised in relation to the wider extent of the LLCA. The key vegetation structure would be retained and protected, via the boring of the cable route beneath the River Kennett, balanced with the alterations to surface landform and the presence of the construction activity.

10.8.100 Due to the low sensitivity of LLCA 11: East Fen and medium sensitivity of LLCA24: Hundred Acre Plantation, the effects to these LCAs would not be significant.

10.8.101 However, for the high sensitivity of LLCA 14: River Kennett the effects would be **moderate adverse**. This is considered significant.

10.8.102 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, the effects to adjacent LLCAs are considered not to be significant. This is due to the construction activity not being located in the adjacent LLCA's and any perception of the installation of Cable Route A would not alter key characteristics.

Cable Route A – Construction Visual Effects

10.8.103 The excavation and machinery along the alignment of Cable Route A would be visible for motorists travelling along parts of Freckenham Road, due to the proximity of the alignment and gaps in the intervening field boundaries.

10.8.104 The upper parts of the boring equipment adjacent to the River Kennett would not be visible for recreational users on PRoW W257/003/0 as the route would be closed. The boring equipment would be visible in middle distance views for residents adjacent to Badlingham Road.

10.8.105 To the south of the River Kennett, the upper parts of boring equipment and machinery would be visible from recreational receptors on PRoW 49/7, which extends from Chippenham to the River Kennett.

10.8.106 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the magnitude of impact is assessed as medium, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in Table 10-6 results in a temporary **moderate adverse** effect (and thus significant) for the following visual receptor:

- VP29 Recreational receptors on PRoW (footpath) 49/7.

Summary of Construction Effects for Cable Route A

10.8.107 Table 10-11 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Cable Route A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***10H***. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-11, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-11: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Cable Route A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 85: The Brecks	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment					

Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas					
LLCA 11 East Fen Farmland	Low	Barely noticeable change	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 14 River Kennett	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LLCA 24 Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Cable Route A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
13. Motorists on the B1102	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
21A Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
29. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 49/7	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Cable Route B – Construction Landscape Effects

Cable Route B Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.108 Cable Route B would extend from the Sunnica West Site A, across Chippenham Road, to the south-eastern edge of W02, at Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.109 The route would then extend across the western part of the study area, across West Fen and to the west of Burwell, to connect with the existing

Burwell sub-station. There would be below ground boring at watercourses, Lodes, retained vegetation and existing infrastructure.

10.8.110 There would be alterations to the surface landform and landcover, as well as the presence of construction machinery and activity. The impact of the construction phase has been assessed as high in relation to Cable Route B at the site level, which when considered against the high sensitivity of the receptor, results in a temporary **major adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

Cable Route B Construction Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.111 The construction activity across Cable Route B would be located within NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Planned Peat fen, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, LT Settled Fenlands and Cambridgeshire Area 2 Chalklands and Area 8 Fenlands.

10.8.112 Due to the relatively small scale of the excavation, the proximity to existing infrastructure and its duration in relation to the wider extent of these character areas, the landscape effects are assessed as ranging between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

Cable Route B – Construction Impacts on Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.113 At the local level, Cable Route B would cross parts of LLCA 19: Fordham Abbey, LLCA 20: Snailwell Industrial Estate, LLCA 24: Hundred Acre Plantation, LLCA 36: Burwell Fen, LLCA 39: North Exning and LLCA 43: West Fen.

10.8.114 In relation to LLCA 19: Fordham Abbey and LLCA 20: Snailwell Industrial Estate, Cable Route B would be located across a small extent of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory carpark and to the north of Snailwell industrial estate, adjacent to part of the A142. This part of the LLCA is therefore already characterised by infrastructure, large scale buildings and ‘movement’ in the landscape via the vehicles.

10.8.115 For the remaining LLCA which Cable Route B crosses, the construction activity would be located across fields as part of a more rural landscape. The construction activity would result in changes surface landform, with the presence of the construction activity, but the key features of watercourse, Lodes and vegetation would be retained and protected.

10.8.116 Across LLCA 36: Burwell Fen, the construction activity would be located in close proximity to National Grid overhead pylons and the existing Burwell Sub-station and perceived in this context.

10.8.117 The scale of Cable Route B would also be small in relation to the wider extents of each of these LLCA and the key features would be retained, such that effects would range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

10.8.118 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, the effects to adjacent LLCAs are considered not to be significant. This is due to the

construction activity not being located in the adjacent LLCA's and any perception of the installation of Cable Route B would not alter key characteristics

Cable Route B – Construction Visual Effects

10.8.119 Motorists on Chippenham Road would have close range views of the associated machinery for the Cable Route B, which would be covering the fields either side of the road. The upper parts of the construction equipment would also be visible from residents on the eastern edge of Snailwell, due to the open character of the interning fields and generally flat intervening landform.

10.8.120 The implementation of Cable Route B between the A142 and the railway line would be visible from the upper storey of residential receptors in Fordham House, although seen in the context of vehicles on the A142 and large-scale industrial units in Snailwell industrial estate. A small part of the construction phase would also be visible for employees of the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory, due to its proximity, although in the context of internal car-parking.

10.8.121 The construction vehicles and upper parts of the boring equipment across West Fen would be visible from recreational users on PRoW 92/19, to the east of Landwade and Howlem Farm track (PRoW (byway) 35/15), adjacent to residential properties on the northern edge of Burwell and motorist along the B1102.

10.8.122 The machinery required to connect Cable Route B to Burwell substation would from along Weir's Drove road and seen in the context of the upper parts of Burwell sub-station and national gird pylons, as well as vehicles on Weir Drove.

10.8.123 The upper parts of the boring equipment and construction machinery in proximity to Burwell substation would also be visible from recreational users on Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove. The vertical elements of the boring equipment would be seen in the context of extensive pylons and the upper parts of the existing substation.

10.8.124 For residents in Reach and recreational users along the Devil's Ditch, to the south of Reach, Cabe Route B would not be visible, due to intervening vegetation.

10.8.125 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium to high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in Table 10-6, results in temporary **major** or **moderate** adverse effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

- VP43. Residents in Snailwell;
- VP44: Residents in Snailwell;
- VP45. Recreational users of PRoW (footpath) 204/145; and
- VP48. Residents in Fordham House.

Summary of Construction Effects for Cable Route B

10.8.126 Table 10-12 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Cable Route B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-12, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-12: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effects for Cable Route B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LT Settled Fenlands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines					
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Area 8 Fenlands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA)					
LLCA 19: Fordham Abbey	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 20: Snailwell Industrial Estate	Low	As above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 21: Snailwell	High	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 24: Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 36: Burwell Fen	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 36: Burwell	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 39: North Exning	Low	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 43: West Fen	Medium	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Cable Route B	High	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
42. Motorists on	Low	Extensive change to the composition of	Medium	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Chippenham Road		the existing view			
43. Residents in Snailwell	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
44. Residents in Snailwell	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
45. Recreational users of PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
47A Employees and the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory	Low	As above	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
48. Residents in Fordham House	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
50. Recreational users on Landwade Road	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
51. Motorist on the B1102	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
52. Recreational users on Howlem Farm Track	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
53. Motorists on Weirs Drove Road	Low	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
55. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension– Construction Landscape Effects

10.8.127 As per the assumptions, the assessment of the Sub-station is based on the primary option, as indicated on Figure 3-2 and alternative locations within the DCO Site boundary.

Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension Construction Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.128 The construction activity to implement the Sub-station extension would be consolidated adjacent to the existing Sub-station compound. There would be localised removal of existing vegetation bordering the compound to facilitate the construction activity, as well as changes to surface landform and the presence of construction activity.

10.8.129 At the Site level, as the construction activity is located adjacent to a large-scale substation and the impacts are to common features of a small field pattern and vegetation, the construction activity would not result in significant adverse landscape effects.

10.8.130 This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations within the DCO Site boundary.

Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension Construction Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.131 The construction activity would be located within NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Settled Fenlands and Cambridgeshire Area 2: Chalklands.

10.8.132 The construction activity would be localised to a part of these published landscape character areas which are crossed by National Grid pylons and the scale and massing of the existing sub-station already influences the existing landscape character, aesthetics and perception.

10.8.133 The impact of the construction phase is assessed as **negligible adverse**; this is considered not significant.

10.8.134 This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations within the DCO Site boundary.

Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension Construction Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas

10.8.135 At the local level, the construction activity would be located in LLCA: 36 Burwell Fen. As stated above, the influence on the character from the scale of the existing sub-station and the tracts of overhead pylons extending across the flat fens is such that the construction activity would not result in significant adverse landscape effects.

10.8.136 Similarly, for LLCA 37: Reach and LLCA 38: Burwell, the construction activity would not be located in these areas and any perception of the construction activity would be in the context of the existing Sub-station. Due to this, the effects are predicted to be **neutral** and there would not be significant effects to surrounding LLCAs.

10.8.137 This is considered to be the same for any of the alternative locations within the DCO Site boundary.

Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension Construction Visual Effects

10.8.138 The construction of the substation would be visible at close range for motorists along Weir's Drove Road and also the B1102; however, the activity would be seen in the direct context of the existing Sub-station and pylons.

10.8.139 For recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove, the construction activity would be located on the far side of the existing substation, such that most of the construction activity would be screened. The upper parts of the construction activity, including tall lifting equipment would be seen in the context of the substation and pylons.

10.8.140 For residents in Reach and recreational users on the Devil's Dyke, the intervening vegetation and distance would screen most of the construction activity. The upper parts of tall lifting equipment would be seen in the context of the existing infrastructure at Burwell.

10.8.141 Due to the construction activity being seen in the context of Burwell substation, it is predicted that effects would range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse** and that there would not be significant visual effects during the construction phase to the identified receptors.

10.8.142 This would be the same for any of the alternative locations within the DCO Site boundary. The exception is for recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drover, where the construction activity would be more visible, due to being located on the west side of the existing sub-station. However, the construction activity would still be seen in the context of the existing infrastructure.

Summary of Construction Effects for Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension

10.8.143 Table 10-13 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Burwell National Grid Sub-station is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2:***

Appendix 10G and 10-8. For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-13, no impacts are predicted during the construction phase.

Table 10-13: Summary of Construction Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Settled Fenlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines					
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 36. Burwell Fen	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Visual					
53. Motorists Weir Drove Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
55. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
56. Motorists on Burwell Road	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
57. Residents in Reach	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
58. Recreational users on the Devil's Ditch	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Alternative Location of Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension					
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
55. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Combined Construction Effects on Receptors (Intra Project Effects)

10.8.144 This section summarises the impacts and effects of all aspects of the construction phase on the landscape and visual receptors. This assumes that the construction activity is present across all of the DCO Site at the same time and is therefore a worst case assessment.

10.8.145 This section should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8 which outline the landscape and visual effects in full.

Combined Construction Landscape Effects

10.8.146 The combined construction activity would result in the same changes to surface landform, vegetation cover and landcover and reductions in

tranquillity across the DCO Site as reported for the individual DCO Site areas.

10.8.147 This combined activity in relation to the published landscape character areas would increase the magnitude of impact and effects in comparison to some individual areas within the DCO Site, due to the combined extent, duration and scale of the construction phase, but not others, due to the geographical distance of other elements of the Scheme from the relevant character area. For most of the published landscape character area, the combined effects are assessed as ranging between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant as the construction activity would not result in any physical changes to the landscape characteristics. The exception is LCT Lowland Village Chalklands and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, for which the effects are predicted as **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant.

10.8.148 At the local landscape character level, most of the construction activity would be within the identified individual local landscape character areas, for which their assessment has already accounted for the perception of adjacent construction activity. Due to this, in combination with distance and intervening features, there would not be combined effects. The exception is for LLCA 24, which covers Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B and LLCA 36 Burwell, which covers parts of Cable Route B and Burwell Sub-station. For LLCA 24 the effect is predicted as **major adverse** and for LLCA 36 the effect is predicted as **moderate adverse**; these are considered significant.

Combined Construction Visual Effects

10.8.149 For several of the identified residential and motorist receptors, there would be views of the construction activity across several parts of the Scheme, due to the construction of the cable routes and solar panels. The result would be a greater change to the composition of their view in comparison to the above assessments of individual aspects of the Scheme. The conclusions in this respect are set out in Table 10-14 and set out in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***.

Summary of Combined Construction Effects for the DCO Scheme

10.8.150 Table 10-14 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the combined assessment of the Scheme is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***10H***.

10.8.151 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-14, no combined impacts are predicted during the construction phase and the effects are as stated for the individual aspects of the Scheme.

Table 10-14: Summary of Combined Construction Landscape and Visual Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape Effects						
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)						
NCA 85 The Brecks	High	Sunnica East Site B and Part of Cable Route A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica West Sites A and B, parts of Cable Route A, Cable Route B and Burwell Sub-station	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework Landscape Types (LCT)						
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Sunnica East Site A and B, Sunnica West Site A and B and Cable Route B	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Sunnica East Site A, part of Cable Route B and Burwell Sub-station	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and part of Cable Route A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)						
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B, parts	Limited alteration to	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
		of Cable Route A and part of Sunnica West Site A	key characteristics			
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B, Cable Route A and Cable Route B	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LT Settled Fenlands	Medium	Sunnica East Site A, Cable Route B and Burwell substation	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines						
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Cable Route B and Burwell substation	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County - Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment						
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Sunnica East Site B and Cable Route A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)						
11. East Fen Farmlands	Low	Sunnica East Site A and Cable Route A	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
12. Freckenham	High	Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
21. Snailwell	High	Sunnica West Site B	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
		and Cable Route A				
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B, Cable Route A and Cable Route B	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
36. Burwell Fen	Medium	Cable Route B and Burwell sub-station	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
38. Burwell	Medium	Cable Route B and Burwell sub-station	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Visual						
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	Sunnica East Site A and Cable Route A	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
13. Motorists on the B1102	Low	Sunnica East Site A and Cable Route A	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
21A. Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	Medium	Sunnica East Site B and Cable Route A	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	Medium	Sunnica West Site A and Cable Route A	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Low	Sunnica West Site A and Cable Route A	As above	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
34 Visitors to the Wild	Low	Sunnica West Site A	As above	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Tracks Centre		and Cable Route A				
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low	Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B and Cable Route B	As above	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Medium	Sunnica West Site B and Cable Route B	As above	High	Major Adverse	Yes
53. Motorists on Weir's Drove Road	Low	Cable Route B and Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium	Cable Route B and Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
56. Motorists on Burwell Road	Low	Cable Route B and Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Year 1 Opening (2025) Assessment (winter)

Sunnica East Site A Landscape Effects Year 1 Opening (2025)

Sunnica East Site A Impacts on Site Level Landscape Character Year 1 of Opening (2025)

10.8.152 At opening, the Scheme would introduce new land uses across Sunnica East Site A. There would be solar panels, solar stations and access roads and the BESS and substation.

10.8.153 Parcel E06, on the south side of Beck Road would not have any structures, due to the below ground archaeology and would be native grassland, like all parts of Sunnica East Site A, beneath the solar panels; although at year 1 the native grassland would not have fully established.

10.8.154 With the reinstatement of the topsoil and existing ground levels, the landform beneath the solar panels would reflect the existing landform, remaining predominantly 'flat' and therefore the underlying pattern of landform would remain, beneath the panels.

10.8.155 The vegetation patterns across the Sunnica East Site A would also be retained, with the solar panels offset from the Lee Brook, the roadside hedgerows adjacent to Beck Road and Ferry Lane and the woodland within Lee Farm.

10.8.156 This would retain the landscape pattern of medium to small scale fields around Lee Farm.

10.8.157 As demonstrated by the subsequent visual assessment, the relative low height of the solar panels, at 2.5m, would enable the perception of vegetated pine lines, wooded horizons and large open across the landscape to remain.

10.8.158 The solar panels and associated structures would introduce extensive additional massing across Sunnica East Site A compared to the buildings and silos within Lee Farm. The horizontal form of the panels and the associated infrastructure would alter the aesthetic and perceptual landscape character via the colour tones of the solar panel frames and the blue/back tones of the solar arrays.

10.8.159 The perception of the massing of the BESS and solar stations would be reduced via these structures being rendered in tones to reflect the landscape.

10.8.160 The 'static' nature of the Scheme, i.e. fixed panels, rather than rotating panels, would retain a similar perception to the open and still character of the fields, although the tranquillity across Sunnica East Site A would be reduced as a result of the infrastructure character of the Scheme and its operation.

10.8.161 The proposed tree planting around E05 and Lee Farm and adjacent to Ferry Lane would not have established; nor would the proposed infilling and additional hedgerows adjacent to Beck Road and around E07. The permissive path adjacent to Beck Road would be accessible, increasing the recreational value across Sunnica East Site A and providing connectivity between Freckenham and the southern edge of Isleham.

10.8.162 The impact of the year 1 opening phase to the Sunnica East Site A has been assessed as high, which when combined with the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **major adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site A Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessment Year 1 Opening (2025)

10.8.163 Sunnica East Site A would be located across NCA 46 The Fens, NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Rolling East Chalklands and LT Settled Fenlands.

10.8.164 These character areas are large in scale and characterised by generally flat to gently undulating landform, agricultural land uses and a range of settlement sizes and associated infrastructure.

10.8.165 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, the Scheme would introduce a new land use and 'infrastructure character' and operation, although localised in relation to the wider extent of the published character areas and located mainly within the grounds of Lee Farm, which is bordered by Ferry Lane and Beck Road, so as not to be contiguous with the wider landscape.

10.8.166 The Scheme would respond positively to statements of environmental opportunity and land management guidelines by improving recreational access via the permissive path adjacent to Beck Road, which is considered to enhance the recreational value. The Scheme would also conserve the field pattern and existing key landscape features of vegetation and flat landform beneath the panels.

10.8.167 The extent of the Scheme across Sunnica East Site A would be very small in relation to the extent of the published landscape character areas. In combination with the key landscape features being retained, the year 1 opening phase is assessed as ranging in effects between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

Sunnica East Site A – Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA) Year 1 Opening (2025)

10.8.168 At the local scale and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and Figure 10-10, all of the solar panels and associated structures would be located within LLCA 11: East Fen Farmland (LLCA 11), as defined in the baseline.

10.8.169 LLCA 11 is characterised by it's flat to gently undulating landform, arable land use and open character.

10.8.170 The impacts to LLCA 11 would reflect those at the Site level, with the introduction of structures and massing of an infrastructure character and a reduction in the tranquillity, aesthetic and perceptual aspects to the landscape.

10.8.171 The Scheme would be located across only part of LLCA 11 and mainly within Lee Farm where there are tall silo's and buildings. The Scheme would retain the key features of Lee Brook, vegetation within Lee Farm and introduce native grassland and new planting, although this would not have established at year 1.

10.8.172 The Scheme would therefore result in a **minor adverse** effect to LLCA 11, this is considered not significant.

10.8.173 For LLCA 10: Isleham, the proposed Scheme would not be located within the LLCA, but on the opposite side of Sheldrick's Road. There would be the perception of the massing and infrastructure character of the Scheme. But, the key characteristics of the LLCA would remain, including the perceived visual relationship with the Freckenham, due to the low height of the panels and the associated offsets of panels from Beck Road and the retained open character of E06.

10.8.174 The change in land use within E05 and in combination with that across Sunnica East Site A, would alter a part of the immediate setting of LLCA 10.

However, the proposed Scheme is in proximity to a part of the LLCA which consists of large-scale contemporary development, via The Ark, such that the perception of arriving and entering this part of the LLCA is already characterised by large scale structures.

10.8.175 The perception of the flat landform across the setting to the south of LLCA 10 would remain, although the aesthetic quality of the setting would be impacted.

10.8.176 For LLCA 12: Freckenham, the Scheme would similarly not be located within the LLCA. The Scheme would retain the physical separation between LLCA 12 and LLCA10 by the open character of E06 and the intervening arable land uses. The key characteristic of inter-visibility with buildings in Isleham and Freckenham would also remain due to the low height of the panels in E07 and that the larger scale massing of the BESS and substation would be in E33, beyond intervening woodland in Lee Farm.

10.8.177 For both LLCA 10: Isleham and LLCA 12: Freckenham, the Scheme is predicted to result in **minor adverse** effects, these are considered not significant.

Sunnica East Site A Visual Effects Year 1 Opening (2025)

10.8.178 The solar panels, substations and associated infrastructure across Sunnica East Site A would not be visible in their entirety for any of the identified visual receptors, due to the intervening landform and vegetation.

10.8.179 There would be middle distance views of the rear side of the panels in E01 and E05 and the upper parts of the BESS and substations for recreational users along part of the River Lark, motorists on East Fen Road and residents in East End due to the open character of the intervening fields. The low height of the solar panels would retain longer distance views, above these structures to wooded skylines. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impacts to recreational users along the River Lark.

10.8.180 The upper parts of the solar panels and solar stations within parcels E01 and E10 and the upper parts of the BESS and substation in E33 would be visible at close range for motorists travelling along Ferry Lane. These structures would be seen above the intervening roadside vegetation. The massing of the BESS and substations would be softened by their tonal rending, but the structures would represent a noticeable change in the composition of views.

10.8.181 Motorists would also have close range views of the solar panels and solar-stations in E05 when travelling along Beck Road. Views would remain of buildings in Isleham due to the set back of the panels in E05 from the road, with views also extending across to Isleham, as existing, to the west of Beck Road.

10.8.182 Residents on the southern edge of Isleham and at the western edge of Freckenham would have views of the solar panels adjacent to Beck Lane, in parcels E05. With residents in Freckenham also having views of solar panels in E07. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there

would be no glint and glare impact to residents in Freckenham, nor in Isleham, adjacent to the B1102.

10.8.183 For residents at Lee Farm, the solar panels would be visible from the north and south-east of the property. There would also be views of the upper parts of the BESS and Sub-station to the east of the property, although views from the ground floor windows would be screened by the intervening woodland and reservoir. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact to residents at Lee Farm.

10.8.184 The panels in E07 would be visible at close range for recreational users on PRoW 257/002/X and residents at Beck Road, along with the panels in E05. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.185 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium and high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in Table 10-6 result in **major or moderate adverse** effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

- VP1 Recreational Users on the River Lark;
- VP3 Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End;
- VP4 Visitors to the Ark;
- VP5 Motorists on Beck Road;
- VP6 Residents adjacent to the B1104;
- VP8 Residents in Freckenham;
- VP10 Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X;
- VP11 Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0;
- VP11A Residents at Beck Road; and
- VP12 Residents in Lee Farm.

Summary of Year 1 Opening Effects for Sunnica East Site A

10.8.186 Table 10-15 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8.

10.8.187 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-15, no significant effects are predicted during the year 1 opening phase.

Table 10-15: Summary of Year 1 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 46: The Fens	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Settled Fenlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas					
10. Isleham	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
11. East Fen Farmland	Low	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
12. Freckenham	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor adverse	No
2B. Visitors to Jude's ferry	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Low	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
5. Motorists on Beck Road	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
7. Motorist on B1104	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor adverse	No
8. Residents in Freckenham	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
11A. Residents in	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Beck Road Property					
12. Residents in Lee Farm	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major Adverse	Yes
12A. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	As Above	Medium	Minor adverse	No
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica East Site B Landscape Effects Year 1 Opening (2025)

Sunnica East Site B Impacts on Site Level Landscape Character Year 1 Opening (2025)

10.8.188 There would be a change in land use across the Sunnica East Site B as a result of the solar panels, solar stations, BESS and their operation, along with associated internal road networks which would cover most of the parcels E11 to E23. The areas to the north of E11 and E12 would not contain panels, as these would be ecological mitigation areas and similarly there would no structures to the north of E23, across the Worlington Heath CWS. The BESS and substation would be located in E18, between Elms Road and existing mature trees.

10.8.189 The key landscape features across Sunnica East Site B would be retained, via the proposed Scheme being offset from the ‘pine lines’ adjacent to U6006 and which divide parcels E13 and E14. The geometric and rectangular pattern of the fields would also be retained by the siting of the solar panels.

10.8.190 The hedgerows around the perimeter of E26 to E29 would be retained along with the small-scale field pattern. Similarly, the mature woodland at the base of Chalk Hill would be retained, with the solar panels offset from the woodland.

10.8.191 The Scheme would introduce new massing and structures across Sunnica East Site B, resulting in an infrastructure character and changes to the tonal colour of the landscape via the solar panel frames and arrays. This would result in adverse impacts to the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape character, as well as the tranquillity.

10.8.192 The recreational value of U6006 would remain, with recreational enhancement via the permissive path from U6006. The pattern of the fields and tree cover would also remain and be perceived due to the low height of the panels, along with new native grassland beneath all of the panels across the Sunnica East Site B, the ecological mitigation areas and across the

northern part of E25, as part of the offset of the panels from the edge of Worlington.

10.8.193 From the above, the impact at the year 1 opening phase to the Sunnica East Site B has been assessed as high, due to the substantial change, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **major adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

Sunnica East Site B – Year 1 Opening (2024) Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessment

10.8.194 The Sunnica East Site B would be located across NCA 85 The Brecks, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LT Estate Sandlands, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, the Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic and Low Chalk Farmland.

10.8.195 These published areas are characterised by their geometric field patterns, 'pine lines' and sparse settlement pattern.

10.8.196 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, whilst there would be changes to land use within these published landscape character areas, the key features of 'pine lines' and field pattern would remain. The scale of the solar panels and associated structures would be small and localised in relation to the wider extent of the published areas. The Scheme would also be located in part of the published landscape character areas consisting of road infrastructure, settlements and Worlington Quarry, i.e. this is an active and 'working' landscape.

10.8.197 Due to the above, the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

Sunnica East Site B – Year 1 Opening (2024) Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.198 At the local scale and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and Figure 10-10, the Scheme would be located across part of LLCA 13: Elms Farmland.

10.8.199 LLCA 13 is characterised by its geometric field patterns, arable and pig farming land uses, 'pine lines', woodland and recreational value.

10.8.200 The impacts to LLCA 13 would reflect those at the Site level, with changes to land use and a reduction in the aesthetic, perceptual and tranquillity attributes of the landscape character.

10.8.201 The key features of 'pine lines', woodland across the base of Chalk Hill and enclosing E26 to E29 along with the recreational enhancement of a permissive path at U6006.

10.8.202 The changes to land use and the infrastructure character, balanced with the scale of the Scheme in relation to the extent of LLCA 13 is assessed as resulting **major adverse** effect; this is considered significant.

10.8.203 For other LLCA in proximity to Sunnica East Site B, including LLCA 8: Worlington, LLCA 9: Six Acre Covert, LLCA 12: Freckenham and LLCA 14: River Kennett, the Scheme would not be located within these areas, such that there would be no physical change to the LLCA. The impact would be

from the change to their settings and perception, but as the Scheme would be offset from the LLCAs and set within the existing landscape framework across Sunnica East Site B, the effects to these LLCA would not be significant.

Sunnica East Site B Year 1 Opening (2025) Visual Effects

10.8.204 From within Freckenham and Isleham, the solar panels and associated structures would not visible across the Sunnica East Site B, due to the combination of landform, distance and intervening vegetation.

10.8.205 For motorists on the B1102, between Freckenham and Worlington, the rear side of the solar panels in parcel E11 would be visible. The panels would also be visible for residents adjacent to the B1102, with views across the landscape to the west remaining as existing. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.206 Recreational users, including equestrian riders along U6006 would have close range and solar panels, particularly in parcels E12 to E16. However, the visibility of the Scheme would vary due to the density of the vegetation adjacent to U6006 and close range views of the solar panels either side of U6006 would be predominantly screened as a result. Due to this, the change to composition of views for users of U6006 would mainly be due to panels being visible on the east side of U6006. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact overall to these receptors, although there would be localised points along U6006 where glint and glare would be experienced for less than twenty minutes a day.

10.8.207 For motorists on Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham, there would be close range views of the upper parts of the rear side of the solar panels to the south of the road due to gaps in the roadside hedgerows. The upper parts of the BESS and substation to the north of the Elms Road, in E18, would also be visible above the roadside hedgerows.

10.8.208 However, these structures would not be visible for all of the journey along Elms Road, being neither visible from the eastern edge of Freckenham, nor at the junction with Bridge End Road due to the varying extent of roadside vegetation and slight undulation in the landform.

10.8.209 The solar panels in parcel E22 would be visible at close range for recreational users on PRoW W257/003/0 due to their height above the intervening hedgerows. For those travelling along Badlingham Road and residents adjacent to the road, the upper parts of the solar panels would also be visible but viewed obliquely. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.210 Views would remain of the pine lines for all these receptors, due to the low height of the panels.

10.8.211 For motorists on Worlington Road, the panels in E24 would be visible at close range, due to breaks in the roadside vegetation and similarly in E30, although views far more obliquely and at further away from the receptor.

10.8.212 The rear side of the panels in E24 and E25 would be visible for residents at Queens House in Worlington, due to the gaps in the garden vegetation. However the intervening vegetation and distance would screen these parcels from the remainder of Worlington. The panels would also not be visible from residents in Freckenham.

10.8.213 For motorists travelling along Golf Links Road, to the west of Worlington, the rear side of the solar panels across E30 to E32 would be visible at close range, due to gaps in existing hedgerows.

10.8.214 These solar panels would also be visible for recreational users to the north of E30 and E32 along PRoW W-128/002/0 and motorists travelling along Newmarket Road. This is due to the gaps in the vegetation adjacent to Golf Links Road and the rising landform across the southern parts of E30 to E32.

10.8.215 The solar panels and associated structures across Sunnica East Site B would not be visible from residents on the western edge of Red Lodge, nor within Barton Mills, due to the intervening residential land uses and existing vegetation. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.216 Due to the height of the A11 overbridge, there would be views of the panels in E22; however views would be largely filtered by the roadside vegetation and the dominant element of the view would be the road and traffic.

10.8.217 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium and high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in Table 10-6, result in **major or moderate adverse** effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

- VP14A Residents adjacent to the B1102;
- VP15, VP15A, VP15B and VP16 Recreational users of U6006, including equestrian riders;
- VP20 Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0;
- VP23A Residents at Queens Hill, Worlington; and
- VP26A: PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0.

Summary of Opening Year 1 Effects for Sunnica East Site B

10.8.218 Table 10-16 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8.

10.8.219 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-16, no impacts are predicted during the year 1 opening phase.

Table 10-16: Summary of Year 1 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 85: The Brecks	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment					
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Low Chalk Farmland	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 8 Worlington	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 9 Six Acre Covert	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 12 Freckenham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 13 Elms Farmland	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LLCA 14: River Kennett	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site B	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
14. Motorists and Pedestrians on B1102	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor adverse	No
14A. Residents adjacent to B1102	High	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
15. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
15A. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major adverse	Yes
15B. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
16. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
18. Motorists on Elms Road	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor adverse	No
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major adverse	Yes
21. Motorists on Badlingham Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
21A. Residents adjacent to Badlingham Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
22. Motorists on Worlington Road	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor adverse	No
23. Motorists on Worlington Road	Low	As Above	Medium	Minor adverse	No
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate adverse	Yes
24. Motorists on Golf Links Road and Golfers	Low	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor adverse	No
25. Motorists on Golf Links Road	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor adverse	No
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
28. Recreational users on A11	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site A Landscape Effects Year 1 Opening (2025)

Sunnica West Site A Impacts on Site Landscape Character Year 1 Opening (2025)

10.8.220 Like the Sunnica East Sites A and B, the Scheme would introduce new land uses compared to the agricultural fields. The solar panels and solar stations would be located across most of the Sunnica West Site A, with the BESS and substations concentrated within W17. There would be no structures in part of W04 due to the archaeological mitigation and similarly the panels would be offset from the edges of W10 and W13.The Scheme would be also be offset from The Avenue.

10.8.221 The undulating landform across Sunnica West Site A and key vegetation patterns of Sounds Plantation, Halfmoon Plantation and roadside hedgerows would remain beneath the panels.

10.8.222 The perception of the BESS and substations would be reduced by their tonal rendering and siting adjacent to Sounds Plantation, to provide a degree of enclosure in relation to the wider landscape to the south, across the Limekilns.

10.8.223 The colour of the solar arrays and massing of the solar panels would be a change from the colour tones of the fields, reducing the aesthetic value of Sunnica West Site A and its tranquillity.

10.8.224 There would be enhanced recreational value to Sunnica West Site A, via the permissive path connecting with the Avenue, along with areas of new native grassland, hedgerows and woodlands, although these would not have established at year 1.

10.8.225 From the above, the impact at the year 1 opening phase to the Sunnica West Site A has been assessed as high, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **major adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

Sunnica West Site A Year 1 of Opening (2025) Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.226 Sunnica West Site A would be located across part of NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands LT Rolling Estate Chalklands and LT Estate Sandlands. These areas are characterised by their undulating landform, vegetation patterns, rural land use and 'stud landscapes'.

10.8.227 As noted, the key features of vegetation cover would remain. The impacts to tranquillity would not impact the wider extent of the published landscape character areas. This is due to the proximity of the Scheme to A11, A14 and Newmarket railway lines, which already impact the tranquillity of these published landscape character areas. In this respect, Sunnica West Site A would be sited adjacent to existing large-scale linear infrastructure within the published landscape character areas.

10.8.228 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, whilst there would be changes to land use within these published landscape character areas, in relation to the wider extent of these areas, this would be small and localised.

10.8.229 Therefore, the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site A Year 1 of Opening (2025) Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.230 At the local level, Sunnica West Site A would be located across part of LLCA 24 Hundred Acre Plantation.

10.8.231 There would be a change in land use across LLCA 24 as a result of the solar panels, solar stations and associated internal road networks. There structures, in combination with the massing of the BESS and substation would result in an infrastructure character to the LLCA. This is balanced by the key landscape features across the LLCA remaining and the new recreational value of the Scheme.

10.8.232 The changes to land use and the infrastructure character, is assessed as resulting **major adverse** effect to LLCA 24; this is considered significant.

10.8.233 For LLCA 23A Chippenham, the distance from the Scheme and the intervening vegetation would negate any perception of the change in land use and the key characteristics of the distinctive buildings would remain. Therefore, no significant effects are predicted to LLCA 23A.

10.8.234 For LLCA 23B Chippenham Park the Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and therefore there would be no physical change to the key characteristics. The change in land use would result in an increased infrastructure character to the setting of the LLCA, compared to the A14 and railway line. Therefore, no significant effects are predicted to LLCA 23B.

10.8.235 For LLCA 25: Kennett, the Scheme would result in a change in land use and an increased infrastructure character to the west of the LLCA. There would be no change to the key characteristics and the additional massing and change in land use would result in a limited change and no significant effect are predicted.

10.8.236 For LLCA 26 The Limekilns, which extends to the south of the A14, the proposed Scheme would not be located in the LLCA and therefore there would be no physical change to LLCA 26.

10.8.237 The proposed Scheme would introduce additional massing and increase the infrastructure character to the setting of LLCA 26, reducing the aesthetic and tranquillity perceptions, in comparison to the settled character of the fields. However, the setting to LLCA 26 is already characterised by infrastructure via the road networks and railway line.

10.8.238 As there would be no physical change to LLCA 26 and that the existing tranquillity, aesthetic and perceptual aspects of LLCA 26 are already impacted upon by the A14, railway lines and A1304, the effects at year 1 to LLCA 26 The Limekilns are predicted to be **minor adverse**; this is assessed as not significant.

Sunnica West Site A Year 1 of Opening (2025) Visual Effects

10.8.239 From within Chippenham and Chippenham Park, the solar panels, BESS and substations across the Sunnica West Site A would not be visible, due to the intervening buildings and mature woodland and boundary wall along the edge of the Park.

10.8.240 For motorists travelling along La Hogue Road, between Chippenham Park and the A11, including visitors to La Hogue Farm shop, the upper parts of the solar panels within W10, W11 and W12 would be visible above the roadside hedgerows and beneath the tree canopies bordering W10. The upper parts of the BESS and substation would also be visible, although their massing would be softened by their tonal rendering and that they would be seen against the backdrop of Sounds Plantation.

10.8.241 There would also be close range views of the solar panels within W13 and W14 for motorists along the B1085 and residents at La Hogue Farm, although partly filtered by the existing garden vegetation.

10.8.242 The rear side of the solar panels within W15 and W16 would be visible for residents at Dane Hill Farm, although filtered by intervening garden vegetation. The solar panels would not be visible for motorist on the B1085,

adjacent to Dane Hill Farm, due to the height and density of the roadside vegetation.

10.8.243 The solar panels would be visible from the upper storeys of residents adjacent to Station Road, in Kennett, due to the height of these properties above the roadside vegetation. The panels would be low in height, such that views would remain across the wider landscape and the panels would be seen in the context of existing infrastructure, including the A11 embankments and associated traffic. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.244 The solar panels in W15 would be visible for motorists on Newmarket Road and properties adjacent to W15, due to gaps in the vegetation bordering W15. There would also be largely filtered views for motorist on the A11. There would be open views of the panels in Sunnica West Site A for motorists on the A11/A1304 slip road and part of the A14, by the overbridge due to the intermittent existing vegetation.

10.8.245 The solar panels across W03 to W07 and in W15 would be visible for receptors at the Limekilns, due to the elevated position of the receptor. The 'static' solar panels would be seen in the context of moving vehicles and trains along the valley floor and would introduce a different colour tone via the solar arrays, across a wide extent of the view. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.246 Recreational receptors along PRoW 204/5, (between the A14 and Snailwell), within the Railway Field and crossing the A14, would have views of the solar panels to varying degrees.

10.8.247 The upper parts of the solar panels on the northern edge of parcel W03 would also be visible for motorists travelling along Chippenham Road.

10.8.248 The Sunnica West Site A would not be visible for residents within Snailwell, due to the intervening landform and vegetation. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no glint and glare impact to these receptors.

10.8.249 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the magnitude of impact is assessed as ranging between medium and high, which when considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors as identified in Table 10-6, result in **major or moderate adverse** effects (and thus significant) for the following visual receptors:

- VP32 Motorists on La Hogue Road;
- VP33 Visitors to La Hogue Farm;
- VP33A Residents at La Hogue Farm;
- VP36 Residents adjacent to Station Road;
- VP37A Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road;
- VP38 Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns; and

- VP41 Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell.

Summary of Year 1 Opening (2025) Effects for Sunnica West Site A

10.8.250 Table 10-17 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8.

10.8.251 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-17, no impacts are predicted during the opening year 1 phase.

Table 10-17: Summary of Year 1 Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
23A Chippenham	High	No alteration to key characteristics	None	Neutral	No
23B. Chippenham Park	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	Substantial alteration to key characteristics	Medium	Major Adverse	Yes
25. Kennett	Low	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
26. The Limekilns	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual					
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Low	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
33A. Residents at La Hogue Farm	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
34. Visitors to The Wild Tracks Centre	Low	As above	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
35. Residents at Dane Hill Farm	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
36. Residents adjacent to Station Road	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
37. Motorists on Newmarket Road	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
37A. Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	High	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
39. Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
40. Recreational users on PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, The A11	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
41. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	Medium	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	High	Major Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site B Year 1 Opening (2025) Effects

Sunnica West Site B Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.252 At year 1 of opening, there would be solar panels, solar stations and access roads across the central and eastern parts of Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.253 The Scheme would result in a change in land use and reduce the aesthetic, tranquillity and perceptual attributes due to the massing and infrastructure character of the panels.

10.8.254 The underlying pattern of the landform would remain beneath the panels, rising gradually from the River Snail to the northern edge of Sunnica West Site B. The solar panels would be off-set from the River Snail and its mature woodland by the ecological mitigation areas. The solar panels would also not be located above the archaeological mitigation area within Sunnica West Site B.

10.8.255 The impact of the year 1 opening phase to the Sunnica West Site B has been assessed as high, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **moderate adverse** effect. This is considered significant

Sunnica West Site B Year 1 Opening (2025) Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.256 The solar panels, solar stations, fencing and internal roads across Sunnica West Site B would be located within NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands.

10.8.257 Whilst the Scheme would result in a localised change in land use and a reduction in tranquillity, the scale of the Scheme would be very small in relation to the wider extent of the published landscape character areas. Therefore, the effects are predicted to be **negligible adverse**; these are considered not to be significant.

Sunnica West Site B Year 1 Opening (2025) Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.258 At the local level, the construction activity would be located across part of LLCA 24: Hundred Acre Plantation, which consists of fields, woodland and undulating landform.

10.8.259 There would not be significant landscape effects to LLCA 24 due to small scale of the Scheme in the northern part of LLCA 24 and that the key features of the River Snail, woodland, hedgerows and the pattern of landform would remain.

10.8.260 There would also be no significant effects to the surrounding LLCA.

Sunnica West Site B Year 1 of Opening (2025) Visual Effects

10.8.261 The upper parts of the solar panels in W01 and W02 would be briefly visible for motorists on Snailwell Road, as they cross the River Snail, due to the open character of the roadside verge. The panels would be glimpsed as the attention of the driver would be on the road, due to the road narrowing on the approach to the bridge. The lower parts of the solar panels would be softened by the intervening field boundaries.

10.8.262 The solar panels and associated structures would not be visible from Fordham, nor Snailwell, due to the intervening woodland, undulating landform and distance. With reference to the ***Glint and Glare Assessment***, there would be no impact to these receptors.

10.8.263 Due to the above, effects are predicted to range between **neutral** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

Summary of Year 1 Opening (2025) Effects for Sunnica West Site B

10.8.264 Table 10-18 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-18.

10.8.265 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-18 no impacts are predicted during the opening year 1 phase.

Table 10-18: Summary of Year 1 Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 24	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site B	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
46. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
47. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Cable Route A - Year 1 Opening (2025) Effects

10.8.266 As the Cable Route A would be below ground, any impacts at year 1 would relate to the potential of a very localised reduction in the extent of vegetation above the cable route. This physical change is considered not to result in significant effects to any of the identified landscape receptors due to its very small scale.

10.8.267 Similarly, with the Cable Route A below ground, it would not be visible. Any views of the reduced extent of vegetation would not result in significant adverse visual effects to any of the identified visual receptors.

10.8.268 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8, the impact of the Cable Route A at year 1 of opening has been assessed as

ranging between none and very low. The effects have been assessed as ranging between **neutral** and **negligible adverse** to landscape and visual receptors, which is considered not significant.

Cable Route B – Year 1 Opening Effects

10.8.269 As Cable Route B would be below ground, any impacts at year 1 would relate to the potential of very localised reduction in the extent of vegetation above the cable route. This physical change tis considered not to result in significant effects to any of the identified landscape receptors due to its very small scale.

10.8.270 Similarly, with the Cable Route B below ground, it would not be visible. Any views of the reduced extent of vegetation would not result in significant adverse visual effects to any of the identified visual receptors.

10.8.271 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8, the impact of the Cable Route B at year 1 of opening has been assessed as ranging between **neutral** and **negligible adverse**. The effects have been assessed as ranging between **neutral** and **negligible adverse** to landscape and visual receptors. This is considered not significant.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Year 1 Opening Effects

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Year 1 Opening Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.272 The Sub-station Extension would result in additional massing and infrastructure adjacent to the existing compound. The recreational value of Newhaven Drove would remain, along with the vegetation structure overall.

10.8.273 The perception of the Sub-station Extension would be in the context of the existing larger scale Sub-station, such that the impact at the Site level would be low and the Scheme is predicted to result in a range of **negligible adverse** to **minor adverse** effects. These are considered not significant.

10.8.274 This would be the same for any of the alternative locations for the Sub-station Extension.

Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension Year 1 Opening (2025) Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.275 The Sub-station Extension would be located within NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Settled Fenlands and Area 2: Chalklands.

10.8.276 The Substation Extension would be localised to a part of these published landscape character areas which are crossed by national grid pylons and where the scale and massing of the existing sub-station already influences the existing landscape character, aesthetics and perception.

10.8.277 Therefore, the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**. These are considered not significant.

10.8.278 This would be the same for any of the alternative locations.

Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension Year 1 Opening (2025) Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.279 At the local level, the Sub-station would be located in LLCA: 36 Burwell Fen. As stated above, the influence on the character from the scale of the existing sub-station and the tracts of overhead pylons extending across the flat fens is such that the addition of an extended Sub-station adjacent to the existing sub-station, would not result in significant adverse landscape effects.

10.8.280 Similarly, for LLCA 37: Reach and LLCA 38: Burwell, the perception of the Sub-station Extension would be in the context of the existing sub-station. Due to this, the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**. These are considered not significant.

10.8.281 This would be the same for any of the alternative locations.

Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension Year 1 Opening (2025) Visual Effects

10.8.282 The Substation would be visible at close range for motorists along Weir's Drove Road and also the B1102; however, it would be seen in the direct context of the existing substation and overhead pylons.

10.8.283 For recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove, the existing substation would screen the proposed sub-station.

10.8.284 For residents in Reach and recreational users on the Devil's Dyke, the upper parts of the substation would be visible but seen in the direct context of the existing substation. Views would also be largely filtered by intervening vegetation.

10.8.285 From the above, the effects would range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**. These are considered not significant.

10.8.286 This would be the same for any of the alternative locations. The exception is for recreational use recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove, as the alternative locations would result in the proposed substation being to the west of the existing substation and therefore more visible. However, it would still be seen directly in the context of the existing Sub-station, such that the impacts would be not significant.

Summary of Year 1 Operation (2025) Effects for Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension

10.8.287 Table 10-19 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sub-station is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8.

10.8.288 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-19, no impacts are predicted during the year 1 opening phase.

Table 10-19: Summary of Year 1 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Settled Fenlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines					
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
36. Burwell Fen	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Visual					
53. Motorists Weir Drove Road	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
54. Recreational users on Burwell Lode	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
55. Recreational users on Hightown Drove	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
56. Motorists on Burwell Road	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
57. Residents in Reach	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
58. Recreational users on the Devil's Ditch	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Combined Year 1 Opening (2025) Effects on Receptors (Intra Project Effects)

10.8.289 This section summarises the impacts and effects of all aspects of the Scheme in operation on the landscape and visual receptors. This assumes all aspects of the Scheme are fully built-out and is therefore a worst case assessment.

10.8.290 This section should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***10H*** which outline the landscape and visual effects in full.

Combined Year 1 (2025) Landscape Effects

10.8.291 The combined year 1 opening phase would result in changes to land use as per the assessments of the individual DCO Site areas.

10.8.292 The combined impacts to the published landscape character areas would be the increased presence of solar panels, solar stations and alterations to the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape in comparison to the assessment of the individual DCO Site areas.

10.8.293 Due to this the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant. The exception is to LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, for which the effect is assessed as **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant. This is due to the extent of the Scheme as a whole across the landscape area, compared to the assessment of the individual DCO Site area.

10.8.294 For LLCA 24, the combination of Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B within the character area would result in a **major adverse** effect at year 1 of operation. This is considered significant.

10.8.295 With Cable Route A and Cable Route B below ground, these aspects of the Scheme would not impact the landscape character, even accounting for any localised reduction in vegetation.

Combined Year 1 (2025) Visual Effects

10.8.296 Due to the distance between the various parts of the Scheme, i.e. between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B, none of the identified visual receptors would have views across the Scheme in its entirety.

10.8.297 For motorists on Chippenham Road, there would be views of the upper parts of panels in W03 (in Sunnica West Site A) to the south of the road and the upper parts of the fencing and solar stations to the north of the road (in Sunnica West Site B).

10.8.298 Similarly, as Cable Routes A and B would be below ground, these aspects of the Scheme would not be visible.

Summary of Combined Year 1 (2025) Effects for the DCO Scheme

10.8.299 Table 10-20 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the combined assessment of the Scheme is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***10H***.

10.8.300 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-20, no combined impacts are predicted during the year 1 opening phase and the effects are as stated for the individual aspects of the Scheme.

Table 10-20: Summary of Combined Year 1 Opening (2025) Landscape and Visual Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape Effects						
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)						
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica West Sites A, Sunnica West Site B and Burwell Sub-station	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework Landscape Types (LCT)						
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Sunnica East Site A and B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Sunnica East Site A and Burwell Sub-station	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)						
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B and part of Sunnica West Site A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LT: Settled Fenlands	Medium	Sunnica East Site A and Burwell Sub-station	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)						
12. Freckenham	High	Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	Sunnica West Site A ad Sunnica West Site B	Partial loss to key characteristics	High	Major Adverse	Yes
Visual						

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low	Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Year 15 Opening (2040) Assessment (summer)

Sunnica East Site A Landscape Effects Year 15 Opening (2040)

Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Opening (2040) Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.301 Compared to the year 1 assessment, the proposed Green Infrastructure illustrated on the preliminary Parameter Plans, consisting of new trees, hedgerows and native grassland would have established, being taller in height and in leaf. The existing vegetation across the study area would also be in leaf.

10.8.302 Whilst the change of land use from the solar panels, solar stations, BESS and substations would remain across Sunnica East Site A, all the land beneath the solar panels would consist of an established and integrated sward of native grassland.

10.8.303 With reference to the ***Ecology Chapter,*** this change to the land cover is considered to be beneficial for biodiversity in comparison to the intensively managed fields and pig farming across Sunnica East Site A.

10.8.304 The establishment of the native grassland is a more valued landscape feature than the fields and pig farming, as it increases the ecological association and the opportunities for biodiversity. Even with the solar panels located above the grassland, which would reduce its visibility and perception, the actual change in land cover would be beneficial in landscape character terms due to the association with a more valued land cover and the biodiversity benefit.

10.8.305 The new tree planting would have established along the eastern edges of E02, E04, E08, E10 and E33, to reinforce the existing pattern of roadside vegetation and increase the enclosure of the BESS and substations in E33.

10.8.306 The tree planting to the south-east and north of Lee Farm would also have established to reflect the linear tree belts across the farm and similarly increase the enclosure between the property, solar panels and associated structures.

10.8.307 These beneficial changes to the landcover are balanced with the continued presence of the solar panels and associated structures across the Sunnica East Site A, along with the perception of the Scheme remaining and that it is reversible.

10.8.308 The impact of the year 15 opening phase to the Sunnica East Site A has been assessed as high, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **moderate adverse** effect. This is considered significant. This is a reduction from the major adverse effect predicted for year 1 of opening, due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure.

Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Opening (2040) Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.309 Sunnica East Site A would be located across NCA 46 The Fens, NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Planned Peat Fen, LT Rolling East Chalklands and LT Settled Fenlands.

10.8.310 The proposed planting would reflect the existing patterns of vegetation, via roadside hedgerows or trees, or reinforcing existing field boundary patterns across these published landscape character areas.

10.8.311 The beneficial changes to the landcover across Sunnica East Site A, from the establishment of the new planting, would be too small scale in scale to influence the wider extent of the published landscape character areas.

10.8.312 The beneficial change is also balanced with the continued presence and perception of the solar panels and associated structures. However, with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G***, the Sunnica East Site A would not result in significant adverse landscape effects at year 15 to the published landscape character areas.

Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Opening (2040) Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Effects

10.8.313 At the local scale and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and Figure 10-10, all of Sunnica East Site A is in LLCA 11.

10.8.314 The tree planting around the perimeter of E05 would reflect the wooded character to this part of Beck Road, reinforcing the existing trees at Beck Bridge and enclosing the panels across E05.

10.8.315 With the trees set back from Beck Road and the native grassland in E06, the open character of the landscape adjacent to the road and to the west of the road towards Isleham would remain, along with the perception of travelling between the settlements and the inter-visibility with the churches in Isleham and Freckenham.

10.8.316 The new planting across Lee Farm would also reflect the character of vegetation adjacent to the Lee Brook and within the farm.

10.8.317 The infrastructure character of the land use would remain, although the magnitude of impact would reduce, due to the balance between the establishment of the proposed planting and the improved opportunities for vegetation cover and biodiversity within the LLCA. The effect would be **minor adverse** at year 15 to LLCA 11. This is considered not significant.

10.8.318 For LLCA 10 Isleham, with the establishment of the proposed planting adjacent to E05, there would be a more vegetated setting to the southern part of the LLCA. The adverse impacts to the aesthetic value of the setting

would be reduced by the planting, although the perception of the Scheme would remain.

10.8.319 Similarly for LLCA 12, the establishment of the proposed planting would reduce the adverse impacts to the aesthetic value of the setting to the LLCA, with the perception of the Scheme would remain.

10.8.320 Due to the above, the effects would be **minor adverse** at year 15 of opening from the Sunnica East Site A at LLCA 10 and LLCA 12. This is considered not significant.

Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Opening (2040) Visual Effects

10.8.321 The visibility of the solar panels and upper parts of the BESS and solar stations in E01 to E05 would be substantially reduced by the establishment of the proposed planting around the edge of E05 and adjacent to E01, in relation to views from recreational users along the River Lark and motorists on East Fen Road.

10.8.322 The upper parts of the solar panels and solar stations within parcels E01 and E10 and the upper parts of the BESS and substation in E33 would also be screened in relation to views from motorists travelling along Ferry Lane, by the establishment of the proposed trees adjacent to the roadside hedgerows.

10.8.323 The established tree planting to the east of Beck Road would also screen the solar panels and solar stations for motorists travelling along Beck Road. Motorists views would remain of buildings in Isleham and Freckenham due to the tree planting being set back from the road, as well as the open character of E06 remaining.

10.8.324 For residents on the southern edge of Isleham and at The Ark Church, the tree planting adjacent to E05 would screen views of the solar panels. The establishment of the hedgerows around E07, along with the existing vegetation being in leaf, would also screen views of the solar panels and solar stations in E07 for residents at the western edge of Freckenham.

10.8.325 For recreational users along PRoW 257/002/X, at the eastern edge of E07, the establishment of the proposed hedgerow would screen the solar panels. Whilst the hedgerows would truncate views across the remainder of the field, views of the vegetated pine lines in the background of the view would remain above the hedgerows.

10.8.326 For residents at Lee Farm, the combination of the establishment of the proposed planting to the north and south-east of the property, along with the existing woodland to the east of the property being in leaf, would result in views of the solar panels and associated structures being screened.

10.8.327 Due to the above, and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the visual effects would range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**. When considered alongside the sensitivity of the receptors, as identified in Table 10-6, there would therefore not be significant adverse visual effects to the identified visual receptors at year 15 of operation, in relation to Sunnica East Site A.

Summary of Sunnica East Site A Year 15 Effects

10.8.328 Table 10-21 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8.

10.8.329 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-21, no impacts are predicted during the year 15 opening phase.

Table 10-21: Summary of Year 15 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 46: The Fens	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LT Settled Fenland	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 10. Isleham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 11. East Fen Farmland	Low	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 12. Freckenham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Substantial alteration to the character area	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
2B. Visitors to Jude's ferry	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
4. Visitors to the Ark	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
5. Motorists on Beck Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
7. Motorist on B1104	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
8. Residents in Freckenham	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	As Above	Low	Minor adverse	No
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor adverse	No
12. Residents in Lee Farm	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
12A. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	As Above	Low	Minor adverse	No
12B. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Sunnica East Site B Year 15 (2040) Landscape Effects

Sunnica East Site B Year 15 (2040) Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.330 By year 15, the proposed hedgerows and trees along the northern edges of E11 and E12 would have established, to provide vegetated field boundaries and reflect the pattern of tree belts across this part of Sunnica East Site B.

10.8.331 The proposed planting would enclose the solar panels and solar stations in E11 and E12. The native grassland across the northern parts of E11 and E12 would also have established, increasing the ecological value of this part

of Sunnica East Site B in relation to the fields, even with the presence of the panels.

10.8.332 The establishment of the proposed tree planting adjacent to U6006 would reflect the linear alignment of the existing vegetation patterns adjacent to the route. In combination with the retained pine lines between parcels E13 to E16; the planting would also reinforce the geometric pattern of the fields by forming linear boundaries around their edges.

10.8.333 The combination of the proposed tree planting within E18 and the existing trees to the north of the parcel, would enclose the BESS and substation. The infill planting to the existing roadside hedgerows on Elms Road would also have established to reinforce the vegetated character and reduce the perception of the solar panels and associated structures when travelling along this part of Elms Road.

10.8.334 The proposed tree planting around the perimeter of E19 to E22, to the south of Elms Road, would have established, increasing the vegetation cover across this part of the Sunnica East Site B and biodiversity value. The proposed planting would reflect the character of the tree belts to the east of Sunnica East Site B and enclose and reduce the perception of the Scheme in relation to Badlingham and the adjacent PRoW to the south of E20.

10.8.335 New woodland around the perimeter of E24 and E25 and the establishment of hedgerows adjacent to Worlington Road would reflect the character of roadside vegetation and the pattern of rectangular blocks of woodland within the surrounding landscape. The tree planting across the northern part of E25 would also reduce the perception of the Scheme in relation to residents at the southern edge of Worlington.

10.8.336 At the north-east part of the Sunnica East Site B, the proposed trees, hedgerows and infill planting, would extend along the northern edge of E30, E31 and E32, to reflect the pattern of roadside vegetation and enclose the solar panels in this part of the DCO Site.

10.8.337 The native grassland would also have established across the Sunnica East Site B, beneath all of the solar panels and would be beneficial in landscape terms for the landcover and biodiversity value.

10.8.338 These beneficial changes from the proposed Green Infrastructure are balanced with the continued and long term presence of the solar panels and structures across Sunnica East Site B, its resulting infrastructure character and that it is reversible.

10.8.339 The impact of the year 15 post opening phase has been assessed as reducing from high to medium, which when considered alongside the medium sensitivity of the receptor, results in a **moderate adverse** effect; this is considered significant. This is a reduction from the major adverse effect predicted for year 1 of opening, due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure

Sunnica East Site B – Year 15 (2040) Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.340 The Sunnica East Site B would be located across NCA 85: The Brecks, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands, LT Estate Sandlands, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, the Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic and Low Chalk Farmland.

10.8.341 The proposed planting would reinforce the geometric 'pine lines', the roadside vegetation and linear rectangular bocks of woodlands within these published landscape character areas. In combination with the establishment of the native grassland beneath all of the panels, the vegetation structure and biodiversity would be improved within these published landscape character areas.

10.8.342 These beneficial changes are balanced with continued long term presence of the solar panels, the small scale of the Green Infrastructure in relation to the wider extent of the published character areas, along with the reversibility of the Scheme.

10.8.343 Due to the above, the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse** as a result of Sunnica East Site B during the year 15 phase. These effects are considered not significant.

Sunnica East Site B – Year 15 Opening (2040) Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.344 At the local scale and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and Figure 10-8, the Scheme would be located across part of LLCA 13: Elms Farmland.

10.8.345 The impacts to LLCA 13 would reflect those at the Site level, with beneficial changes to the vegetation cover and biodiversity of the LLCA from the establishment of the planting. In combination with the existing vegetation, the planting would enclose the solar panels, BESS and substation to a greater degree than compared to year 1 and reduce the adverse impacts to the aesthetic value of the landscape and the perception of the Scheme.

10.8.346 The key features of 'pine lines', woodland across the base of Chalk Hill and enclosing E26 to E29 along with the recreational value of U6006 would remain ay year 15.

10.8.347 These changes are balanced with the continued presence of the solar panels and associated structures and the infrastructure character. The magnitude of impact is assessed as reducing from high to medium, which reduces the effect to **moderate adverse**. This is considered significant.

10.8.348 For LLCA 8: Worlington and LLCA 9: Six Acre Covert, which are adjacent to parts of Sunnica East Site B, the increased vegetation cover would reduce the perception of the Scheme. Therefore, there would continue to be no significant adverse effects to these LLCA.

10.8.349 Similarly for LLCA 12: Freckenham, there would not be significant adverse landscape effects, due to the combination of distance from Sunnica East Site B and that the existing and proposed vegetation in would be in leaf, reducing the perception of the Scheme.

Sunnica East Site B Year 15 Opening (2040) Visual Effects

10.8.350 For motorists on the B1102, travelling between Freckenham and Worlington, the solar panels and solar stations in E11 and E12 would be screened by the establishment of the proposed hedgerows and trees. Similarly, with garden vegetation also in leaf, the solar panels would be screened from residents adjacent to the B1102.

10.8.351 The planting around E23, E13 and adjacent to parts of U6006 would screen views of the solar panels for recreational users, including equestrian riders along U6006. The planting would truncate some longer distance views across the landscape, but reflect the visual composition of the route, which is predominantly bordered by trees.

10.8.352 For motorists on Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham, the establishment of the roadside hedgerows and trees would screen the upper parts of the BESS and substation to the north of the Elms Road, in E18.The planting would reflect the visual composition of the vegetation bordering the road between the A11 and Freckenham, balanced with slightly truncating views creating a more channelled composition to the view.

10.8.353 The solar panels in parcel E22 would also be screened from recreational users on PRoW W257/003/0, those travelling on Badlingham Road and residents adjacent to the road, by the establishment of the tree planting around the edges of the parcels of land to the south of Elms Road. This is balanced with the extent of views being truncated and the pine lines no longer being visible.

10.8.354 For motorists on Worlington Road, the establishment of the hedgerow planting along the road would screen views across to E30 and the solar panels and solar stations would also be screened by the tree planting adjacent to E24 and E25, balanced with truncating views across the wider landscape.

10.8.355 Similarly, the solar panels and solar stations would be screened by the woodland in the northern part of E25 in relation to views from residents at Queens House in Worlington.

10.8.356 For motorists travelling along Golf Links Road, to the west of Worlington, the solar panels would be screened by the additional height of the roadside hedgerows and the establishment of the tree planting. The proposed planting would reflect the visual composition of Golf Links Road being bordered by vegetation.

10.8.357 The increased height in the vegetation adjacent to Golf Links Road would also screen views of the solar panels and solar stations for recreational users to the north of E30 and E32 and motorists travelling along Newmarket Road.

10.8.358 For recreational users crossing the A11 overbridge, the roadside vegetation would screen the solar panels in E22. The Scheme would also remain not visible for residents in Red Lodge and Barton Mills.

10.8.359 Due to the above and with reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, the visual effects are predicted to range between **neutral** and **minor**

adverse. Therefore, there are no significant adverse effects are predicted to visual receptors at year 15 in relation to Sunnica East Site A.

Summary of Opening Year 15 (2040) Effects for Sunnica East Site B

10.8.360 Table 10-22 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica East Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8.

10.8.361 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-22Table 10-8, no impacts are predicted during the year 15 phase.

Table 10-22: Summary of Year 15 Opening Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 85: The Brecks	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework (LCT)					
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Assessment					
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Low Chalk Farmland	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 8 Worlington	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 9 Six Acre Covert	Low	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 12 Freckenham	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 13 Elms Farmland	Medium	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site B	Medium	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
14. Motorists and Pedestrians on B1102	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible adverse	No
15. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Minor adverse	No
15A. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor adverse	No
15B. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
16. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor adverse	No
18. Motorists on Elms Road	Low	As Above	Low	Minor adverse	No
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	Medium	As Above	Low	Negligible adverse	No
22. Motorists on Worlington Road	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible adverse	No
23. Motorists on Worlington Road	Low	As Above	Very Low	Negligible adverse	No
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	Medium	Subtle change to the composition of the existing view	Low	Negligible adverse	No
24. Motorists on Golf Links Road and Golfers	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible adverse	No
25. Motorists on Golf Links Road	Low	As Above	Low	Minor adverse	No
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site A Landscape Effects Year 15 Opening (2040)

Sunnica West Site A Year 15 Opening (2040) Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.362 At year 15, the establishment of the proposed trees adjacent to W03 and part of W04 would result in a continuous tree belt around these parcels, to enclose the solar panels.

10.8.363 The new tree planting across Sunnica West Site A would also create additional tree belts either side of Sounds Plantation and infill existing gaps in the tree line along The Avenue.

10.8.364 The establishment of the woodland adjacent to the A14, along the southern edges of W05 and W07 would reduce the reinforce the existing vegetation adjacent to the A14 and A11/A1304 slip road, to screen views from motorists.

10.8.365 Along the northern edge of the Sunnica West Site A, the establishment of woodland within parcels W08 and W10 would reinforce and reflect the existing tree line adjacent to the stream. This would also establish a wider belt of woodland between the Scheme and the intervening fields towards Chippenham Park and Chippenham House.

10.8.366 Centrally within the Sunnica West Site A, the establishment of the woodland bordering W17 would enclose the BESS and substations and aid in reducing their perception.

10.8.367 The characteristic hedgerows adjacent to La Hogue Road would be retained and reinforced by the establishment of infill planting along the edges of parcels W10 and W10. The overall pattern of roadside vegetation would be increased by the establishment of the woodland on the eastern edges of W11 and W12, adjacent to the entrance into La Hogue Farm. The establishment of the proposed trees to the north of La Hogue Farm residents would also physically separate the Scheme from these receptors.

10.8.368 New woodland would around the perimeter of W15 and W16 would reinforce the vegetated character at Halfmoon Plantation. The woodland bordering W15 and W16 would enclosure the solar panels in relation to the road networks and from residents adjacent to W15.

10.8.369 There would also be continuous native grassland sward beneath all the solar panels across Sunnica West Site A.

10.8.370 The above beneficial changes to vegetation patterns are balanced with the continues presence of the solar panels and associated structures. The infrastructure character would therefore remain, although the adverse impacts to aesthetic value and perception would be reduced in comparison to the year 1 assessment due to the establishment of the planting.

10.8.371 For the Sunnica West Site A, the impact of the year 15 post opening phase has been assessed high, which results in a **moderate adverse** effect; this is considered significant. This is a reduction from the major adverse effect predicted for year 1 of opening, due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure.

Sunnica West Site A Year 15 Opening (2040) Impacts to Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.372 Sunnica West Site A would be located across part of NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands, LCT Forested Estate Sandlands, LT Rolling Estate Chalklands and LT Estate Sandlands. These areas are characterised by undulating landform, vegetation patterns, rural land use and 'stud landscapes'.

10.8.373 The new vegetation patterns, of roadside woodland, hedgerows and linear belts of woodland would reflect the character of wooded boundaries to paddocks and fields within the character areas.

10.8.374 The proposed tree planting would reflect the vegetated roadside character, including the B1506, between Newmarket and Kentford and in combination with woodland adjacent to the A14 to the north of Newmarket, provide a greater coverage of woodland extending between the A14 and A11.

10.8.375 The establishment of the new planting would also reinforce the stated published key characteristics of shelterbelts and plantations around Newmarket.

10.8.376 Due to the above, balanced with the continued presence of the solar panels and associated structures, along with the reversibility of the Scheme, the effects are predicted to range between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse** to the published landscape character areas at year 15. These effects are considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site A Year 15 Opening (2040) Impacts to Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.377 At the local level, the extensive change from the solar panels and associated structures would remain across LLCA 24 Hundred Acre Plantation.

10.8.378 This is balanced with the increase in vegetation cover, such that the proposed tree and hedgerow planting would reflect the character of wooded boundaries to paddocks and fields across the LLCA.

10.8.379 On balance, the impact at year 15 to LLCA 24 would reduce in comparison to that at year 15 and the effect is assessed as **moderate adverse**; this is considered significant. This is a reduction from the major adverse effect predicted for year 1 of opening, due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure.

10.8.380 For LLCA 23B Chippenham Park, there would be no perception of the Scheme, due to the existing vegetation across the LLCA being in leaf and the distance from Sunnica West Site A. Therefore, in combination with no physical change to the Park, there would be no significant effects to LLCA 23B.

10.8.381 For LLCA 26 The Limekilns, the proposed planting would reduce the perception of the solar panels and structures on the opposite side of the A14 in comparison to the year 1 assessment. In combination with no physical change to the LLCA, the effect would be **minor adverse**. Therefore, there would not be significant adverse effects at year 15 to LLCA 26.

Sunnica West Site A Year 15 Operation (2040) Visual Effects

10.8.382 As per the year 1 assessment, for receptors in Chippenham and Chippenham Park, the solar panels, BESS and substations across the Sunnica West Site A would not be visible, due to the intervening buildings and mature woodland and boundary wall along the southern edge of the Park.

10.8.383 For motorists travelling along La Hogue Road, between Chippenham Park and the A11, including visitors to La Hogue Farm shop, solar panels within W10, W11 and W12 would be screened by the roadside hedgerows and new planting bordering W10.

10.8.384 Similarly, the close range views of the solar panels within W13 and W14 for motorists along the B1085 and residents at La Hogue Farm at year 1, would be now be screened by the proposed planting and garden vegetation being in leaf.

10.8.385 The garden vegetation at Dane Hill Farm would also screen views of the panels in W15, in combination with the proposed woodland. The trees along the eastern edge of W15 and W16 would also screen views of the panels from residents adjacent to Station Road, in Kennett, which is also considered to be beneficial in softening views of the A11 embankment.

10.8.386 Views of the panels in W15 for motorists on Newmarket Road and properties adjacent to the road would also be screened by the establishment of the planting, resulting in a very subtle truncation of views and greater channelling of views along the road.

10.8.387 The visibility of the solar arrays across W03 to W07 for receptors at the Limekilns, would also be reduced by the tree belts across Sunnica West Site A reducing the overall extent of visibility. Views of the panels would remain however, due to the elevated position of the receptor, and retain a partial change to the composition of the view.

10.8.388 The solar panels would be screened for recreational receptors between The Avenue and Snailwell, including within the Railway Field, crossing the A14 and along PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, due to the proposed planting.

10.8.389 The upper parts of the solar panels in parcel W03 would also be screened for motorists travelling along Chippenham Road.

10.8.390 The Sunnica West Site A would not be visible for residents within Snailwell, due to the intervening landform and vegetation.

10.8.391 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, significant **moderate adverse** visual effects are predicted for the following visual receptors:

- VP38 Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns.

Summary of Opening Year 15 (2040) Effects for Sunnica West Site A

10.8.392 Table 10-23 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site A is predicted to result in impacts and effects and

should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8.

10.8.393 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-23, no impacts are predicted during the year 15 phase.

Table 10-23: Summary of Year 15 Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site A

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to the key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
23B. Chippenham Park	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
26. The Limekilns	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site A	High	Partial alteration to the character area	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	Low	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
33A. Residents at La Hogue Farm	High	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
34. Visitors to The Wild Tracks Centre	Low	As above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
36. Residents adjacent to Station Road	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Negligible Beneficial	No
37. Motorists on Newmarket Road	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
37A. Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	Medium	No change to the view	None	Neutral	No
38. Recreational users and	High	Partial change to the composition of	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
users of the training grounds at the Limekilns		the existing view			
41. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Sunnica West Site B Landscape Effects Year 15 Opening (2040)

Sunnica West Site B Year 15 Opening (2040) Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.394 The native grassland would have established to a greater extent than at year 1 of opening, forming an improved ecological value across Sunnica West Site B and with the River Snail and its associated bankside vegetation.

10.8.395 The hedgerows along the south-east edge of the Sunnica West Site B would also have established, reinforcing the vegetation patterns and the enclosure around the solar panels and solar stations.

10.8.396 The change in land use would remain, balanced with the improved ecological value, such that landscape effect at year 15 at the Site level is predicted to be **minor adverse**, this is considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site B Year 15 Opening (2040) Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.397 The Sunnica West Site B would be located within NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk, LCT Lowland Village Chalklands and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands.

10.8.398 The very small scale of the change in land use, balanced with the improvements to the Green Infrastructure and the reversibility of the Scheme is considered to result in landscape effects of **negligible adverse**, this is considered not significant.

Sunnica West Site B Year 15 Opening (2040) Impacts on Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)

10.8.399 As per the year 1 assessment, there would not be significant adverse landscape effects to LLCA 24: Hundred Acre Plantation, due to the relatively small scale of the Scheme in relation to the extent of the LLCA, along with the balance between the establishment of the Green Infrastructure and reversibility of the Scheme.

Sunnica West Site B Year 15 Opening (2040) Visual Effects

10.8.400 The upper parts of the solar panels in W01 and W02 would be screened by the establishment of the proposed hedgerows and existing hedgerows for motorists crossing the River Snail. The hedgerows would result in a slight truncation of views across the landscape.

10.8.401 The intervening woodlands would continue to screen the solar panels across W01 and W02 from residents in Fordham and Snailwell.

10.8.402 The visual effects at year 15 are predicted to range between **neutral** and **negligible adverse**. Therefore, there would be no significant adverse visual effects at year 15 to the identified receptors in relation to Sunnica West Site B.

Summary of Opening Year 15 (2040) Effects for Sunnica West Site B

10.8.403 Table 10-24 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the Sunnica West Site B is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8.

10.8.404 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-24, no impacts are predicted during the opening year 15 phase.

Table 10-24: Summary of Year 15 Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica West Site B

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 87 East Anglian Chalk	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Barely noticeable alteration to the key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Local Landscape Character Areas					
LLCA 24: Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica West Site B	Medium	Partial alteration to the character area	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
Visual					
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
46. Motorists on Snailwell Road	Low	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Cable Route A - Year 15 Opening Effects

10.8.405 As the Cable Route A would be below ground and existing vegetation in leaf, there would be no changes to the key landscape characteristics, nor the views of the identified visual receptors.

10.8.406 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8, the impact of the Cable Route A at year 15 has been assessed as none and the effect as **neutral** to landscape and visual receptors. This is considered not significant.

Cable Route B – Year 15 Opening Effects

10.8.407 As Cable Route B would be below ground and existing vegetation in leaf, there would be no changes to the key landscape characteristics, nor the views of the identified visual receptors.

10.8.408 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8, the impact of the Cable Route B at year 15 of opening has been assessed as none and the effect as **neutral** to landscape and visual receptors. This is considered not significant.

Burwell National Grid Substation Extension Year 15 (2040) Effects

10.8.409 The year 15 assessment would reflect that at year 1, with no significant landscape or visual effects. This is due to the proposed substation remaining adjacent to the existing substation and perceived and viewed in this context.

10.8.410 This would be the same for any of the alternative locations.

Combined Year 15 Opening (2040) Effects on Receptors (Intra Project Effects)

10.8.411 This section summarises the impacts and effects of all aspects of the Scheme on the landscape and visual receptors at year 15, summer and sets out the Scheme's response to planning policies which are relevant to landscape and visual matters.

10.8.412 This section should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8 which outline the landscape and visual effects in full.

Combined Year 15 Opening (2040) Landscape Effects

10.8.413 The combined year 15 opening phase would retain the change to land use across wider extents of landscape in comparison to the assessments of the individual DCO Site areas. Cable Route A and Cable Route B would remain below ground and would therefore not impact the landscape character.

10.8.414 There would be an increased amount of Green Infrastructure, via the proposed native grassland, hedgerows and trees across the DCO Site.

10.8.415 Due to the further establishment of the Green Infrastructure, the effects to the published landscape character areas are assessed as ranging between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse** on a combined basis; these are considered not significant.

10.8.416 At the local landscape character scale, a **moderate adverse** effect would remain for LLCA 13 and LLCA 24, this is considered significant.

Combined Year 15 Opening (2040) Visual Effects

10.8.417 Due to the distance between the various parts of the Scheme, i.e. between Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B, none of the identified visual receptors would have views across the Scheme in its entirety at year 15.

10.8.418 For motorists on Chippenham Road, in comparison to the year 1 assessment, views of the upper parts of panels in W03 to the south of the road and the upper parts of the fencing and solar stations to the north of the road would be screened.

10.8.419 Similarly, as Cable Routes A and B would be below ground, these aspects of the Scheme would not be visible.

10.8.420 Therefore, there would be no combined significant adverse visual effects at year 15 of operation.

Summary of Combined Year 15 Opening (2040) Effects

10.8.421 Table 10-25 below summarises the landscape and visual receptors for which the combined assessment of the Scheme is predicted to result in impacts and effects and should be read in combination with ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and 10-8.

10.8.422 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-25, no combined impacts are predicted during the combined year 15 phase and the effects are as stated for the individual aspects of the Scheme.

Table 10-25: Summary of Combined Year 15 Opening (2040) Landscape and Visual Effects

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape Effects						
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)						
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B and Burwell Sub-station	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework Landscape Types (LCT)						
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Sunnica East Site A and Burwell Sub-station	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	Sunnica East Site B and Sunnica West Site A	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)						

Receptor	Sensitivity	Combined DCO Scheme Elements	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Sunnica East Site B and part of Sunnica West Site A	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Settled Fenlands		Sunnica East Site A and Burwell Sub-station	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County - Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment						
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Sunnica East Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)						
12. Freckenham	High	Sunnica East Site A and Sunnica East Site B	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	Sunnica West Site A ad Sunnica West Site B	Partial loss to key characteristics	High	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual						
n/a						

Decommissioning (2065)

10.8.423 As set out in the assumptions section, the decommissioning assessment is based upon the activity required to remove the solar panels, solar stations, BESS, substations, fencing and internal road networks, i.e. all proposed structures from across the DCO Site. Cable Routes A and B would remain below ground and are therefore scoped out of the assessment.

10.8.424 The proposed Green Infrastructure would remain. Compared to the year 15 assessment, the diversity of the native grassland would have increased, and the proposed trees would be taller in height. However, the assessment is based on winter conditions, such that none of the deciduous vegetation is in leaf.

Decommissioning Landscape Effects (2065)

Decommissioning (2065) Impacts on Site Landscape Character

10.8.425 At the Site level, across Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B, the native grassland, increased density and extent of hedgerow and tree planting is considered to be beneficial in relation to the baseline intensive agricultural management and pig farming.

10.8.426 This is because the native grassland represents a more valued landscape feature, with stronger ecological association, and the woodland and trees provide an increased aesthetic value and all of the Green Infrastructure provides opportunities for increased biodiversity.

10.8.427 These beneficial changes are balanced with the decommissioning activity to remove the solar panels and associated structures, along with machinery and localised excavation occurring at the Site level, for the duration of a year.

10.8.428 At the Site level, for Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B. In relation to the medium sensitivity of these receptors, these impacts are assessed as resulting in **moderate adverse** effects, which are considered significant.

Decommissioning Impacts on Published Landscape Character Assessments

10.8.429 The proposed Green Infrastructure is considered to respond positively to the published landscape character assessments', Statements of Environmental opportunity and land management guidelines.

10.8.430 This is by increasing woodland cover, linkages with existing plantations, reinforcing the characteristics of pine lines and the geometric pattern of fields and the implementation of native grassland.

10.8.431 The perception of the machinery and activity to remove the panels and structures would be reduced by the retained Green Infrastructure. The effects of the decommissioning phase to the published landscape character areas are assessed as ranging between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

10.8.432 The exception is for LCT Lowland Village Chalklands and LT Rolling Estate Chalklands, for which the effects are predicted to be **moderate adverse**. These are considered significant.

Decommissioning Local Landscape Character Area (LLCA) Effects

10.8.433 The perception of the removal of the proposed structures would be reduced by the increased vegetation cover across the DCO Site. The decommissioning activity, including machinery and localised excavation

would result in temporary adverse impacts to the native grassland beneath the panels, as well as introduce additional machinery and 'movement' to a greater extent than the existing baseline land uses.

10.8.434 For LLCA 11 East Fen Farmlands, which covers Sunnica East Site A, the decommissioning activity would be across part of the LLCA and mainly within the curtilage of Lee Farm. The effect is assessed as **minor adverse**; this is considered not significant.

10.8.435 For LLCA 13 Elms Farmland, which covers Sunnica East Site B, the decommissioning activity would be across most of the LLCA. The effect is assessed as **moderate adverse**; this is considered significant.

10.8.436 For LLCA 24 Hundred Acre Plantation, which covers Sunnica West Site A and Sunnica West Site B, the combined decommissioning activity is predicted to result in a **moderate adverse** effect. This is considered significant.

10.8.437 For LLCA surrounding or in proximity to the DCO Site, including LLCA 8 Worlington, LLCA 10 Isleham, LLCA 12 Freckenham and LLCA 26 The Limekilns, the decommissioning activity would not be located in these areas. The retained Green Infrastructure would reduce the perception of the decommissioning activity. The effects are assessed as ranging between **negligible adverse** and **minor adverse**; these are considered not significant.

Decommissioning Visual Effects

10.8.438 The decommissioning activity across the DCO Site would not be visible to all of visual receptors identified in the visual baseline. This is due to the intervening landform, vegetation and distance across the DCO Site.

10.8.439 The density and height of the proposed planting would result in the majority of the ground level decommissioning activity being substantially screened, even with the vegetation not in leaf.

10.8.440 In relation to Sunnica East Site A, the upper parts of machinery and tall lifting equipment would be visible at close range from motorists travelling along Beck Road and Ferry Lane, as well as visitors to The Ark Church and recreational users along the River Lark and at Jude's Ferry.

10.8.441 Residents on the southern edge of Isleham and at the western edge of Freckenham would also have views of the lifting equipment, particularly in parcels E05 to E07.

10.8.442 There would also be close range filtered views of the decommissioning activity for residents in Lee Farm and recreational users along PRoW 257/002/X, which crosses the eastern edge of E07 and connects with Beck Road.

10.8.443 In relation to Sunnica East Site B, the hedgerows and trees would substantially soften views of the ground level decommissioning for motorists on the B1102, between Freckenham and Worlington, residents adjacent to the B1102 and at the southern edge of Worlington.

10.8.444 The decommissioning activity would not be substantially screened for motorists on Elms Road, between the A11 and Freckenham due to the density and height of the roadside vegetation, with views of the upper parts of tall lifting machinery and associated vehicles.

10.8.445 The activity within parcel E22 would be also be largely screened by the retained hedgerows and trees in relation to recreational users along PRoW W257/003/0 and residents adjacent to Badlingham Road.

10.8.446 For motorists on Newmarket Road and Golf Links Road, to the west of Worlington, the tall machinery would be visible at certain points along the route, with the ground level decommissioning largely softened by the roadside planting.

10.8.447 Similarly, the decommissioning activity in parcels E30 to E32 would be largely softened in views of recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0, to the north of these parcels.

10.8.448 The decommissioning activity would not be visible from residents at the western edge of Red Lodge, nor within Barton Mills, due to the intervening residential land uses and vegetation.

10.8.449 At Sunnica West Site A, the decommissioning activity would not be visible for receptors in Chippenham and Chippenham Park, due to the intervening buildings, mature woodland and boundary wall along the edge of the Park.

10.8.450 For motorists travelling along La Hogue Road, between Chippenham Park and the A11, including visitors to La Hogue Farm shop and residents, the upper parts of machinery within W10, W11 and W12 would be visible, whilst the ground level decommissioning would be largely softened by the density of roadside vegetation.

10.8.451 Views of the activity within W13 and W14 would also be softened for motorists along the B1085 and residents at La Hogue Farm due to the retained planting.

10.8.452 The decommissioning activity within W15 and W16 would be largely softened in views from the upper storey rear elevation of residents at Dane Hill Farm. There would be views of the upper parts tall lifting equipment above retained planting for residents adjacent to Station Road, Kennett, but ground level activity would be screened by the planting.

10.8.453 Due to the elevated position and open character of The Limekilns gallops, receptors at this location would have views of the decommissioning across parts of Sunnica West Site A. To the north of the Limekilns, for recreational users on The Avenue, the decommissioning activity across W03 to W05 would be visible for recreational receptors along PRoW 204/5, between The A11 and Chippenham Road.

10.8.454 The upper parts of machinery and tall lifting equipment would be visible above the intervening planting for recreational users along PRoW 204/1, to the east of the Sunnica West Site B site and motorists along Chippenham Road.

10.8.455 Decommissioning within W01 and W02 would be largely screened in views from parts of Snailwell Road, due to the density of the proposed hedgerows, such that the upper parts of tall machinery would be a small component of the view and seen obliquely and briefly.

10.8.456 The existing woodlands and tree belts across the wider landscape would screen the decommissioning activity across Sunnica West Site B from residents in Fordham and Snailwell.

10.8.457 At Burwell Sub-station, there would be close range views for motorists along Weir's Drove Road and also the B1102; however, the decommissioning activity would be seen in the direct context of the existing Sub-station and pylons.

10.8.458 For recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drove, the decommissioning activity would be located on the far side of the existing substation, such that most of it would be screened. The upper parts of tall lifting equipment would be seen in the context of the substation and pylons.

10.8.459 For residents in Reach and recreational users on the Devil's Dyke, the intervening vegetation and distance would screen most of the decommissioning activity. The upper parts of tall lifting equipment would be seen in the context of the existing infrastructure at Burwell. This would be the same for any of the alternative locations within the DCO Site boundary. The exception is for recreational users along Burwell Lode and Hightown Drover, where the decommissioning activity would be more visible, due to being located on the west side of the existing sub-station. However, it would still be seen in the context of the existing infrastructure

10.8.460 With reference to ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10H***, significant **moderate adverse** visual effects are predicted for the following visual receptors in the decommissioning stage:

- VP11 Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0;
- VP12 Residents of Lee Farm; and
- VP38 Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns.

Summary of Decommissioning Effects

10.8.461 From the above, Table 10-26 summarises the decommissioning landscape and visual magnitude of impact and effects in relation to Sunnica East Site A, Sunnica East Site B, Sunnica West Site A, Sunnica West Site B and the Burwell National Grid Sub-station Extension decommissioning.

10.8.462 For those landscape and visual receptors not listed in Table 10-26 no impacts are predicted during the decommissioning phase of the Scheme.

Table 10-26: Summary of Decommissioning Magnitude of Impact and Significance of Effect for Sunnica East Site

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Landscape Effects					
Natural England National Character Areas (NCA)					
NCA 46 The Fens	High	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
NCA 85 The Brecks	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
NCA 87: East Anglian Chalk	High	As above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Regional East of England Landscape Framework Landscape Type (LCT)					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Medium	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LCT Planned Peat Fen	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LCT Forested Estate Sandlands	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment (LT)					
LT Estate Sandlands	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	High	Partial loss to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LT Settled Fenlands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
County – Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment					

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Brecks Arable Heathlands Mosaic	High	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Low Chalk Farmland	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
County – Cambridgeshire Landscape Guidelines					
Area 2 Chalklands	Medium	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Area 8 Fenlands	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCA)					
LLCA 8 Worlington	Medium	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 10 Isleham	High	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	
LLCA 11 East Fen Farmland	Low	Limited addition to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 12 Freckenham	High	Barely noticeable alteration to key characteristics	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
LLCA 13 Elms Farmland	Medium	Partial addition to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LLCA 24 Hundred Acre Plantation	Medium	As Above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
LLCA 26 The Limekilns	Medium	Limited addition to key characteristics	Low	Minor Adverse	No
LLCA 36 Burwell	Medium	Barely noticeable	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
		alteration to key characteristics			
Site Landscape Character Areas					
Sunnica East Site A	Medium	Partial addition to key characteristics	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Sunnica East Site B	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Sunnica West Site A	High	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Sunnica West Site B	Medium	As above	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
Visual					
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	High	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
2B. Visitors to Jude's Ferry	High	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Low	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Minor Adverse	No
5. Motorists on Beck Road	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
7. Motorists on the B1104	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
8. Residents in Freckenham	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
9. Recreational users W-257/002/0	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
12. Residents in Lee Farm	Medium	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
12A. Motorists on Ferry Lane	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
12B. View west from Ferry Lane	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
13. View north from B1102	Low	No Change to the View	None	Neutral	No
14. View south from B1102	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
14A. View south from residents adjacent to the B1102	High	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
15. View west from U6006 (unclassified road)	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
15A. View south-west from U6006 (unclassified road)	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
15B. View south-east from U6006 (unclassified road)	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
16. View north-east from U6006 (unclassified road)	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
17. View north-east from Elms Road and PRoW (bridleway) 257/001/0	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
18. View north-west from Elms Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
19. View north-west from Elms Road	Low	No Change to the View	None	Neutral	No
20. View north from PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
21. View east from Badlingham Road	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
21A. View south-east from Residential Properties adjacent to Badlingham Road	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
22. View north-west from Worlington Road	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
23. View north-west from Worlington Road	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
23A. View south from Queens Hill, Worlington	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
24. View south from Golf Links Road	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
25. View south-west from Golf Links Road	Low	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
26A. View south-west from PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
28. View north from the A11 overbridge	Low	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
30. View south-east from Chippenham	High	No Change to the View	None	Neutral	No
31. View south-east from Chippenham Park	High	No Change to the View	None	Neutral	No
32. View south-west from La Hogue Road, to the south of Chippenham Park	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
33. View north-west from La Hogue Road at the junction with La Hogue Farm	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
33A. View north from La Hogue Farm	High	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
34. View south-west from the B1085, adjacent the Wild Tracks Centre	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
35. View south from Dane Hill Farm	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
36. View south-west from Kennett	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
37. View north from	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
Newmarket Road					
37A. View east from residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	Medium	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
38. View north from The Limekilns	High	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Medium	Moderate Adverse	Yes
39. View north-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, The Avenue	High	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
40. View north-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, crossing the A14	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Minor Adverse	No
41. View south-east from PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
42. View north-west from Chippenham Road	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
45. View north from PRoW (footpath) 204/1, north of Snailwell	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
46. View north from Snailwell Road	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No

Receptor	Sensitivity	Description of Impact	Magnitude of Impact	Effect Category	Significant effect (Yes / No)
47. View north-east from Snailwell Road	Low	As Above	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
53. View west from Weir's Drove, Burwell	Low	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
54. View south-east from Burwell Lode	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
55. View east from Hightown Drove	Medium	As Above	Low	Minor Adverse	No
56. View north-east from Burwell Road, Reach	Low	Subtle change to existing views	Low	Negligible Adverse	No
57. View north-east from the Church of St. Etheldreda, Reach	Medium	Barely perceptible change to the view	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No
58. View north-east from the Devil's Ditch (PRoW (footpath) 191/10)	Medium	As Above	Very Low	Negligible Adverse	No

10.9 Additional Mitigation and Enhancement Measures

10.9.1 .The residual significant landscape effects are due to the change in land use and the massing of the panels and various structures. As these are inevitable due to the operational requirements of the Scheme, additional mitigation measures are not practicable at the local landscape character level.

10.9.2 The one residual significant visual effect from the Limekilns is due to the elevated position of the receptor and the open character of the intervening foreground, which forms a part of the wider Gallops. Additional mitigation measures, e.g. off-site planting is considered not to be practicable in retaining the equestrian land use across the Gallops. Additionally, the

elevated position of the receptor would retain views across to Sunnica West Site A.

Monitoring

10.9.3 The CEMP will include measures to protect the retained vegetation and OLEMP will include monitoring requirements to ensure the successful establishment of the proposed planting.

10.9.4 Due to this, no additional monitoring in relation to landscape and visual matters is required during the construction, operation or decommissioning phases.

10.10 Residual Effects

10.10.1 This section summarises the residual effects of the Scheme on landscape and visual receptors.

10.10.2 Significant residual effects are defined as moderate or major adverse or beneficial and are listed in the following tables below:

- Table 10-27 Scheme construction (winter);
- Table 10-28 Scheme operation year 1 (2025) (winter);
- Table 10-29 Scheme operation year 15 (2040), (summer); and
- Table 10-30 Scheme decommissioning (2065), (summer).

10.10.3 The construction phase residual effects are due to the changes in surface landform, landcover, presence of construction machinery and the associated activity which is required to implement the Scheme.

10.10.4 The year 1 opening phase residual effects are due to the change in land use from agriculture to infrastructure, via the solar panels and associated structures, resulting in impacts to the character, aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and the introduction of new features within views.

10.10.5 The year 15 post opening phase residual effects reflects that of the year 1 assessment, due to the continued, long term but reversible presence of the solar panels and associated structures. The reduction in the number of significant adverse effects, particularly to visual receptors, is due to the establishment of the proposed Green Infrastructure.

10.10.6 The decommissioning phase residual effects are due to the machinery and activity to remove the panels and associated structures, and the physical and perceptual changes to the landscape character. Although at the Green Infrastructure (new planting) would remain, the visibility of the decommissioning phase would be much reduced in comparison to the construction assessment.

10.10.7 All residual landscape and visual effects (significant and not significant) for the above phases are set out in full in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10G*** and ***10H***.

10.10.8 Table 10-27 outlines the likely residual significant landscape and visual construction effects after mitigation during the construction phase.

Table 10-27 Summary of Residual Effects (Construction)

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica East Site A - Construction					
Sunnica East Site A Site Landscape Character Area	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Major Adverse
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
2A. Recreational Users on the River Lark	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
5. Motorists on Beck Road	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
8. Residents in Freckenham	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	As Above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	As Above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
12. Residents in Lee Farm	As Above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Sunnica East Site B - Construction					

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
LLCA 13 Elms Farmland	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Major Adverse
Sunnica East Site B	As Above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
14A. Residents adjacent to B1102	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A - Construction					
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica West Site A	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
33A. Residents at La Hogue Farm	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
36. Residents adjacent to Station Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
37A. Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
41. Recreational users PRoW	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
(bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell					
Sunnica West Site B – Construction					
Sunnica West Site B	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Major Adverse
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Cable Route A – Construction					
LLCA 14 River Kennett	Limited alteration to key characteristics	Implementation of the CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
Cable Route A	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
29. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 49/7	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Cable Route B - Construction					
Cable Route B	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
43. Residents in Snailwell	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
44. Residents in Snailwell	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
45. Recreational users of PRoW (footpath) 204/1	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
48. Residents in Fordham House	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Burwell National Grid Substation Extension - Construction					
n/a					
Intra Project Landscape Effects - Construction					

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Partial loss to key characteristics	Implementation of the CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	Partial loss to key characteristics	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
36. Burwell Fen	Partial loss to key characteristics	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Intra Project Visual Effects - *Construction*					
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	Implementation of the CEMP and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
34 Visitors to the Wild Tracks Centre	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
42. Motorists on Chippenham Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
45. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) 204/1	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse

10.10.9 Table 10-28 outlines the likely residual significant landscape and visual residual year 1 of operation effects after mitigation

Table 10-28: Summary of Residual Effects (Year 1 of Operation)

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica East Site A – Year 1 Operation					
Sunnica East Site A Site Landscape Character Area	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of layout as illustrated on the preliminary Parameter Plans supported by the management regime set out in the OLEMP	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Major Adverse
1.Recreational Users on the River Lark	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
3. Motorists on East Fen Road and Residents in East End	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
4. Visitors to the Ark Church	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
5. Motorists on Beck Road	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
6. Residents adjacent to the B1104	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
8. Residents in Freckenham	As Above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
10. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/X	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	As Above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
11A. Residents in Beck Road Property	As Above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
12. Residents in Lee Farm	As Above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Sunnica East Site B – Year 1 Operation					
LLCA 13 Elms Farmland	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Operational	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation	Major Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
		Environmental Management Plan and OEMP, including solid hoardings, protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.		measures are available	
Sunnica East Site B	As Above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
14A. Residents adjacent to B1102	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
15. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	As Above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
15A. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major adverse	As above	Major adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
15B. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
16. Recreational users and equestrian riders on U6006	As Above	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
20. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W257/003/0	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major adverse	As above	Major adverse
23A. Residents at Queens Hill	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate adverse	As above	Moderate adverse
26A. Recreational users on PRoW (footpath) W-128/002/0	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A - Operation					
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Operational Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of	Major Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Major Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
		retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.			
Sunnica West Site A	As above	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
32. Motorists on La Hogue Road	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
33. Visitors to La Hogue Farm	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
33A. Residents at La Hogue Farm	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
36. Residents adjacent to Station Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
37A. Residents adjacent to Newmarket Road	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
41. Recreational users PRoW (bridleway) 204/5, south-east of Snailwell	Extensive change to the composition of the existing view	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Sunnica West Site B – Year 1 Operation					
Sunnica West Site B	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Operational Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
Intra Project Landscape Effects – Year 1 Operation					
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	Partial loss to key characteristics	Implementation of the Operational Environmental	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Primary (Embedded) Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
		Management Plan and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.			
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Major Adverse	As above	Major Adverse
Intra Project Visual Effects – *Year 1 Operation*					
n/a					

10.10.10 Table 10-29 outlines the likely residual significant landscape and visual residual year 15 post opening effects after mitigation

Table 10-29: Summary of Residual Effects (year 15 post opening)

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica East Site A – Year 15 Operation					
Sunnica East Site A Site Landscape Character Area	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of layout as illustrated on the preliminary Parameter Plans supported by the management regime set out in the OLEMP	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica East Site B – Year 15 Operation					
LLCA 13 Elms Farmland	Partial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Operational Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica East Site B	Partial alteration to the character area	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A – Year 15 Operation					
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Partial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Operational Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
		development in relation to tree protection areas.			
Sunnica West Site A	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
38. Recreational users and users of the training grounds at the Limekilns	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	As Above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site B – Year 15 Operation					
n/a					
Intra Project Landscape Effects – Year 15 Operation					
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Intra Project Visual Effects – *Year 15 Operation*					
n/a					

10.10.11 Table 10-30 outlines the likely residual significant landscape and visual residual decommissioning effects after mitigation

Table 10-30: Summary of Residual Effects (Decommissioning)

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
Sunnica East Site A – Decommissioning					
Sunnica East Site A Site Landscape Character Area	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica East Site B – Decommissioning					
LLCA 13 Elms Farmland	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica East Site B	Substantial alteration to the character area	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A – Decommissioning					

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
24. Hundred Acre Plantation	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site A	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Sunnica West Site B – Decommissioning					
Sunnica West Site B	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
Published Landscape Character Assessment Effects - Decommissioning					
LCT Lowland Village Chalklands	Substantial alteration to the character area	Implementation of the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse

Receptor	Description of impact	Embedded Mitigation and Secondary Mitigation	Effect	Additional Mitigation / Enhancement Measures	Residual effect after mitigation
		solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.			
LT Rolling Estate Chalklands	As Above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
Visual Effects - Decommissioning					
11. Recreational users of PRoW 257/002/0	Partial change to the composition of the existing view	Implementation of the Decommissioning Environmental Management Plan and OLEMP, including solid hoardings for the protection of retained vegetation and offsetting development in relation to tree protection areas.	Moderate Adverse	No additional mitigation measures are available	Moderate Adverse
12. Residents in Lee Farm	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse
38. View north from The Limekilns	As above	As above	Moderate Adverse	As above	Moderate Adverse

10.11 Cumulative Effects

10.11.1 With reference to GLVIA 3, the cumulative assessment is based on the 'combined' impacts and effects of the Scheme with the cumulative schemes.

10.11.2 The impacts and effects are assessed in relation to the landscape and visual receptors presented in this chapter, using the same methodology as set out in ***PEI Report Volume 2: Appendix 10C***.

10.11.3 The impacts and effects are assessed at the construction phase and year 1 of opening, so as to reflect a worst case scenario, given the details of many of the cumulative schemes are not confirmed.

10.11.4 In reality, the detailed design and integration of the cumulative schemes via new planting and high quality design would reduce the stated impacts set out below.

ID 85: Application Reference 17/01838/ESF

10.11.5 The cumulative scheme is for new buildings and changes of 'use' within the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory centre.

10.11.6 The cumulative scheme is located in proximity to the Sunnica West Site B and in LLCA20: Snailwell Industrial Estate (LLCA 20), the same LLCA as part of Cable Route B.

10.11.7 The cumulative impact would be additional construction activity, excavation and presence of construction machinery in LLCA 20. However, as both the cumulative scheme and Cable Route B are consolidated to the same parts of the published landscape character areas, there would be no change to the predicted landscape effects to the published areas.

10.11.8 In relation to the LLCA the combination of Cable Route B and the cumulative scheme would increase the magnitude of impact for LLCA 20, from low (as predicted for Cable Route B) to medium. The effect would also increase from negligible adverse (predicted for Cable Route B) to **minor adverse**, which is considered not significant. This increase is due to the cumulative scheme.

10.11.9 The combined construction activity would be visible for motorists on Chippenham Road and employees at the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory. For the motorists, the cumulative impact would not alter the predicted significant adverse effects from Cable Route B. For the employees, the proximity of the cumulative scheme would increase the predicted impacts from medium (as predicted for Cable Route B) to high, and the effect from minor adverse (not significant for Cable Route B) to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant. This increase is due to the cumulative scheme and temporary.

10.11.10 In operation, with Cable Route B below ground, the change to the composition of views would relate to the cumulative scheme and the new buildings within the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory.

ID:95 Application Reference 17/02205/FUL

10.11.11 The cumulative scheme is for battery storage units, transformers and grid connections. The height of the tallest structures (transformer) is

approximately 5 metres and the battery storage units are 3m in height. The landscape scheme for ID.95 includes bunding and hedgerows around the boundary to screen the cumulative scheme.

10.11.12 The cumulative scheme is located approximately 50m to the south of Burwell substation, on the east side of Weir's Drove Road.

10.11.13 The construction cumulative impact would be from the additional construction activity and machinery, located across both sides of Weir's Drove Road. However, as the construction activity would be consolidated between existing substations, also on both sides of Weir's Drove Road, the impacts would be localised. In relation to the published landscape character areas, the impacts and effects are considered to remain as predicted for the Scheme, due to the overall very small scale of the cumulative schemes.

10.11.14 At the local level, the additional construction activity would increase the magnitude of impact for LLCA 38: Burwell, from very low (as predicted for the Scheme) to low. The effect would also increase, from negligible adverse (as predicted for the Scheme) to **minor adverse**, this is not significant.

10.11.15 The combined construction activity would be visible at close range for motorists on Weir's Drove Road (VP53). Views of the combined construction activity would increase the impact from low (as predicted for the Scheme) to medium, due to construction activity on both sides of the road. The effect would also increase from minor adverse (as predicted for the Scheme), to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.16 In operation, the cumulative impact would be additional infrastructure adjacent to a part of Weir's Drove Road. For LLCA38: Burwell, compared to the neutral effect predicted for the Scheme, the cumulative effect would increase to minor adverse, this is considered not significant. This increase is due to the cumulative scheme as it increases the amount of infrastructure within the LLCA.

10.11.17 Also, in operation, there would be close range views for motorists on Weir's Drove Road (VP53) of the proposed infrastructure on both sides of road. Compared to the predicted negligible adverse effect for the Scheme, the cumulative effect would be **minor adverse**, this is considered not significant.

ID:96 – Application Reference 19/00155/FUL

10.11.18 The cumulative scheme proposes battery units and transformer equipment, 5m in height, surrounded by a 3m timber acoustic screen and planting. The cumulative scheme is located approximately 50m south of the existing Burwell substation on the south side of Weir's Drove Road. The impacts and effects would reflect those stated above of ID:95.

ID 98: Application Reference 15/00723/ESF

10.11.19 The cumulative scheme is for a 40MW solar farm, covering 72ha, with heights of structure up to 3m in height. The cumulative scheme is located approximately 800m north of the Burwell substation and in proximity to Cable Route B and in the same LLCA as the proposed substation extension.

10.11.20 During construction, there would be cumulative impacts from alterations to surface landform and the presence of construction activity. Due to the localised and relatively small scale of the construction activity, there would be no change to the effects predicted for the national character areas.

10.11.21 For Lowland Village Chalklands, Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands the cumulative construction impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to these character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.22 At the local scale, there would be cumulative impacts to LLCA 36: Burwell Fen. The impact of the construction activity would increase the alterations to surface landform and the overall presence of construction activity across Burwell Fen, from Cable Route B, the proposed substation extension and the cumulative scheme. The combined impacts would therefore increase the predicted impact of very low (for the Scheme only) to low. The cumulative construction effect would increase from negligible adverse (predicted for the Scheme only) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.23 In relation to the identified visual receptors, the combined construction activity would not be visible within the same orientation of views and in combination with distance and intervening vegetation, there would be no cumulative visual effects.

10.11.24 In operation, with Cable Route B below ground, the cumulative impacts would relate to the proposed substation and the cumulative scheme. Both would introduce additional infrastructure, within the context and perception of existing substations and overhead pylons

10.11.25 There would be no change to the predicted effects to the national character areas, due to the relatively small scale of the infrastructure, in a part of the published landscape character areas which are already influenced and characterised by Burwell sub-station and tracts of overhead pylons.

10.11.26 For Lowland Village Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant.

10.11.27 For Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated very low impact (for the Scheme) to low. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.28 At the local scale, for LLCA 36, the additional infrastructure would increase the magnitude of impact from low (as predicted for the Scheme only) to medium. The effect would also increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme only) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.29 Visually, in operation the combined massing would not be visible within the same orientation of views and in combination with distance, intervening

vegetation and height of the solar panels, there would be no cumulative visual effects.

ID: 154: Policy FRD1, FRD2, FRD3 and FRD 4 – Allocations for Employment and Housing

10.11.30 The cumulative scheme is for approximately 7ha of employment land use, across the central and northern parts of Fordham. FRD3 would be located in LLCA19: Fordham Abbey (LLCA19), in which part of Cable Route B is located.

10.11.31 During the construction phase there would be cumulative impacts from the additional construction activity. As the extent of the construction activity is located across or in proximity to an existing settlement, there would be no change to the predicted effects to the published landscape character areas.

10.11.32 At the local level, for LLCA 19, construction impacts would increase from low (as predicted for the Scheme), to medium. The effects would increase from minor adverse (as predicted for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant and temporary. The increase is due to the cumulative schemes.

10.11.33 In operation, with Cable Route B below ground, the impacts and effects to LLCA 19 would relate to the cumulative scheme only.

10.11.34 Visually, the cumulative schemes would not be within the same composition of views for any of the identified visual receptors. Therefore, there would be not be cumulative visual effects in construction, nor operation phases.

ID 163: Policy FRD 5 and FRD 6 – Allocations for Employment and Housing

10.11.35 As per ID:154 above, the cumulative scheme would be located within Fordham and further from the DCO Site. The impacts and effects would reflect those states for ID:154.

ID 296: Application Reference 10/01576/SCREEN and ID: 348 – Application Reference 20/00557/ESF

10.11.36 The cumulative scheme is for a solar farm across fields to the west of Burwell substation, between Hightown Drove and Burwell Lode. The cumulative scheme is in the same LLCA as the proposed substation extension and parts of Cable Route B.

10.11.37 During the construction phase, there would be combined impacts from alteration to surface landform and the presence of construction activity, both adjacent to the existing sub-station compound and across the fields to the north and west.

10.11.38 The combined impact of the construction activity would not alter the predicted effects to the national character areas, due to their relatively small scale.

10.11.39 For Lowland Village Chalklands, Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands the cumulative construction impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to these

character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.40 Visually, the construction activity would be visible for recreational users on Burwell Lode (VP54) and Hightown Drove (VP55). Compared to the predicted low impact (for the Scheme), the cumulative impact would be medium. The cumulative effect would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.41 In operation, the impacts would relate to the proposed substation and the cumulative scheme, as Cable Route B would be below ground.

10.11.42 The cumulative scheme and the Scheme would introduce additional infrastructure, although the cumulative scheme would introduce a greater change in land use and perception of infrastructure, as the Scheme is located adjacent to Burwell substation.

10.11.43 Both the cumulative scheme and the Scheme would be located in a part of the published landscape character areas which are already characterised by large scale infrastructure. There would be no change to the predicted effects to the national character areas.

10.11.44 For Lowland Village Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant.

10.11.45 For Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated very low impact (for the Scheme) to low. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.46 Visually, for recreational users on Burwell Lode (VP54) and Hightown Drove (VP55), changes to views would be from the cumulative scheme. This is because it would be in the foreground of the view, whereas the Scheme would be located beyond Burwell substation. The cumulative impact would increase from very low (for the Scheme) to medium. The effect would increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant.

ID: 351 – Application Reference 20/00522/FUM

10.11.47 The cumulative scheme is for a solar farm approximately 3.5km to the north of Burwell sub-station, between Wicken and Soham, in a part of the landscape which is not crossed by the Scheme.

10.11.48 For Lowland Village Chalklands, Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands the cumulative construction impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to these character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to **moderate adverse**, this is considered significant and temporary.

10.11.49 The cumulative construction impact to LLCA 33: Soham Mere would increase from none (for the Scheme) to low. The effect would increase from neutral (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.50 In operation, the cumulative impact would not alter the predicted effects to the national character areas.

10.11.51 For Lowland Village Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated low impact (for the Scheme) to medium. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from minor adverse (for the Scheme) to moderate adverse, this is considered significant.

10.11.52 For Settled Fenlands and Cambridge Area 2: Chalklands, the cumulative operation impact would increase the stated very low impact (for the Scheme) to low. The construction effect to this character areas would increase from negligible adverse (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.53 The cumulative operation impact to LLCA 33: Soham Mere would increase from none (for the Scheme) to low. The effect would increase from neutral (for the Scheme) to minor adverse, this is considered not significant.

10.11.54 Visually, the cumulative scheme and the Scheme would not be visible within the same composition of views for any of the identified visual receptors. Therefore, there would be no cumulative effects during the construction or operation phases.

10.12 References

Ref 10-1 Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011; 'Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)', London: The Stationery Office.
Ref 10-2 Department of Energy and Climate Change, 2011; 'National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Infrastructure (EN-3)', London: The Stationery Office.
Ref 10-3 Department for Energy and Climate Change, 2011; 'National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks Infrastructure (EN-5)', London: The Stationery Office.
Ref 10-4 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government, 2019; 'National Planning Policy Framework', APS Group.
Ref 10-5 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government, 2019; 'National Planning Practice Guidance – Natural Environment', on-line.
Ref 10-6 Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government, 2015; 'Renewable and Low Carbon Energy', on-line.
Ref 10-7 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Development Plan',
Ref 10-8 'Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Local Plan, Further Consultation Draft',
Ref 10-9 Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, 'Suffolk – Creating the Greenest County'
Ref 10-10 Suffolk Climate Change Partnership, 2017, 'Suffolk Climate Action Plan 3'
Ref 10-11 East Cambridgeshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2015
Ref 10-12 East Cambridgeshire District Council, Renewable Energy Development (Commercial Scale) Supplementary Planning Document
Ref 10-13 East Cambridgeshire District Council Design Guide
Ref 10-14 The West Suffolk, Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury Local Plan, Joint Development, Management Policies Document
Ref 10-15 Forest Heath Local Development Framework, Core Strategy Development Plan Document
Ref 10-16 Forest Heath District Council, Accessible Natural Greenspace Study
Ref 10-17 Fordham Neighbourhood Plan
Ref 10-18 Newmarket Neighbourhood Plan
Ref 10-19 Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, Third Edition, 2013
Ref 10-20 Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 06/19: Visual Representation of Development Proposals, TGN 06/19, 2019
Ref 10-21 Landscape Institute's Technical Guidance Note 02/Residential Visual Amenity Assessment
Ref 10-22 Cambridgeshire County Council, on-line mapping
Ref 10-23 Suffolk County Council, on-line Definitive Map
Ref 10-24 Natural England, 2013, National Character Area 46: The Fens
Ref 10-25 Natural England, 2015, National Character Area 85: The Brecks
Ref 10-26 Natural England, 2014, National Character Area 87: East Anglian Chalk
Ref 10-27 Landscape East, East of England Landscape Typology
Ref 10-28 Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment, on-line

Ref 10-29 Cambridgeshire County Council, 1991, Cambridgeshire Landscape Character

Ref 10-30 The Brecks Partnership, 2013, Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks Landscape Character Assessment

Ref 10-31 Cambridgeshire County Council, 2011, Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy

Ref 10-32 Breaking New Ground, Brecks Special Qualities, An Analysis of Identity and a Sense of Place

Ref 10-33 Freckenham Conservation Area Appraisal, https://www.westsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/Conservation/upload/Freckenham-CAA-Adoption-2010.pdf

Ref 10-34 Burwell North Street Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document, https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Burwell%20NS%20Final%20Copy_0.pdf

Ref 10-35 Burwell High Town Conservation Area Supplementary Planning Document, https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Burwell%20HT%20Final%20Copy_0.pdf